

‘GRATITUDE TO THE BRUISED AND MAIMED’:

HOBART’S WAR MEMORIALS 1852-2002

by Ian Terry

The Hobart Cenotaph was unveiled by Tasmanian Governor, Sir James O’Grady, on 13 December 1925 in front of the Premier, the Mayor of Hobart, representatives of other Tasmanian municipal councils and 9000 citizens who gathered to commemorate the catastrophic Great War which remained fresh in the collective memory.¹ The Cenotaph was Hobart’s fifth war memorial and Australia’s first state memorial to World War I. Of these five memorials three were created in response to that conflict and four were located at the open southern end of the Domain which had become the city’s main ceremonial space. War memorials became a dominant feature of Australian urban landscapes in the 1920s as the nation both tried to come to grips with the huge loss of its military aged men and to celebrate a new feeling of national pride.² This paper examines the history of central Hobart’s memorials in general and the Cenotaph in particular.

Hobart’s first war memorial, indeed Australia’s first, was a ‘colossal Tuscan column’ designed by Hobart architect, Mr Dawson, and erected at Angelsea Barracks in 1850.³ It was raised by the officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the 99th Regiment to ‘record the names of their brother soldiers . . . who fell in service of their Queen and country during the campaign in New Zealand in the years 1845 and 1846’.⁴ Like later war memorials it was designed to be prominent, being erected on ‘the highest eminence in the military barrack yard, and . . . advantageously seen both from the town and river’.⁵ It was also unusual in that until the twentieth century memorials rarely commemorated common soldiers. In Britain, for example, the first such war memorial was not erected until 1859.⁶

Since 1901 the commemoration of Tasmanians who have served in war has been the Queens Domain’s most important ceremonial function. In September 1900 the Australian Natives’ Association called a public meeting at the Hobart Town Hall and the Tasmanian Soldiers’ National Memorial Fund Committee was formed to plan commemoration of Tasmanians’ participation in the Boer War.⁷ Of eight hundred and fifty-two Tasmanians who embarked to fight in South Africa twenty-four died on active service.⁸ £1100 was subscribed for this ‘national memorial’, the pledges being ‘received from all classes throughout Tasmania’.⁹ It should be noted that in 1901 the word ‘national’ had a different sense to its meaning today, conveying a Tasmanian identity as much as an Australian one.

The memorial’s foundation stone, ‘four huge blocks of granite, each weighing several tons’, was unveiled by the Duke of Cornwall and York in front of a large crowd on 4 July 1901.¹⁰ The Duke performed this imperial task in other Australian cities during that Federation tour,

¹*Mercury*, 14 December 1925, p. 5.

²Ken Inglis, *Sacred Places: War Memorials in the Australian Landscape*, Carlton South, 1998, pp. 123.

³*Hobart Town Courier*, 29 May 1850, p. 2.

⁴*ibid.*

⁵*ibid.*

⁶ Inglis, p. 14.

⁷*Mercury*, 2 February 1905, p. 6.

⁸Lloyd Robson, *A History of Tasmania Volume II: Colony and State from 1856 to the 1980s*, Melbourne, 1991, p. 214.

⁹*Mercury*, 5 July 1901, p. 3.

¹⁰*ibid.*

perhaps reminding spectators that although newly independent, Australia remained a part of the Imperial family.

Although generally referred to as a memorial to the fallen, the names of all Tasmanians who embarked for South Africa were placed in a cavity in the foundation stones along with various contemporary newspapers.¹¹ Its siting on the Queens Domain opposite Macquarie Point was significant; it was reported to be ‘in full view of all vessels entering the harbour, overlook[ing] the review ground, as well as being discernible from the lower end of Liverpool St’.¹² In this it anticipated the 1925 Cenotaph. It was also located on the edge of an established military space; the Queen’s Battery had been located at Macquarie Point since 1842 with the space behind it used as a military parade ground throughout the nineteenth century.

A £20 prize to design the memorial was won by English sculptor, Benjamin Sheppard, who at the time was teaching art at the Hobart Technical School.¹³ Although much of the early design work and moulding for the statue was completed at the technical school, Sheppard completed the statue in England after returning there in 1904. After the statue was cast in bronze in Frome, Somerset, the London *Times* added Sheppard’s name ‘to the list, already long, of young men who at this moment are doing much to raise the level of British sculpture’. Labelled by some as the ‘finest soldier . . . in English sculpture’ the 2.2 metre high statue of a uniformed soldier represented the ‘fine type of the young manhood of the colony who came forward so readily to help the mother country and the Empire’.¹⁴



The ‘finest soldier ... in English sculpture’
— Hobart’s Boer War Memorial (Postcard
Collection, Tasmaniana Library, State
Library of Tasmania).

