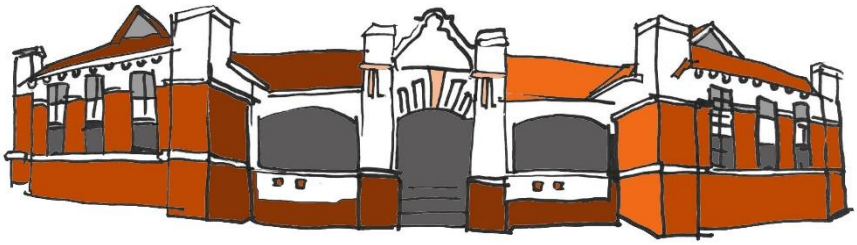


Rededication of

The Avenue of Honour

Unveiling of the Dimboola War Memorial

Interpretive sign

October 13 2019

Order of Service

Medley of music – Nhill and Dimboola brass band

2.00pm Start

Welcome – Mr Walter Sholl – Master of Ceremonies

Welcome to Country – Aunty Nancy Harrison – Wotjobaluk Elder

Mr Ivan Jones – President, Dimboola RSL sub-branch

Hymn: *The Lord is My Shepherd* – Sing Australia Choir and brass band

Andrew King – Dimboola War Memorial history

Unveiling of the interpretive sign:

- **Mr Bob Gooding**
- **Mr Bob Martindale**
- **Ms Tracey Rigney**
- **Mst Evan Barber**

Charles Rees – poem *Trees* (by Joyce Kilmer)

Dr Rob Webster OAM – State President, RSL Victoria

Rededication of the Avenue of Honour

Wreath laying

- **Mitchell Jorgensen and Rebekah Albrecht 2019, DMSC School Captains**
- **Mr Brian Bosworth, Vice President, Dimboola RSL**
- **Councillor Debra Nelson, Hindmarsh Shire**

National Anthem – Sing Australia Choir and brass band.

Anne Gawith – Principal, Dimboola Memorial Secondary College

ANZAC Ode – Walter Sholl

Irish Blessing – Sing Australia Choir

Close – afternoon tea in the Hall (Until 4pm)

The Lord is My Shepherd

(Australian Hymn Book, #10)

1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green, he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

2 My soul he doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
ev'n for his own name's sake.

3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill:
for thou art with me; and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

4 My table thou hast furnishèd
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

5 Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me:;
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

Trees

(Joyce Kilmer 1913)

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earths sweet flowing breast
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Advance Australia Fair

Australians all let us rejoice
For we are young and free,
We've golden soil and wealth for toil
Our home is girt by sea.
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare,
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing
Advance Australia Fair

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands,
To make this Commonwealth of ours
renowned of all the lands.
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share,
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing
Advance Australia Fair

Photo courtesy of the Dimboola & District Historical Society, Lindsay Smith collection

The Ode

Traditionally and usually recited from the fourth verse of the poem, *For the Fallen,* by Laurence Binton (Sept.1914). With the addition of the preceding verse, we now have a better reverence to those who are remembered by the trees in the Dimboola War Memorial, Avenue of Honour.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against all odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Old Irish Blessing - traditional

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back.
The sunshine warm upon your face.
The rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,
may God, may God, may God,
hold you in the palm of his hand.

Photo courtesy of the Dimboola & District Historical Society, Lindsay Smith collection

May the Lord bless you and keep you,
May the Lord cause his face to shine upon you
and give you peace.

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back.
The sunshine warm upon your face.
The rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,
may God, may God, may God,
hold you in the palm of his hand.
may God, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Biographies

Mr Walter Sholl - Master of Ceremony. Retired Minister of Uniting Church of Australia; currently part-time supply ministry for Horsham & District Parish. DMHS 1956-57. Royal Australian Army Corps 1971-72, photographer. Raised in Birchip, Merbein, Jeparit and Camperdown, Victoria. 25 years newspaper & commercial photographer, East Gippsland. Joining the Ministry 1993, retired 2010.

