

FOSW27

Friends of Soldiers Walk Inc: Newsletter

Issue 27 July 2006

Highlights

August Dedications

Pte Walter Alfred Hurst

Dates to remember

August 3rd 2006 Dedications

August 4th Quiz Night Lindisfarne RSL

August 20th Working Bee on the Avenue

SUBS NOW DUE \$10



President's Report

For those who attended the most recent dedication ceremonies in April, I think you will agree they I hope you are all enjoying our cold winter. As long as we have a nice summer I don't mind. But it would be nice to have some rain. After the good spring and summer rains, I think the trees on the Avenue would be feeling the effects of this extended dry spell, with only 4mm of rain during June in Hobart.

We are well advanced with preparations for the 3rd August dedications at which the Lieut Governor Peter Underwood will be our guest and speak at the main ceremony. These dedications will be the last funded through our current Tasmanian Community Fund Grant. However, there will also be a high number of privately donated plaques. This dedication ceremony will take the total number of plaques dedicated to over 220, a fantastic effort. More details on time and place in this newsletter. If you have the time please come along to the dedications. They provide a wonderful opportunity to meet families who have direct links to the Avenue as well as sharing your own stories.

The draft version of the Avenues Project Community Kit has now been completed and is currently being distributed to selected community groups for trialling with avenues around the State. Adrian Howard has already begun the next phase of this TCF funded project, meeting groups in Carrick and Jericho/Oatlands to discuss how they will use the kit to consider future restoration and management of local Avenues. The Community Kit looks fantastic and is the result of a lot of hard work by Adrian.

FOSW is also becoming involved with raising awareness of memorial avenues in other parts of the State where developments may destroy or affect the heritage and community values of these sites. Recently FOSW lodged a representation with the Launceston City Council regarding the potential impact of a new car park to be constructed as part of the new Aquatic Centre at Windmill Hill.

Adrian Howard attended a meeting with the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal to consider various impacts and to make our case to protect this Avenue. We now await Council's decision and whether we will need to lodge a formal objection.

Adrian and I also met with Tony Scott the new President of the State RSL to discuss FOSW activities and our aims for Soldiers Memorial Avenue and other avenues around the State. He was impressed with the work we have accomplished thus far and he has already written to the various sub-branches seeking their support to work with FOSW on avenue projects that may come up around the State. The main event we are looking forward to at present is the Quiz Night to be held on Friday 4th August 2006 at the Lindisfarne RSL. This is to be a fund raiser as well as being a great social occasion for all FOSW members and their friends. I encourage all members to make up a team of 4-6 people and come along. Supper will be provided and drinks will be available. Entry fee is \$10.00 a head. If you would like to come please let someone on the committee know so we can arrange catering. More details in this newsletter. See you at the Quiz!!!

Working Bee 20 August

Our first working bee for the spring is scheduled for Sunday 20 August. Please meet at the car park at the northern end of the TCA ground at 10am.

We will be working on minor clearing around plinths particularly any remnant concrete and rocks as well as picking up general rubbish.

Crossroads Oval and the Northern End

Still waiting on the costings for the landscape plan before it can proceed through Council. The whole process is becoming tortuous to say the least as the plan was originally to be submitted by March and under the Management Plan is now way overdue. I suggest that any families getting frustrated with this delay, please take the matter up directly with individual Aldermen not with FOSW.

A couple of weeks ago Reg Escott, named for his uncle on the Avenue, died. We have a photo of the infant Reg at his uncle Reg's tree. Alas due to delays in settling landscaping issues, Reg was not to see the new plaque placed at the tree.

Quiz Night Friday August 4th Lindisfarne RSL 7:30pm

Entry for the quiz night is \$10 per person. You can form your own team of up to 6 people or simply join up with others on the night. There will be a lucky door prize. Bar service will be available and a light supper will be provided. Fabulous prizes are of course there to be won along with competitions/raffles during the night. Come along and help raise money for work on the Avenue and to support FOSW's work.

To help us with catering could you please contact 6234 4396 by 3 August so we have some idea of numbers. Payment at the door.

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.

