

**FRIENDS OF SOLDIERS MEMORIAL AVENUE INC
REDEDICATION AND UNVEILING OF RESTORED PLAQUES
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
QUEENS DOMAIN, TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2025**

Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for inviting me to this rededication and unveiling ceremony for these restored plaques.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

In late June, nineteen bronze plaques were stolen¹ and three more severely damaged along this Soldiers Memorial Avenue. This act of thoughtless vandalism brought deep sadness to many Tasmanians.

This was no spur of the moment act. It would have taken considerable time and several people to remove so many plaques. They were of little financial value. The plaques, however, are priceless to the families of the soldiers they commemorate.

The task of restoring and replacing the plaques was achieved through generosity and collaboration. Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue received financial support from many organisations and individuals including the City of Hobart, RSL sub-branches from South Arm, the Channel and Hobart, the 12th/40th Royal Tasmania Regiment Association, Hobart Legacy, descendants and families of the men on the Avenue, and other supporters.²

The Soldiers Memorial Avenue stands not only as a significant heritage site, listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register³, but as a place of remembrance, a place that connects generations, that honours service and sacrifice, and that speaks to the enduring cost of war.

¹ Email ADC and John Wadsley, President

² Ibid

³ Ibid

May we acknowledge with gratitude the work of APCO Engineering, the City of Hobart work teams, and the dedicated volunteers who have worked to ensure the plaques could be restored and rededicated today.

For more than twenty-four years⁴, Friends of the Soldiers Memorial Avenue has worked with the Council, descendants, and supporters to restore, protect and honour this Avenue. Their devotion ensures that this memorial, Tasmania's largest, continues as a place of community memory, to reflect not only on loss, but on courage and hope.

May we join to rededicate and unveil these plaques and honour, once again, those whose names they bear, and ensure their sacrifice is never forgotten.

Lest we forget.

⁴ Ibid