



CITY OF HOBART

# MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

THE HOBART WORKSHOP COMMITTEE MEETING

OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING

MONDAY, 23 MARCH 2026

AT 4.00PM

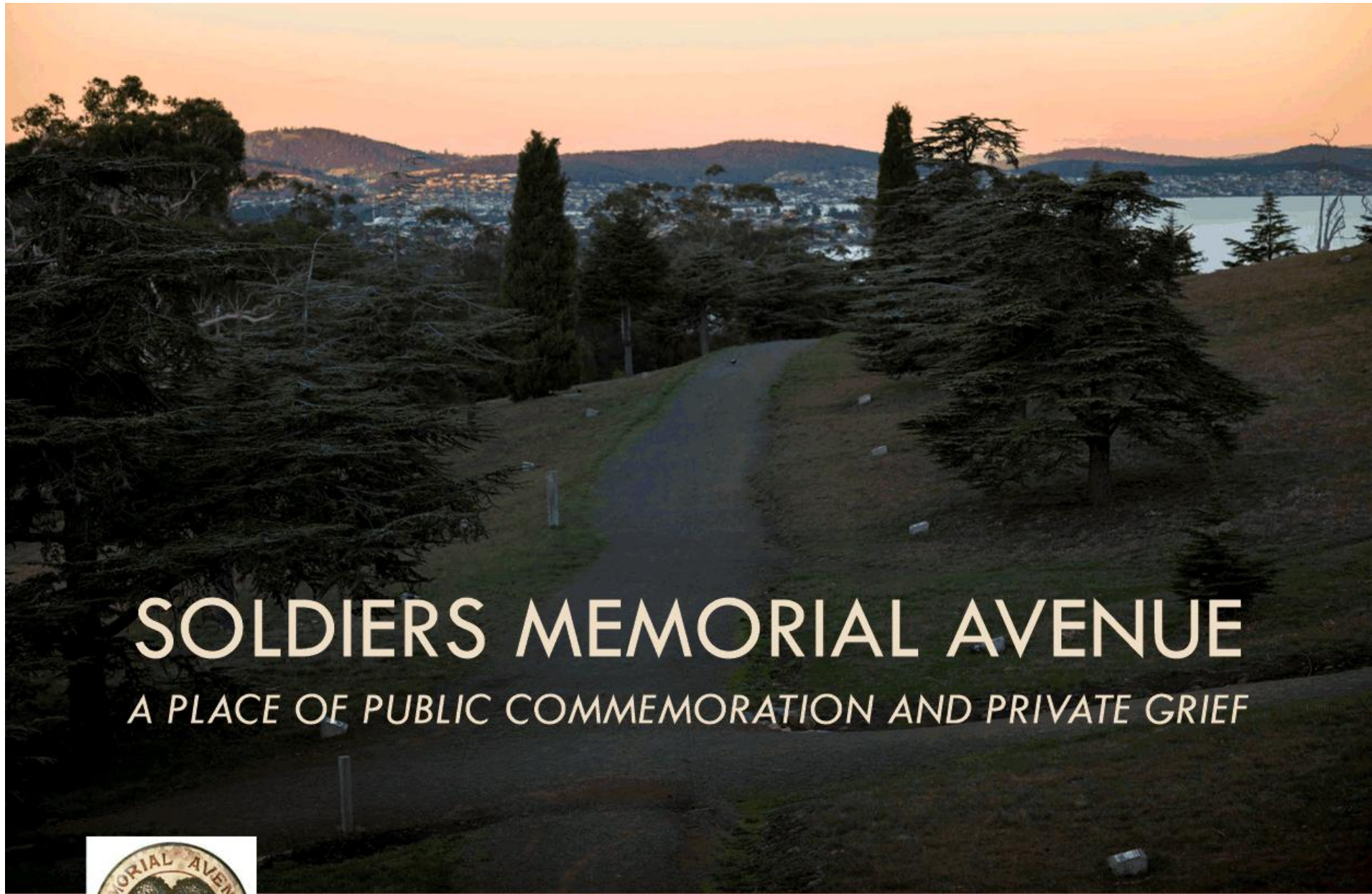
VENUE: LADY OSBORNE ROOM

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# SOLDIERS MEMORIAL AVENUE

A PLACE OF PUBLIC COMMEMORATION AND PRIVATE GRIEF



*'...a noble and beautiful reminder to future generations'*

# The Avenue on the Domain

## A SNAPSHOT

537 trees commemorating those who died in the Great War and had a connection to Hobart.