L/Cpl Vernon John Wickins (#32) and L/Cpl Rupert George Wickins (#222): Alan Wickins

Pte (Signaller) Henry Charles Briggs (#127): Geoff Surtes

Pte Wallace Carlyle McDougall (#174): Malcolm McDougall.

Dvr Randall Cooper (#220): Helen Sykes

Pte Nathaniel Robert Abbott (#251): Doreen Knight

L/Cpl John Frederick Watchorn (#285): HJ & Stephen Watchorn

Pte Percival Lewis Fowler (#329): Joan Gittus

L/Cpl Henry Roy Tasman Williams (#398): Darrel Halliday

Pte Frederick Augustus Self (#487): Yvonne Oakford, David Webb, Nola Webb, Terry Webb.

Pte Walter Alfred Hurst Tree #147



Walter Alfred Hurst enlisted on 7 December 1917 with the 12th Bn and embarked for overseas service on 28 February 1918 with the 27th Reinforcements aboard HMAT Nestor, which proceeded to Europe via Panama. Pte Charles Forster (#7987 Tree#123 was also aboard and was also die near Jeancourt some days after Walter).

Walter was the youngest son of James George and Lavinia Hurst (nee Round). It was a big family with siblings George (Ernie), John (who died in infancy), Rachael (May), Edwin (Tas), James (Les), Phoebe, Ruby, Robert and Lavinia.

Walter was a plumber by trade and with Robert had served his apprenticeship with T Gray. Robert also enlisted serving with the 40th Bn (#5722) and had returned to Australia for medical discharge in December 1917.

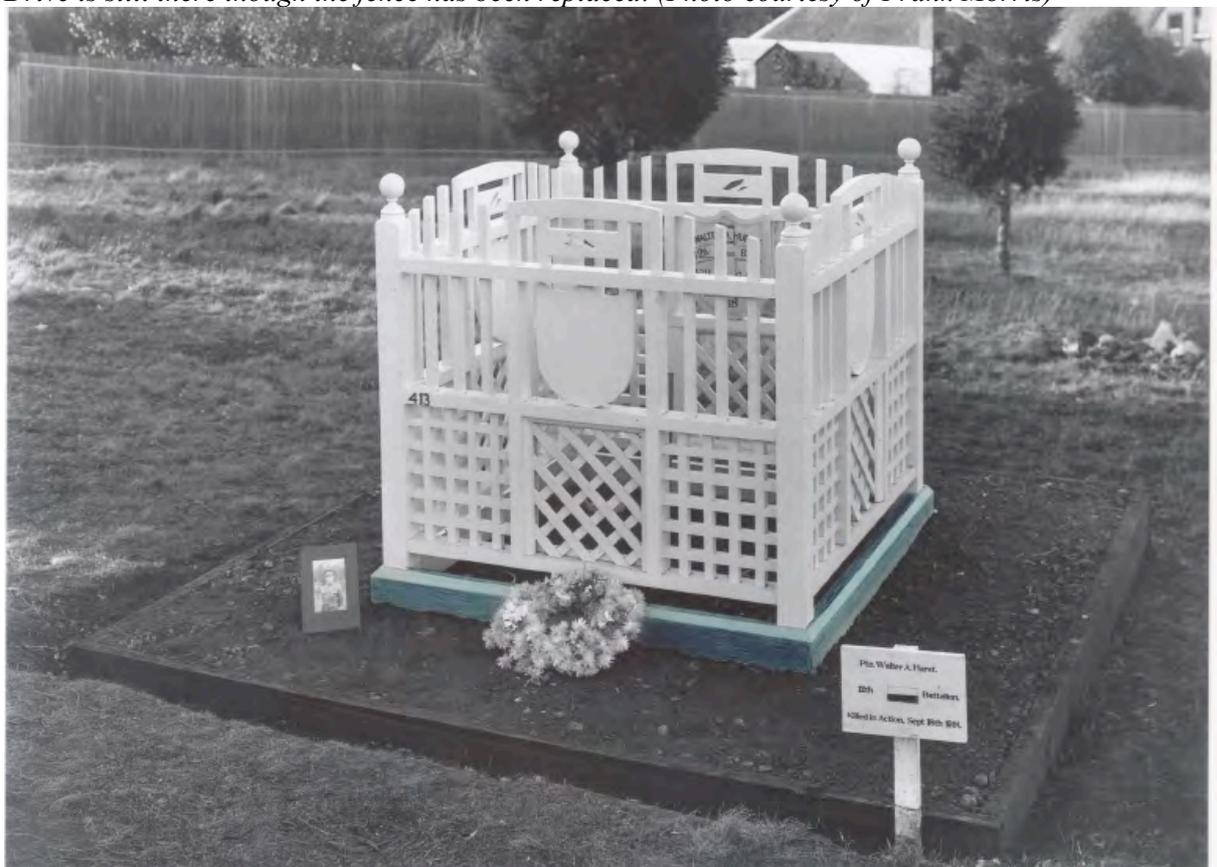
The family was deeply affected by the death of Walter and a family tradition developed to reflect that. Every year on Anzac Eve, the family would gather at 12 Arthur St, each bringing a flower. Lavinia would then make this into a wreath to be placed at the tree on Anzac Day. "Jeancourt"