Aunty Nancy Harrison - Wotjobaluk elder. Born at Horsham, raised at Antwerp, Victoria. Retired: typist/clerk. Lives in Dimboola.

Mr Ivan Jones – President, Dimboola RSL Sub-branch. DMHS 1958 – 1961 (School Captain). 30 years with VicRoads, Horsham: administration and engineering. 15 years with Simpsons' Labour Hire, Manager. Lives in Horsham.

Dr Rob Webster (OAM) - RSL State President, Victoria Branch since 01.02.17. Life Member 2001. Meritorious Service Medal (highest RSL service award) 2016. Member Kew Sub-branch. Order of Australia (OAM), Jan. 2017.
National Service call-up, Adelaide 1969. Served in Vietnam with 26 Transport Company (Coy), Royal Australian Army Corps Sept.1970 to Sept.1971.
Chairman of Victorian Veteran's Children's Education Board. Member of Australian Institute of Company Directors. Doctor of Business Administration.

Mr Andrew King – DMSC, 2010 – 2015 (School Captain). Tarranyurk, Victoria. Attended the 2015 ANZAC DAY Dawn Service at Gallipoli as one of 80 Victorian students, courtesy of the Australian Government. Monash University student – Electrical Engineering (4th year) and studying Diploma of Languages (German).

Mr Bob Gooding - DMHES 1942-45. Member of Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers. Uncles' Harold and Walter Gooding (WW1) are remembered in “the Avenue”. Lives in Dimboola.

Mr Bob Martindale – Bob’s grandfather, Robert Martindale, is regarded as the Founder of DMHES* as a War Memorial. Bob's father was also a DMHES student. Bob went to South Melbourne Technical School, then Swinburne College of Technology (now University) – Electronics Engineer. Telstra for 32 years, retired in 2003 from the role of Principal Engineer/Technical Specialist.
Uncle George Martindale (WW1) remembered in “the Avenue”. Lives Mill Park, Victoria.

Ms Tracey Rigney - Ngumndjer and Wotjobaluk descent. Born in Melbourne and raised in Dimboola. DMSC 1992-97. Creative Arts Degree, Melbourne University/Victorian Centre of Arts. Film maker with Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, Horsham. Lives in Dimboola.

Mst Evan Barber – Current DMSC Year 9 student. Helped with the landscaping of the commemorative site. Great-great nephew of Arthur and Herbert Barber (WW1), both remembered in “the Avenue”. Lives at Wail.

Dr Michael Taffe - Professional Archivist and Historian, Avenues of Honour in Victoria. BA, Universities – New England, Armidale, NSW / Melbourne / Federation, Ballarat, Victoria - History and Heritage. Honours and doctoral research was into Avenues of Honour in Australia; emphasis on Victoria. Written four books and published journal articles in Australia and UK on social history and garden history. Consultant to VicRoads for the Western Fwy, Ballarat Avenue of Honour overpass.

Emma Kealy – MLA - Member of Victorian Parliament, representing the electorate of Lowan in the Legislative Assembly, since Nov. 2014. Born and raised, Edenhope, Vic., farming family. Bachelor of Biomedical Science, University of South Australia. Former chief executive of Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital.

Mr Charles Rees - Dimboola Avenue of Honour Restoration Project Co-ordinator. Dimboola RSL Sub-branch Affiliate Member and RSL Community representative on DMSC Council. Moved to Dimboola 2008. Regular contributor of in-kind tree maintenance/landscaping and paving labour/supervision. The driving force behind this day!

Anne Gawith - current Principal, DMSC. (Five years) 25 years living and teaching in the Wimmera, originally from a sheep property near Beaufort. Father served initially in a tank Division, then in the II Australian Small Ship Company in Borneo in WW2. Together with the whole DMSC community, Anne has ensured that the school continues to have a strong focus on commemorating Dimboola's military past.

