

Friends of Soldiers Walk Inc: Newsletter

Issue 21 September 2005

Highlights

RSL and the Avenue, Jericho

Working bees

AGM

Donor List

Dates to remember

AGM September 21st

Working Bees: September 25th (note change), October 16th



SUBS NOW DUE: THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY PAID. \$5 per annum.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21st at the Lindisfarne RSL Club, 30 Lincoln St, Bellerive commencing at 7:30. Turn off at the highway just south of the Beltana Hotel at the traffic lights into Lincoln St. The RSL Club is just beyond the main shopping area on the right.

The AGM will consider the usual business including election of officers, presentation of the Committee report and financial statements for the year. There are a number of important constitutional changes to be considered. These are outlined below.

A number of positions will become vacant. Adrian Howard is resigning as President and Kirsty Black as Treasurer. Adrian will be applying for the role of Project Officer to undertake work related to the Tasmanian Community Fund application. In addition the committee is being expanded by 2 under a proposed change to the constitution. Nominations are welcome and you can either notify via mail or on the floor on the night for any position on the Committee. All nominations should include details of a seconder.

Constitutional Changes

Banking and Finance

Amend section 8 (7) to allow for two signatories on cheques with President, Secretary and Treasurer, nominated committee members and the Public Officer allowed to sign.

Currently the treasurer and or other members may sign with the Public Officer to counter-sign.

Notice of General Meetings

Amend Section 13 to provide for notice of a general meeting to be through direct notice to members.

Currently the requirement is for a newspaper advertisement.

Business and Quorum at general meetings

Amend section 14 (3) to set the quorum at 12 (currently 15)

Constitution of the Committee

Amend section 23 (1) to allow the committee to consist of:

(i) the officer bearers of the FOSW (being President, 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer)

(ii) 4 other general committee members (currently 2)

(iii) a representative of the State RSL and a representative of Hobart City Council

(Delete reference to representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Peace Trust, as these groups have indicated they should not accept representation)

Meetings of the Committee and Sub-Committee

Amend section 26 (4) to set the quorum at five members of the committee (currently 6)

Annual Subscription

Amend section 30 (1) to set the annual subscription as at \$25.00 for normal membership and \$10.00 for concession. (currently \$5).

Tasmanian Community Fund Grant

We have just received the great news of a grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund as part of their special Cultural Heritage Round for 2005. Our submission was for "The Avenues Project."

The funds will be used for:

- a) purchase of 80 plaques for the Avenue
- b) additional cost of installation and contact with families and liaison work
- c) archival research on other Avenues around the State focussing on contemporary descriptions of the Avenue, planting ceremonies and the men commemorated
- d) travel and accommodation support for botanical assessments by the RTBG
- e) development of a 'how to' kit for other communities
- f) travel and presentations, mentoring and other support for 10 targeted communities with Avenues.
- g) A project evaluation

This is a great boost not just for the work to be done but a clear recognition of the work already done and the importance of these Avenues as a forgotten part of our history. We already are well ahead of the mainland States in restoring our major Avenue and this grant will enable us to show the rest of the country how to do it. More detail on the project's progress will follow over the next year as we begin the work. We will also be seeking funds from the State Government to help with this project.

A big thanks is due to the Botanical Gardens for their assistance with this project; they will be providing specialist advice on tree species and arboricultural issues for the kit as well as providing botanical assessments: all in-kind!

Working Bee September 25th

The next working bee will be held on September 25th from 10am. We will be loading cut material and general rubbish into an HCC truck for transfer to the tip. Good gloves would be an advantage. Usual BBQ to follow. Meet at car park at northern end of the TCA. **We will also be joined by Council staff for a free plant give-away at the same time.**

Report on August 3rd Anniversary Events

A very enjoyable day, though exhausting for the Committee, and certainly blessed by the weather. Thanks must go to Project Hahn, Work for the Dole and Project Hahn and the Hobart City Council for their work in preparing for the day and the provision of seating, public address, parking arrangements and general set-up and especially the installation of the plinths. The musical accompaniments by the Veterans Band added a delightful touch and certainly added to the sense of occasion.