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became part of a niece's name and as in many families, his name was also preserved. Their sense of loss was also reflected in the replacement of the original HCC provided tree guard with purpose built fencing.



Above: The family gathered for the dedication on February 15th 1919. Brother Robert is on the right and parents James and Lavinia, immediately behind the tree guard. (Tasmanian Mail 20/2/1919 p18)
Below: The guard has been replaced by an ornate fence. Note the shield facing inwards that includes all his details. The HCC name board is to the right and the original tree number (413) can be made out on the middle rail to the left. A family wreath and photo are also visible. The house on Carriage Drive is still there though the fence has been replaced. (Photo courtesy of Frank Morris)



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The family home was at 12 Arthur St, North Hobart. Lavinia's sister Oceana lived with her husband at 10 Arthur St. Their son, and Walter's cousin, Dvr Edward Sweeney, served with 3rd Bde AFA and died of wounds on 11 August 1918. He had enlisted in August 1914. Edward's parents also replaced the HCC tree guard with an ornate fence. (Photo courtesy of John Trethewey).



This part of Hobart was hard hit by war. All of these men would have been known to each other. All their families would have known of their deaths.

Arthur St

- No 1: Spr Hedley Roy Bowden 3rd Fd Co Eng DOW 23/7/1915 Tree#452
- No 6: Cpl William Douglas Leitch 3rd Mobile Wkshops Died of disease 4/5/1919 Tree #74
- No 10: Dvr Edward Richard Sweeney 3rd Bde AFA DOW 11/8/1918 Tree#33
- No 12: Pte Walter Alfred Hurst 12th Bn KIA 18/9/1918
- No 25: Pte Arthur Wharmby 26th Bn Died of disease 6/4/1916 Tree#307
- No 29: Capt Audubon Eric Palfreyman 27th Sqd RFC KIA 23/5/1918 Tree#494
- No 42: Pte Roland Chessell 51st Bn KIA 2/4/1917 Tree#363

Lower/Little Arthur St

- No 17: Pte John Purcell 12th Bn KIA 6/4/1917 Tree#221
- No 17: Pte Alfred Daniel Williams 12th Bn KIA 5/5/1917 Tree#254
- No 18: Spr Alan Douglas McNeill 1st Fd Co Eng KIA 26/3/1918 Tree#374
- No 18: L/Cpl David James McNeill 47th Bn KIA 31/8/1916 Tree#136

Mary St

- No 3: Gnr Bernard Field Seidel 14th Bde AFA Died of sickness 26/11/1918 Tree#509
- No 6: Pte Errol Vincent Cleary 15th Bn KIA 7/8/1915 Tree#28
- No 6: Sgt Wynfred Howard Cleary 1st Bde AFA DOW 23/4/1918 Tree#389
- No 20: Sgt Eric Arthur Hall 52nd Bn DOW 18/10/1917 Tree#344
- No 20: L/Cpl Norman John Alexander Hall 52nd Bn KIA 14/8/1916 Tree#120
- No 32: Pte Hilary Alcock 12th Bn KIA 6/4/1917 Tree#213

