Friends of Soldiers Walk Inc: Newsletter

Issue 26 June 2006

Highlights

August Dedications Will Dyson War Artist Captain Guy Brooke Bailey

Dates to remember

August 3rd 2006

Thanks to Duncan Kerr MHR for photocopying and State Branch RSL for mailing covers.

President's Report

For those who attended the most recent dedication ceremonies in April, I think you will agree they were very successful. A large number of descendants were on hand for both Sunday 23rd and Anzac Day to dedicate plaques and to remember their forebears. As well we had a large contingent of dignitaries and guests as well as many media representatives. Once again we were blessed with fine weather even if it was a little chilly! The media coverage after both events was very good and showed once again the high profile the work we are doing on the Avenue has gained over the last year.

On the Sunday we were privileged to have one of our greatest supporters, Lord Mayor Rob Valentine conduct the main dedication ceremony for 15 soldiers, with plaques funded through the Tasmanian Community Fund Grant. Prior to the main ceremony we had a number of plaques dedicated by descendants of soldiers, reminding us yet again that this memorial was originally created by families who could not bury their young sons, brothers or fathers. As I said on the day, helping to re-establish these connections is what makes this work so fulfilling and so important.

We were also pleased to have a number of services organisations dedicate plaques on the day including the B Company Social Club of the 12th/40th Battalion Royal Tasmania Regiment, Ex AMS and AAWMS Association and the Northern Suburbs Legacy Widows. Mr John Chilcott, Official Secretary to our Patron, the Governor of Tasmania, also dedicated a plaque to Pte Clement Southwell Keen, whose mother had worked at Government House. The main dedication was followed by a barbeque which was enjoyed by all.

On Anzac Day, another dedication ceremony was held at the beginning of the Avenue below the Aquatic Centre. The ceremony was led by Deputy Lord Mayor Eva Ruzicka and we were honoured to have a number of guests including the Minister for Education, Hon David Bartlett MHA, Leader of the Greens Peg Putt MHA and Gerald Loughran Chairman of the Tasmanian Community Fund. Two family plaques were dedicated and it was wonderful to see some many people come for this



important event, especially the children. Chris Oakes, State Vice President of the RSL and committee member of FOSW dedicated a plaque to "An Unknown Soldier of the Great War" to remember all those soldiers of the Great War for whom all records have been lost.

Apart from all his normal duties, Adrian Howard has also been busy helping out the students from Drysdale Institute of TAFE practice their tour guiding skills. A number of tours were run on Anzac Day along the Avenue.



Above: Bruce Morley from Drysdale, tour students and Adrian Howard on the Avenue

I hope you have all taken time to walk along the Avenue lately, it is truly a transformation. The Work for the Dole crews and Hobart City Council staff have now completed the removal of all large Blue Gums along the walk and the openness that has resulted is wonderful. For the first time in many years, we can see the Avenue as it was meant to be. With over 180 plaques now installed people using the Avenue can not only be rewarded with wonderful views and vistas up and down the length of the walk, but also can take the time to learn something of the men who left these shores never to return, and something of their families, whose grief must have wet the flanks of the Domain for many years.

Don't forget, it is only a year since we started the dedication ceremonies and combined with the clearance of trees and other vegetation, look at the result. We now truly have an Avenue that all Hobart and Tasmania can be proud of. And our work is not yet complete. We have another 330 plaques to install, we have over 150 trees to replant, and we have to find a home to display our growing collection of memorabilia. I can't wait. John Wadsley

Crossroads Oval and the Northern End

The landscape plan has been drawn up and is currently wending its way through the Council. At the moment, the plan is being costed: with the requirement for new fences, pathways, stairs and a new car park it will not be cheap. The actual cash cost wil be reduced by labour through our working bees, the contribution of Work for the Dole crews and donations of materials. We will keep everybody posted about that.

Review of Queens Domain Management Plan (QDMP)

The QDMP is currently being reviewed as you may have noticed from newspaper advertisement. John Wadsley and the Project Officer attended an issues session with the consultants and also gave them a tour of the Avenue outlining the issues from an Avenue perspective. Crucial for the Avenue are issues of signage, pedestrian access and parking, the condition of the bushland surrounds and the hoped for restriction of any new developments to existing footprints. A second stage of the Review later in the 2006 will develop recommendations for the future of the Domain over the next 10 years. We will keep you posted.



dedication ceremony for the planting of new trees.