They represent 18% of all Tasmanians who died.

Planting began in mid-1918, under aegis of HCC Reserves Committee.

1<sup>st</sup> dedication of 400 trees, 3 August 1918

2<sup>nd</sup> dedication of 100 trees, 15 February 1919

Extension of 20 trees to join Cenotaph, 1926

Original trees were mainly Himalayan cedars.

The longest memorial avenue in Tasmania; one of at least 50 around the State.

One of the longest memorial avenues in Australia; unusually, a pedestrian avenue.



# Beginnings of the Avenue, 1917-1918



Scenes on the Domain at Hobart on Saturday, where preparations were being made to plant an avenue of trees in memory of fallen soldiers.

# Main Dedication – 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1918



*“Huge attendance ... impressive scenes...”,  
witnessed by a quarter of Hobart’s population*

## Soldiers Memorial Avenue Timeline (pre FOSMA)

- Oct 1917: Discussions start between RSSILA and HCC
- Jun/Jul 1918: Working bees with volunteers preparing holes and tree guards
- Jul 1918: New Town Council joins with Hobart, 2 rows become 4 on the SMA
- 3 Aug 1918: Main dedication with 400 trees, up to 10,000 people attending
- 15 Feb 1919: Second dedication with 100 trees planted
- Apr 1919: Gravel pathway along SMA installed by HCC
- Jul 1926: Extension of SMA to Cenotaph, 20 trees planted
- Nov 1931: Council replaces wooden name boards with zinc name plates
- 1961-62: Council removes 60 SMA trees for Cross Roads tip; later sports fields
- Feb 1976: Blue gums planted along SMA
- 1977: Domain Athletics Centre established; Honour Roll includes 45 SMA men
- 1980s: Remaining 200 SMA zinc name plates removed into storage

# The Avenue and the Hobart Town Hall



The magnificent Roll of Honour in the Town Hall Foyer, created in 1921.

Includes the names of 3,500 men and women from Hobart who served in the Great War.

Those listed as dying on service are commemorated on the SMA.

# Soldiers Memorial Avenue in the 1920s

... 'a landscape of grief'