¹¹*ibid.*

¹²*ibid.*

¹³*Mercury*, 1 February 1905, p. 6.

¹⁴Quoted in *ibid.*

In Australia most Boer War memorials were obelisks, with statues, such as the Hobart memorial, the second most popular form.¹⁵ The memorial was shipped to Hobart on the *S.S. Papanui* and installed on a 3.5 metre high pedestal constructed 'in the modern Renaissance style' by Rogers and Young of Hobart.¹⁶ The pedestal included a carved shield with the British lion surmounted by a laurel and bas relief panels bearing figures of a Bushman, a troopship on the ocean, a panel inscribed with the names of the companies which served in the conflict and two names of the 'fallen'. It was unveiled by the Governor, Sir Gerald Strickland, on 1 February 1905.¹⁷

A temporary timber war memorial was erected just north of the current Cenotaph in time for Anzac Day 1916, in direct response to the Gallipoli campaign. Australians' love affair with long weekends affected even this first commemoration of the 'immortal landing of the gallant troops'. As April 25 fell on Easter Tuesday and Friday was considered 'a more suitable day than any other on which to appeal to the generosity of the public', this first Anzac Day was commemorated on April 28. Large crowds descended on central Hobart which 'presented the appearance of a huge bazaar'.¹⁸ Stalls were set up and people could buy 'almost anything' from patriotic pins and flags to giant pumpkins. The *Mercury* reported that street collections and stall proceeds provided 'funds for inauguration of a club for returned soldiers in Hobart ... to provide them with an institution where, when they return from the theatre of war, they can foregather for social purposes, and keep green, by friendly intercourse, the memory of the exploits of Australian troops that have made the world ring'.¹⁹

In the early afternoon a 'very large part of the "drifting" population of Hobart' found their way to the Domain where they witnessed a military parade, followed by the laying of wreaths at the temporary monument. The monument, which was designed by Louisa Swan and Lucien Dechaineux, was reported as:

*[resembling] a base of white marble surmounted by a broken column . . . In reality it was of timber, built by Messrs. Crisp and Gunn Ltd, and painted white, but it had all the appearance of white marble. Ivy was wound round the broken column, and other greenery was arranged around the base.*²⁰

The main inscription, in black lettering, was 'To the memory of the heroes of ANZAC, April 25th 1915' while others exhorted God to save the Empire, the King and the Soldiers.

Broken columns were a common memorial form symbolising lives cut off before their time.²¹ While the war continued, memorials such as this (and the New Zealand and Boer War memorials) served several purposes. In addition to providing foci for individual and communal grief, they became symbols and rallying points for recruitment drives, as well as expressions of patriotic pride in a nation blooded on the field of war.²² The temporary memorial continued to be used for commemorative purposes until the Cenotaph was erected in 1925.

¹⁵Inglis, p. 52.

¹⁶*Mercury*, 1 February 1905, p. 6.

¹⁷*Mercury*, 2 February 1905, p. 6.

¹⁸*Mercury*, 29 April 1916, p. 9.

¹⁹*ibid.*

²⁰*ibid.*

²¹Inglis, pp. 36, 109.

²²Marilyn Lake, *A Divided Society: Tasmania During World War I*, Carlton, 1975, pp. 56-7; Inglis, pp. 106-10. See also *Tasmanian Mail*, 26 April 1917, p. 13; *Mercury*, 26 April 1917, p. 5.



First ANZAC Day ceremony at the temporary war memorial on 28 April 1916
(*Tasmanian Mail*, 4 May 1916, p. 17).