Particular thanks must go to personnel from the ADF who helped in dedications, attended the ceremony and reception and the Defence Service Organisation for the buses to move people around the Avenue.

Thanks also to the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and other aldermen who attended and participated along with members of State and Federal Parliaments, representing both governments and oppositions.

The greatest thanks must go to our patron His Excellency William Cox, Governor of Tasmania for his leading role in the main ceremony of planting and dedication and the great reception at Government House, which was certainly appreciated by all who attended.

A big thanks to everybody for their patience and understanding when some things happened not quite as planned.

The RSL and the Avenue

Apart from its role as the proponent of an Avenue the RSL has been strongly involved in maintaining the Avenue over the years as the following extracts show.

Thursday July 16, 1929 p6

**'Notes of the Day'
Soldiers' Memorial Avenue**

The memorial avenue planted in the Domain at Hobart shortly after the cessation of the war was intended to keep in memory the names of the Tasmanians who laid down their lives during the Great War. A tree was planted in memory of each fallen Tasmanian, and a tablet erected bearing the name, date of death, and regiment attached. Many of these trees have grown well, but others have not done so, and, in some instances, the trees have died. Time and the weather have removed the names from many of the tin tablets, and it is difficult, if not impossible, to tell to the memory of which particular soldier a tree may have been planted. When the avenue was being laid out it was not contemplated that it would be anything but a permanent memorial to the fallen soldiers, but its original purpose is being somewhat destroyed by neglect. It is surely incumbent upon some public body or organisation to see that dead or damaged trees are replaced and that the names and other particulars are restored to the tablets. The matter is one might be taken in hand by the Returned Soldiers League, and no difficulty ought to be experienced in obtaining funds from the public to do what is considered necessary in the work of restoration.

July 18, 1929 p2

**Soldiers' Memorial Avenue
Repair Fund Opened
RSSILA Sends Cheque
To the Editor of "The Mercury"**

The comments in the general news column of yesterday's Mercury regarding the condition of the Soldiers Memorial Avenue on the Queen's Domain, were noted and considered the general committee of this branch of the league last night. I was directed to state that up to the present the Soldiers' Memorial Avenue has been maintained by the Reserves Committee of the City Council, which body has given all the attention possible with the limited funds which have been available each year.

It is known to this branch that the City Council fully realises its responsibilities in regard to the Avenue, and is most anxious to have the original scheme of same, which included connecting up with the War Memorial, completed as rapidly as finance will permit, and it is understood that a considerable sum is being placed on the Council's estimates this year for maintenance and improvements. Realising that the development of the avenue required more attention than had been possible in the past, the Hobart branch of the league took the matter up some time ago, and brought about the formation of a Soldiers' Memorial Avenue Progress Committee, composed of representatives of the City Council and the various ex-AIF and kindred associations. In this connection considerable help was given by "The Mercury", and its assistance in connection might decided to establish for the general improvement of the avenue was kindly offered.

In view of the dilapidated state of the many tree-guards throughout the avenue, and the undesirable distinction amongst them, brought about by the private care given to a few, one of the first consideration of that committee was the improvement of the unsatisfactory condition of the tree-guards. As most of the guards need, in addition to repairs, enlarging, it was considered that the avenue would be better tended, and made more a "field of equality", if the whole of the guards were removed and replaced by an appropriate post and wire fence along both sides of the avenue, with frequent openings so as not to inconvenience the public using the Domain. The committee considered that of... means of the proposed fence is essential, if only for a few years.

Although the City Council will materially assist, such an undertaken by that body is out of the question for some time to come. Therefore the committee hopes to raise, by public subscription, a sum sufficient to cover approximately half the cost of such work, which, incidentally, would provide work, so badly need at the present time for unemployed returned soldiers, besides being a decided step in the development of our avenue of remembrance. Mr. E A Brooke, of this city, has already forwarded a sum of one guinea towards the improvement of the avenue, and if you, Mr. Editor, will be good enough to open a fund in "The Mercury" for this purpose, this Hobart branch of the RSSILA has pleasure in forwarding a cheque for £10 herewith to head the list.