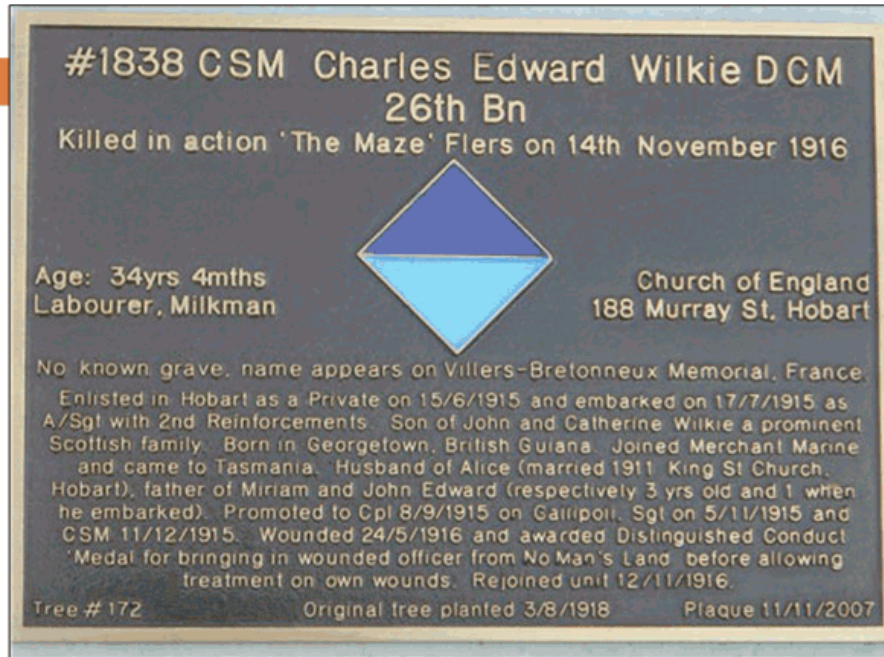
# The FOSMA/CoH Shared Workload

- 2001: Friends of Soldiers Walk formed (became FOSMA in 2006)
- 2004: First SMA Management Plan developed with Council and FOSMA
- 2004-25: FOSMA raises over \$350,000 for plaques, plus significant in-kind volunteer work on stewardship, working bees, research, tours and presentations
- 2003-11: FOSMA conducts 19 dedication ceremonies for 533 trees and plaques, with two more dedicated in 2024; Council installs concrete plinths
- 2004-08: Council implements mowing regime and removal of Blue gums, plus regular working bees with FOSMA volunteers/WFTD/Project Hahn/CoH crews
- 2008: FOSMA and Council agree on new pathway around the Ovals and the planting of 53 trees, as part of 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations
- 2009-13: Council Nursery grows and plants out 250 more trees
- 2014: Final dedication of trees and plaques on western side of Ovals
- 2018: Centenary event for the SMA at the Ovals with over 700 present
- 2022: New SMA Action Plan developed
- Annually: FOSMA cleans plaques, conducts tours and Council maintains SMA

# Cleaning up the Avenue 2004 - 2008



# Restoring the Avenue - new trees/plaques



# Renewing family connections

Thursday, September 28, 2006

## Search reveals a real family tree

TIM MARTAIN

DISCOVERING one of the trees on Hobart's Soldiers Memorial Avenue was dedicated to her grandfather was a poignant moment for Gae Williams.

She and her sisters have been researching their family history — and her grand father's involvement in World War I has had a lasting effect on the family.

"It makes me understand a lot of my mum's attitudes and the things that she won't be able to explain to us," Mrs Williams said. "We know how deeply she felt about it."

"Sadly, my mother died without knowing her father's name was on the honours board in the Town Hall."

Mrs Williams' grandfather, Private William John Montague Conway, enlisted on June 16, 1915 and was killed fighting in Verdun, France, on July 25, 1916.

The memorial tree was planted on the Memorial Avenue, on Hobart's Queens Domain, in 1919 but the tree and a plaque have since been removed.

Mrs Williams, 64, of Kingston, combined her research with the records of the Pyramid of Soldiers Memorial Avenue and found Pte Conway's memorial was one of 34 recently restored and would be unveiled on Remembrance Day, November 11.

Friends group project officer Adrian Howard said 24 of the avenue's 530 memorials had been restored in the past

Those we remember . . .

Names on latest group of plaques (tree number followed by name and service details)  
82 Pte Michael Eric Curtis 40th Bn DOW 24/2/1918  
127 Pte Henry Charles Briggs KIA 30/7/1918  
134 S/Pl Andrew Robert Dunkley 53rd Bn KIA 3/5/1916  
174 Sgt George John Cannon 8th Fd Co Eng DOW 12/12/1916  
237 Pte Charles Bertram Foreman 12th Bn KIA 6/4/1917  
287 Cpl James Campbell Ruke 12th Bn KIA 7/8/1915  
291 Pte John Daly 15th Bn DOW 30/9/1915  
292 Pte Reginald Percy Alstone 15th



WAR TREASURE: Gae Williams at the memorial walk on the Domain yesterday and, inset, a medal given to the family after her grandfather's death in World War I. Picture: KIM EZZELL

five years and he urged families of soldiers to contact his group if there was a memorial to one of their relatives.

"It was families who dug the holes and put the trees there in the first place. It was a huge community effort."

Anyone with information about soldiers remembered on the avenue can contact Mr Howard on 0234 4266 or email info@soldierswalk.org.au.

358 Pte William Barnett 26th Bn KIA 12/10/1917  
359 L/Cpl Alan Marsh 1st ACCS DOW 8/9/1915  
363 Sgt John Stanley Pease 40th Bn KIA 13/10/1917  
307 Pte Arthur Wharmby 25th Bn DOW 6/4/1916  
308 Pte Wilfred Alfred Williams 40th Bn KIA 5/10/1917  
322 Pte Arthur George Fowler 40th Bn DOW 6/10/1917  
323 Pte Thomas Henry Curtis 12th Bn KIA 6/4/1917  
324 Pte Arthur George Fowler 40th Bn DOW 6/10/1917  
354 L/Cpl Leslie Lewis 40th Bn KIA 5/10/1917  
327 Pte Edward Murray Brown 40th Bn KIA 7/6/1917

