

## Friends of Soldiers Walk Inc: Newsletter

Issue 10 March 2004



### Contents

Working Bee  
Website and Map Launch  
Governor as new patron  
Draft Management Plan: Council and Consultation  
Dedication report  
Rev Herbert Patrick Hare

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### Next Working Bee

A working bee is scheduled for **Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup> starting at 10am** meeting at the carpark at the northern end of the TCA ground. The focus will be on some clearing around trees near the magazine and also checking areas along the central sections of the Avenue. A barbeque will be held under the trees afterwards as usual.

Poppy Day and the last working bee went well with a lot of work done in the southern half of the Avenue and poppies on all trees. As ever we were well supported by local businesses; a big thanks to Barbeques Galore for the loan of a fine barbeque, Cripps Nubake for the donation of bread, meat from Meat Wholesalers and beer from the Globe Hotel.

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### Governor agrees to be our patron

His Excellency Mr Richard Butler AC Governor of Tasmania has kindly agreed to act as our Patron. After a long career as a diplomat including a stint as Chief Weapons Inspector for Iraq, he accepted the position of Governor of Tasmania. His exact role as patron has yet to be fully defined but we hope that over the next year, he will be able to lend his public support to our work. The Avenue after all is part of the Governor's backyard, and originally the whole Domain was once 'Governor's land'.

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### Tree Dedication

The dedication of trees to Alec Campbell and Frank MacDonald as last representatives of the Tasmanian service men and women of the Great War occurred on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003. The function was well attended with a good turnout from the families, members and official guests. The Deputy Lord Mayor Eva Ruzicka spoke of the importance of the Avenue in the history of Hobart, biographer Barry Wood spoke about Alec and Frank. John Wadsley, one of our Committee, read a short dedication before each tree before the unveiling of the plaque by a member of the family. Duncan Kerr MHR and Alderman Peter Sexton attended, as did Neil Bayles, State Commissioner for Veterans Affairs. Well covered in the Examiner and mentioned in the Australian, there was no Mercury coverage and while commercial TV was present the ABC was not to be seen.

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### Website and Map

The website and map development are proceeding apace and these will be launched in late April. Arrangements are being made for an official launch on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Magazine.

If you have a photo of a soldier commemorated on the Avenue and/or pictures of later family gatherings at a memorial tree, please contact Adrian Howard so we can arrange for their inclusion on the web site.

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## Septic Tank

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Those of you who regularly walk along the Avenue may have noticed this recent less than attractive addition to the Avenue. Installed by the City Engineers department, without consulting anyone such as Bushland Management, it is apparently to take overflow from sewage from the TCA and other ridgeline facilities. Currently this does present a problem. The tank is supposedly temporary and was to have been screened off and had some shrubs planted but none of this has eventuated. The tank is regularly emptied with trucks creating their own turning circle among the trees; again this was not to happen with trucks to proceed down the path. The tank also seems to have been overflowing!

We have been assured by Rob Mather (Bushland Management) that they will be pressuring for the promised works to be done immediately. Parks personnel are annoyed to say the least given the work they have been putting into the Avenue and developing the management plan. Recommendations 17 and 18 have been included in the Plan to prevent any recurrence of this unfortunate incident.

It is placed between trees #183 Pte Walter Gordon Ibbot (12<sup>th</sup> Bn Died of sickness at sea 26/12/1916) and #179 L/Cpl Fred Geeves Nicholson (12<sup>th</sup> Bn KIA 11/12/1916).



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## Original Lists Found

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In December 2003, Rob Mather, Bushland Manager for the Council was searching lease documents related to the Domain. Piled in amongst lost of papers in the archive box was a bulging and worn looking envelope. Opening it he found the original Council lists of names and tree numbers for the Avenue from 1918 with handwritten additions of the 1919 plantings. This has solved a few problems and even allowed us to place three names against trees. More on this in the next issue.

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## Draft Management Plan

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The Draft Management Plan has been completed and went to the Parks and Services Committee of the Hobart City Council on February 12th and full Council on February 23rd. The Plan has been approved for a period of public consultation from March 15th to April 5th. A public meeting will be held by FOSW toward the end of the consultation period in early April. A short newsletter will come out in the next three weeks with details.

