

Friends of Soldiers Walk Inc: Newsletter

Issue 1 June 2002

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Alec Campbell: Goodbye and thanks

As you are all aware, Alec Campbell our last link to the campaigns on Gallipoli passed away recently. One of Alec's last public appearances was on the Walk on April 24th where he did us all a favour by unveiling the first new plaque by the tree for Pte Arthur Adams killed at the landing on April 25th 1915.



Plaque for Arthur Adams now in place Alec Campbell with Wendy Latham DVA

The Walk contains trees for over 20 members of the 15th Battalion, Alec's old unit, many for men who died on Gallipoli. Alec certainly understood how lucky he was and lived a full life: unveiling the plaque was for him a very different act of remembrance and commemoration.

Thanks and goodbye.

What has been happening

Since the initial work last year in getting some attention for Soldiers Walk, a small band has been plugging away getting out the message that the Walk needs help. Thus far we have:

- o Arranged for the removal of the remaining plaques (October 2001)
- o Placed red ribbons on the first fifty trees for Armistice Day (11 November 2001)
- o Founded (October 2001) and incorporated (March 2002)

- Made a submission for funds to the Tasmanian Community Fund to assist in getting the word out, working on a long-term plan for the Walk (including restoration and a museum) and conducting awareness, education and sponsorship activities (March 2002)
- Addressed the Queens Domain Advisory Group (April 2002)
- Placed the first new plaque with Council permission (April 2002)
- Held an exhibition on ANZAC Day 2002 at the Victoria Gunpowder Magazine on the Domain
- Applied for an ABN from the tax office
- Started meeting with a Hobart City Council Officers Working Group to discuss issues surrounding the maintenance and restoration of the Walk
- Begun planning for a clean up day/working bee tentatively scheduled for Saturday August 3rd 2002 the 84th anniversary of the inauguration of the Memorial Avenue.

Frank MacDonald MM Agrees to be Patron

Frank MacDonald agreed a few weeks ago to be official Patron for the Friends of Soldiers Walk. Frank is Tasmania's last surviving veteran from the Great War and the last Australian medal winner: he won the Military Medal in 1917 but says the citation got it all wrong!



A Howard giving Frank a certificate of appreciation for agreeing to be Patron



Frank at the Walk

Frank was an original in the 40th Battalion joining the battalion at formation in 1916 and serving as a signaller and fighting in every action on the Western Front, never being part of the cadre held back in each action to serve as a nucleus to reform the unit in case of heavy casualties.

Frank visited the Walk and gave us his full support.

Joining Up

To date sixty people have become Friends of Soldiers Walk. Joining the Friends of Soldiers Walk is simple and easy: contact Friends of Soldiers Walk Inc. at : **11 Franklin St, West Hobart Tas 7000** with your details (name address, phone number and email address if you have one.) The joining fee is \$5.00

Many of you already have. Thanks.

Tasmanian Community Fund Application

As mentioned earlier we put in an application to the Community Fund. Alas we have just found out that our application was unsuccessful so we will try again in the next round. The purpose of the funding was to allow some concerted work including working with schools, and businesses to publicise the Walk and also to allow a sponsorship campaign. Some of that will still happen but much more slowly.

The Committee

The current Committee formed last year consists of:

Adrian Howard	President
John Trethewey and Darby Quinn	Vice Presidents
Rod Hunt	Secretary and Public Officer
Kirsty Black	Treasurer
Tony Peck	Committee Member

Next general meeting will be on Monday June 24th at 7:30pm at The Philip Smith Centre, Edward St, Glebe.

Also we will be having our first Annual General Meeting in July/August. More about that as the time approaches.

Stories of the Walk

In each issue, we plan to bring you stories about the Walk. If you want to tell your story about a family connection, a tree, a soldier or childhood memories of the Domain, drop a line and we will put it in.

Darby Quinn's Story

I was born in 1935 as the younger son of Lal Quinn who himself was the youngest son of John and Ellen Quinn. He had five brothers and the fifth son was Daniel Augustine Quinn born in November 1893.

As I matured, I learned Daniel was killed in action at Pozieres in France on 29/7/1916. In the family circles it was mentioned that a tree was planted on the Domain in his honour but the tree's whereabouts was not known as the plaque with his name had been lost or stolen in the 1930's. Over the past 15 years I searched the domain (mainly in the crossroads area) trying to get a clue but without success.