348 Pte Rowland Page 12th Bn KIA 12/10/1917  
360 Pte Walter Hutton 12th Bn KIA 3/1/1917  
362 Pte John Raymond Rogers 40th Bn KIA 9/12/1917  
379 Sgt William James Leslie Turner 47th Bn KIA 5/4/1916  
393 Pte Charles Watson Cowan 40th Bn KIA 23/7/1917  
393 Cpl Archibald Job Sturston 12th Bn DOW 18/4/1916  
476 Pte Frederick Arthur Hazel 40th Bn KIA 30/9/1917  
490 Pte William Scott 40th Bn DOW 14/7/1918  
504 Pte William Conway 12th Bn KIA 25/7/1915



## PLAQUE DEDICATIONS Soldiers' Memorial Avenue, Queens Domain, Hobart

Friends of Soldiers Walk Inc plans a set of plaque dedications for April 23rd and another on April 25th, 2006. The list of plaques to be dedicated appears below. If you are a descendant of any of these men and have further information that can assist, please contact Ph 6234 4396 or info@soldierswalk.org.au. by March 12th to finalise text for the plaques. All relatives are invited to attend. This group of plaques is funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund and family donation.

### April 23rd

- 74 Cpl William Douglas Leitch 3rd Mobile Ordnance Workshop Died of disease 4/5/1919
- 91 Pte Robert Nelson Jackson 29th Bn Killed in action 29/7/1915
- 104 Tpr David Barclay 3rd Light Horse Killed in action 4/8/1916
- 178 Pte Walter Leslie Cragg 1st Pioneer Bn Died of wounds 1/6/1916
- 205 L/Cpl Claude Kenneth Clark 5th Bn Killed in action 3/3/1917
- 241 Pte Leslie John Birkett 12th Bn Killed in action 5/5/1917
- 244 Pte Stanley Morgan Hubbard 52nd Bn Died of wounds 7/9/1916
- 245 Pte Ernest Edgar Casbourne 40th Bn Killed in action 5/5/1917
- 248 Pte Clement Southwell Keen 12th Bn Killed in action 5/5/1917
- 249 Pte Claude Tasman Parker 12th Bn Killed in action 5/5/1917
- 254 Pte Alfred Daniel Williams 12th Bn Killed in action 5/5/1917
- 256 Pte Patrick James Kelly 3rd Tunnelling Co Killed in action 17/8/1917
- 257 Gnr John Daly Kilmartin 6th Bde AFA Killed in action 1/6/1917
- 258 Cpl Herman Eric Paton 12th Bn Died of wounds 29/5/1918
- 259 Pte Newton Frederick Seymour Lane 50th Bn Killed in action 8/6/1917
- 260 Pte Lionel Garlick 12th Bn Killed in action 7/6/1917
- 261 2/Lt Clyde Bowman Pearce 52nd Bn Killed in action 10/6/1917
- 263 Lt William Vivian Keats 52nd Bn Killed in action 10/6/1917
- 266 Pte John Goudie 2nd Bn Otago Regt Killed in action 2/8/1917
- 270 L/Cpl Charles Bates 52nd Bn Died of accidental injuries 28/6/1917
- 272 Spr Alfred Chaplin Jones 3rd Fd Co Engineers Died of wounds 22/8/1917
- 276 Cpl Robert Stanley Thorpe 52nd Bn Died of wounds 13/09/1916
- 284 Pte Roy Cecil Glover 52nd Bn Died of wounds 8/12/1916
- 288 Pte Stanley Hinchcliffe 12th Bn Killed in action 15/04/1917
- 264 Pte Robert Stanley Lord 15th Bn Killed in action 8/08/1915
- 267 Pte Henry Thomas Scott 12th Bn Killed in action 25/04/1915
- 271 L/Cpl Vivian Cyril Brooke 12th Bn Died of wounds 4/05/1915
- 491 Lt Percy Binns 2nd Bn Killed in action 13/8/1918

