



Doug Parkinson, MLC

Leader for the Government in the
Legislative Council

Sunday, 23 April 2006

30 New Plaques Unveiled at Soldiers Walk

Media Note: The ANZAC Day Dedication of Plaques will be unveiled TODAY (23rd April 2006) at 11am at Soldiers Memorial Avenue – behind the TCA Ground, Queens Domain.

Government Leader in the Legislative Council Doug Parkinson today unveiled one of 30 new plaques at Hobart's Soldiers Walk, an Avenue of Honour for soldiers who died in World War I.

Mr Parkinson said 17 of the new plaques, which mark trees planted in honour of individual soldiers, were unveiled by their descendents.

"I was privileged to dedicate a plaque for one of 13 soldiers whose own descendents could not be there today to speak of their loved one," he said.

"When the 500-plus trees were originally planted, many of the holes were dug by proud family members who continued to visit the Avenue for many years.

"And while many of the plaques disappeared over the years – in fact only 11 remained five years ago - the memories remained.

Mr Parkinson said the move to restore Soldiers Walk began late in 2002 and soon gained the support of the Tasmanian community.

“Friends of Soldiers Walk now has about 350 members and is in contact with the descendants of more than 150 soldiers of the Walk,” he said.

“Since April last year, 180 plaques have been restored. In addition to the 30 dedicated today, another 15 will be unveiled on Anzac Day.

“This achievement is a credit to the Friends of Soldiers Walk, particularly the volunteers who have invested so much time and energy into reclaiming and restoring the Walk.”

Organisations such as Tasmania Police, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Law Society, Metro Tasmania and the Master Builders Association have sponsored plaques. Sixty have been funded through the Government-established Community Support Levy.

Mr Parkinson said the Hobart site was the largest Avenue in Tasmania but there were another 65 throughout the State, most in small rural towns.

“Some have been well maintained but others are no longer recognisable as Avenues,” he said.

“I’m pleased to say that Friends of Soldiers Walk aims to continue its great work and restore other Avenues across the State.

“This will be a gift not only for generations of Tasmanians, but also the many interstate and international visitors who take an interest in our history.”

Further information: Sue Bailey on 0417550279