This is the Executive Summary from the plan.

The consultation phase is scheduled to last from March 15<sup>th</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be an exhibition in the council offices in Davey St and consultation response sheets will be available. If you cannot make it to the meeting, feel free, in fact the Committee urges you, to make your feelings known and fill in one of these sheets.

### Executive Summary

#### Coverage

This plan discusses the history and significance of the Avenue and the environment of which it is part. There is a description of the current status of the Avenue in terms of management approaches, the condition of the trees and its interpretation. A vision for the restoration of the Avenue is provided with a detailed discussion of actions to be taken to fully restore the Avenue. Discussion of the resources required and an action plan are also included. The overall objective is to restore the Avenue as a place of commemoration and as a significant part of the history of Hobart.

#### Background

The Soldiers Memorial Avenue was inaugurated on 3 August 1918 in a large public ceremony that attracted about a quarter of the population of the city. The Avenue was planned and prepared by the Hobart City Council, The New Town Council and the Returned Soldiers Association and involved thousands of volunteers. A second planting in February 1919 took the total number of trees to over 500. Within a few years, the Avenue had a permanent central pathway and was irrigated. A centre for family commemoration, the Avenue fell out of popular consciousness with the passing of those who knew the soldiers. The loss and later organised removal of many of the nameplates broke the crucial link between individual trees and the individual servicemen.

The building of the Crossroads Oval destroyed over 80 trees and sites. A further 12 sites were lost due to roadwork at the southern end connected with the changed intersection of Davies Avenue with the Tasman Highway. Along the Avenue proper, more trees are dead or missing.

The Soldiers Memorial Avenue is the largest of the 40 or so Tasmanian Avenues of Honour. It is unusual not only for its size but for the fact that only the fallen are commemorated. An important element of Hobart's cultural heritage, the Avenue is potentially an important tourism asset.

The immediate environment is white gum grassland and contains a number of significant plant species: the rarest thrives under a number of the memorial trees and is listed under Commonwealth legislation. Blue gums planted along the Avenue in an early attempt to replace Cedars serve to obscure the overall sweep of the Avenue and are not in good health, as the conditions do not match their native environment.

The Soldiers Memorial Avenue is currently managed within the parameters set under the *Queens Domain Management Plan* (1996). While setting broad guidelines for management, the Plan does not address a range of specific issues that must be considered as part of any restoration and detailed management of the Avenue.

#### Current status

A total of 359 memorial trees remain in the Avenue, comprised of 336 original trees and 23 Italian cypresses. In addition, two trees of the Soldiers Memorial Avenue Extension survive on the western side of the Cenotaph. The remaining trees vary in health from those with minimal foliage and poor condition to a very few in very good condition.

The climate and geology of the Queens Domain are responsible for harsh conditions to which many of the trees are ill adapted.

### **Key issues**

The key issues to be considered as part of any management plan are:

- The maintenance of natural values
- The management of the surviving trees
- The replacement of missing and dead trees
- Fire Management
- Interpretation and Plaques

### **Action plan**

The action plan outlines actions flowing from the recommendations that are necessary for the restoration of the Avenue.

### **Recommendations**

#### **1. Slashing and Mowing**

Investigate the establishment of a slashing regime for Soldiers Memorial Avenue extending 7 metres either side of the outer row of trees. Slashed material is to be removed off-site. The slashing regime is to avoid the suppression zone under trees, cutting when soil is wet, and cutting in certain nominated areas in spring/early summer.

#### **2. Watering and Mulching**

Reticulated irrigation will not be introduced. Acceptable practices to aid the establishment of new exotic plantings are the use of tubes for deep watering and mulching using pine material. Mulching is not to occur in the vicinity of rare or threatened plant species.

#### **3. Removal of Native Vegetation**

- a) Selected Eucalypt saplings are to be marked and avoided when slashing to maintain the canopy component of the grassy white gum woodland community.
- b) The removal of understorey tree species is permitted where they compete with the cedars and have no role in creating threatened species habitat.
- c) Approval of the Threatened Species Unit, DPI WE to be sought prior to the removal of the inter-planted blue gums.

#### **4. Mulching Trials**

A mulching trial should be conducted on suitable trees in poor health to assess the value of mulching in stabilising their health and particular in coping with prolonged periods of dry weather.

