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Tasmanian Heritage Council

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Tasmania's war memorials are part of our heritage and identity. They are valued by communities around Tasmania as a way of remembering and commemorating those who served in war, many of whom never returned. Local communities continue to play an important role in maintaining and conserving these memorials for future generations. This publication gives advice on how to care for war memorials, honour rolls and plaques, memorial avenues and plantings, regardless of whether or not they are heritage listed. Understanding and appreciating the significance and issues is the first step. The next step is to seek advice before you start work. Each memorial will have its own unique considerations, features and maintenance issues. Our advisors can provide free advice on the best approach to maintaining and conserving your memorials.

Cover image: Sheffield War Memorial **Photograph:** Heritage Tasmania

se who belonged to this School who have taken up Arms for King and Country.

Introduction

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Left: Gretna War Memorial Photograph by Stuart Wells

Above: Mole Creek School Honour Roll Photograph by Arthur Garland Tasmania has over 1000 war memorials including honour rolls and plantings commemorating the service and sacrifice of servicemen and women and others who contributed to wartime and peacekeeping operations. They are an important part of our national, state, and local heritage.

Memorials come in a variety of forms and styles, including obelisks, statues, plaques, honour rolls, windows, plantings, avenues, and structures such as memorial halls or swimming pools. Some are listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, and some, like honour rolls and boards and memorial avenues, are located within a place on the Heritage Register.

Before starting any works to these memorials please seek advice and approvals from the Tasmanian Heritage Council. Approval may be in the form of a certificate of exemption or a discretionary permit. Staff at Heritage Tasmania can provide free advice on the approvals you need and how best to complete the work. For more information on how we can help, see page 16.

Types of War Memorials



War memorials come in a range of forms and materials. The main examples and their important features are:

Cenotaphs, obelisks, sculptures, cairns, pillars and ornamental structures

War memorials may take a variety of forms including, but not limited to, cenotaphs, obelisks, sculptures, cairns, pillars and ornamental structures. Many were constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and need to be treated with care. Most were carved and constructed by highly skilled craftsmen and tradespeople who applied specialist knowledge of materials and crafting techniques in their making. The materials used in constructing memorials are diverse, and include stone, metal, gilding, concrete, mortar, paint, wood and brick.

Honour rolls and plaques

Honour Rolls provide a list of names of those who fought or died in war. They were most often created by local communities, schools, churches, businesses, councils or other organisations to commemorate the service and sacrifice of those who lived in a district, or belonged to



Left: Clarence Honour Roll Photograph by John Wadsley

Above: Bishopbourne War Memorial Photograph by Arthur Garland

Next page: Tasmanian Honour Roll, Railton RSL Photograph by Arthur Garland that organisation. Honour rolls may be made from wood, stone, marble, metal or paper and were often mounted on walls. Honour rolls, many of which date back to the First World War, are increasingly at risk from environmental and human factors. Damage often results when they are moved from their original location, stored incorrectly, damaged or lost.

Commemorative Plantings and Memorial Avenues/Avenues of Honour

There are a range of commemorative plantings in Tasmania including avenues of honour, lone pines, gardens and memorial parks. Plantings are living memorials that pose particular issues for care and preservation. Most plantings commemorating the Boer War and First World War would have reached maturity and many are in decline. For reasons of public safety and visual amenity, dying limbs and trees will be removed. Some communities have had the timber or stumps of these trees converted into other forms of memorials, and others have planted new trees. The original choice of planting has often had symbolic meaning, with particular species planted for particular reasons, so one needs to be mindful of any such symbolism when deciding on any new or replacement plantings. In most cases it will be desirable for replacement plantings to reflect the originals.

Moveable Military Heritage

Moveable military heritage items may include cannons, guns, tanks and other objects obtained as war trophies. They are often located outside in parks or near memorials. However, just because they are large does not necessarily mean that they can withstand all conditions. Cannons are generally made from cast iron or bronze, and their carriages from cast iron or timber. Other guns may be from iron or steel. Tanks and other machinery are made of steel and other metals as well as rubber and plastic. Anchors are made from wrought iron. Aircraft are often made from aluminium, steel and fabric. To varying degrees, all of these materials will be subject to corrosive decay and will require regular maintenance in order to survive.