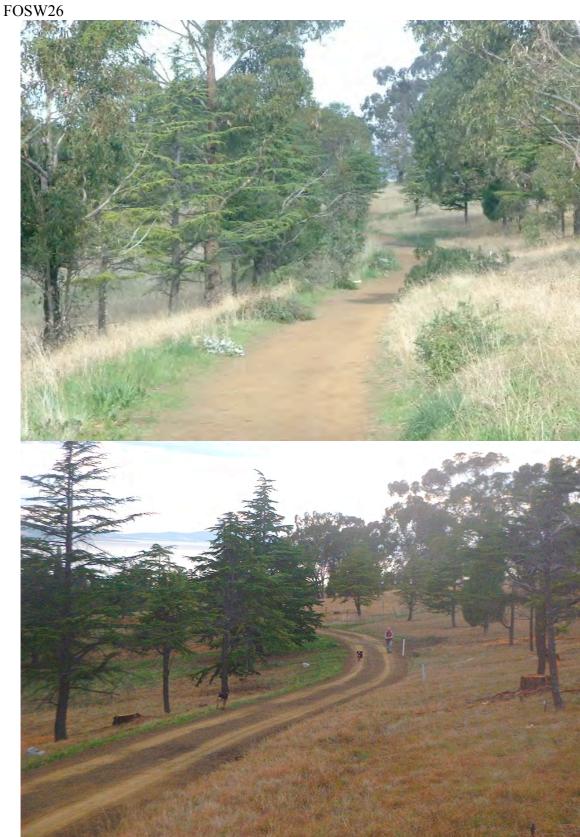
New Trees

The HCC's arboricultural officer, Andrew Robert-Tissot, secured 100 Lebanese cedar seedlings in late 2004 and these are being grown at the combined council's nursery at Warrane. They will be ready for planting in 2008 by which time they should be approaching 2 metres in height. This is being done so that when they are planted on the Avenue they will be big enough to be noticeable; important for both aesthetic and practical reasons. Also by that stage the trees should be robust enough to cope with the changes in their conditions. The new trees will be watered through a reservoir filled twice over summer through a watering tube above ground (you will see the system in use for street trees). The priority in placement of the first 100 trees will be Cross Roads Oval. A second group of 100 trees will complete the oval area in the next year and also fill in the gaps and replace dead trees along the Avenue. After that the priority will be for the nearly-dead trees with the advice of families. In all instances, there will be a

The Transformation: Forgotten or never known.



Looking south towards the TCA Ground. The car park and the sweep of the Avenue are now quite visible. The dog is Beau who adopted Adrian and Kirsty in 2001 and whose need for walks brought the state of the Avenue to our notice. From a dog walk, FOSW was born!



Southern section: plinths mark Trees #199 and #183. The nearer post in the lower photograph can be seen in the middle distance in the top photograph just beyond a pile of foliage removed from the Avenue.

Further Plaque Donors

(We trust everyone who has donated to a specific plaque has been acknowledged. If not, drop

a line and it will be remedied. Names of donors also appear on the website.

Robert Nelson Jackson Tree#91: Kay Adams, Craig Boon, David Boon, Geoffrey Boon, Greg Boon, Maureen Pepper, Nigel Pepper,

Pte Archie Darling Gould Tree #117 Alan Gould

Spr John Cannon Tree #174: John Cannon and family

Pte John Gilbert Brain Tree #180: Lindsey Hand

L/Cpl Vivian Cyril Brooke Tree #271: Bob Brooke & family, Bill Brooke & family, Gray and Lynch-Clerk.

Pte Frederick Arthur Hazell Tree #476: Wesley Hazell

August plaques

August 3rd is the 88th anniversary of the planting of the Avenue. Once again a large number of family dedications will be held as well as a group dedication for those where there are no relatives in contact. The major group of plaques are below the TCA ground on the rise looking south along the Avenue and over the river. These are numbered between 224 and 253.

