

**KINGSTON BEACH RSL SUB-BRANCH
DEDICATION OF A NEW WAR MEMORIAL
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
KINGSTON WAR MEMORIAL, 33 OSBOURNE ESPLANADE
WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2023**

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to this service to dedicate this new War Memorial here at Kingston Beach.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and connection to land, sea and waters.

As I travel around Tasmania and visit our many vibrant and diverse communities, it is apparent that war memorials have a central place in our towns and cities. Many memorials were erected following the First World War to commemorate the devastating loss of life throughout our State and our nation. More have been added to commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War Two, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and more recent conflicts.

Part of the reason for erecting these memorials was that, in almost every case in earlier conflicts, the families of the fallen had no permanent marker for their deceased loved ones. They were buried in cemeteries close to the battlefields where they were killed. While families and friends were usually aware of the site of burial, almost none had the means to travel so far to pay their respects.

The original Kingston War Memorial was officially dedicated on ANZAC Day 2000. The W.L. Vince Memorial Park was named for Walter Vince, who was awarded the Military Medal for his courage on the 7th and 8th of June 1917 during operations south of Messines.

The Memorial Park setting, though beautiful, proved too small for the increased popularity of commemorating ANZAC and Remembrance Day services.

Recognising the limitations of the Memorial Park venue, services were held in the forecourt of the Kingborough Council buildings for a number of years. That location was also soon outgrown.

So, in 2015, to mark the 100th anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli, a service was held by the Kingston Beach Sub-Branch of the Returned Services League at this location. Here a small plinth had been erected. That plinth was removed recently to allow for the construction of this new memorial.

This enhances the location, with the early morning backdrop, looking out to sea and the rising sun. This is the focus for the Kingston and surrounding communities' commemorations for significant military dates.

May I thank everyone involved in the project for their hard work and commitment. This location will serve your community. It serves as a reminder to the many people who walk on the path along the Esplanade of the service and sacrifice of members of the Kingborough community in times of war. It also provides sufficient space to grow.

I shall conclude as we now move to the unveiling of the new memorial by 97-year-old World War Two Veteran, Dr Karla Fenton. Father Mike Delaney will then conduct a dedication ceremony. We shall then lay our wreaths.

Thank you.