

Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue Inc. Newsletter Issue 45: September 2009



Highlights:

- Great War Avenues in USA, New Committee

Dates to remember:

- Sunday October 18 – Working Bee – New Numbers
- Sunday November 8 – Placing Poppies, installing plaques and numbers
- Wednesday November 11 – Remembrance Day Dedications

New Committee

The new Committee elected at the AGM comprises:

Adrian Howard – President

John Wadsley, Mike Wilkie – Vice Presidents

Kirsty Black – Secretary

Ian Latham – Treasurer

Committee Members – Andrea Gerrard, Helen Hartley, Peter Pickering & John Trethewey

Ex-officio RSL Representative – Chris Oakes

August 9th Tree Dedications



Janice Daley came for the dedication of the new tree for her forbear Pte Henry Thomas Scott (Tree#267). When they arrived at Soldiers Memorial Avenue on Sunday for the dedications, Adrianna Daly (left) and Yasmine Shabeneh (right), good friends and members of the New Town Primary School Choir, were excited because each was, unknown to the other, to be part of the dedication of a new tree to a relative. Imagine the amazement from both families to find that each tree was for a great, great, great uncle and that these trees were next to each other! *(Photo and*

text above courtesy Janice Daley)

The weather was not as fine as hoped and last minute changes were made to the order of events. Thankfully the rain fell before and after the main dedications and once again we have been blessed – never having to cancel an event on grounds of weather. The crowd of over 120 comprised families keen to see and dedicate their new trees as well as a range of dignitaries and officials. Our patron HE Peter Underwood AC, Governor of Tasmania, presided and formally led proceedings. He was joined by Rob Valentine, Lord Mayor of Hobart in individually dedicating 2 trees. Highlights



included the singing of the New Town Primary School Choir and the reading of the Ode by Yr 10 boys from New Town High School joined by Chris Oakes, our RSL representative on the Committee. To add to the ambience there was the Lament played by Fraser Murray on the bagpipes. (Photos courtesy of HCC)



New Numbers

Back in 2003 one of the major tasks for the Committee and members was to place garden tags at each tree bearing a number and a surname – the first essential step in mapping the Avenue and allowing people some way of identifying the tree/soldier. These were later replaced by laminex numbers on small wooden stakes; all produced by Mike Wilkie, a founding member and Vice President.

While plaques have been installed through most of the Avenue, navigating the Avenue to find a particular tree or plaque is not always easy. Many of the number plates have succumbed to age and accident; it has become difficult to get a sense of where particular trees and plaques may be unless you already know. Funds from Tassal, supplemented by the Hobart City Council have been used to produce bronze number plates to go on the front of plinths. The new numbers will be less prone to wear and tear and readable from the main pathway. This will make plaques and trees easier to identify and add a new layer of formality and organisation to the Avenue. In all the plates cost over \$21,000.

Spring Working Bees

As normal we will be having a number of Working Bees during Spring. We would appreciate any help that you can offer.

Sunday 18th October 2009: General Cleanup and installing new bronze Numbers.

Meet at 10.00 am, TCA ground northern car park. BBQ to follow

Sunday 8th November 2009: Placing Poppies on the Avenue for Remembrance Day 10am.

Avenues around the world: United States of America

In his book *Sacred Places*, Ken Inglis focuses on the built heritage of commemoration – monuments, buildings etc – and comments that avenues were ‘an indigenous novelty’. As noted in FOSMA 7, there are other avenues around the world. Saskatoon’s Next-of-Kin Avenue at the municipal cemetery is one survivor in Canada, the Imperial War Museum’s Registry of War Memorials notes over 200 avenues and memorial trees and as many memorial gardens. In the United Kingdom the practice was promoted by the office of the Kings Highway through a pamphlet under the title “Roads of Remembrance as War Memorials”.

In the United States of America, the American Forestry Association promoted the planting of memorial trees as a fitting tribute to service and sacrifice during the Great War. It was directly responsible for the planting of memorial trees and groves for forest workers and encouraged and assisted many communities in the planning and planting of groves and avenues. Many of these plantings still survive in some form. Also active were the Daughters of the American Revolution,



the American Legion and the Grand Army of the Republic as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness in Graham County, North Carolina is the result of one effort to create a living memorial. It began with a request from the Veterans of the Foreign Wars to set aside a fitting stand of trees to serve as a living memorial to Joyce Kilmer, who was killed in action during World War I. Before the war Kilmer was a poet, most remembered for his poetry about common, beautiful things in nature. Kilmer's best known poem is "Trees" –

"I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree...."