- 251 Pte Robert Nathaniel **Abbott** 26th Bn Died of wounds 10/8/1918
- 112 Pte Harcourt **Adams** 15th Bn Killed in action 9/8/1916
- 236 Gnr Clive Linklator **Barrow** 3rd Bde AFA Died of war injuries 28/1/1918
- 180 Pte John Gilbert **Brain** 12th MG Co Killed in action 9/8/1917
- 220 Dvr Randall Cooper 4th MG Bn Died of illness 27/11/1918
- 234 Pte Arthur William Croft 4th Bn Died POW 15/4/1917
- 247 Pte John Leslie Crow 25th Bn Killed in action 3/5/1917
- 242 Tpr John William **Dawson** 3rd Light Horse Died of wounds 9/1/1917
- 228 Spr Percy Alexander Emery 1st Div Sig Co Died of disease 19/12/1918
- 329 Pte Percival Lewis Fowler 40th Bn Killed in action 13/10/1917
- 246 L/Cpl William Robert Glennon 12th Bn Killed in action 6/4/1917
- 316 Pte John Henry Green 12th Bn Killed in action 7/10/1917
- 237 Pte Robert Leslie Harris 12th Bn Killed in action 15/4/1917
- 372 2/Lt Charles William Hay AFC Accidentally killed 8/4/1918
- 226 Pte George Fred **Heaton** 12th Bn Died of wounds 10/4/1917 230 Sgt Walter Patrick **Hill** 52nd Bn Killed in action 12/4/1917
- 239 Pte Thomas Charles Whitfield **Hill** 6th Bn Killed in action 16/7/1915 147 Pte Walter Alfred **Hurst** 12th Bn Killed in action 18/9/1918
- 198 Pte Thomas **Jones** 40th Bn Died of wounds 1/2/1917
- 238 Cpl Roy Stuart Lee 12th Bn Killed in action 15/4/1917
- 194 Sgt Major Frederick William Lewis 40th Bn Died of wounds 31/1/1917
- 224 L/Cpl Ernest Edward Liddall 40th Bn Died of disease 11/12/1918
- 176 Pte Wallace Carlyle **McDougall** 40th Bn Killed in action 7/6/1917
- 232 Pte William **McPherson** 15th Bn Died of wounds 11/5/1915
- 229 Pte Cecil Ernest **O'Brien** 52nd Bn Killed in action 3/9/1916
- 195 Cpl John Tasman Ambrose **O'Neal** 52nd Bn Killed in action 26/1/1917
- 235 Major George Holbrook Patterson 7th Bde AFA Killed in action 14/4/1917
- 231 Pte Thomas Andrew **Payne** 2nd Bn Killed in action 9/4/1917
- 77 Pte William John **Pfau** 12th Bn Killed in action 23/8/1918
- 167 Pte Tasman Henry **Pitman** 40th Bn Killed in action 29/9/1918
- 233 L/Cpl John Charles Ernest Riseley 47th Bn Died of accidental wounds 13/4/1917
- 253 Pte Robert Russell **Sinclair** 52nd Bn Killed in action 14/10/1916 309 Pte Ernest Frank **Sproule** 40th Bn Killed in action 5/10/1917 227 Lt Harold Frederick **Uren** 12th Bn Died of wounds 9/4/1917

- 424 Pte Hugh Wallace 26th Bn Killed in action 7/10/1917
- 160 Pte Alfred Ernest **Watson** 2nd Tunnelling Co Accidentally killed 17/9/1916
- 222 L/Cpl Rupert George Wickins 12th Bn Killed in action 8/4/1917
- 398 L/Cpl Henry Roy Tasman **Williams** 12th Bn Died of wounds 2/7/1918 225 Pte Charles Rowett **Willing** 12th Bn Killed in action 6/4/1917
- 108 Pte Gordon Samuel Woolley 26th Bn Killed in action 5/8/1916
- Full details of times will be published in the next newsletter in July.

November plaques: the focus will be on a large block of plaques north of the TCA. We are currently seeking further grants and sponsorship to allow this to occur.

FOSW Chaplain

Sharron Green, a minister of the Uniting Church, and a RSL chaplain, has recently agreed to act as chaplain for FOSW. ON dedication days, she will be available for those families wishing to have a chaplain participate in the dedication of a plaque.

Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize

As was noted in the last newsletter, Sarah Wadsley recently travelled to Gallipoli, Belgium and France as one of the winners on the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize. The trip was certainly an amazing experience for her, including being part of the Dawn Service at Gallipoli. Perhaps the most emotional part of her journey was to visit Mouquet Farm on the Somme battlefield in France, where her Great-great Uncle Lennard Lewis Wadsley died on 3rd September 1916. The following is her description of her visit to that special place.