In 1917 the RSSILA (forerunner of the RSL) proposed planting an avenue of trees on the Domain to commemorate Hobart citizens killed on active service during World War I.²³ The Hobart Corporation's Superintendent of Reserves, L.J. Lipscombe, supported the idea and in June to August 1918 work to prepare the avenue was undertaken. It provided a communal catharsis for 6000 - 7000 people of all ages, sexes and classes, who worked solemnly digging holes to take the trees.²⁴ Over 530 cedars were planted — the species chosen because it was 'celebrated in all ages for beauty and longevity [and] venerated by many Eastern peoples and regarded by the Hindoos as divine'.²⁵

An appropriately aesthetic setting being essential, the avenue wound around the eastern slopes of the Domain - 'a glorious site, one not to be surpassed in the whole world for variety and beauty of scenery'. It started 'from that most perfect of monuments erected to the memory of the men that fell in South Africa' and was expected 'in the course of time [to] be adorned with memorials of Hobart's heroes, and [to] become a consecrated grove in which poets will find inspiration'.²⁶

²³Minutes of the Reserves Committee 16 October 1917 — MCC16/72/2.

²⁴*Mercury*, 1 July 1918, p. 4.

²⁵*ibid.*

²⁶*ibid.*



Family of fallen servicemen with newly planted tree on Soldiers Memorial Avenue
(*Tasmanian Mail*, 8 August 1918, p. 18).

Funded by both Hobart and New Town Councils, the avenue extended to the Crossroads. Governor Newdegate opened it by planting an oak at the Boer War memorial on 3 August 1918.²⁷ His wife planted a laurel propagated at the Roman Forum while the Mayor and aldermen planted trees along a path leading from the memorial avenue to the old quarry near Government House.²⁸ Trees on the avenue were enclosed by white painted timber guards and each carried a plaque bearing the name and unit of an individual serviceman. A path winding through the avenue was completed in 1919, but by 1921 many trees were dying due to lack of water.²⁹ Water was laid on, but the taps were often vandalised and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Mothers and Wives Association pressed the council through the 1920s to improve the avenue's management.³⁰ The water problem was never satisfactorily addressed and by 2001 only the specimens near the TCA ground had thrived, with many others having died.

As the years passed interest in the avenue decreased. A letter to the RSL in 1960 proposing to destroy the northern end of the avenue to allow construction of the Crossroads soccer ovals, apparently received no response.³¹ This has been reversed in recent years with the establishment of the Friends of the Soldiers Walk.

Proposals to replace the 1916 temporary column with a permanent memorial began officially in 1921. In that year the Hobart Council established a War Memorial Committee to raise funds to commemorate 'directly those Tasmanians who had service in the navy and in the army, and [including] the nurses who took almost equal risks and whose work was equally exacting and useful'.³²

The committee canvassed numerous options, liaising with the RSSAILA and seeking public input and subscriptions.³³ Proposals included erecting a memorial shelter at Franklin Square to 'facilitate the better fostering of community spirit', a triumphal arch and a chain of stone

²⁷*Mercury*, 2 August 1918, p. 5.

²⁸Minutes of the Reserves Committee 18 June 1918 MCC16/72/2; *Mercury*, 2 August 1918, p. 5.

²⁹Minutes of the Reserves Committee 27 May 1919, 23 August 1921 — MCC16/72/3-4.

³⁰Minutes of the Reserves Committee 23 October 1923 — MCC16/72/6.

³¹Correspondence regarding the Crossroads Oval — MCC16/2/315 EA109/125.

³²*Mercury*, 13 July 1921, p. 4.

³³See minutes of the War Memorial Committee — MCC 16/2/68.

memorials stretching from southern Tasmania to London.³⁴ In selecting a symbolic memorial Hobart followed the general Australian pattern. Utilitarian memorials, such as halls and swimming pools, had to wait until after World War II to be commonly chosen.³⁵

Construction of a memorial was not universally supported. In rejecting calls for donations to the war memorial fund, the Trades Hall thundered that 'recognizing that all wars are Capitalistic in origin and purpose and that the workers always pay the penalty . . . any monies available would be better devoted to the relief of the War Victims and their Dependents many of whom are Destitute'.³⁶ The Child Welfare Association argued that the £10 000 being sought would be better spent 'sav[ing] the babies who are the future citizens of the country for which our soldiers died'.³⁷ These calls, however, came from isolated voices lost in the dense noise of patriotic fervour.