### April 25th

- 3 L/Cpl Wilfred John Crane 12th Bn Killed in action 25/4/1915
- 5 L/Cpl Percival Thomas Conlan 9th Bn Killed in action 25/4/1915
- 6 Pte William Henry Hodgkinson 1st Bn Died of wounds 1/5/1915
- 7 Pte Leonard Hawkins 12th Bn Killed in action 25/4/1915
- 8 Pte Archibald James Hutchison 7th Bn Killed in action 24/5/1915
- 9 Pte Harry Lynch 12th Bn Killed in action 25/4/1915
- 11 Pte John Thomas Quamby 12th Bn Killed in action 25/4/1915
- 12 Pte Thomas William West Swift 12th Bn Killed in action 25/4/1915
- 13 Pte George Kenny Buckpitt 12th Bn Died of wounds 5/6/1915
- 14 Pte Herbert Harold Shearing 15th Bn Killed in action 9/5/1915
- 15 Pte George Albury Hunt 15th Bn Died of wounds 6/5/1915
- 16 Pte William Joseph Keenan 1st Bn Killed in Action 25/4/1915
- 17 Pte Rupert Yeaman Parker 15th Bn Unknown July 1915



Tasmanian Community Fund  
Making a difference

# Threats and Opportunities

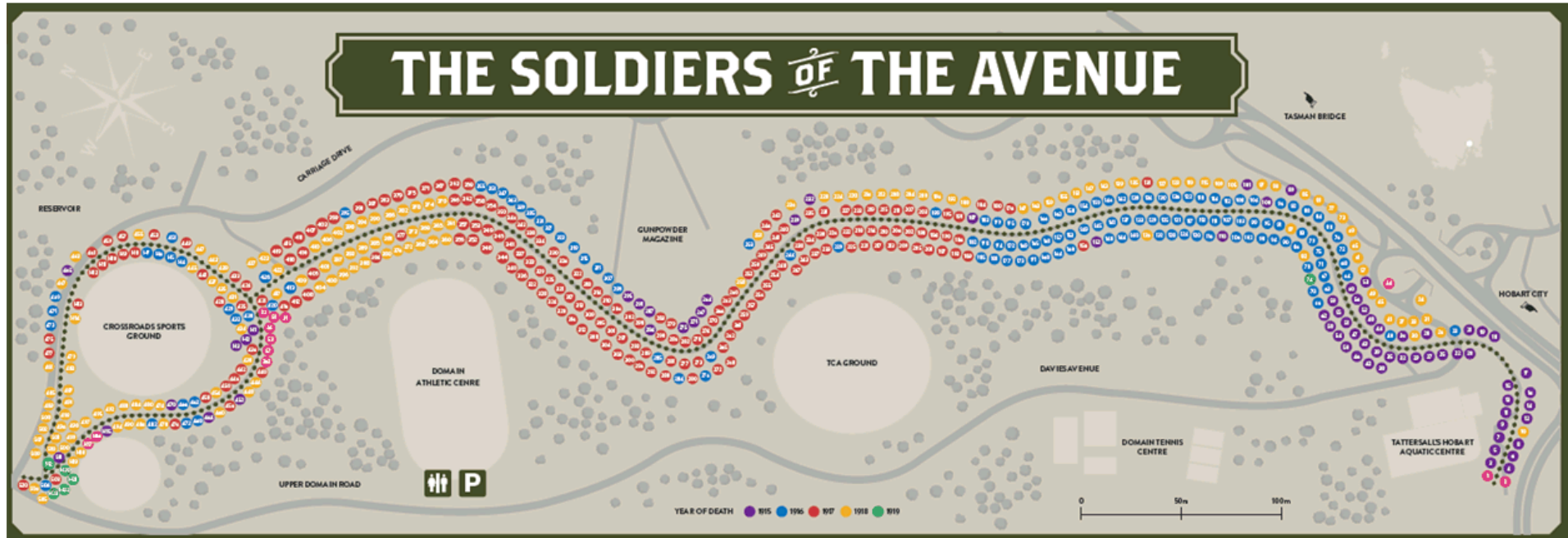
## Opportunities

- The SMA is the perfect multi-use space – remembrance, recreation, education
- Cooperative planning - City to Gardens Way and Legacy Park are good examples
- Theatrical space - '*Tree Widows*' and Dark MOFO prove the point
- SMA is key attraction in its own right; promotion as a 'heritage destination'
- SMA now listed on State Heritage Register, use this to advantage
- Bridge of Remembrance offers greater linkages across the Domain

## Threats

- Loss of Council corporate memory and lack of long-term commitment
- Inappropriate development impacting the Domain and Cenotaph
- Bushfire, drought, malicious acts, community ignorance
- FOSMA membership decline and ageing