I have often said to my father, "I would have liked to have met him, ... Len," and now, I almost feel like I have. I am sure that at such a young age I must be the luckiest person on Earth, having had many visits to Len's tree (number 343) on Soldier's Walk and then sitting beneath trees which grew upon the unforgotten bodies of Len and his comrades in France. On April 30, 2006, I had the honour of sitting in the field in which my Great-Great Uncle fell, almost 90 years before. And his body is still there, somewhere among the newly sprouted seeds and the other new life, hopeful of a future. A future similar to that Len sacrificed to save others. After spending hour upon hour reading through his letters and sifting through fading photos over the years, I have learnt a lot about the story of my courageous ancestor who now, doesn't seem so distant. Dad often promised that he would take us to see what we've only ever heard about. And any image I had previously drawn in my mind of what it would look like was soon overwritten. The scenery was indescribable and the feelings I never felt it before, and will never feel it again. No photo could capture the picturesque site and still give justice to everything within it. No words could ever explain exactly what happened to me in that field. It was almost as if Len was sitting there beside me in his neat soldier's uniform, polished boots and buttons. It was sad to think that someone so brave could have been given such a treacherous farewell, lost forever in the damp soil which gave life to something now so wonderful and full of hope. To think that once that field was a disastrous pit of mud, craters and rotting corpses and to see it now, bright



and full to the brim with new life. But in those short moments that I had in that field where the 52nd Battalions C Company courageously fought to the end, I changed. The spring breeze captured my hair and the trees whispered lost farewells while Len and I sat together, remembering. "Len," I whispered. "Finally we

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meet." -Sarah Wadsley.

On her travels, Sarah also visited a number of war cemeteries in which she found graves of men commemorated on the Avenue including Ridge Wood Military Cemetery in Voormezeele, Belgium (above). Here she visited the grave of Sgt Bill Vaughan 47th Bn (Tree #355) Killed in action 12th October 1916 near Ypres. Nearby in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery she found the grave of Lt Lauriston Brownell 27th Bn (Tree #297) who died of wounds on 3rd October 1917.

Will Dyson: War Artist

Will Dyson's life has recently been the subject of a new biography by Ross McMullin (*Will Dyson: Australia's Radical Genius* Scribe Melbourne 2006) and it is simply a wonderful read. Will Dyson made his name as a social and political cartoonist in Melbourne and was a regular contributor to *The Bulletin*. In 1911, he moved with his young wife Ruby (sister to Norman Lindsay and an accomplished artist in her own right) to London where his career really took off and he became best known for his fierce political cartoons, including 'Fat' his archetypal capitalist. The onset of war greatly concerned him though he was not to stand aside. He volunteered his services as a war artist, for which he was never properly compensated having provided his own uniform and paid his own way for his first year at the front. He was wounded twice and was greatly admired by Bean, the official correspondent and war historian, as well as Hurley and Wilkins, the photographers. He witnessed all the major battles from the Somme onwards and was always sketching soldiers in the line, on sentry duty, and on the roads and camps behind the line.



Most of these works are now in the Australian War Memorial One of the many striking images is this sketch The Stretcher Bearers. Dyson was a great believer in captions, many so long it is best to see his work as a combination of prose and illustration. The combination is unique and powerful. They move with their

stretchers like boats on a slowly tossing sea, rising and falling with the shell riven contours of what was yesterday's no man's land, slipping, sliding, with heels worn raw by the downward suck of the Somme mud. Slow and terribly sure through and over everything, like things that have got neither eyes to see terrible things nor ears to heed them... The fountains that spout roaring at their feet fall back to the earth in a lace-work of fragments — the smoke clears and they, momentarily obscured, are moving on as they were moving before: a piece of mechanism guiltless of the weaknesses of weak flesh, one might say. But to say this is to rob their heroism of its due — of the credit that goes to inclinations conquered and panics subdued down in the privacy of the soul. It is to make heroism look like a thing they find easy. No man of woman born could find it that. These men and all men

precipitated into the liquescent world of the line are not heroes from choice – they are heroes because someone has got to be heroic. It is to add insult to the injury of this world war to say that the men fighting it find it agreeable or go into it with light hearts. (p226-227)

Dyson was fierce in his admiration of the virtues of the AIF but he was no blind patriot given how much he saw of war. In 1918 he wrote 'At Villers-Bretonneux' and alas McMullin does not quote in full. Dyson saw two tragedies, the German dead 'sprawled in that last prideless indignity' and the loss of Australian innocence as they became 'familiar in the craft of death.'