I also enclose a copy of the letter forwarded too the City Council by my committee in regard to the Avenue.

W H Gray

Secretary, Hobart Sub-branch

RSSILA

147 Macquarie Street, July 17

[Enclosure]

The Town Clerk, Town Hall, Hobart Dear Sir – the comments in yesterday's "mercury" regarding the condition of the Soldiers' Memorial Avenue were considered by my committee last night, and a statement has been forwarded to "the Mercury" setting out this League's position and intentions in this matter. My committee are fully aware of the Council's intention that the Soldier's Avenue shall, in time, be eventually developed and made worthy of the city as an everlasting memorial to those if its citizens who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War. My committee desires to express its appreciation of what the Council has done already in connection with the avenue with the limited funds available, and to express the hope that the Soldiers' Memorial Avenue Progress Committee, which was set up last year, will receive the Council's full co-operation in the much-desired further development and improvement fo this sacred spot. It is felt that there are many interested citizens who will gladly contribute towards

the improvement of the avenue, and, therefore "The Mercury" has been asked to open a fund for this purpose, and this branch of the league has decided to head same with a donation of £10. If the anticipated response is forthcoming, the committee feels it will be in a position to put up a definite proposal to the Council at an early date, and it is hoped that the Council will be able to see its way clear to make the necessary financial provision, in order that the much-desired improvements to the avenue will be forthcoming may be put in hand as early as possible.

Yours faithfully, W H Gray, Secretary

[We have received cheque for £10. – Ed. "M".]

During the Great Depression, the RSL was not only concerned with maintaining the Avenue but also providing employment. During this period the HCC also made use of Commonwealth unemployment relief funds to have the path re-gravelled.

Mercury July 6 1933 p6

**Letters to the Editor
Soldiers Memorial Avenue**

Sir

I wish once again to bring before the public the effort that is being made to place the Soldiers' Memorial Avenue in the Domain in a condition more in keeping with the intentions of those who were responsible for planting it. For several weeks now a working bee has been giving up alternate Saturday afternoons in order to cultivate the ground round these trees, and in other ways improve the appearance of the avenue. With the exception of one Saturday when a number of scouts and a few members of Toc H assisted, this work has been done by a team of enthusiastic returned soldiers, but owing to the small number who have given up their Saturday afternoons to this laudable work they have not been able to complete the work that the organisers set out to do.

Seeing that all the trees have been allotted and bear a plate with the name of a deceased soldier who originally belonged to Hobart, it was expected that many relatives of those men whose memory is perpetuated by a tree would come forward and lend a hand. This hope has not been realised, whether from want of thought or other causes is not known, but the fact remains that those who should have the greatest interest in the Memorial Avenue have failed to respond to the lead given by the returned soldiers. On two Saturdays the weather was not suitable for any work to be done there, but on Saturday next the working bee will once again assemble to do what they can.

If the relatives and friends of those boys whose names are on the trees cannot spare a Saturday afternoon to assist this working bee, would it be too much to ask them to assist by employing an unemployed returned soldier or any man or youth who is needing the money, and send him out to report for duty on the avenue on Saturday afternoon next at 2 o'clock when the work will proceed under proper supervision. Already three offers to pay a man have been received by me, and should others wish to follow this lead they can get into touch with me and I will find a man who will be glad to earn three or four shillings for the afternoon's work. I trust this suggestion will give food for thought and bring the desired results. If interested, please phone 6114.

A A Orchard

Secretary Hobart Sub-Branch

RSSILA

NB A A Orchard was a Gallipoli veteran who served with a number of men commemorated on eth Avenue.

Mercury July 8 1933 p10 (Saturday)

**Memorial Avenue
Additional Men Engaged**

The response to a letter over the signature of Mr A A Orchard, secretary of the Hobart sub-branch of The Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia, in the Mercury on Thursday, regarding the work on the Soldiers' Memorial Avenue has enabled work for ten men, in addition to those who go there voluntarily, to be provided by the sub-branch.