Lochner St

- No 35: Pte Gordon Frederick Williamson 12th Bn KIA 19/8/1916 Tree#80
- No 36: Pte Rowland John Page 12th Bn KIA 1/11/1917 Tree#348
- No 36: Pte Eric Charles Seabrook 52nd Bn KIA 4/9/1916 Tree#149
- No 42: Pte John William Harrison 26th Bn KIA 29/7/1916 Tree#395

Brown St

- No ? : L/Cpl Harry Alexander 2nd Bn Wiltshire Regt KIA 14/10/1915 Tree#55
- No 10: Pte William Frances Haynes 12th Bn DOW 6/8/1915 Tree#27

Jordan Hill Rd

- No 10: Dvr Randall Cooper 4th MG Bn Died of Illness 27/11/1918 Tree# 220

Arrangements 3 August: Dedication Times

The dedications will commence with family and sponsored plaque dedications. These will occur in three groups.

Group 1: Proceed directly to the site by the nominated time or make use of the bus. The bus will leave the car park at the northern end of the TCA ground at 11:55am. A committee member will accompany the bus. The bus will move south along the Avenue.

| Tree | Name | Time |
|------|-------------------------------|-------|
| 77 | Pte William John Pfau | 12.20 |
| 108 | Pte Gordon Samuel Woolley | 12.20 |
| 112 | Pte Harcourt Adams | 12.15 |
| 147 | Pte Walter Alfred Hurst | 12.15 |
| 160 | Pte Alfred Ernest Watson | 12.10 |
| 167 | Pte Tasman Henry Pitman | 12.10 |
| 176 | Pte Wallace Carlyle McDougall | 12.05 |
| 180 | Pte John Gilbert Brain | 12.05 |

Group 2: Central: Proceed directly to the tree site. All are within 100 metres of the northern TCA carpark. If you require any special assistance please contact A Howard on 6234 4396.

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 220 | Dvr Randall Cooper | 12.20 |
| 222 | Pte Rupert George Wickins | 12.20 |
| 224 | L/Cpl Ernest Edward Liddall | 12.25 |
| 225 | Pte Charles Rowett Willing | 12.25 |
| 226 | Pte George Fred Heaton | 12.25 |
| 230 | Sgt Walter Patrick Hill | 12.30 |
| 232 | Pte William McPherson | 12.30 |
| 233 | L/Cpl John Charles Ernest Riseley | 12.35 |
| 236 | Gnr Clive Linklator Barrow | 12.35 |
| 238 | Cpl Roy Stuart Lee | 12.35 |
| 251 | Pte Robert Nathaniel Abbott | 12.40 |

Group 3: Proceed directly to the site by the nominated time or make use of the bus. The bus will leave the car park at the northern end of the TCA ground at 12:35pm. A committee member will accompany the bus. The Bus will enter the Avenue from the northern end and proceed south.

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------|
| 398 | L/Cpl Henry Roy Tasman Williams | 12.45 |
| 372 | 2/Lt Charles William Hay | 12.45 |
| 329 | Pte Percival Lewis Fowler | 12.45 |
| 316 | Pte John Henry Green | 12.45 |
| 309 | Pte Ernest Frank Sproule | 12.45 |
| 424 | Pte Hugh Wallace | 12.40 |

Lt Governor from 1pm

195 Cpl John Tasman Ambrose O'Neal; 198 Pte Thomas Jones; 227 Lt Harold Frederick Uren; 228 Spr Percy Alexander Emery; 229 Pte Cecil Ernest O'Brien; 231 Pte Thomas Andrew Payne; 234 Pte Arthur William Croft; 235 Major George Holbrook Patterson; 237 Pte Robert Leslie Harris; 239 Pte Thomas Charles Whitfield Hill; 242 Tpr John William Dawson; 246 L/Cpl William Robert Glennon; 247 Pte John Leslie Crow; 253 Pte Robert Russell Sinclair

There will be speeches commencing at 1:05 pm leading up to the dedication by the Lt-Gov Peter Underwood AO. This should be complete by 1:25pm at which time there will be a BBQ and drinks by Tree#254.