A number of sites were considered with Macquarie Point, Franklin Square and Blundstone's Flat (below the TCA ground) attracting the strongest support. While the RSSAILA and the committee initially favoured Blundstone's Flat, as it linked the proposed memorial to the Soldiers' Memorial Avenue, the Queen's Battery site on Macquarie Point was selected in July 1922.³⁸ Architects Walker and Johnston's argument that it was not in a crowded thoroughfare, yet was close to the city, and so would be a place of meditation and pilgrimage proved compelling. It was also envisaged as a 'rallying place for large gatherings' and would 'act as a rostrum from which patriotic addresses could be delivered' with the surrounds 'laid out with regard to the crowds who would congregate there'. Trees and hedges would enhance the effect and the 'whole when finished would . . . give one of the finest sites for a War Memorial in His Majesty's Dominions'.³⁹

In choosing Macquarie Point Hobart followed the now traditional pattern of siting memorials where they would be 'inspiring, conspicuous, enduring and able to serve as a focal point for Anzac and Remembrance Day ceremonies'.⁴⁰

The Commonwealth ceded the now disused battery to the state government and the site was vested in the Hobart Corporation in 1925.⁴¹ Initially called the Hobart War Memorial the later adoption of the name 'Cenotaph' is in fact a misnomer. 'Cenotaph' was a newly popular word meaning 'empty tomb' and generally described memorials based on the design of Sir Edwin Lutyens' 1919 Whitehall memorial. Although it was recognised at the time that an obelisk, such as the Hobart memorial, was distinct from a cenotaph, the latter term became so charged with meaning that people attached it to all memorial forms.⁴² The 1925 interment of a zinc casket in the obelisk's base did give it something of the sacred cachet of a 'Cenotaph'. The casket contained the names of 522 Hobartians who had died while serving during the war.⁴³

Despite being called 'Hobart's War Memorial', the Cenotaph was conceived as a state memorial from the first. On its dedication the *Mercury* proudly boasted that this expression of Tasmania's 'gratitude to those who returned from the war bruised and maimed' was the first state war memorial to be unveiled in Australia. It added that it was dedicated 'to the memory of all Tasmanian men and women who served and worked in the Great War'.⁴⁴

³⁴Suggestions to the War Memorial Committee in 1921 — MCC16/2/68.

³⁵See Inglis, p. 144.

³⁶Letter from Trades Hall to the War Memorial Committee, 29 July 1921 — MCC16/2/68.

³⁷Letter from the Child Welfare Association to the War Memorial Committee, 14 July 1921 — MCC16/2/68.

³⁸Minutes of the War Memorial Committee, 11 July 1922 — MCC 16/2/68.

³⁹Letter to the War Memorial Committee, 17 May 1921 — MCC 16/2/68.

⁴⁰Judith McKay & Richard Allom. *Lest We Forget: A Guide to the Conservation of War Memorials*, Brisbane, 1984, p. 4.

⁴¹16Geo V, no. 47.

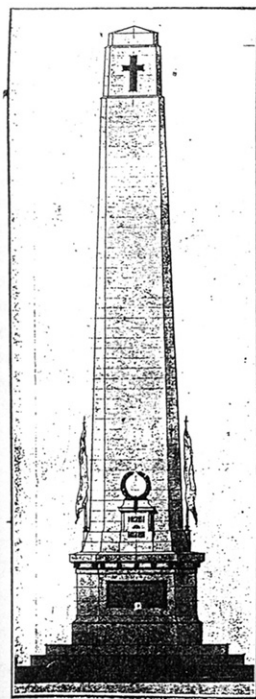
⁴²Inglis, pp. 155-6.

⁴³*Mercury*, 14 December 1925.

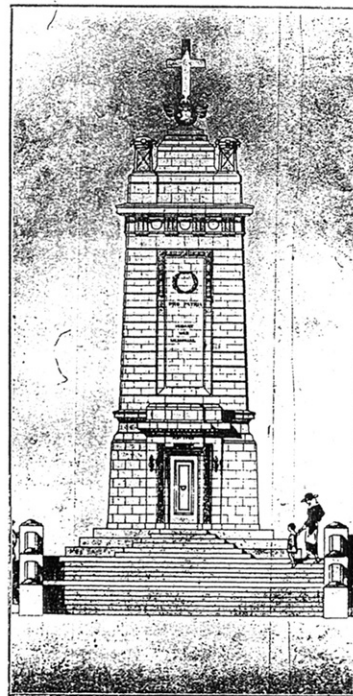
⁴⁴*Mercury*, 14 December 1925.