Weep for the evil need to kill and kill
Which from the golden gullies of our land
And all the bush bred quiet of our days
Brought our young men beneath the mil-white moon
With moon-white steel to slay and leave them thus,
Debauched of all the semblances of man

...

Weep! Weep for them! for them whose feet seemed set

To tread for ever avenues of peace
Along the wattling ridges of our south,
Where Dynasty was like a tale forgot,
And War a fading memory of old Time.
Ah! Weep for them that something in their soulsAnd they were lesser men that had it notDrove them like chaff before the westering wind
From still cathedrals of the eucalypt
To all the edges of the outer earth,
When, in the stillness of the summer night,
Wrong thundered down its gage to gentle men,
And woke them to the virtues of the wolf
To keep unhurt their old simplicity.

Letter from the Front: Captain Guy Bailey

Captain Guy Bailey married Ida Douglas in April 1915 before embarking for Egypt on May 25th 1915 with the 7th Field Ambulance and then Gallipoli. He was invalided back to Australia with many others to recuperate after a bout of enteric fever, though acting as ship's doctor in the return voyage. Back in Tasmania, he conducted medical examinations on enlistment and his signature may be found on many attestation papers in late 1916 and early 1916. He returned to France embarking on March 16th 1916 serving with the 13th Field Ambulance and later as Regimental Medical Officer for the 52nd Bn. He was mentioned in despatches for 'distinguished gallant services' and 'devotion to duty.' Tow of his brother also served. He was killed in action, hit by a stray shell, on march 28th, 1917 and is buried in the Vaulx Hill Cemetery, France. He left a widow Ida and a daughter Adye. he was educated at Hutchins

He wrote the following letter to his young wife back in Tasmania

France 10/8/16

My darling wife

Here I am, still going strong. We have had a pretty strenuous time lately & that is the reason I have not written for about 10 days. The day after I wrote last week I was sent back to the C.C.S. but I was only there 24 hours & when I tell you I was working solidly for 18 out of the 24 hours you can see there was something doing. As soon as I got back here I started work here & we have been going solidly ever since, but now things have slackened down a bit & we are now on 12 hour shifts so that makes it very much better.

The King was around to see us yesterday but he did not spend very much time here: I expect he had a very big round to do in the time.

I had a letter from Bruce* to say he was over in England, in fact in Manchester. Also that he had written to the Mater to say he was badly hit, I am sorry about that as it was not serious at all

I have just received he case with your photos in & also the lock of hair; it si great to get it, you can't know what a joy it is to get anything like that & also letters. We seem so shut off from you all & so far away from you. I hope we will not be away much longer now as the news at present is very good. I hear the fellows cheering now & am just wondering what it is. The weather has been very good up till now but today is has started to rain but I hope it will not last long.

Well my dearest there is no news at present so I will say goodnight. With all love & kisses to you & Babs from always

Your very loving hubby

Guy

* Bruce, Ida's youngest brother, still in his teens, was a stretcher-bearer in Guy's original unit on Gallipoli. The wound was a shrapnel wound in the buttocks. Later he was very seriously wounded. *Information supplied by Georgina Bolitho of Yass, a grand-daughter of Guy*.

Many medical personnel are commemorated on the Avenue.

L/Cpl Norman Wilfred Allison 3rd Field Ambulance MM (Tree #481) Died of wounds received at Bullecourt on February 3rd, 1918

Pte Gerald Allsebrook (Tree #25) 1st Aust Clearing Hospital Died of wounds 20/6/1915 **Pte Adrian Edmund Husband 7th Field Ambulance**, (Tree # 429) repatriated to Australia with enteric fever and died from complications after appendectomy, Hobart July 12th 1916

Pte Sydney Moor Lake 4th Light Horse Field Ambulance (Tree #349) Killed in action Beersheba November 1st 1917

L/Cpl Alan Lindsay Marsh (Tree #295) 1st Aust Clearing Hospital Died of sickness 6/9/1915 L/Cpl Harry Havelock Morey MM 14th Field Ambulance (Tree #105) Killed in action Clery September 1st 1918

Pte Richard Ralph Sharp 3rd Field Ambulance (Tree #458) Died of wounds received at Bullecourt May 7th 1917.

Also **L/Cpl Spencer Witt Pedder DCM 6th Bn** (Tree #283) Died of wounds September 20th 1917. He enlisted on the condition he was a stretcher-bearer and was part of the AMC details for the battalion

These men constitute the most decorated group of soldiers on the Avenue. It is testament to the heroism of medical personnel, as described by Will Dyson. Others, while not 'medical', also received decorations for bravery in rescuing wounded men under fire, for example, Pte William Copcutt MM 12th Bn Killed in action 23-25/7/1916.