Procedure at Individual Dedications

Families and groups should nominate someone to lead the dedication. The plinth will be covered by a green cloth with a sprig of rosemary tied with red ribbon. Families are encouraged to say anything they wish about the person commemorated, their recollections of the Avenue and the affect of the loss on their family. We ask only that at the conclusion of any remarks, someone says "... and now we dedicate this plaque to the memory of <name of soldier>." The cloth should then be removed and the rosemary placed on the plaque. A member of the Committee will be present and they will collect the cloth.

Longford Avenue

Location: Along the main roads in the town. Tree type and number: 150 plane and oak, many still survive. Name plates removed in 1980s and since lost. Classification: Honour
Planting date: 24th August 1918

Weekly Courier August 29th 1918

Tree Planting at Longford

There was a large gathering at Longford on Saturday in response to the invitation issued by the Warden on behalf of the council to be present at the planting of a soldiers' avenue in memory of the brave lads from the district who had fallen, and those who are still fighting for the Empire. Amongst those present were the Premier and Mrs Lee, who just returned from Launceston, whither they had gone to see their daughter, who is an inmate of the Launceston Hospital, and were glad to find that she is getting on much better than could have been expected after so serious an operation. The Governor sent a telegram of sympathy to Mr. and Mrs Lee on Friday. The Warden and Mrs Freeland, Councillors T C Archer, C Titmus, A G Stokes, E L Lawrence, W E Brumby, and W Beckett were also in the assemblage. The children of the local state school, headed by the Drum and Fife Band, marched to the council chambers, near where

THE CEREMONY

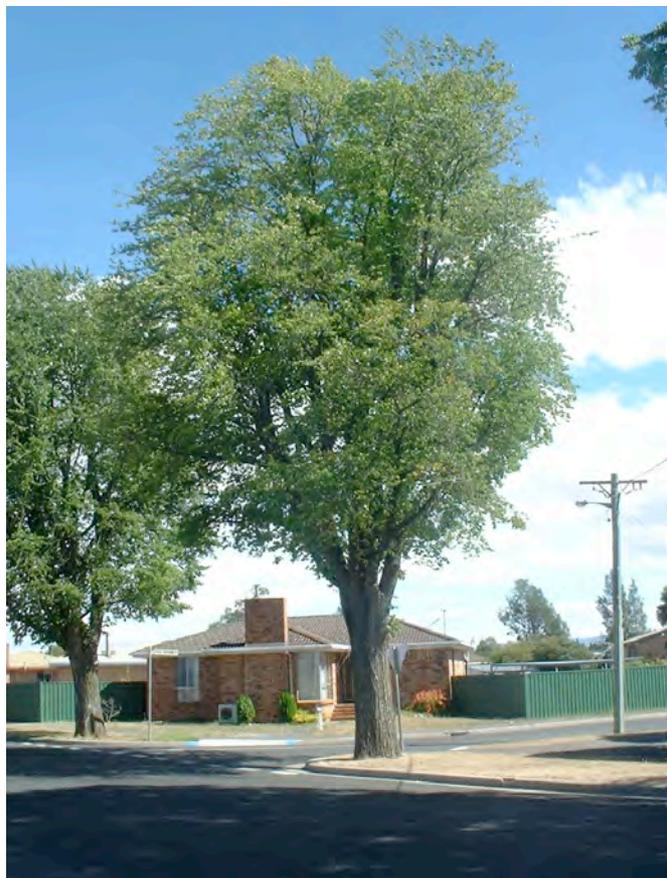
took place. After the singing of "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," the Warden addressed the gathering, and explained that the reason they had assembled was to plant trees to keep green the memory of the brave men of Longford. Mr. T C Archer had generously donated 100 trees, and Mr. E L Lawrence fifty to the municipality. Mr. Lee said, first of all, he wished to thank the many kind friends of Longford for the sympathy that had been extended to Mrs Lee and himself during the past few days of their trouble. Continuing, he said it gave him the greatest pleasure to be present on such an occasion to do honour to