# The story of the war told in trees



## YEAR OF DEATH

1915 - 68	1918 - 136
1916 - 135	1919 - 6
1917 - 190	

## UNITS

12 <sup>th</sup> Battalion - 167	52 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion - 42
40 <sup>th</sup> Battalion - 60	47 <sup>th</sup> Battalion - 10
26 <sup>th</sup> Battalion - 49	15 <sup>th</sup> Battalion - 28

## The way forward

- FOSMA wants a close working relationship with CoH – FOSMA's community stewardship combined with CoH asset ownership, planning and maintenance
- The SMA is the 'spine of the Domain' – the focus of future management planning
- SMA should be promoted as one of Hobart's '*heritage jewels*' as well as part of the Hobart Tracks and Trails network
- The SMA needs a higher profile through CoH website and publications; a new revised brochure is required after 11 years
- Opportunities for shared exhibitions/events with CoH, TMAG, RSL, DVA, ADF
- Enhance connections with Legacy Park, Athletics Centre and Cenotaph
- Ongoing commemorations and community involvement
- Town Hall Roll of Honour being reviewed
- FOSMA has respected community profile, which can be leveraged for grants

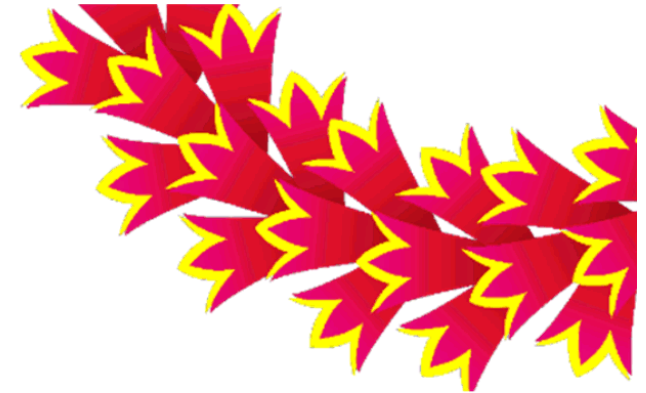
***A Shared Future of Communication and Respect***



City of Hobart presents

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# **Summer Events 2025–26 Debrief & Future Planning**



## Program Overview

- Overview of 2025–26 Summer Events Program including Christmas in the City, New Year’s Eve, and Summer Sounds.



## Main Events -Christmas Pageant

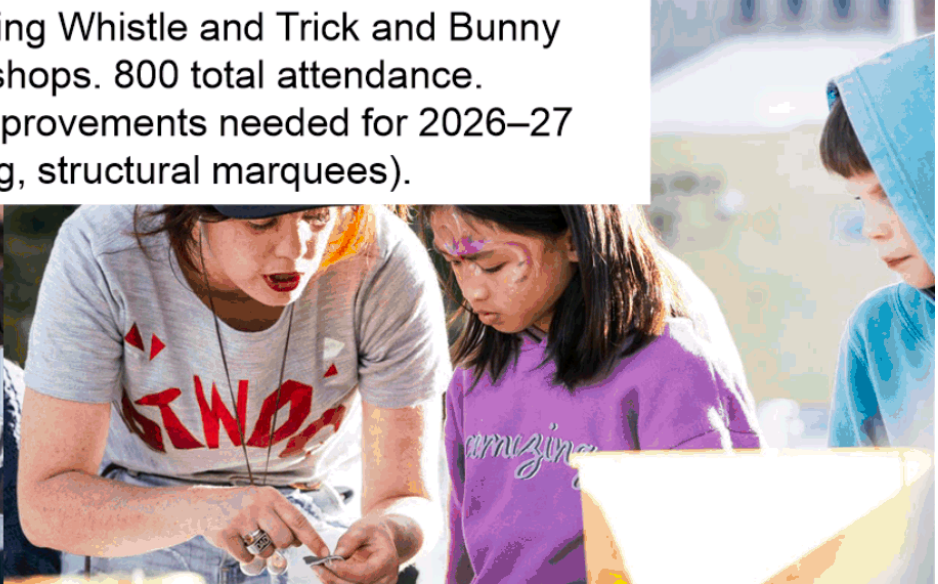
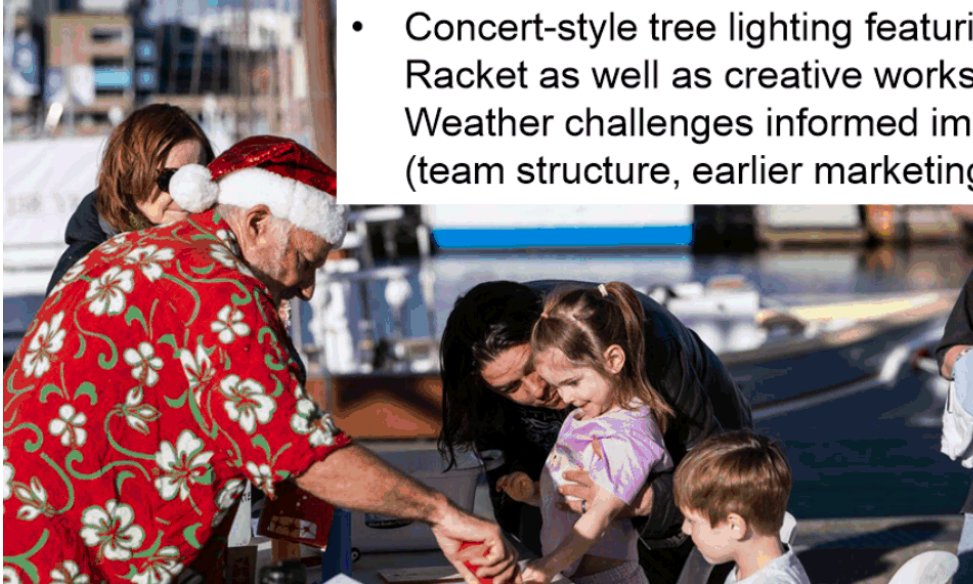
The 2025 Myer City of Hobart Christmas Pageant attracted approximately 35,000 attendees. 50 floats and 1,475 participants were involved. New Christmas brand launched; safety review initiated; 3-year Myer sponsorship agreement in place.