Dimboola Soldiers' Memorial Higher Elementary School
1924 to 1945

Dimboola Memorial High School
1945 to 1986

Dimboola Memorial Secondary College
1987 to present

GRATEFUL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Charles Rees	Project Coordinator
Ivan Jones	President, Dimboola RSL Sub-branch
Anne Gawith	Principal DMSC
Sally Klinge	Assistant Principal DMSC
Phil King	Community Development Officer, Hindmarsh Shire Council

Simon King
Andrew King
Dr Michael Taffe (Victoria Avenue of Honour, Historian)
Hindmarsh Shire Council

Ted Brown (Arborist)	Vern Petschel	Russell Hunter
Julie Sampson	Beryl Clark	Craig Klemm (BuildPro, Horsham)
Margaret Hunter	Vern Hallam	David Ward
Nathan Hunter	Robert & Gloria Glatz	Kaye Webb
Wayne Myers	Delta Group	John Moar
Raymond Horne (dec.)	Danny Greiger	Helen Polack
Chris Johnson	Valda Hunter	Dimboola RSL Sub-branch
Bryan Klemm	Dale Conway	Trevor Werner (Engineer)
Sylvia Adams	Brian Adams	Bruce Miller
Jan John	Colin Campbell	Diane Goss
Randall Smith	Peter Hughes	Ken Ough
Sophie Koschmann	David Harry	Brad and Justin Stephens

DMSC Hands on Learning: Students – Kolby Barry, Zane Thomson, Evan Barber, Connor O'Dwyer, Caleb Bond, Logan Marlow, Kyle McKay, Lachlan Lawrence and staff, Donna Baldock and Peter Hayes.

Ushers for the ceremony:

Jessica Fell, Charlotte Pyers, Tristan Rayes, Mitchell Jorgensen, Rebekah Albrecht

Below: The Hands on Learning team working on the site for the interpretive sign. August 2019

Above: Project Coordinator, Mr Charles Rees with HOL student, Logan Marlow.

SPONSORS AND DONORS

This project would not have been possible without the generous financial and in-kind support from a range of individuals and organisations. We sincerely thank them.

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Dimboola Community Cropping Group
Dimboola Memorial Secondary College
Bendigo Community Bank, Dimboola Branch
Dimboola & District Historical Society
Dimboola RSL Sub-branch
Dimboola Football & Netball Club
Pacific National
Wangara Consultants
Wimmera Native Nursery, Dimboola
Dimboola Masonic Lodge No.144
Dimboola Lions Club
Dimboola Uniting Church
Private Donors

APOLOGIES:

Many people were unable to attend today and have sent their apologies.

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC (R'td) Governor-General of Australia and Mrs Hurley.
Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria.
Dr Anne Webster MP Member for Mallee (Fed.).
Senator Jane Hume (Victoria).
Jaala Pulford, MLC Western Victoria.
Mr Robert Lockwood, President, Horsham RSL Sub-branch.
Mr Chris Ekin-Smyth (former Principal, DMSC).
Mr Arthur Wakefield (former Principal, DMSC).
Mr Rob Pyers (former Principal, DMSC)
Mr Lloyd Lewis (former Acting Principal, DMSC).
Mr Stuart Kuhnell (former Acting Principal, DMSC) and Mrs Sue Kuhnell.
Mr Phil King (Hindmarsh Shire)
Tony Schneider (Hindmarsh Shire Councillor)
Mr and Mrs Ian McRae

AVENUE OF HONOUR

First planted soon after the school opened in 1924. 55 WW1 Dimboola men honoured.