BRAVE MEN

who in many cases had given their all in the defence of the Empire. The planting of trees he thought a much better way of keeping green the memory of those who had enlisted than by rearing a marble monument, for the trees would grow and live for many years to remind them of the brave deeds of our lads. He was pleased to see in the gathering a returned veteran, Corp. A H Briggs. He had been away a long time, and they were glad to see his cheery face amongst them again. (Applause.) They must never forget those who had made the supreme sacrifice, and their living sympathy should go out to the bereaved parents. How best could they show their appreciation? The young men could do so by filing up

THE VACANT PLACES

in the ranks. Those who could not go could give money to the war loan, and thus send silver bullets to help the boys. He urged the Red Cross workers to go on with their noble work for the men who so sorely needed it. They must not slacken their energies until victory was complete. Mr. Lee then planted the first tree in memory



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of Corporal Guy Briggs, while Mrs Lee did so on behalf of Sergeant Gordon Hudson. Both these lads have made the supreme sacrifice. The gathering then moved on to

ANOTHER AVENUE

Where the two donors of the trees, Messrs Archer and Lawrence, planted two trees in honour of Private Clarence Lee and Driver O Hemphill respectively. The proceedings terminated with the singing of the National Anthem and "God Bless Our Splendid Men," and three hearty cheers for the boys at the front. The Warden thanked Mr. McCabe for the music supplied by the band. Afternoon tea was served by the Red Cross Branch in the Anglican schoolroom. The tables were arranged with spring blossom. Those who assisted were Mesdames Stokes, Hudson, Stewart, Cox, Abrams, Pinkard, T Lee, Misses Whitfield, Lovett, Gould, Affleck, Thomson, Gibson, Ferguson, Stewart, and Richardson.

A meeting in Longford is scheduled for 18 July to form a group to drive the restoration of the Avenues in the Northern Midlands Municipality. The meeting is being hosted by the Northern Midlands Council and will feature a presentation by FOSW's Project Officer Adrian Howard on the Avenues Kit. We will continue to work with the group over the next few months to develop an action plan for the restoration of the Avenue.

Windmill Hill, Launceston

Recently the redevelopment of the Launceston Pool into a new Aquatic Centre has created a lot of controversy in Launceston. A prime issue is the effect of the new Centre on the War Memorial Avenue in the parkland in the Windmill Hill Reserve. The main pressure on the Avenue is the layout of new car parking, which will result in the relocation of some trees and the placement of a car park along one side of the Avenue and the isolation of the Lampposts at the entrance as they are turned into virtual roundabouts. FOSW lodged a formal representation as part of the planning approval process and A Howard attended a meeting chaired by J Byrne from the Resource Management & Planning Appeal Tribunal. The issue is receiving a lot of media attention in Launceston and we will keep you posted.

Examiner August 4th 1961

Trees Will Form A Memorial Avenue

Trees will be planted along the driveway to Launceston's War Memorial to form a memorial avenue. The trees should be planted within four weeks.

The chairman of the War Memorial Community Centre Association (Mr N A Findlay) announced the project yesterday.

The trees will be planted on both sides of the driveway leading from High St to the War Memorial Hall.

Pillars of stone and wrought iron will be built on either side of the driveway entrance bordering High St.

The pillars will be lighted to give them added effect at night. Mr Findlay said that the association had asked the Launceston City Council for approval of the scheme.

The council's general committee would recommend the scheme to Council.

The association's objective was to improve the entrance to the War Memorial Hall.

Tree donations

The association would approach specified number of patriotic and



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service associations. Each would be asked to donate a tree.

A plaque bearing the donor's name would be attached to each tree.

Mr Findlay said that the Council had improved the Windmill Hill reserve to where it had become one of the city's most popular rendezvous for citizens and tourists.

The improvements to the reserve combined with the attractive city baths building and the memorial hall would be enhanced by the avenue and entrance pillars.

"The new imposing entrance and the memorial avenue will greatly add to the dignity of it all," he said.



Examiner December 7th 1961

Agreement on L'ton memorial

Agreement with the Launceston City Council on the Memorial Avenue on Windmill Hill was reported at the final meeting for the year of the Launceston War Memorial Community Centre Association. The Council will erect two light standards at the High St entrance to the avenue to carry the required plaques, together with two circular flower beds and a low stone kerbing about nine inches high.

The association will bear the cost of this work and the Council will install

and maintain the lighting and the flowerbeds.