Mr Orchard stated yesterday that through the generosity of the undermentioned a sufficient sum was available to do the work, and he wished to thank them for their donations. Dr H N Butler, Mrs Nicholas, Mr W H Propsting, 10s each: Mrs S M Smith, Miss Betty Venus, Miss P W Weaver, 4s each.

Mr Orchard added that if further donations were sent to him for the work they would provide work for more men on Saturday afternoon.

NB All of those listed had relatives on the Avenue. Miss Betty Venus' father was Sgt George Hedley Venus.

Cross Roads Oval

Recent research funded by the Hobart City Council has revealed that in 1961 before the tip was established at the northern end of the Avenue, the RSL was consulted and an agreement was reached about what was to be done. The following extracts come from The Mercury.

As part of the Management Plan it was decided to replace all missing trees and rename the Oval to 'Soldiers Memorial Avenue.' Nothing new under the sun.

The Mercury 9th August 1961 p5

Approach to R.S.L. before trees moved

First World War memorial trees on the Domain will be replaced with full agreement of the R.S.L. if the Hobart City Council constructs a tip in the area.

The Town Clerk (Mr. Hurle) said this yesterday when commenting on a letter in "The Mercury" from N. D. Abbott. Mr. Hurle said that when it was proposed to construct an oval at the Domain crossroads the council consulted the R.S.L. and inspected the site with league representatives.

"It was then agreed by the R.S.L. that certain trees should be removed, and when the oval was constructed they would be replaced in suitable locations.

If the council receives permission for tipping at the cross roads, nothing will be done until the R.S.L. has been consulted again and satisfactory arrangements made for the re-location of any trees that might be affected."

Quicker return

Mr. Hurle said the reason the council had looked for short-term tipping sites was to obtain a quicker return of assets- particularly with sports grounds.

With short-term tipping the community did not have to wait 25 or 30 years for these assets, as was the case at New Town bay.

Mr. Hurle said the comparatively small amount of work done at the crossroads was the preliminary towards the creation of a full-size football oval.

The work had been started when it was expected the Education Department would join with the Council in providing the oval.

As no aid had come from the department, the Reserves Committee had no immediate plans or enough money to push ahead with the proposal unaided.

In two years

"However, if the site is used for tipping a full-size oval will be achieved within two years," he said.

"It is not fair to say that there will be two years increased delay in the availability of a good oval for the High School."

"Without tipping there is no immediate plan for the construction of an oval."

Mr. Hurle said that if permission were granted to tip every care would be taken to see that the operation was done efficiently and under constant supervision and control.

"The council hopes to be able to show the results that can be achieved by up-to-date methods of controlled tipping."

The Mercury

26th August, 1961 p22

R.S.L., Council Agree on Soldiers' Memorial Trees

The City Council and the Hobart sub-branch of the R.S.L. were in agreement about the replacement of trees in the Soldiers' Memorial Ave., on the Queen's Domain, representatives of both said yesterday. They were commenting on a letter to "The Mercury" in which it was stated that "about 50 trees had been removed from the avenue to create a rubbish tip."

The Town Clerk (Mr. Hurle) said that before plans for the cross roads area of the Domain were completed the Council had consulted the R.S.L. Representatives of both organisations had inspected the area, and it had been agreed that trees should be removed as required, but replaced.

The City Council had removed 29 trees, and had replanted 42.

The plaques which had been on the old trees are in storage and would be replaced in the avenue when the new trees had developed further.

The President of the Hobart sub-branch of the R.S.L. (Mr. H R Blacklow) said that when the council and the league inspected the area they found that many of the memorial trees had died.

Others were stunted and deformed because they were being strangled by chains holding the memorial plaques.

Representatives of the council and the sub-branch agreed that when the tip was filled and a sports arena had been constructed the trees would be replaced and planted around the ground, Mr. Blacklow said.

Plaques would be refitted and the arena named the Memorial Sports Ground. The R.S.L. committee reported that aldermen, particularly the Deputy Lord Mayor (Ald Chesterman) were most co-operative and helpful. The committee was quite satisfied that when the whole project was completed it would be a vast improvement, Mr. Blacklow said.