This 'democratic' nature of the memorial is again typical. Like most other memorials in Australia, the Cenotaph was conceived not as a memorial to individuals, but as a memorial to all Tasmanians who served in World War I. In the 1920s Australians 'wanted to record not the particular engagements of particular military units but the one large truth that their men had served and died in the Great War'.⁴⁵ In Hobart the Soldiers' Memorial Walk was conceived as the memorial to individuals, the Cenotaph as the memorial to all those who served. Perhaps where the Cenotaph is unusual is that it specifically honoured both men and women who served.

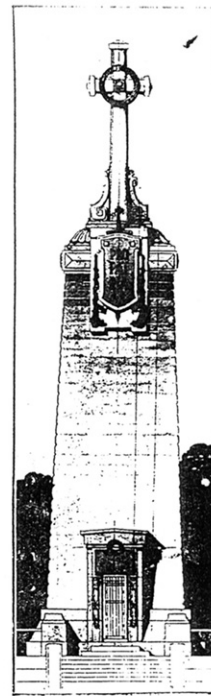
A design competition for the memorial was won by prominent Hobart architect, Bernard Walker. His projected obelisk reflected the most common form of Australian post World War One memorial.⁴⁶ A contract of £5500 to build it was let to G.B. Edwards of Victoria in November 1923.⁴⁷ The Queen's Battery was levelled and unemployed families living on the site, the so-called tent dwellers, were removed.



The winning design, executed by Messrs. HUTCHISON AND WALKER.



The design which was awarded second choice. It was executed by Mr. A. LAURISTON CRISP.



The third prize design, by Messrs. ROY SMITH AND FRANK HEYWARD.

The three final designs for the Cenotaph. The finalists were all well known Tasmanian architects (*Tasmanian Mail*, 29 March 1923, p. 39).

The obelisk was marked by its 'simplicity with dignity' and although it provided for 'curved flights of steps in granite at the base of the obelisk', the competition assessors argued that a simple square arrangement would be 'more dignified and less costly'. Twenty-five years later the curved steps suggested by the architect were indeed added to the Cenotaph. Walker's suggestion for a 'simple type of lay-out surrounding the memorial, including an oval lawn, which would be suitable for public ceremonies' was not carried out.

After its dedication on 13 December 1925 the *Mercury* observed that the illuminated cross set into the four sides of the 80 foot high obelisk's peak was suggested by the Sailors' and

⁴⁵See Inglis pp. 123ff passim, p. 190.

⁴⁶Inglis, p. 160.

⁴⁷Minutes of the War Memorial Committee, 21 March 1923, 2 November 1923, 19 December 1924 — MCC 16/2/68.

Soldiers' Mothers and Wives Association and was connected to the city's street lighting network.⁴⁸ In a Tasmanian variation on a traditional theme a bronze native laurel wreath, 'modelled by Miss Elizabeth Conlon', was affixed close to the memorial's base.

As already observed, the setting of war memorials is integral to their meaning and importance with formal arrangements of paths and gardens generally adopted around the country.⁴⁹ Although its site 'almost in line with Macquarie-street', 'visible from most parts of the city' and 'particularly conspicuous from the harbour, from any part of which it is clearly visible'⁵⁰ was striking, in other respects the site fell short of the ideal. Until the early 1950s the Cenotaph stood in a bare paddock surrounded by a simple post and wire fence with a picket fence enclosing remnants of the Martin hot shot oven, the sole visible remnant of the Queen's Battery. In 1938 the hot shot oven, now recognised as unique in Australia, was regarded as having 'nothing to recommend it beyond the fact that it [was] old ... a tumble-down hut ... more in the nature of an eyesore than a suitable adjunct to the Cenotaph'.⁵¹ Adjacent trophy guns belonged to a traditional practice of disarming vanquished enemies and giving the spoils to the victors. Thousands of weapons captured by Australian forces during World War I were distributed to any locality requesting them.⁵²

In 1938 Sydney architect and academic, A.S. Hook, called the Cenotaph 'one of the most graceful and chaste in Australia, and a thing of beauty', but lamented that 'no effort had been made to improve its surroundings' and 'it stands virtually in a paddock'.⁵³ The *Mercury* added to the ensuing public outrage by observing that its setting had 'an air of unkemptness about it, and an atmosphere that suggests forgetfulness. One is reminded of old neglected churchyards, where only tombstones fitfully recall those who have gone.'⁵⁴

Bernard Walker provided Council with a plan and list of recommendations to remedy the unhappy situation. These included removing the power poles which crossed in front of the monument, removing a nearby women's toilet block, levelling the area and creating a formal square layout of paths, gardens and hedges around the base of the monument.⁵⁵ Although Council adopted his recommendations, the outbreak of World War II in 1939 forestalled any action until 1945.