New Edition of Map coming soon

We have now totally exhausted our supplies of the map but worry not for a new edition is coming soon. Some minor corrections have been made. The reprint is being funded by the **Tassal Group Ltd** as our major corporate sponsor. The map will be available from FOSW, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Hobart City Council, museums and visitors centres.

Units and Corps on the Avenue

Commonly many would think that most Tasmanians serving in the Great War would have served in the 12th and 40th Bns. This is anachronistic and derives from later unit associations. As well as infantrymen, all other corps units (except postal, bakery and butchery units) are represented. Among the infantry, a huge profusion of units are represented as men enlisted in other States or were sent as reinforcements to units raised in other States.

Infantry (organised by battalion) (373) Bold: units in which Tasmanians were present from formation

1st Bn	3	2nd Bn	2	3rd Bn	1	1 4th Bn		5th Bn	5
6th Bn	3	7th Bn	3	8th Bn	2	2 9th Bn		12th Bn	141
13th Bn	1	15th Bn	23	18th Bn	1	19th Bn	4	20th Bn	3
22nd Bn	2	23rd Bn	1	25th Bn	2	26th Bn	49	27th Bn	1
28th Bn	1	30th Bn	1	31st Bn	1	33rd Bn	1	34th Bn	1
40th Bn	52	46th Bn	1	47th Bn	10	49th Bn	2	50th Bn	1
51st Bn	5	52nd Bn	41	53rd Bn	1	54th Bn	1	55th Bn	1
57th Bn	1	59th Bn	1	60th Bn	1				

Artillery (49)

1st Bde AFA	4	2nd Bde AFA	4	3rd Bde AFA	8
3rd AFA Amm Col	1	3rd Div MTM Bty	1	4th Bde AFA	1
5th Bde AFA	3	6th Bde AFA	3	7th Bde AFA	2
8th Bde AFA	1	10th Bde AFA	4	11th Bde AFA	1
12th Bde AFA	4	13th Bde AFA	2	14th Bde AFA	3
15th Bde AFA	1	21st Bde AFA	2	36th Heavy Artillery Gp	4

Ambulance (7)

1st Aust Clearing Hosp	2	3rd Field Ambulance	2	4th L H Field Ambulance	1
7th Field Ambulance	1	14th Field Ambulance	1		

Engineers, pioneers and tunnellers (29)

1st Div Signal Coy	1	1st Field Company		3rd Field Company	7
6th Field Company	3	8th Field Company		13th Field Company	2
14th Field Company	1	15th Field Company	3		
1st Pioneer Bn	2	2nd Pioneer Bn	3	4th Pioneer Bn	1
2nd Tunneling Coy	2	3rd Tunneling Coy	2		

Headquarters (5)

2nd Div HQ	2	2nd Inf Bde HQ	1	11th Inf Bde HQ	1
Aust Inf Base Depot	1				

Machine Gun Corps 4

Supply Corps (6)

3rd Div Train, AASC	1	4th Coy AASC	1	10th Coy, AASC	2
Corps Troops Supply	1	K Supply Column	1		

Light Horse (12)

2nd Light Horse	2	8th Light Horse	1
3rd Light Horse	8	12th Light Horse	1

NZEF (5)

1st Bn Auckland Regt	1	1st Bn Canterbury Regt	1	2nd Bn Otago Regt	1
3rd Bn Wellington Regt	1	NZ Mounted M-G Sqd	1		

AFC (3) Aust Army Ordnance Corps (1)

UK units (5)

27th Squadron RFC	1	No1 Squadron, RFC	1	2nd Bn Wiltshire Regt	1	
11th Bn, West Surrey Regt	1	2/10th London Rifles	1			Ī

Cost of Plaques.

We are not exempt from the rise in commodity prices with the price of copper and other metals used in the plaques rising by over 250% since the beginning of the year. As a result the cost of plaques ex-foundry is now \$300.

The final part of the grant money will be used to fund some of the August plaques though now it will not go as far. We urge those families lucky enough to have had a plaque placed who have not made a contribution to do so. Every dollar in donations helps us get further on the road of completing the task. We have over 300 plaques still to go and ignoring all other costs that is \$90,000!

Tasmanian Meat Wholesalers Pty. Ltd.