Impacts to War Memorials

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Impacts to War Memorials

Environmental Impacts	What damage does it do?
Natural disasters/climate change	 Floods, storms and fires can cause irreparable damage to memorials of every type Drought may reduce the lifespan of plantings
Weather	 > The UV of direct sunlight is damaging to wood, paper, fabrics, inks and paints > Abrasion from wind-borne dust can erode stone > Temperature variations can cause stress fractures in stone > High winds can break limbs and uproot trees
Water and damp	 > Salts carried into the stone by water can cause fretting, spalling (flaking) or mortar loss > Corrosion of metal > Warping, splitting and cracking of wood; and the dulling or peeling of lettering, veneer and varnish on wood > Mould or discolouration to paper
Salt	 In combination with water/damp, salts can cause corrosion of metals and stone decay
Pollution, including dust, soot and dirt	 Corrosion of metal components and staining and/or loss of stone Reduced lifespan of plantings Staining of wood and paper objects
Soil conditions	> Subsidence, cracks and structural instability
Vegetation including moss, lichen and algae	 Moss and lichen can obscure, disfigure or in some cases slowly dissolve masonry Weeds can grow in cracks and joints, hastening mortar loss Roots from woody plants can lever apart masonry units Falling limbs can damage iron and masonry structures
Animals, insects and fungi	 Attack wood and paper, causing staining, deterioration and/or irreparable loss Bird droppings can hasten corrosion of metal and encourage insect attack of wooden objects



Impacts to War Memorials Cont.

Human Impacts	What damage does it do?	
Neglect/Lack of regular maintenance	 In objects, structures and trees, it can result in deterioration/decay that could have been halted at an early stage if an inspection had brought it to notice earlier and changes made to the management of the memorial 	
	> In trees, could result in the creation of a hazard from falling limbs	
Incorrect attempts at repair or maintenance	 Ferrous metal straps or fixings can damage masonry through expansion and staining when they rust Work by unskilled persons undertaking specialist maintenance 	
	or repairs such as repointing masonry or repainting lettering can result in poorly executed and unsightly work, and sometimes irreparable damage	
	 Use of cement pointing or concrete for repairs and stabilisation work can introduce damaging salts into the masonry or secure the masonry with insufficient flexibility to accommodate normal movement 	
	 Use of machine tools for cleaning monuments can be excessively abrasive or erosive, resulting in loss of detail 	
	 Chemical cleaners can introduce salts or acids that cause immediate to long term damage to masonry 	
	 Acidic materials (including mounts and tapes) can cause irreparable damage to paper 	
	 Inappropriate cleaning of paper or wood can remove inks, dyes, paint or gilding 	
	> The loss of an aged character that may be desirable	
Vandalism and graffiti	 A lack of security, such as fencing and lighting, can result in deliberate breakage, graffiti, or theft 	
	 Inappropriate cleaning or repairs following vandalism can result in lasting damage 	

Impacts to War Memorials Cont.

Human Impacts	What damage does it do?
Skin contact (oils and sweat)	Corrosion of delicate metal objectsStaining of paper objects
Exposure to light, heat and smoke	 Fading of exterior paints Darkening, yellowing or flaking of varnish on wooden objects Fading of colours (inks, dyes and paint); accelerated ageing, yellowing and embrittlement of paper
Inappropriate handling and storage of moveable memorials	 > Objects in transit can be damaged by being dropped, bumped or crushed if not packed and handled with care > Stored objects can be exposed to damaging environmental conditions including light, heat, damp or vermin for a prolonged period during which their condition is not monitored > Without proper tracking and security, items in transit or storage may become lost
Loss of community knowledge	 A loss of community connection to, and understanding of, a memorial can lead to the memorial being neglected, vandalised and destroyed
Traffic and development	 Road widening, or other civic development can result in damage to a memorial, or compromise its surrounds Vehicle traffic in close proximity to a monument or memorial plantings can result in damage from collisions and vibration Trees under which cars are able to park may suffer from root compaction

Caring for War Memorials

ERECTED IN HONOUR OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES AND THOSE WHO SERVED

* BUTTON R.H. * HENDERSON E.G. COULSON E.W.G. CHURCH R.C. HILL E.A. HILL M.A. HENDERSON W HENDERSON LEES PREWER R.C. ROOM J.W. ROOM C.H. SHEGOG

The following pages are a list of tips to guide the care and conservation of significant memorials.

It is fitting that memorials look their age, their time-worn appearance telling of the years that have passed since the occurrence of the event that they memorialise. To spruce up or 'renew' a memorial may in some instances erode this significant quality. Most war memorials do not require major repair or restoration, but some may need minor works to ensure that inscriptions remain legible and the structure or object remains sound. It is important to know what is required, and when. A cautious approach is the most appropriate – 'do as much as necessary, but as little as possible'. Professional advice from a qualified heritage practitioner should be sought before attempting the cleaning, repair or maintenance of a memorial.

With wooden honour rolls the original timber, varnish and gilding should be retained as these are an important part of its history and significance. Metal honour rolls may have a patina, plated, varnished, waxed, oiled or painted coating for decorative or protective reasons. The coatings are as historically significant as an integral part of the heritage item and should be retained. The patina (coloured film of stable metal corrosion) is often an authentic part of the metal plaque or roll's history and should be respected.