This led to the purchase of, and dedication in 1936, of the forest that became the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest - now part of a larger public reserve in the Appalachian mountains. His popularity and the poignancy of his death, was also remembered in urban environments – Brooklyn boasts a Sgt Joyce Kilmer Square. (above)

In the early 1920s, while city officials quarrelled over what kind of official monuments should be erected, planting trees to the memories of individual New York City soldiers became popular. In Central Park, Madison Square Park and Harlem's Jefferson Park oak trees were planted, and in Brooklyn along Bedford Avenue 2,300



elm sapling were dedicated. Today memorial trees can still be found beside the Brooklyn Public Library on Grand Army Plaza and along Prospect Park West. (Possibly these are the same trees planted on Bedford Avenue, which were later moved by subway construction.) Each tree has a small plaque in the cobblestones around its roots with the name of a soldier (most are privates or corporals) and his regiment. I

Memorial to Corp. Harry M. Cundy, Grand Army Plaza

Within Central Park in New York, 14 trees and memorial plaques on stones were placed in memory of 590 officers and men of the 307th Infantry Regt, 77th

Division. In 2007, 10 of the trees remained and 12 of the stones still carried their original plaques. Avenues were also planted in Middletown, Ohio and Mercer County, New Jersey. ²

Another instance is the Grove of Heroes, dedicated in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park in 1919 to honour those lost in World War I. Memorial tree plantings to remember the war dead, called Roads of Remembrance



occurred in many cities around the country, including Washington D.C. where three miles of memorial trees were planted on Sixteenth Street, Northwest. In Cleveland, Ohio thousands of oak trees were planted along a seven mile boulevard which ran from Lake Erie through neighbouring towns.³

One of the largest surviving avenues is the 9 mile long Des Moines Memorial Drive – 1800 elms planted from 1921 to honour soldiers from Washington State. Over the years the Memorial Drive trees suffered from changes in the route, road widening and the general process of aging. This is now being rehabilitated through a partnership of local government, historical societies, garden clubs and a local action group. An important

¹ Trenches on the Web - Special: A Survey of New York City World War... <http://www.worldwar1.com/sfnycm.htm>

² New York Times Oct 24, 1920

³ Nancy S. Slade *An Investigation of Sacred Space - The Grove* Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University 2004
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feature of this planting, though hardly unique as the Management Plan claims, is the tagging of individual trees for individual soldiers.



Planting at Des Moines 1921 and a plaque for an 'unknown soldier' on the Des Moines Avenue. ⁴ Another huge surviving avenue is in Cleveland Ohio – over 850 oak trees planted as 'Liberty Row' for the dead of Greater Cleveland in 1919.⁵ It stretches for 9 miles along Martin Luther King Boulevard in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens.

Cleveland Councilman Jerry R. Zmunt, in a July 7, 1918 article in *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, noted: "This is a splendid way of honoring our boys. It is particularly fitting that one of our finest boulevards in the city be chosen. The naming of trees after our dead heroes is the best tribute we can pay them, and their names will thus be perpetuated in a living thing."

The paper also published a poem by W.R. Rose: The little trees that line the way / Sad symbols of a nation's pride / Are etched against the wintry gray / Oh let them live for those who died!⁶



Bronze plaques are approximately 4.25 inches in diameter and .5 inches thick. Each contains the name of a fallen soldier and, in many cases, the day he died. On some plaques, a sprig of olive branches is still visible at the top and bottom. The markers were designed and cast by Fischer and Sons of Cleveland OH and cost \$10 apiece at the time.

This planting continues with American Forestry Association's 'Patriot Trees for America' program and the '1000 Trees' movement encouraging the planting of 'heroes trees' for the men and women of the US services dying as a result of service in Iraq and Afghanistan. This has been supported by IGA grocery stores and brewer Anheuser-Busch Inc. The National Tree Trust has its equivalent the 'Champion Tree Project'.

