

FOSW28

Friends of Soldiers Walk Inc: Newsletter

Issue 28 August 2006

Highlights

Jericho, Cornwall and Lefroy

Dates to remember

August 20th Working Bee

September 6th AGM Lindisfarne RSL

September 17th Working Bee

SUBS NOW DUE \$10



President's Report

Our last dedication ceremony on the 3rd of August proved to be one of the most popular held on the Avenue. Once again the weather was kind, and we were honoured to have the Lieutenant Governor Justice Peter Underwood conduct the main dedication ceremony, with a number of official guests in attendance, including Doug Parkinson MLC, Nick McKim MHA, Deputy Lord Mayor Eva Ruzicka, and representatives of the Australian Army, the RSL, Legacy, Tasmania Police, Department of Veterans Affairs, Hobart City Council, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Northern Suburbs Legacy Widows and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. A highlight was the involvement of students from Albuera Street primary School who assisted in the unveiling of plaques. Retlas Foundry as ever did a sterling job in producing the plaques themselves. A big thanks again to AMS Hire for a ute: essential in getting the work of installation done so there were plaques to unveil and to WFD and Project Hahn for their involvement on the day and for the installation of the plinths.

A large number of family dedications were conducted prior to the main ceremony and I was pleased to see that in some cases family members had even come from the mainland to be part of the day. I received a lot of positive feedback from families who were so excited to be able to reconnect with their ancestors. In some cases they were amazed at the transformation along the Avenue, and the location for the main dedication ceremony provided a stunning view down the Avenue towards the Cenotaph. There were also many opportunities to learn more about each soldier through the families who attended, and it is hearing those personal stories that make these days so important for me.

After the dedication we held a barbeque which was very popular, and at the end we were able to offer the last sausages to a couple of junior footy teams who had been playing at the TCA Ground. Were they impressed!!!

Our Quiz Night was a great success, with over 65 people attending and approximately \$1200 raised for further plaques and works on the Avenue. Many thanks to all those who attended and parted with so much money on the night, and in particular thanks to the various committee members who worked so hard to make it happen, especially Victoria Wood, Kirsty Black and Adrian Howard. The support of the Lindisfarne RSL was much appreciated in providing the excellent venue.

We are now preparing for the AGM next month and I would urge all of you to come along and attend if possible. There will be some vacancies on the committee and I would hope that from our membership there will be some of you willing to get more involved. There are also some constitutional changes which must be approved in order for us to achieve tax deductibility status from the Commonwealth Government. More details in this newsletter.

Finally I hope to see many of you at our next dedication ceremony on Remembrance Day, 11 November 2006.

John Wadsley

CROSSROADS OVAL LANDSCAPE PLAN

John Wadsley recently attended a meeting with the Hobart City Council to discuss progress on the Landscape Plan for the redevelopment of the Crossroads Oval. This will incorporate an extension of the Avenue around each side of the oval to connect back at the crossroads where a small number of trees still remain. The Council has been very supportive of the concept to re-establish the Avenue at the Crossroads Oval, and staff have spent many hours designing and planning for this project. The project should be approved early in 2007 after it has been publicly advertised.

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There is also an intention to rename the oval to better connect it with the Soldiers Memorial Avenue. This is a major undertaking for the Hobart City Council and FOSW is looking to support it through volunteer labour and also to actively seek assistance from other parties.

Working Bee 20 August

Our first working bee for the spring is scheduled for this 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. It would help if you can bring a bucket, good gloves and a rubbish bag (preferably an old super bag or similar).

Council Works on the Avenue



Over the last few years, the Hobart City Council has made many improvements along the Avenue and provided great support to our work. The track has been surfaced and new culverts and stormwater traps have been installed, the three map signs and a general interpretation sign on the southern section of the Avenue. As well, all trees where plaques are to be dedicated are checked and trimmed. The HCC also provides chairs for the main ceremony and arrangements have been made to get access to power as needed.

Many working bees also has been assisted through provision of a Bushcare supervisor, usually John Sawbridge) with tools and a vehicle. The HCC chipper also comes into play with chipping of green rubbish and branches and leaves from removed trees. Trucks and crews have also been provided to remove rubbish and plant material collected at workings bees. In addition the HCC has contracted for stump-grinders to remove stumps of removed blue gums. There is a lot of to-ing and fro-ing between the FOSW Committee and Council staff including Rob Mather (Bushland Manager), Mark Phillips (Project officer), Andrew Robert-Tissot (Arborist), Brendan Lennard (Heritage Officer), Kerry Heatley and Paulus Toonen (Bushcare) and many other HCC staff: all have been invariably supportive and understanding.