#### **5. Tree Surgery**

Trees surgery to be undertaken to improve the appearance of the Avenue with an emphasis on trees likely to remain.

#### **6. Consultation with Families**

All tree replacements, whether dead or in poor condition, should involve families whenever possible.

#### **7. Replacement Species**

Replacement trees should be of a species sympathetic in terms of form and character, preferably Cedar of Lebanon, which should be the basis of initial trials.

#### **8. Replacement Order**

Within the main body of the Memorial Avenue, replacement trees should be planted in existing or original sites section by section.

#### **9. Options for Missing Sites**

Options for replacing trees from 'lost' sites be researched and a finalised landscape plan for replacement sites drawn up by the end of 2004. This plan should take into account current usage of the intended sites and integrity of a restored Avenue.

#### **10. Management of New Trees**

New trees should be watered and mulched after planting, balancing the need to ensure the health of the trees and minimal disturbance to the surroundings during the establishment period.

### **11. Planting Program**

Replacement trees should be planted on an annual cycle in time for commemoration ceremonies on the anniversary of the Avenue with relatives invited.

### **12. Fire Management**

- a) The next revision of the Queens Domain Fire Management Plan to incorporate Soldiers Memorial Avenue as a separate vegetation management unit where burning is excluded.
- b) Slashing of Soldiers Memorial Avenue to extend seven metres beyond the outer row of Cedars to provide fire protection.

### **13. Historical Research**

Historical research should continue with the goal of producing a definitive history of the Avenue and a final list of names of servicemen commemorated.

### **14. Surviving Name Plates**

The plinths at the junction of the Memorial Avenue and Davies Avenue should be opened and remaining plaques removed for restoration and later use in interpretive displays. The full collection of nameplates should be consolidated for interim display.

### **15. New Name Plates: Design and Placement**

There should be a plaque or nameplate near each tree on the Avenue identifying the serviceman for whom it was planted; the level of detail to be negotiated with descendants, noting that such identification should be unobtrusive and meaningful.

### **16. Site Interpretation**

- a) An interpretation plan should be developed for the Soldiers Memorial Avenue ensuring compatibility with that of the Domain as a whole. This interpretation plan should incorporate specifications for individual tree plaques and both on and off site interpretation.
- b) The Avenue should in future be referred to by its original name, the Soldiers Memorial Avenue, and that the Cross Roads Oval be renamed as the Soldiers Memorial Oval (or Soldiers Oval).
- c) The plinths should be removed as part of the process, such removal to take place as the new interpretation works are completed.

### **17. Infrastructure works**

All infrastructure work within or adjacent to the Avenue footprint should only be undertaken after approval is given by the Director, Parks and Customer Services Division in the case of maintenance or repairs to existing services or new services. In all instances, account should be taken of the potential impact on the trees and impact on the visual integrity of the Avenue with proposals explicitly addressing these issues.

### **18. Training for Personnel**

All Council personnel involved in work within the Avenue footprint should undertake an orientation program on the extent and significance of the Avenue.

### **19. Project Management**

A working group should be established to oversee the restoration and the implementation of this plan. This group should consist of an arboriculturalist, a cultural heritage expert, a person with park and bushland management responsibilities and representatives from Friends of Soldiers Walk Inc.

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## **Reverend Herbert Patrick Hare (Tree#23)**

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The following article comes from Lynette Harrison in Dubbo New South Wales. In 2003, Lynette visited Hobart and walked on the Domain not realising what she was walking through. It was only after her return home that she discovered that she had probably walked past where the tree for Lt Hare had been.

While accessing journals for our Dubbo ad District Family History Society read of the Soldiers Memorial Avenue in Hobart and the restoration of the trees and plaques being made by a dedicated

group of researchers. The list of WW1 soldiers commemorated was also printed and reading through these names I found a man about whom my mother had often spoken.

The stories were of her childhood in the town of Mt Morgan, Central Queensland, where her family were very involved with then Methodist Church and the Minister rev Paddy Hare. The most interesting story, now we know the circumstances, was the Rev. Hare visiting the family and my mother, the youngest child, blurting out that she had not been baptised. Paddy's reply was " We can't have that May." I have my mother's baptismal certificate which says she is the daughter of Philip Walter and Sarah Annie Pugh, born on the June 27<sup>th</sup> 1903 in Mount Morgan. It is dated August 27<sup>th</sup> 1914 and signed H P hare. It was only when I sent for Paddy hare's service record that I realised the significance of the baptismal date.