Support from AMS

A big thanks to AMS Hire and Brian Morey for their support through the loan of a ute two days a week to help out Work for the Dole on Mondays and Tuesdays with transport on the Avenue: absolutely invaluable in moving gear and timber.

A vote of thanks and appreciation is also due to Project Hahn (particularly Warren Slater, Dean Tapping, Craig Owen and Peter Monaghan) for the work being done on the Avenue. All the Work for the Dole participants have really put in and are great supporters of the Avenue and what it stands for.



(from left) Jason Roughley, Steve Smith, Aaron Steed and Brett Macaulay hard at work dealing with a felled gum near Tree #133.

Aaron, Jason, Brett and Steve finishing off.

New signs are appearing along the Avenue courtesy of the Hobart City Council. These include a sign for the toilets at the TCA. Soon there will be dog bag dispensers and bins as well as three large signs, one at each entrance.



November 11th Plans

Another set of plaque dedications are scheduled for November 11th with the focus for a large group being on the northern isolated section of the Avenue and the Grasslands Gully entrance. We have not yet decided exactly how many plaques will be installed on the day. Priority will be given to plaques funded by family donations wherever they appear on the Avenue.

Plaque Donors to date

(We trust everyone who has donated to a specific plaque has been acknowledged. If not, apologies and you will be in the next issue.

- In memory of L/Cpl Harold John Ward Tree #44, Rebecca Styles
- In memory of Cpl Hobart Alfred Seymour Tree #47, N M Nichols
- In memory of Pte George Owen Davis Tree #61, GO & AK Hutchinson
- In memory of Pte Ernest Charles Mawley Woolley Tree #62, Les Woolley
- In memory of L/Cpl Daniel Augustine Quinn Tree #88, Darby Quinn
- In memory of Pte James Keith Yaxley Tree#90, Barry Armstrong
- In memory of Sgt Alfred Gibbs Tolman Tree #102, Frank & Olivia Bosworth
- In memory of L/Cpl Harry Havelock Morey Tree #105, Brian Morey
- In memory of Spr Albert Lighten Tree #107, Greta Reason
- In memory of Pte Frank Kent-Newbold Tree #124, J Robertson
- In memory of Pte Walter Alfred Hurst Tree #147, B J Williams
- In memory of Gnr James Thomas Mackey Tree#151, J Mackey
- In memory of Pte George Pilcher Tree #155, Magaret Andersen, Robyn Conway, K Duncan, Pauline Eyles, Chris Gerity, Marilla Lowe, R McIntyre, R & P Meers, Micahel Nicholson, Daphne Paynter, John Pilcher, Elaine Smith, W D Tomlin, AH & AJ Tomlin, Betty Wall, B Waugh.
- In memory of CSM Charles Edward Wilkie Tree #172, Neil Batt
- In memory of Pte Walter Gordon Ibbott Tree #183, Pat Ibbott
- In memory of Lt William Keith Eltham Tree#185, Roz Budd and Keith Eltham
- In memory of Sgt Tasman Contencin Jackson Tree #196, Kevin Burrows, Dinae Milne, D Jackson
- In memory of L/Cpl Claude Kenneth Clark Tree #205, M Jackson
- In memory of Capt Guy Brooke Bailey Tree #206, Georgina Bolitho