In 1945 it established a committee with representatives from Council, the RSL and the Hydro Electric Commission. Angered at its exclusion from the committee and concerned at the prospect of avenues of trees near the Cenotaph, the Regatta Association unsuccessfully argued that it should also be represented because of a strong interest in the area which had been a 'village green' for a hundred years.⁵⁶

Progress, however, was slow and following RSL complaints of inaction the Council formed a citizens committee in 1948 to raise funds for proposed works. Council and the RSL also agreed that the works would be considered the 'public memorial to servicemen who fell during the second world war'.⁵⁷ While based somewhat on Walker's 1938 plans the 1948 proposals included extending the base in concrete with curved steps, setting aside an area for lawns and shrubs, laying out paths in a cross within a circle pattern and providing a double approach

⁴⁸*Mercury* 14 December 1925, p. 5.

⁴⁹McKay & Allom, p. 10.

⁵⁰*Mercury*, 14 December 1925.

⁵¹*Mercury*, 1 June, 1938.

⁵²Inglis, p. 178.

⁵³*Mercury*, 31 May, 1938.

⁵⁴*Mercury*, 1 June, 1938.

⁵⁵Correspondence re Cenotaph 29 September, 1938 — MCC16/2/371 DR85/6, vol 1.

⁵⁶Correspondence re Cenotaph 13 May 1945, 17 September 1945, 5 August 1947 and 6 April 1948 MCC16/2/371 DR 85/6 vol 1.

⁵⁷Council Report of 11 November 1948 — MCC16/2/371 DR 85/6 vol 1.

roadway with lawns and double rows of trees to the main road. Landscape historian Gwenda Sheridan observes that:

*...the cross within the circle (which surrounds the Cenotaph) is the most symbolic of all elements. It is the cosmic symbol par excellence, that of universal archetypal Man while the circle symbolises totality, and wholeness. Set within each other they symbolise paradise, that sacred space something beyond what is known.*⁵⁸

In total, twenty acres surrounding the memorial were to be landscaped. Although some 12,000 cubic yards of fill had been used to level the area by the mid 1950s, postwar labour and materials shortages slowed progress and the landscaping remained incomplete in 1953.⁵⁹ Concerned that this potent symbol of nation and empire was unsuitably dilapidated for a royal visit, Council speeded up the work for Queen Elizabeth's 1954 tour, when she and the Duke of Edinburgh each planted a Lombardy poplar at the base of the Cenotaph.⁶⁰

The approach avenue was not planted until July 1960 when twenty-six Bhutan cypresses (*Cupressus toliuosa*) were planted.⁶¹ Lights were installed along the approach avenues the following year and the World War II memorial was complete, although with no apparent fanfare.⁶²

Various trees have been planted since. In August 1966 two Legacy children planted an Aleppo Pine seedling raised from a specimen of *Pinus halepensis*, which is found on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey.⁶³ It has since been replaced by at least two other specimens and may have created environmental problems by self seeding elsewhere on the Domain.⁶⁴

In the post-war period cars provided a growing problem, with the Cenotaph surrounded by cars on Regatta Days and the approach avenues being used to teach learner drivers. The avenue was accessed directly from the Tasman Highway and vehicles could be driven right up to the new parade ground. The Cenotaph precinct was ringed by another road and accessed from the north east via this ring road. Gravel car parks were developed on either side of the monument itself in 1969. The incremental intensification of traffic on the Tasman Highway after the opening of the Derwent River Floating Bridge in 1943, the subsequent Tasman Bridge and the widening of the Tasman Highway in the 1980s, has divorced the Cenotaph from the rest of the Domain in general and the other associated war memorials in particular.⁶⁵ Indeed, the Boer War Memorial and the Soldiers Memorial Walk appear to be unknown by most citizens of Hobart in 2002.

Subsequent to its erection several inscriptions have been added to the memorial. In 1962 the British Ex-Servicemen's Legion of Australia, with the support of the RSL, succeeded in having bronze letters 'Lest We Forget' added to the base, while 1985 additions brought the memorial up to date with all the conflicts in which Australians had fought since 1945. In 1996 peacekeeping missions were also added to the list of actions performed by the armed services.⁶⁶

⁵⁸Gwenda Sheridan, 'Queens Domain Cultural Heritage Management Plan: Historical Landscape Assessment Report', unpublished report to Hobart City Council, October 1999, p. 67. Sheridan cites J. C. Cooper, *An Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Traditional Symbols*, London, 1978, pp. 36-7 & 45.