May 1928	Donation by Mr F.W. McPherson and Mrs (Robert) Martindale offered a dozen trees or shrubs as replacements. (Dimboola Chronicle).
May 1929	Public appeal (40 pounds) to replace the wooden name plates on the trees of the soldiers' memorial avenue. (Dimboola Chronicle).
	After WW2 (1939/1945) WA Mallee trees planted to extend the avenue in memory of 31 WW2 men and Matron O.D. Paschke. WW1 trees replaced.
	Korean War (1950-1953) One tree added for Codling, A.S.E.
2011	30 replacement trees planted - Spotted gums, by DMSC students.
2012	RSL planted 33 Spotted gums on both sides of ANZAC Drive, to replace dead or "missing" trees. Arborist Ted Brown donated a Lemon Scented gum for Matron O.D. Paschke.
2015	Ted Brown consulted; dieback identified in WA Mallee trees, requiring their removal.
2016	Restoration - Hindmarsh Shire helped with the removal of 15 trees on the oval side, with aid of the "Drought Assistance Project for Rural Workers". E. Leucoxylon Rosa (Murray Bridge variety) planted as replacements. S.Rauert, Kurrajong retained.
2017	"The Avenue" extended to include 4 WW1 men mistakenly recorded as returned.
May 2017	Family members planted their tree, E.Leucoxylon Rosa (Murray Bridge variety). New trees dedicated by Hindmarsh Shire Mayor, Cr Debra Nelson.
2017	Remaining 20 WA Mallee trees opposite the oval, removed with help from Dimboola Community Cropping Group and Delta Group. E. Leucoxylon rosa (Murray Bridge variety) planted. A.C. Petschel WA Mallee tree retained.
2019	Commemorative site created, seat and interpretive / information signboard installed. Funding support for restoration and commemorative site from sponsors acknowledged below and private contributions and donations.

Short history provided by, Charles E Rees, Project Co-ordinator

HISTORY

1946

Picture from the Dimboola and District Historical Society

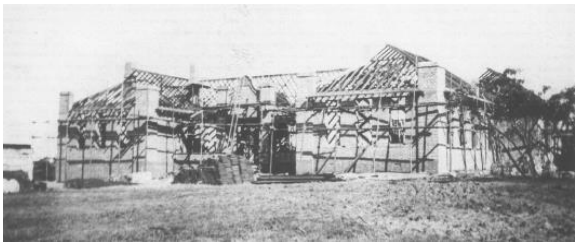
Background and Inception

Many of Dimboola's fathers, sons, brothers and friends answered the call to serve during World War I and, as many did not return, the community wanted a unique way of remembering their sacrifice.

As early as 1919, both the Dimboola Rowing Club and Dimboola R.S.L. were investigating options for a war memorial. Various meetings were held over the ensuing three years but nothing definite was decided until 1921.

A meeting in May that year attracted a large number of interested community members and the concept of building a Higher Elementary School as a war memorial was met with popular approval. This followed a visit to the district by the Minister for Education the previous month when the need for a Higher Elementary School was identified. The public appeal to attract funds for the project was enthusiastically supported.

The hilltop site was chosen as the preferred option in June 1921, when officials once again visited Dimboola. The school was proclaimed on 1st July 1921 and a room was rented at the state primary school. Official confirmation of the site was made in July. The Public Works Department then set about drafting plans for the building.



The building of the Soldiers' Memorial Hall, circa 1923
DMSC Archives

The chosen site presented its own challenges, given the mallee scrub that covered it. Tireless work by dedicated volunteers saw the site cleared, and beautification works of the site took place from day one. This was described in an article in the *Dimboola Chronicle* on 14th August 1924, which also records the planting of the avenue:

> *Wonderful work has been carried out, most of the ground has been cleared and sown with grass, the avenue has been planted with W.A. flowering gums, gardens have been laid out and flowers and shrubs put in, and what a short time ago was a wilderness, will soon be a garden of roses.*

The Avenue was an ongoing project for many years, with some trees requiring replacement a couple of years later, and the original timber name plates being replaced later that same decade.

The School Opens

Students and staff relocated from their temporary home at the state primary school to the new building in May 1924.

While the official opening was originally planned for 10th September 1924, the availability of various dignitaries dictated that the official event be pushed back. Tuesday 2nd December was decided upon, with the Governor of Victoria, Earl Stradbroke, set to perform the official opening. Family illness unfortunately led him to send an apology at the last minute, and the State Secretary of the R.S.L., Mr A.M. David, who was present to unveil the Honour Rolls, performed the opening of the building in the Governor's absence. A banquet was held for around 70 guests that evening.