Following the death of my father in 1988, (aged 91), I found in his possessions an award (known as the penny) acknowledging Daniel's death on active service and a letter dated 15/2/1984 from the Dept of Veterans' Affairs informing that Daniel had a grave in High Wood, Longueval France and that his remains were located with 12 other Veterans in a field in France in 1954. No letter was

sent to the next-of-kin when his identity disc was located in 1954 and I am now the proud possessor of that disc as well as his 1914/15 Star Medal. I have no knowledge of the whereabouts of his other medals and I am unable to obtain replicas.

The only public recognition I can locate of his sacrifice is on the Roll of Honour in the entrance foyer of the Hobart Town Hall and on the Wall of Honour Memorial in Canberra, which fortunately I have visited. He is shown as Private D A Quinn on the names shown at the commencement of the walk (which I was never aware existed until recently) and I will be taking every step to have his correct rank of Lance Corporal specified in that area.

When Adrian Howard commenced his endeavours to have the walk brought into some order, I contacted him and agreed to be of any assistance to him and his helpers.

At one of our early meetings on the Domain, Adrian and John Trethewey located tree no 88 which was Daniel's memorial tree. It is stunted and in poor condition, but it is there, which is not the case of nearly 200 trees originally planted and have either died or been removed. In addition the surrounding areas is full of weeds and long grass and the general appearance is appalling to say the least. It must be seen that this walk is not a satisfactory memorial for the deceased servicemen the walk and trees were intended.

Adrian also guided me in locating and obtaining Daniel's service records, which provide magnificent reading and an awareness of what he encountered in his service for his country. He enlisted on 14/4/1915 (11 days before Anzac Day)



Tree 88

and after training at Claremont and Enoggera in Queensland he joined the 26th Battalion and his first involvement in the war was at Gallipoli when he landed on 4/9/1915. He was appointed Lance Corporal on 11/12/1915, which was the day he left Gallipoli and proceeded to Alexandria for further training with the combined BEF. He proceeded to Marseilles on 21/3/1916 and on 6/7 June 1916 he was a member of a raiding party on enemy lines that resulted in a victory and German prisoners of war were taken. As a reward for that exercise, the raiders were sent to London where a thank you high tea was served. I have the photo of that celebration and it was the last known photograph of Daniel.

It is recorded history that in July 1916 the enemy forces commenced an all out attack at Pozieres on the allied forces with continuous shelling 24 hours a day for over two weeks. I have read the history and more than 22,000 Australians were killed in that action. This was more than the number of Australians killed at Gallipoli!

Daniel Augustine Quinn is but one of the 511 men killed in the service of their country who had trees planted in their honour in 1918. All of those men would have similar experiences to my Uncle Daniel. Their sacrifice and the work done by the originators of the Soldiers Walk must not continue to be neglected and it is up to us who remain to have the walk and its history of these brave men restored better



Darby with the last known photo

than ever and their exploits and deeds recorded for the fortunate survivors who will continue to enjoy the beautiful city of Hobart.

Darby Quinn

Facts about the Walk

- Work began in June 1918 using a mix of family, sports clubs, soldiers on home service, veterans, Scouts and just about anyone who turned up.
- The first plantings were on August 3rd 1918 when the Walk was opened as Soldiers Memorial Avenue. 330 trees were planted.
- To plant a tree, you had to be the next of kin to a soldier who had died and a resident of Hobart. New Town Council joined the project in July 1918 with 50 trees.
- A map, believed to have been compiled in the late 20s, lists 511 trees.
- Trees were also planted near the Cenotaph and two of these remain. It is not known if they were ever allocated.

Upcoming Activities

- Establishing exactly which trees are still in existence.

The Council has supplied us with a full tree survey map; we need to cross reference the trees marked with the named map from the 1920's.

- Labelling existing trees

We need to put number and name markers by the remaining trees to make it easier to locate trees for families and friends.

- Producing a simple map for anyone wishing to locate particular trees

DTIS Helps Out

A student consultancy (Drysdale Tourism Industry Solutions) at Drysdale TAFE has been helping us out. Firstly helping out at the exhibition on ANZAC day, they have been helping in planning publicity, business planning and designing a pamphlet with map. They are capable and enthusiastic and getting very passionate about helping restore the Walk.

They also scanned an original Memorial Avenue button that we are now using as the logo.