Herbert Patrick Hare enlisted in Mount Morgan on August 24<sup>th</sup> 1914 and I like to think that he did not wish to leave the Mount and one of his parishioners without his blessing, especially as he had shared many experiences with them. The church had presented Sarah Pugh's mother, Mary Wilkinson, with a hymnbook in 1911 on the occasion of the Wilkinson's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. May and her older sister Doris would go with the Rev Hare to the neighbouring settlements for Sunday services. Paddy and Doris would get out of the sulky and walk down the Razorback mountain road, but May would stay on the seat till the road was so steep she fell out! It was also May's job to take little Mildred, Paddy



and Gladys Hare's daughter, outside during the sermon. This proved hopeless as the little girl did as she liked, running and climbing fences with May chasing after her, having no control at all! Mildred Hope Hare's name is in my mother's birthday book on June 30<sup>th</sup>. When I received Rev Hare's service papers they contained a copy of a letter in Mrs Hare's handwriting which confirmed it was Gladys who had written in my mother's book the date of her little daughter's birthday.

This winter my husband and I stayed in Mt Morgan and the newly refurbished museum has a portrait of Rev Paddy Hare in his army uniform. I also have a photo of him in civilian dress. A handsome man, over six foot tall and according to his medical record weighing 13 stone 11lbs with brown eyes, black curly hair, a dark complexion and a 1/2 inch scar in the centre of his forehead.

I also have in my possession a photo post card sent to my grandparents dated Mena Feb. 28th 1915 in which he says the special staff of the AFA are having a birthday dinner. He is well, but homesick and will be glad when sights the smoke of the Mount again. " We are leaving Egypt for the Dardanelles. I think to fight the Turks."

These were among the stories and mementos my grandmother and mother kept of a man and his family who had been very important in their lives. It must have been a sad day for the people of Mount Morgan when the news of his death reached the town and a testament of the esteem in which he was held is the fact that his life is still commemorated in their museum ninety years later.

The Attestation paper explained his name 'Paddy'. He was born in Waterford Ireland, the son of Henry and Maria Hare who decided to immigrate to Hobart Tasmania. His wife, Eloise Gladys Hare was a native of Hobart. At the time of his enlistment Paddy Hare was 33 years 3 months and a Minister. However before joining the ministry, he had been an apprenticed engineer for three years and also trained in the Southern Tasmanian Artillery for three years: 2 years in D Company and 1 year 6 months as Chaplain (Res). It was probably this experience in the artillery that influenced his posting. His statement of service informs us that he first served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade AFA as a Sergeant. On April 4<sup>th</sup> 1915 he joined the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force and on July 28<sup>th</sup> was transferred to the 7<sup>th</sup> Battery in the Dardanelles. He was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt while on Gallipoli. A month later,



August 25<sup>th</sup> 1915, he was again transferred this time to the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade AFA. He was reported sick in hospital on October 30<sup>th</sup> 1915 and on 4 November was admitted to hospital in Malta ex HS *Rewa*. : Later on December 8<sup>th</sup> 1915 he was promoted to Lt probably on Malta where he is sent to the Officers Convalescence Depot, Palermo on January 6<sup>th</sup> 1916. Lt Hare left Malta on the *Benui* on January 24<sup>th</sup> 1916 returning to active service, disembarking at Alexandria on January 28<sup>th</sup> and rejoining his unit at Tel-el-Kebir on February 5<sup>th</sup> 1916. While here he is transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Division artillery and later the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battery. The unit embarked on March 21<sup>st</sup> 1916 at Alexandria heading for France and arriving in Marseilles on 27 March. On May 15<sup>th</sup> 1916 Lt Hare is taken on the strength of the 1<sup>st</sup> Divisional Ammunition Column and then back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade AFA with the 103<sup>rd</sup> Howitzer Battery. On August 7<sup>th</sup> 1916 he was wounded: his right arm was shattered and he died of his wounds the next day. His body was buried in the Military Cemetery Puchvillers, 7 1/2 miles south