Coming Issues : New Zealand, Canada and Germany

Presidents Report and Accounts from AGM

President's Report on behalf of the Committee for the year ended 30 June 2009

Another successful year has passed for the Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue. We are now very close to seeing the whole Avenue restored as an important and sacred site of remembrance. And at the same time we have been able to share our knowledge of the Great War and its impact on Tasmanian families with the community in ways which will ensure that recognition of what we are striving to achieve continues to grow.

Restoration of the Avenue

With dedications in August, November and February we have now installed approximately 460 plaques. By August next year, all remaining plaques will be completed, well ahead of schedule. The plaques have become a source of contemplation as well as information for the many people who now use the Avenue.

The other major achievement begun this year, and extending into the next financial year, has been the planting of 103 new Lebanese Cedars by the Hobart City Council to replace trees that have died or disappeared. The efforts of the Council cannot be understated here as without their sustained effort during

⁴ *Des Moines Memorial Drive Corridor Management Plan Vol1 2004 SBA Landscape Architects*

⁵ Joint Veterans Commission of Cuyahoga County (JVCOCC) <http://www.jvcocc.org/index3.htm>

⁶ Cleveland Heights Historical Society <http://www.chhistory.org/Places.php?PlacesContent=LibertyRow>

the wet weather this past winter, we would still be looking at many bare patches along the Avenue. Finally we can now see the beginning of a true rejuvenation of the memorial with live trees planted and thriving along its entire length. And with the wettest winter in 50 years, all the trees have been given a great start. I look forward to further plantings in the year ahead.

Seating has also now been installed along the Avenue by the Council, thanks in large measure to donations from the Tassal Group and the RSL.

Events

Of course the major event for the year was the 90th Anniversary Dedications Ceremony in August 2008, which was a spectacular success. I have written previously on the efforts of so many who made that day a wonderful achievement, so again thank you to all those individuals and organisations. It was very pleasing to see FOSMA recognised during the Australia Day celebrations this year with the 90th Anniversary Dedication awarded the "Community Event of the Year".

For Anzac Week, we held a major display over two days at the Hobart Town Hall. It is estimated that over 700 people viewed the displays, which were a resounding success. We owe much to the efforts of those members and friends who invested so much time in creating an informative and attractive exhibition. The Council must also be thanked for its support, in particular the efforts of Mike Lonergan and Brian Lumb. Plaque Dedications were also held in November and February, both events being well attended. For me, it is always so pleasing to see the private family dedications that occur. They are heartfelt and precious moments and they lie at the heart of why we are all involved.

The official dedication of the new trees was held in August 2009, during a rare dry spell in the midst of cold and wet weather. The performances by New Town Primary School and New High School students were inspirational and thanks also to Fraser Murray for playing the pipes. Once again our Patron the Governor Peter Underwood AC AO officiated, and it is so nice to know we have good neighbours!

Supporters and Sponsors

Our place within the community continues to grow as more families have been able to reconnect with their ancestors. The private donations for plaques and general support we have received are much appreciated, and on behalf of the committee thank you.

The support of the Hobart City Council must be acknowledged, in terms of ongoing maintenance, tree plantings, installation of seats, general support, landscape design, management planning and sponsorship. We are extremely grateful to the Council for their commitment to our cause.

Many thanks to Rob Mather, Richard Greenhill, Matt Newman, Brian Lumb and all the Council/Civic Solutions crews. We must also acknowledge the support of the Lord Mayor, Ald Rob Valentine and Deputy Lord Mayor Eva Ruzicka.

We must recognise and applaud Tassal for their continuing role as our major corporate sponsor, and in particular thanks to Nick Burrows. Our other major sponsors and supporters include the State Government, Tasmanian Meat Wholesalers, Cripps Nubake, AMS Hire and the Globe Hotel.

We are grateful for the continuing support of the State RSL, particularly the former State President Tony Scott OAM JP, Chief Executive Officer, Noeleen Lincoln OAM and in particular the inimitable and always well dressed Chris Oakes State Vice President.