In memory of Pte William James Aloysius Reynolds Tree #240, D Rattray
 In memory of Pte Albert Arthur Reader Tree #243, Len Reader
 In memory of Pte William Albert Hammond Tree #252, F C Thompson
 In memory of Capt Arthur Harold Appleby Tree #255, Betty Hood
 In memory of Bmdr John Daly Kilmartin Tree #257, Barbara Sattler
 In memory of Pte Frank Wenvoe Wynne McGinniss Tree #269, J Gauntlett, D & F McGinniss, K McGinniss, J Mogridge E & M Watson, V Williams & family
 In memory of Gnr (Henry) William Pharoah Tree #274, Jane Pharoah, Merle Pharoah
 In memory of L/Cpl John Desmond Bengier Tree #278, Beatrice McAlpine
 In memory of Spr Gilbert Stanley Young Tree #280, Michael & Helen Cleary. John & Janet Field, Max & Lois Gadd, Carol Hardwick, Paul & Leonie Howard, Barry & Pat McNeill, Michael & Judy Warner, Peter & Gayle Young
 In memory of L/Cpl Spencer Witt Pedder Tree #283, Peta Newman, Bev Newman, D Newman
 In memory of Cpl Lionel Eric Chalmers Tree #293, Lionel Chalmers
 In memory of Sgt Gilbert O'Connor Eddington Tree #296, G Roberts
 In memory of Pte Henry Edward Caulfield Tree #304, J + R Caulfield
 In memory of Cpl William Henry Andrewartha Tree #331, Ross & Bruce Andrewartha
 In memory of Pte Alfred Robert Cahill Tree #338, Pat Kovacevic, Dorothy and Chris Wright
 In memory of Lt Lennard Lewis Wadsley Tree #343, John Wadsley
 In memory of Sgt Aldred Oliver Page Tree #352, Anne Cameron, Margaretta Pos
 In memory of Gnr Arthur Roy Edwards Tree #370, V Austin, Don & Pat Edwards, R Edwards, A Lundis
 In memory of Gnr Archie Youl Flexmore Tree #399, Nigel Crossin, Mary Shadforth, Leata Page
 In memory of Pte Adrian Edmund Husband Tree #429, Bessie Flood
 In memory of Lt Arnold Talbot Wertheimer Tree #434, Margaret Rose
 In memory of Gnr John (Jack) Ernest Peacock Tree #448, John Peacock
 In memory of Tpr Henry Dundas Bashfield Tree #457, Jim Bashfeild
 In memory of Pte Frederick Arthur Hazell, Wesley Hazell
 In memory of Pte Frederick Augustus Self Tree #487, Yvonne Oakford, Nola Webb
 In memory of Dvr Harry Augustus Petterd Tree #508, Graham Petterd, Jim Petterd
 In memory of Cpl Alan Gunn Hodgman Tree #279 and Pte Harry Hodgman Tree #275,
 In memory of Pte Michael Harold Commene, Brian Commene, Michael & Jill Shaw

Jericho Avenue

The trees were planted along the western side of the main road through Jericho and many still remain. One original plaque is to be found in the church. It is made from moulded copper and is similar in format to the Dysart plaque. According to a contemporary news report, 27 trees were planted. *Weekly Courier* September 12th 1918, p32

Jericho Planting

Jericho, in common with most places, decided to plant a number of trees to perpetuate the memory of the brave lads who have left home to fight for freedom. The day proved favourable, with the result that there was a nice gathering, apart from the relatives concerned. A number of people journeyed from Oatlands, thus showing a patriotic spirit, and the function proved so successful that Jericho residents are to be congratulated.



The number of trees planted was 27, and it is gratifying that a small place like Jericho had that number of patriotic young men willing to shoulder the rifle. The first tree planted was for Captain Graham Bisdee, this duty being performed by Mrs Alley.

Prior to the planting Warden Lester (see photo above) addressed the gathering, complimenting the residents on patriotism. He also embraced the opportunity to draw attention to the forthcoming war loan, and appealed to his hearers to assist to the utmost. Afternoon tea, supplied by a bevy of ladies, was nicely laid out in the hall, proceeds being in aid of the Red Cross circle.

The trees were protected by substantial guards (see photo below) and a bronze plaque was attached to each tree bearing the number, name and awards of the soldier whom it commemorated. The total cost of £25 was raised by local subscription. The Avenue was planted with the permission of the Oatlands Council but the idea came from the residents. This group was planting a tree for Nurse Burbury.



One plaque survives; it is moulded copper and bears a simple inscription. It is held in the Church and museum at Jericho. It commemorates Pte Norman Eric Beard 12th Bn KIA 6/4/1917 near Bapaume at the age of 23. He was born and enlisted from Jericho where he worked as farm

hand.. In 1918 his parents lived in Regent St Sandy Bay and he is commemorated by tree #215 on the Soldiers Memorial Avenue. Thanks to the Southern Midlands Council and Stephanie Burbury for their assistance.

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



Cascade Brewery

& Dr Syntax Hotel

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