The association considered this a very satisfactory arrangement.

Twenty-one patriotic and service organisations have agreed to carry the cost of the memorial trees which have already been planted.

The association will conduct an official opening and dedication of the avenue, followed by a function in the hall, when the Council has completed the work.

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Mercury December 7th 1961

Final Agreement on War Memorial

The Launceston City Council and the War Memorial Community Association have agreed on the cost and design of lighting of the proposed war memorial avenue at Windmill Hill.

This was announced at the final meeting for the year of the association.

The council is to erect light standards and plaques at the entrance to the memorial drive of trees and to construct flower beds around the trees. The association is to pay the cost of the construction and the council will maintain the lights and the flower beds.

More than 20 patriotic and service organisations have agreed to pay the cost of the trees already planted.



We urge northern members in particular to make their feelings about this known to members of the Launceston City Council.

Woodbridge Avenue

The Woodbridge Avenue has all but disappeared. The Great War memorial remains, having been moved from the original school site to the present school. The Avenue did not fare so well which is a pity as it was in fact THE memorial for those who served in the Second World War. The plaque marking the Avenue has come to light and a group is being formed locally to replant the Avenue with support from FOSW under the Avenues Project.

Planting date: 30th August 1946

Mercury September 3rd 1946

Avenue Dedicated at Woodbridge

An Avenue of Remembrance was dedicated on the South Channel Area School site at Woodbridge on Friday. The avenue will have 53 trees, one for each person who enlisted from the Channel. Cr O B Cripps welcomed the Minister for Land and Works (Mr Brooker) and the Rev N Elliot, representing the RSL. A brass memorial tablet was unveiled by Mr Brooker. Sixteen trees were planted this year. It is the committee's aim to have the avenue completed within two years. Mr M J Potter was organiser.



Tax Deductibility

Currently we have an application under the new War Memorials category being processed by the Australian Taxation Office. The application will hinge in part on whether the Avenue (or any other similar avenue) is to be considered a war memorial. We trust that the ATO is not trapped in a monumental fixation and that the Avenue(s) continue to be hostages to memory.

We have already established a Gift Fund and all donations for plaques will be deposited in that account and receipts issued accordingly. We hope to have confirmation of our status in the next few weeks.

Annual General Meeting 6 September Lindisfarne RSL

Nearly that time of year again! The AGM will be held at the Lindisfarne R&SLA commencing at 7:30pm. More details in the next newsletter.

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Our major corporate sponsor is Tassal Group Ltd and they are contributing towards the cost of a number of plaques on the Avenue for men in maritime occupations and/or from areas where they have current operations. Included in the August dedications are plaques for:

112 Pte Harcourt Adams 15th Bn KIA 9/8/1916 Seafarer

160 Pte Alfred Ernest Watson 2nd Tunnelling Co Accidentally killed 17/9/1916 Born Queenstown, brother in Geeveston

195 Cpl John Tasman Ambrose O'Neal 52nd Bn KIA 26/1/1917 Raised in Lower Huon and attended Raminea and Esperance State Schools.

198 Pte Thomas Jones 40th Bn DOW 1/2/1917 Sailor

309 Pte Ernest Frank Sproule 40th Bn DOW 5/10/1917 Fisherman

316 Pte John Henry Green 12th Bn KIA 7/10/1917 Mariner (deckhand)

Future Tassal contributions will be used to dedicate more plaques as well as to support work on Avenues in the Huon, Channel, Tasman Peninsula and Strahan.

Subs Due Now

Reminder to all that subs are now due. Annual sub is \$10. Thanks to those who have already paid including Pat Ibbott of New Town who was again the first person to pay her subs for 2006/07!

Thanks to Duncan Kerr MHR for photocopying..

Friends of Soldiers Walk Inc 11 Franklin Street, West Hobart TAS 7000

Phone : (03) 6234 4396 E-mail: howarda@bigpond.net.au or info@soldierswalk.org.au

Patron: His Excellency William Cox AC RFD ED Governor of Tasmania;

President: J Wadsley Secretary: K Black Project Officer/Editor A Howard

Tasmanian Meat Wholesalers Pty. Ltd.