In Memory of Our Friend: Robert Martindale

Following his death in 1927, Robert Martindale was honoured by his friends and community with a plaque, made of the same stone as the Honour Rolls above it, at the front of the Memorial Building. Mr Martindale did not serve during the war, but his unwavering dedication to the support of returned servicemen and his role in the establishment of the memorial school was acknowledged by the R.S.L.

In his speech to unveil the plaque on Anzac Day 1928, the Hon. A.S. Rodgers, M.H.R., said of Mr Martindale:

> *The work he undertook and performed so fearlessly and wholeheartedly was of great magnitude. Never have I seen man perform duties as the way Mr Martindale took the helm in this little town. I commend the soldiers on paying a tribute to this man. (Dimboola Chronicle, 26th April 1928)*

Locals again answer the call

The late 1930s and 1940s saw many locals volunteer when Australia once again found itself at war, and this included some local women who served with the Australian Army Nursing Service. Following the war there was the need to honour those who did not return.

A special memorial was unveiled in May 1949 in the form of a sundial to honour the service of Matron O.D. Paschke, a nurse with the A.A.N.S., who died after the ship she was on, the *SS Vyner Brooke*, was sunk off Sumatra during the evacuation of Singapore in 1942.

A working bee in April 1950 was attended by around 190 people and saw the Avenue replanted, including trees for the World War II casualties.

A new Honour Roll was unveiled in May 1955 containing the names of those who lost their lives during World War II. At the same time a new entrance to the school, dedicated to former students who served in that war, was officially opened, with the pillars having been erected in 1950 and the gates installed in 1953.

Sometime later, most likely during the late 1960s, A.S.E. Codling's name was etched onto the bottom of the World War II tablet to recognise his sacrifice in the Korean War of 1950-53. He was also honoured with a tree in the Avenue.

The 75th anniversary of the school was held in early December 1999 and was attended by almost 1100 former students and staff. The memorial was rededicated in a ceremony including the unveiling of a plaque, a speech by State R.S.L. President, Bruce Ruxton, and the laying of wreaths.

Remembering their service, a century on

The Anzac Centenary period was well commemorated around Australia and here in Dimboola it was the same. Numerous projects were completed around the school to beautify the grounds surrounding the Memorial Building, and to ensure that every aspect of our memorial – including the Honour Rolls and the Avenue of Honour – remained fit to commemorate the sacrifices made by our service personnel.

On 21st May 2017, new trees were planted in the Avenue of Honour to acknowledge four servicemen - Alexander Brown, John Glatz, Leslie Parker, and William Roy Smith - who had originally been recorded on the Honour Rolls as returned from service, although further research revealed that they were in fact killed in action. A new plaque was unveiled on an existing tree to honour A.G. Kuhne, who had also been incorrectly recorded. A dedication was performed by Hindmarsh Shire Council Mayor, Debra Nelson.

The culmination of the research that identified the need for these four trees was the updating of the Honour Rolls in September 2019. The four servicemen mentioned above have each had a cross marked next to their name on the Honour Rolls, along with the inclusion of J. Hawke on the World War II tablet and marking those who served in both World Wars.

Sunday 13th October 2019, marks another important milestone in the chronology of our unique memorial. The official commemorations include the unveiling of an interpretative sign and the rededication of the Avenue of Honour, some 95 years on from its first planting.

History written by Andrew King (former DMSC student and School Captain – 2015)

Lest we forget

LEST WE FORGET

100

GREAT WAR

LEST WE FORGET

LEST WE FORGET

Lest We Forget

DIMBOOLA
ROLL OF HONOR
IN MEMORIAM
DISTRICT
LEST WE FORGET

Welcome to
D. M. S. C.
Please Drive Carefully
ONE WAY

LEST WE FORGET