Paper honour rolls are particularly sensitive to environmental factors. Paper is a cellulose fibre often derived from cotton or wood pulp. It has an invisible layer on the surface made from gelatine, starch, resin or alum to ensure that ink does not bleed. Ink or paint is applied by machine or hand. These materials are very susceptible to decay from sunlight, damp and insects (eg: silverfish). Special care needs to be taken to avoid these conditions in order to ensure the survival of paper honour rolls.

Above: Dilston Honour Roll Photograph by Arthur Garland

Right: The last of the 99th Regiment in Hobart

In: Beattie, J.W., Historical photographs relating to Tasmania No. 80.

Courtesy of the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office.



Maintenance and Repairs to Outside Memorials: General

Do

- Check if the memorial is heritage listed and acquire necessary approvals before work commences (see section on the Works Approval Process)
- > Undertake research before repairs so that the person doing the work understands the original appearance of the memorial and can therefore aim to retain its authenticity
- Document your memorial with photographs and a written description of its condition to assist in monitoring its condition, and ensure that there is a current record of the inscriptions and condition before carrying out any major work
- > Regularly monitor the condition of the memorial
- > Employ an engineer to check structural stability
- Ensure masonry repairs are carried out by a properly qualified tradesman, using appropriate materials (eg: lime mortar) and techniques
- If painting is approved by a heritage professional, ensure that the original colour and type of paint is matched exactly
- > Ensure the area around the memorial is welldrained and free of puddles
- > Use fish oil to inhibit corrosion on external ironwork that is vulnerable to damage from corrosion (apply diluted 50:50 with shellite every 6 months during warm, dry weather)
- Ensure leaded lettering is professionally repaired or replaced
- > Undertake research to identify the people recorded on the memorial

Don't

- X
- Undertake unauthorised works on a heritage listed place
- Introduce new features or embellishments during repairs
- Introduce modern elements or technology (eg: cement or coatings) unless previously used or based on the advice of an expert conservator
- Remove the protective bases on which the monument sits
- > Apply lacquers, varnishes or paint to make it look 'clean' and new
- > Use hard cement mortar (unless the memorial is of more recent construction where hard cement has been used)
- > Paint any previously unpainted surfaces
- > Use hard materials such as car body filler, plaster, putty, polyurethane or commercial wood fillers to fill holes in wood
- Dispose of or remove an item inappropriately; if the monument is within the boundary of a place on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, removal can only proceed if approved by the Heritage Council
- > Attempt to re-paint or re-gild lettering without professional advice
- > Attempt to re-cut stone inscriptions
- Add additional names or inscriptions without consulting the RSL branch, council and heritage advisor

Maintenance and Repairs to Outside Memorials: Cleaning

Do

- Check that the memorial is structurally sound before cleaning; consult a qualified conservator if the memorial is in poor condition, cracked or corroded
- If necessary, clean a memorial using clean water and a soft nylon bristle brush once a year; perform a trial cleaning on a small, unobtrusive area first and if possible avoid getting water in joints, fixing sockets or near metal and painted surfaces; clean from the top down and flush with gently flowing water, ensuring that the water can drain away freely at the base
- Arrange for graffiti to be removed as soon as possible, consulting a heritage professional
- For bronze and brass in good condition with no historic paint, gilding or enamel use a soft dusting brush, wipe with distilled water and pH neutral soap, rinse and dry immediately
- Remove grease using white spirit and a soft cloth; rinse with distilled water and dry immediately
- Remove weeds (unless this will damage the stone); sturdy tree or shrub seedlings that take root should be poisoned with direct application and the roots left to decay rather than sprayed
- Algae, mosses or lichen should be left unless unsightly, is obscuring lettering or etching into the stone; if it is necessary to remove them use a diluted organic poison that does not contain soluble salts and after applying the poison, leave the growth to dry and fall off over a period of time
- Carefully remove bird droppings with a wooden spatula and gentle washing

Don't

- > Clean unnecessarily or repeatedly
- > Use steel wool, harsh abrasives, steel wire brushes or high pressure water, air or grit
- > Use bleach, ammonia or chemicals, silicones, liquid floor polish, silicone waxes, commercial rust converters or brass or copper cleaners
- > Use acid or alkali paint strippers (solvent-based strippers are safer)
- Scrub graffiti or use commercial anti-graffiti preparations without consulting a professional (many can damage historic materials)
- Use brushcutters or other power tools to remove unwanted vegetation or lichen growth on memorials
- > Use biocides to remove algae, mosses and lichen; nor scrape off growth, as this can damage the memorial



Maintenance and Repairs to Outside Memorials: Site Maintenance

Do

- Research the nature of any original plantings or features at the memorial site
- Treat plantings and other features, such as fences, flagstaffs, gardens, walls with respect
- Retain memorials in their original location and ensure original views and vistas are retained if possible
- Ensure any new works such as access ramps, paths and planting are sympathetic in design, materials and scale and do not detract from the memorial itself