⁵⁹Notes on the Cenotaph in MCC16/2/371 DR 85/6 vol 2.

⁶⁰MCC16/2/371 DR 85/6 vol 2.

⁶¹*ibid.*

⁶²Memos 24 May 1961, 9 January 1963 — MCC16/2/371 DR 85/6 vol 3.

⁶³Letter to Council from Hobart Legacy 3 August 1966 — MCC16/2/371 DR 85/6 vol 3.

⁶⁴HCC: S14-050-03/005; Andrew Robert-Tissot (Hobart City Council Arboricultural Officer), pers comm.

⁶⁵Terry, p. 57.

⁶⁶MCC16/2/371 DR 85/6 vol 3; Memo 16 January 1985 — MCC16/2/371 71-001-002 vol 2; Memo 28 May 1996 — HCC: S14-050-03/003

By 1983 the Cenotaph had fallen into neglect, with the obelisk described as being ‘in appalling condition’.⁶⁷ A major refurbishment program carried out in 1983-4 included removing and/or replacing shrubs and trees, and paving the approach avenues and parade ground. It also included planting Wellingtonias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) along the approach avenue. While the Wellingtonias completed in form the original 1948 planting plan they have not prospered in this location, with many dying and not being replaced.

Three proposals for additions to the Cenotaph since 1980 illustrate the seriousness with which Hobart City Council has taken its role as guardian of the Cenotaph and its cultural significance. A 1984 proposal for two large memorials on its river side to be linked by an arc of arches was rejected after the city architect reported that:

*The Cenotaph is a strong visual element from many areas of the City and is a major landmark within Hobart. The proposal would considerably alter the impact of the Cenotaph from the fine vertical form it currently presents. From many of the more important viewing points (ie the City area) the proposal would destroy the present symmetry of the Cenotaph as the proposed wall projects to the rear of the present memorial area.*⁶⁸

The council noted that ‘as a matter of policy, it wishes to retain the existing outline of the Domain Cenotaph Memorial’.⁶⁹

In 1990 the council rejected proposals that various service units be allowed to place unit insignia on the monument as it was regarded as a memorial to all servicemen.⁷⁰ In 1997 a proposal to plant out a Korean War Memorial Avenue was rejected after Council’s cultural heritage officer cautioned ‘against imposing any particular individual status upon the Cenotaph itself and its ancillary landscaping’. He argued that the Cenotaph itself is the dedicated memorial and that to place emphasis on other items, such as memorial avenues, ‘risks confusing the dignified elegance and simplicity of the site’.⁷¹

By the mid-1970s many Australians would have agreed that war memorials had become irrelevant to their lives and that they would slowly fade from consciousness as the last of the ‘diggers’ passed away. The temper of the times seemed to dictate that this would be so. The past decade, however, has seen an explosion in national consciousness of past wars and in commemoration of Australia’s participation in them. The Australian government’s *Australia Remembers* program from 1994 ensured that the memories and memorials would remain in the public consciousness for at least the ensuing decade.⁷² In Hobart there have been increasingly frequent annual ceremonies at the Cenotaph, commemorating not only traditional anniversaries such as Anzac Day and Armistice Day, but also the anniversaries of significant battles like the Battle of the Coral Sea, the various units and arms of the services, and conflicts such as the Vietnam War.⁷³ At present it appears likely that the Cenotaph will continue to be an important visual and historic cue for the people of Hobart and that it will remain a monument ‘to the memory of all Tasmanian men and women’ who have served.

⁶⁷ Memo from City Engineer 2 August 1983 — MCC16/2/371 71-001-002 vol 1.

⁶⁸ Memo from City Architect, 14 September 1984 — MCC16/2/371 71-001-002 vol 2.

Letter to Ivan Bear of Australian American Alliance, 29 October 1984 — MCC16/2/371 71-001-002 vol 2.

⁷⁰ HCC—S14-050-03/004.

⁷¹ Memo from Brendan Lennard to Andrew Robert-Tissot 10 January 1997 — HCC: S14-050-03/005.

⁷² See Inglis, pp. 412ff.

⁷³ HCC: S14-050-03 passim.