AGM Lindisfarne RSL 7:30pm

The 2006 AGM will be held at the Lindisfarne RSL at 7:30pm. If you want to go early you can get a good value meal at the RSL.

A variety of resolutions will be considered including a change of name to Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue (to reflect what it is rather than the 'modern' and somewhat misleading name for the area). This was recommended as part of the Management Plan process.

In addition, there will be resolutions required under the new Deductible Gift Recipient legislation. The process of getting tax deductibility has become more complicated as additional clauses need to be inserted in the Constitution beyond those already n the constitution so we could make our original, refused application. The new legislation covering war memorials requires clauses that

- make clear our non-profit status
- define what the money will be spent on
- define the nature of the memorial
- additional clauses relating to the administration of the fund by a separate group of persons of community standing.

Further Plaque Donors

As all relevant records are with the auditor, this section does not appear. A full updated list will appear in the next issue.

Thanks

A big thanks to all those individuals and businesses who provided prizes and support for the Quiz Night:

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Jerry Hampton Pharmacy (baskets of goodies), Paesano's (pizza voucher), Hill Street Grocer (cheeses, coffee, tea and wine), Gunns (12 bottles of Tamar Ridge wine), Federal Hotels (tickets on Wilderness Railway and accommodation at Strahan Village), Vermey's Meats (meat tray), Tasmanian Meat Wholesalers (voucher), Fullers (voucher), Village Cinemas (movie passes), Perfect Prints (disposable cameras), The Cheesecake Shop (cheesecake), N McIlfratrick (wine), E Ruzicka (packs of comestibles), H Hartley (towels), the Tassal Group Ltd (salmon) plus contributions of food from members of the Committee.

Jericho Avenue

A small group has been working on the Jericho and Oatlands Avenues. The latter consists of plinths and plaques at trees scattered along the main street in Oatlands. Stephanie Burbury of Jericho recently got out with a trusty metal detector and found four name plates in the dust and dirt at the base of the trees. Of the original 27 trees, about 18 survive along the western side of the road through Jericho.



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 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 Weekly Courier Thurs September 12 p33

Record of Memorial

An avenue of trees has been planted through the village, memorial tablet attaché to each tree. Memorial trees were planted along the main road through Jericho – One for each native of the district who enlisted in the Great War- The trees are properly protected by substantial picket tree guards and a bronze plate attached to each bearing the number, name unit of the soldier in whose honour it was erected. The cost of the above was about £25; the funds being raised by voluntary subscription of the residents. The proposal originated amongst some of the oldest residents of Jericho.

Signed [obs] Burbury

A member of Local Trophy Committee

28/12/1920



Plaque for Pte Norman Osker Oliver #754 40th Bn. A farmer from Jericho, he enlisted on 2 June 1916 at the age of 24. He was transferred to the 15th Bn on arrival in England actually joining the unit (originally part of the New Zealand and Australian Div on Gallipoli, and now part of the 4th Australian Div) on 16 October 1916. He was reported missing in action on 11 April 1917 near Bullecourt, with death recorded for that date on 19 September 1917. His parents were William and Elizabeth Oliver both dying by the early 1920s. His sister Ethel later married and by 1924 was the only member of the family left corresponding with the authorities

from her home at Melrose Cottage, Andover. The eldest brother Frederick was unable to write. This was not unusual and explains perhaps why many medals were left unclaimed and many families were unable to pursue inquiries about the fate of the missing.

In all five plaques have been found to date. Those for the enlisted and returned were much the same being slightly smaller and carrying just rank, initials, family name and unit. One tree actually has a remnant of the original tree guard embedded in the trunk

The Jericho Avenue also illustrates the point that the plantings were not all about men or soldiers. The Avenue includes a tree planted for Nurse Burbury and also one for a sailor Armourer J E Hodgson from HMAS Melbourne (below). Plaque left is for Dvr V G Turner 3rd Light Horse.



Being bypassed by the Midlands Highway reconstruction saved Avenues such as Jericho and Kempton. Melton Mowbray was not so lucky with the southern portion of the Avenue now under the highway.

Cornwall Avenue

An enthusiastic group in Cornwall in the Fingal Valley has taken on the task of resorting the original Soldiers Avenue planted in 1918 or 1919 on a special reserve granted by the Crown. Jim Haas, local historian, has joined with other residents previously involved in work on the Miner's Memorial in Cornwall just across the road from the reserve. The trees were removed many years ago by the local Council. The first step on the way will be to plant crosses on the reserve on Remembrance Day, each

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bearing a name plate for a soldier or nurse commemorated on the original Avenue. There will be 22 crosses to represent the original 22 trees and the service personnel they represented.