## The Big Switch On!

- Concert-style tree lighting featuring Whistle and Trick and Bunny Racket as well as creative workshops. 800 total attendance. Weather challenges informed improvements needed for 2026–27 (team structure, earlier marketing, structural marquees).



# Christmas Activations

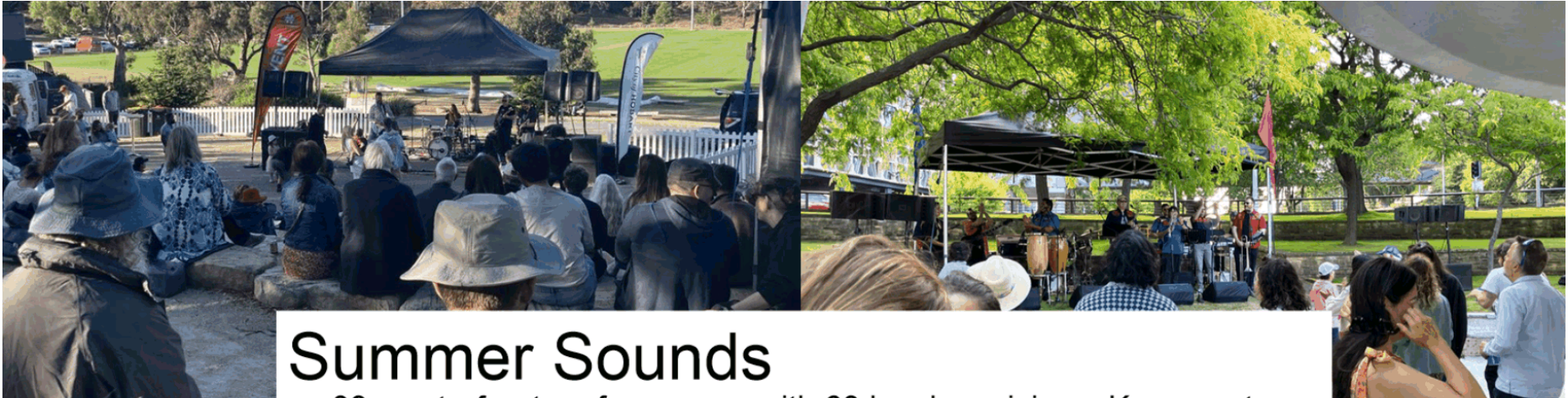


- 14 pop-up performances across Elizabeth Mall, Wellington Court, Collins Court and Midtown. Choirs, roving performers, Talking Christmas Tree. Letters to Santa (29 Nov–23 Dec). Gift Wrapping (1–20 Dec).