Our other supporters need acknowledgement including Hobart Legacy, Claremont RSL Womens' Auxiliary, South Hobart Progress Association, The Law Society of Tasmania, National Servicemen's Association of Australia, RAAF Association, Tasmanian members of the Australian Defence Force, local schools and other community organisations.

Committee and Membership

As always at this time, I seek to pay tribute to the committee who have worked so hard over the past year. However, these words should not just be seen as a mere obligation. They are but a small way of showing my real appreciation for their efforts. The members of the Executive - Adrian Howard, Mike Wilkie, Ian Latham and Andrea Gerrard have all contributed massively to the ongoing work of this organisation and I thank them for what they have achieved.

And to the general committee - Kirsty Black, Helen Hartley, Peter Pickering, John Trethewey. Each in their own way has ensured we are achieving the aims of this organisation. Through displays, commemorations, catering, working bees, the list goes on. I salute you all.

I must pay tribute to Chris Oakes, as the RSL representative on the committee for his candour, advice and time management.

To all those members who have helped at the working bees, participated at dedications, kept in touch, or passed on good ideas, thank you very much for your contribution.

Looking Ahead

Looking to the future, we still have a lot of work to do – dedications of plaques, planting of trees, undertaking displays and exhibitions, and keeping faith with the men commemorated on the Avenue. Because of what we have achieved, we are moving from a restoration focus to a more interpretation focussed approach. I hope that FOSMA can share its commitment to the men and women who served in the Great War with an ever increasing number of Tasmanians through having informative displays, community events and information sharing.

Lest We Forget , JOHN WADSLEY, President

FRIENDS OF SOLDIERS MEMORIAL AVENUE INC

(ABN 12 395 696 020)

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30th. JUNE 2009

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
RECEIPTS		
Anzac Day function	73.00	336.55
Avenue kits	-	165.00
Badges	65.00	-
Fundraising events	2,607.00	1,798.50
General donations	3,465.00	1,080.00
Gift Fund donations	15,000.00	1,372.19
Inter-account transfers	15,000.00	-
Interest - Operating account	37.26	18.51
Gift account	46.25	38.25
Investment account	1,829.33	3,665.11
Members subscriptions	1,515.00	3,943.54
Membership for Life	600.00	200.00
Miscellaneous receipts	177.15	20.00
Plaque donations	5,740.00	7,685.00
Tassal sponsorship	25,000.00	10,000.00
	<u>71,154.99</u>	<u>30,322.65</u>
Total receipts		
PAYMENTS		
Advertising	67.50	-
Audit	200.00	200.00
Badges	334.80	-
Bank fees	2.65	10.50
Benches	9,600.00	-
Consultants(TCF Grant 2005/2006)	-	203.95
Equipment(tools etc.)	2,079.66	-
Events and dedications	10,239.12	-
Inter-account transfers	15,000.00	-
Miscellaneous	159.99	64.74
Plaque production	34,711.00	23,760.00
Postage	1,266.70	1,340.58
Refreshments	-	302.85
Stationery	279.94	267.34
Statutory fees(Annual return)	51.20	68.75
Web page	100.00	688.00
Wreaths	72.00	120.00
	<u>74,164.56</u>	<u>27,026.71</u>
Total payments		
EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS	<u>(3,009.57)</u>	<u>3,295.94</u>
Add -Cash at bank brought forward:		
Operating account	1,879.57	3,556.99
Gift account	5,233.68	5,915.43
Investment account	58,617.05	52,961.94
Total cash brought forward	<u>65,730.30</u>	<u>62,434.36</u>
TOTAL CASH ON HAND END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 62,720.73</u>	<u>\$ 65,730.30</u>
REPRESENTED BY		
Operating account	7,061.08	1,879.57
Gift account	10,213.27	5,233.68
Investment account	45,446.38	58,617.05
	<u>\$ 62,720.73</u>	<u>\$ 65,730.30</u>

Plaques for November

The final plaques within the body of the original Avenue will be dedicated on November 11 at 9am. If you are connected with any of these men please contact us to finalise the detail on the plaques. You should call 6234 4396 to arrange for a copy of the draft text for your comment by October 9th. Further details of the ceremony will be supplied in the 1st week of November.