Thanks

A big thanks must go to **Retlas** who made the first new plaque and never got frustrated with the changes to the wording and discussions about options. It looks great.

Also thanks to **K and D** for the concrete paver that was used as backing for the plaque at the unveiling.

Thanks are also in order to the Hobart City Council for permission at such short notice for placing the plaque and setting up the officers working group. Particular thanks must also go to Deputy Lord Mayor **Pru Bonham**, Ald **Peter Sexton** (a great support), Ald **John Freeman** and Ald **Eva Ruzicka**: all attended the unveiling. Also in attendance and deserving of thanks for their support are Senator **Eric Abetz**, **Duncan Kerr** MHR and **Doug Parkinson** MLC who represented the State Government at the ceremony.

One person who also deserves much credit is **Jim Tapp** of the Glebe who has been quietly doing his bit for years on the Walk, placing plaques back on trees when he found them lying under grass or half buried. Thanks Jim.

We received great coverage for the first plaque thanks to the presence of Alec and Kate Campbell. The work of **Margaretta Pos** in the **Mercury** was great both in the lead up to ANZAC Day and the coverage appearing on that day. **Southern Cross** and **WIN News** also did a star turn, with

the WIN footage and story picked up and shown on Nine nationally. Thanks all round.

Working with Council

John Trethewey and Adrian Howard have begun meetings with Council officers to develop a management and restoration plan for the Walk. The officers include the Bushland Manager, Rob Mather, the Cultural Heritage Officer, Brendan Lennard and Andrew Roberts-Tisso, the arboriculturalist. Planning has also begun for a clean up day scheduled for August 3rd, the 84th anniversary of the plantings. The clean up guidelines will cover the type and size of vegetation to be removed, radius from trees to be cleaned up and the types of activities various people can be involved in. More on that closer to the time.

The issues being discussed include the style of plaques, the replacement of missing trees and the most appropriate species, the management and/or replacement of trees in poor condition, the placement of 'new' trees (especially those to replace trees under Crossroads oval) and longer term management issues. This list is not exhaustive. There is also a need to take account of other aspects of the Domain environment especially the management of the grasslands.

Two meetings have been held so far and later in the year a management plan will be released for public comment. There will be no quick fix (as much as we might like it) and this process will give some security to the Walk for at least a couple of decades and a lease on life that should last a lot longer. A thanks to the Council for setting up this group to focus on the Walk and its management.

Schools and the Walk

Last year Collegiate worked with Grade 7 classes spent a week focussing on the Domain across a number of subjects. During April this year, Grade 5 and 6 children at Lambert School looked at the Walk and wrote poetry. Kim Allen and Neville Lambert the Principal passed some of this work on.

Never Forget (Ruby Thompson Gr5/6 Lambert School

A living memorial. 1918
10,000 Tasmanians planed these trees.
Some were large and some were small.
But all and all are beautiful
They dug their spades deep in the soil

And were glad they were helping the loved dead soldiers
People still remember those horrible years
Where many Tasmanians died in tears
People who fought don't like to say
Because of eth fear that ran through their veins
The 21st century people walk this track
To remember those souls who fought in war.
Nothing stirs here it's just quiet all the time.
ANZAC day comes and flowers and ribbons wrap around these trees.
The scenery is wonderful with grass and trees, blue gums and cedars.
The city behind you is blocked out of sight. So remember this day for
ever and ever
Because none of these soldiers can be lost and forgotten.

What do we want?

As part of our incorporation, we need to state our purpose. The Constitution says:

4. (1) The basic objects of the association are:
- a) Work to preserve and restore Soldiers Walk in perpetuity;
 - b) Increase public awareness of and support for Soldiers Walk;
 - c) Raise monies to support and continue such work;
 - d) Conduct business operation in so far as they contribute to the aims of the Association;
 - e) Provide advice and assistance to Tasmanian communities and groups seeking to preserve avenues of honour related to the Great War; and
 - f) Establish, promote and operate a museum to provide information and assistance to members of the general public

Coming up in later issues

- **A full list of names of Soldiers of the Walk**
- **Comments on the units**
- **Some unusual trees and stories**
- **The original vision for the Walk**

Meeting: June 24th 7:30 pm Philip Smith Centre, Glebe

Any ideas on a name?

If you have an idea for a name for this newsletter drop a line.

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