Soldiers' Avenue at Cornwall

The residents of Cornwall recently, through Mr. S Trinder, approached Mr. J Allan Guy, MHA, with a request that he endeavour to arrange with the Minister for Lands for an area of land on the township to be reserved for the purpose of tree planting in honour of the fallen soldiers. Mr. Guy has now been informed by the Secretary of Lands that an area of about two acres required by the residents of Cornwall will be reserved for the planting of trees, as requested by Mr. Trinder, on payment of the survey fee of £2 10s 6d. The district surveyor has recommended that the reserve be made, but states that a survey will be necessary.

Examiner August 1918

Lefroy

The West Tamar Historical Society recently provided us with copies of photographs of the original planting at Lefroy in September 1918.

Avenue of Honour

Information to hand tells of a tree-planting function fixed for Friday. The day "the tank" is expected to arrive. A meeting of residents interested, recently decided to plant ten trees in honour of that number of local soldiers who had fallen in battle. To aid the project the municipal council has granted the sum of £5, as in the case of a similar effort in George Town. It is estimated that £10 will be sufficient to carry out the scheme.

Weekly Courier September 19th 1918 p32

In Memory of the Brave

Saturday tree-planting function in honour of 11 local soldiers who have, in Gallipoli and France, made the supreme sacrifice for Empire and justice, was efficiently carried out by a committee of ladies and gentlemen elected earlier in the week. Willing workers having dug the holes for the trees on the previous day, the planting became a comparatively easy task. The first tree, placed in position by Miss Eva Lee, was in memory of her brother (Gunner David). The Rev Mr. Kelly feelingly referred to the fallen soldier himself, and to the bereaved relatives. Mrs Jones, after planting a tree in memory of Machine-Gunner Alf Tarrant, spoke of the dead soldier as one who knew him well. The next tree, planted by Mrs Yard, was in honour of Private A H Tarrant, brother of the previous soldier. The most touching incident happened when Mr. Gilham, much broken, held in position the tree in honour of his son (Private Arthur H Gilham). Rev Mr. Kelly, as on the previous occasion, gave a sympathetic address. Mr. Gilham also planted the tree dedicated to the memory of QMS Val. Allison, the first soldier to succumb, Mr. Pratt responding. Gunner Cecil Richardson was next named, his aunt (Mrs Popes) planting a tree. Trees in memory of the brothers, Corporals Cliff and Charles Bickham, were planted by Misses Iris Kitto and M. Tearle respectively, Mr. Dazeley speaking on behalf of the young ladies. Private J Cannon was similarly honoured, Miss Mackey being deputed to plant his tree, testifying that her father (Trooper Mackey) to the fallen soldier's excellent character. Trooper Mackey also planted a tree to perpetuate the memory of Signaller Charles H Jenkins. Mr. Dazeley, as a club comrade, was able to testify to the intelligence and keen sightedness of that soldier and his skill with the rifle, beside his cheerful and generous disposition, stating that most of the fallen soldiers were old members of the late local rifle club, which has been disbanded through so many enlistments. The planting of the last tree in memory of soldiers who had answered the "Last Post" was pathetic, a mother publicly planting a tree in memory of her son – Private Charles Ponting. Here Rev Mr. Kelly's sympathetic remarks were most helpful and needed. At each tree a verse of the National Anthem was sung, Mrs Jones leading. An adjournment was made to the state school ground, where Mr. Parry planted the "thrift" tree, Warden Parry concluding the ceremony in an appropriate address. Many residents of the surrounding districts being assembled refreshments were provided in the parish hall. The proceeds (about £2) are to be passed over to the Red Cross Fund. The state school scholars were in attendance, marshalled by Mr. Pratt, the head teacher.

Lefroy, Northern Tasmania, Sept 24

Weekly Courier September 26th 1918 p32



This group panorama is quite revealing. To the left you will find ministers of religion and police, in the centre schoolchildren as well as others who are obviously family members and visiting dignitaries. Each tree was marked by a small wooden shield carrying details of the soldier and service.



Our major corporate sponsor is Tassal Group Ltd and they are contributing towards the cost of a 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. If you have not paid your subs by November 30 you name will be removed from all mailing lists.

Thanks to Duncan Kerr MHR for photocopying..

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