177	Pte (Richard) Sydney Daley	23rd Bn	Died of sickness 11/12/1916
182	Pte George Cowen	12th Bn	Died of sickness 26/12/1916
184	Cpl Alex Teulon Bruford	26th Bn	Died of Wounds 26/03/1917
186	L/Sgt Trevor Young	12th Bn	Killed in Action 06/04/1917
187	Tpr Ernest John McIndoe	2nd LHR	Died of wounds 04/06/1915
188	Lt Harry Bruford MM	26th Bn	Killed in Action 03/10/1918
189	S/Sgt Zephaniah Poultney	12th Bn	Died of wounds 09/01/1917
190	Pte Leslie B Brooks	20th Bn	Died of wounds 20/01/1917
191	Pte Thomas Chance	52nd Bn	Killed in action 19/01/1917
192	Cpl Vivian Enoch Triffett	2nd Div HQ	Killed in Action 03/10/1918
193	2/Lt William Drew MM	47th Bn	Killed in Action 25/01/1917
200	Dvr Edwin Herron	26th Bn	Died of Sickness 19/10/1918
201	Pte Clarence Mears	12th Bn	Killed in Action 17/02/1917
202	Dvr Maurice Hunter	14th Bde AFA	Killed in Action 27/07/1917
203	Gnr George McCredie	36th HAG	Died of sickness 24/02/1917
204	Tpr Horace Hawkesford	AASC	Died of Sickness 24/10/1918
207	Pte Arthur Enman	26th Bn	Killed in Action 26/03/1917
209	L/Cpl Charles George Smith	13th Fd Co	Killed in Action 31/03/1917
210	Pte Leslie Oscar Rollins	52nd Bn	Killed in Action 02/04/1917
213	Pte Hilary Linus Alcock	12th Bn	Killed in Action 06/04/1917
215	Pte Norman Eric Beard	12th Bn	Killed in action 06/04/1917
216	Dvr Norman Thompson	10th Bde AFA	Died of sickness 06/11/1918
218	Pte William August Halton	12th Bn	Killed in Action 06-10/04/1917
219	Bmdr Clarence Hill	36th HAG	Died of Wounds 27/04/1917
221	Pte John Purcell	12th Bn	Killed in Action 06/04/1917
299	Pte Arthur Gordon Bowen	40 th Bn	Died of sickness 27/6/1916
387	Pte Charles John Bowen	40 th Bn	Killed in Action 13/10/1917
478	Pte James Youl Frier	40 th Bn	Killed in Action 25/5/1918

The New Town Primary School Choir in full voice - right.



Above left: Our patron HE Peter Underwood presenting Certificates of Appreciation to the work crew who laboured through foul weather to remove, prepare holes and plant the 104 trees in time for the dedication.

Many thanks to Duncan Kerr MP SC, Federal Member for Denison and his staff for photocopying this newsletter

FOSMA Inc. Membership Form



Membership for 2009/2010 NOW DUE

Name:

Postal Address:

.....

Email Address:

Telephone (home): (work/mobile):

Newsletter Delivery Preference (please tick): **Via Post** **Via Email**

Subscriptions: Annual Membership is on a financial year basis from 1 July to 30 June: \$10.00

Membership Paid for Life is a once off payment: \$200.00

Membership type (please tick): **New** **Renewal** **Membership Paid for Life**

Do you wish to make a donation with this membership? (please tick): **General** **Plaque**

Total Amount included with this form (membership plus any donation): \$.....

Payments can be made by cheque or postal order posted to: FOSMA, GPO Box 1867, Hobart 7001. Or via direct deposit (you must include your name in the details/ comments box and send an email advising us):

Bank: Westpac Bank
Name of account: Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue Inc.
BSB number: 037-001
Account Number: 356809

Do you wish to nominate a Soldier of Interest commemorated on the Avenue? If so, please indicate below:

Soldiers Name: **Tree #:**.....

(Note: Please inform FOSMA if any of the above details change – this will ensure we can remain in contact)

Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue Inc., GPO Box 1867, HOBART TAS 7001

Phone : 6234 4396 E-mail: soldiersmemave@netspace.net.au

Patron: His Excellency Peter Underwood AC Governor of Tasmania

President: A Howard

Secretary: K Black

Tasmanian Meat Wholesalers Pty. Ltd.