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 copy of the a. & a  
 we were having a birthday  
 dinner so you can see  
 we as were sometimes  
 I am keeping well  
 but really getting tired  
 homesick. I will be  
 glad when I see the  
 smoke of the mounds  
 again of the mounds  
 We are leaving Egypt  
 for the Dardanelles I  
 think a fight with  
 Turks.  
 from your friend  
 Paddy Hare  
 Mene  
 Feb 28 1915

Write here for Ireland Postage only  
 POST CARD  
 Address to be written here

east of Doullens, his burial being reported by OC 3<sup>rd</sup> Casualty Clearing Station.

Paddy's wife and daughter returned to Tasmania some time after his enlistment and from correspondence seems to have resided with the Hare family at Derwent View, Augustus Terrace, Lansdowne Crescent Hobart. *{NB: The HCC record notes his NOK as Wife Mrs L G Hare, Augusta Terrace, Hobart}.*

There had been anxious enquiries from Gladys when the name Sergeant H Hare was reported ill or wounded in 1915 but this was resolved when it was found there were other men with same initial and surname. Early in 1916 Base Records informed Gladys, in March, that Lt H P Hare had embarked for Palermo on H M Yacht *Grainaig* for convalescence. Later in the month she was informed he had embarked for Egypt on January 24<sup>th</sup>, so it was two months before confirmation of Lt Hare's movements reached his wife. Mrs Hare wrote again to the Base records Office clarifying her initials as E G not L G in case there should be complications at a later date.

After the devastating news of her husband's death, Gladys wrote to Base records in Melbourne asking 'if they could tell her anything as to what happened to him.' A prompt reply explained they knew no more at the moment. It was December 1916 before they were able to send Gladys full details of her husband's death and burial place. Fortunately the granting of a pension for Gladys herself and as trustee for Mildred was quickly determined.

The SS *Benalla* brought home the first of Paddy's personal effects and in June 1917 four more packages arrived. Paddy had left everything to his wife. His sister, Mary, acknowledged receipt of the packages explaining that her sister-in-law had been 'ordered away' due to ill health. Thus the final wishes of Lt H P Hare, 103<sup>rd</sup> Howitzer Battery, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde AFA were carried out and his wife, sister, father and family were left like so many others to grieve. Gladys received a copy of Paddy's commission in October 1919 and then in 1922, a Victory Medal and Memorial Plaque.

Many towns throughout Australia planted Memorial Avenues. In Dubbo where I live The Trustees of the then Methodist Church thought it appropriate to follow the Municipal Council and plant trees as a memorial. These trees would be dedicated to the memory of the young men and one nurse from the Methodist congregation who had served in the war. Several weeks were spent removing the old pepper trees and preparing the holes for planting the new trees. On Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1918 the dedication ceremony was held. The front of the church was hung with flags of the Allied countries and a large number of people attended an afternoon tea where the Minister, the Rev F Walkden Brown explained the reason for the ceremony. He spoke of the heroism of the young men and called for three cheers for the King and the Lads and the front. *{NB this dedication was on the same day as the Domain Avenue and the war still had 3 months to run}.*

The trees were planted along the front fence of the church and parsonage. The present rose garden originally had a palm tree planted in the memory of the boys who were killed. Of these only two trees remained in 1997 when I asked permission of the Parish Council to place a preservation order with the Dubbo City Council regarding the two camphor laurel trees in the grounds of the Wesley Church. The request was granted. One of the trees is at the driveway entrance to the property and the other is near the Church where the congregation often has morning tea or shelters from the sun while chatting\* together.

Lynette Harrison, Oct 2003

*{\* Immature lice eggs were known as chats; when men spent time chatting in the trenches, this meant sitting around crushing or burning lice and eggs in the seams of their clothes.}*

**Watch out for details of the meeting towards the end of March.**

**Copies of the full plan will be available from the website [www.soldierswalk.org.au](http://www.soldierswalk.org.au)**

A big thanks to Duncan Kerr's office for photocopying.

**Friends of Soldiers Walk**

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**Patron: His Excellency Mr Richard Butler AC Governor of Tasmania**

President: A Howard    Secretary: R Hunt