# New Year's Eve



- Fireworks and crowd safety operations delivered across the Waterfront and Regatta Grounds. Stakeholder engagement continued similar to 2024. Recommended improvements for communications and logistical planning.



# Summer Sounds

- 39+ waterfront performances with 63 local musicians. Key events included 30 artists: Sunset Blues (500–600), Roundabout Rumba (300–350), Bubbles Bubbles Bubbles (350), Long Beach Picnic (150–200).





## Decorations & Branding

- New Tasmanian Christmas Bell-inspired design rolled out across city. Decorations include banners, planter panels, garlands. 14-metre Christmas tree is 7 years into estimated 10-year lifespan; replacement planning required.

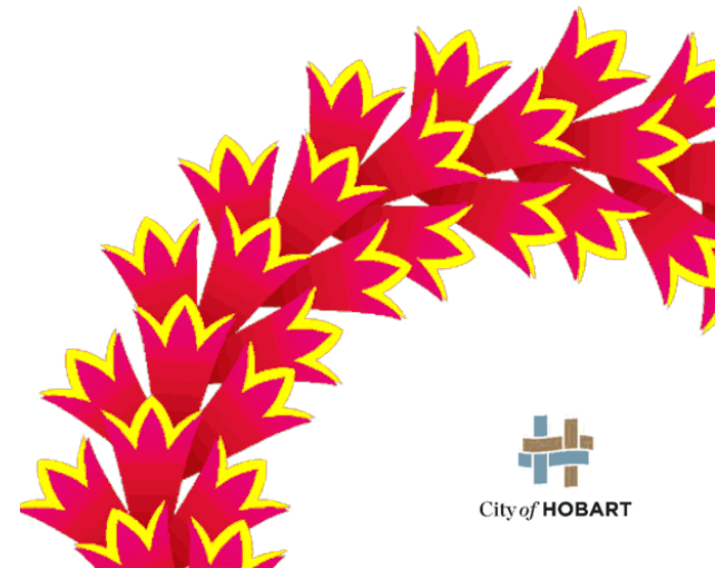


# Community Christmas Grants



- 7 activities funded; total of \$54,212. Attendance highlights include: 1,350 at C3 events; 900 at Lenah Valley; 700 at Sing Australia; 600 at St David's Cathedral.

[hobartcity.com.au](http://hobartcity.com.au)





[hobartcity.com.au](http://hobartcity.com.au)

## Recommendations & Next Steps

- Continue decoration renewal; commission local artists for new works; progress Pageant Safety & Emergency Planning review; improve NYE communications; explore expanded night-time economy activities; investigate community-led Neighbourhood Christmas Trees.



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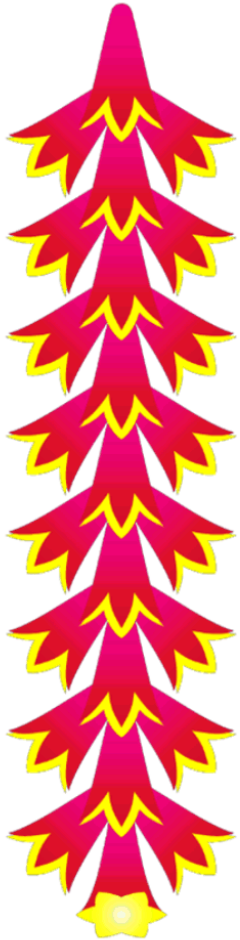
[hobartcity.com.au](http://hobartcity.com.au)

## Budget Summary – 2025–26 Program

- Total Budget: \$532,886 (Operating).
- Total Expenditure: \$472,685.
- Remaining Budget allocated to Pageant planning and decoration renewals.
- Myer Sponsorship includes a \$2,500 annual prize and \$10,000 Santa float upgrade.



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[hobartcity.com.au](http://hobartcity.com.au)

## 2026–27 Proposed Program Timeline

- March – May – Initiation and scoping.
- June – August – Development and Program confirmation.
- September – Program Launch
- Oct 2026 – Begin decoration rollout and asset checks.
- Nov 2026 Pageant delivery (21 Nov) The Big Switch On! (28 Nov).
- Dec 2026 – Activations, Letters to Santa, Gift Wrapping.
- 31 Dec 2026 – New Year’s Eve fireworks and safety plan.
- Jan 2027 – Summer Sounds program delivery.
- Feb 2027 – Review and reporting.



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