Don't

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- > Use slashers or machinery near memorials and plaques
- Excavate or install concrete or pavers without seeking the necessary heritage advice and approvals; these may affect the structural integrity or create rising damp
- Relocate a memorial unless this is the only means of it surviving, and if proceeding, always seek professional heritage advice and necessary approvals
- Introduce new works without heritage advice and any necessary approvals

Moveable War Memorials: Honour Rolls (Wooden)

Do

- Check if the memorial is located in a heritage listed building or place and seek advice from Heritage Tasmania before work on, or removal of, an object
- Regularly and carefully dust wooden honour rolls using soft, dry microfibre or dust attracting cloths
- Cover wooden honour rolls in storage with dust covers, such as washed cotton sheets
- Store indoors in a stable area, such as on an interior wall (not in an external shed or structure)
- > Consult a conservator to assess a damaged roll
- > Use clear wax to improve patchy varnish (but do not use if the surface is whitish or dusty)

 only use an untinted microcrystalline wax (eg: Beckett's Clear Microcrystalline Wax or Renaissance Wax) following instructions
- > Undertake research to identify the people recorded on the honour roll

Don't

- Undertake any unapproved works to, or remove, moveable cultural heritage associated with a heritage listed place
- > Use a feather duster or fluffy cloths to remove dust as these can snag cracks and cause splinters
- > Use oil impregnated cloths or brushes
- > Dust wooden honour rolls that have flaking or unstable surfaces
- Display under bright lights or where exposed to direct or high levels of indirect sunlight
- > Attempt to re-paint lettering without professional advice from a conservator
- Apply waxes or coatings containing silicone, wood stains, or oils, lacquers or varnishes
- Move an honour roll unless necessary; if necessary use a tradesperson with experience in heritage buildings and, if possible, re-use original fastenings
- Dispose of an old honour roll inappropriately; contact your local RSL, museum or archives for advice, and if the roll is located in a heritage listed building approval from the Heritage Council is needed

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Moveable War Memorials: Honour Rolls (Paper)

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listed	k if the memorial is located in a heritage d building or place and acquire advice from age Tasmania before work to, or removal of, pject		 Undertake any unapprove moveable cultural heritage heritage listed place
> Duot	using a soft bair bruch (avaant the image		 Laminate originals
	Dust using a soft hair brush (except the image area of artworks)		 Use tape, glue, paper clip staples
curta	away from heaters and sources of heat; use ains and blinds to keep light out of rooms re displayed		> Pick up large items by one
Alwa	ys wash your hands before handling		> Assume that pests won't
> Imple	ement an integrated pest management oach to insects		 Store or display in damp walls, near windows or ki
 If not hous 	 If not on display, store in boxes off the ground in housings made from safe archival materials to protect against moisture penetration or potential 		 Use PVC, bubble wrap, land paper or cardboard, grea brown paper or standard
flooc	0		 Roll tightly
pape (LDP	safe storage materials such as acid free er and cardboard, low density polyethylene E), high density polyethylene (HDPE), or propylene (PP)		 Use masonite, chipboard, unvarnished timber, stand cardboard mount board f
	able to store flat, roll into a large tube in acid paper		 Attempt to repair paper r advice; eg: sticky tape or leave residues
	a conservator or certified picture framer to e using archival quality materials		 Keep on display for a long a copy of the honour roll
 Use a professional conservator for repairs and cleaning 			a good solution
			> Dispose of an old honour

- > Display colour copies of originals
- > Undertake research to identify the people recorded on the honour roll

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- period of time; making for permanent display is
- ispose of an old honour roll inappropriately; contact your local RSL, museum or archives for advice, and if the roll is located in a heritage listed building approval from the Heritage Council is needed

Memorial Avenues and Other Plantings

Do

- Check if the memorial is heritage listed and seek advice from Heritage Tasmania before starting work; approvals may be necessary
- Undertake research to find out the species of the original plantings, number and layout of plantings, and any symbolism attached to these
- > Undertake research to identify the people commemorated by the plantings
- Take care not to remove or destroy evidence such as plaques that assist in understanding the site
- > Keep records as the site develops
- Conserve the landscape features of the original design
- > Have a maintenance program in place

Don't

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- > Undertake any unapproved works to a heritage listed place
- Replace straight paths or drives with curvilinear ones (or vice versa) or a gravel surface with modern paving
- Remove or destroy physical evidence such as plaques
- Introduce inappropriate species that will lead to a loss of character of the original garden, eg: introducing native species in an exotic garden
- Change drainage patterns that may affect plant growth
- Install paving or create car parking within the root zone of old established trees

Works Approval Process



Before you start any work seek advice from Heritage Tasmania or a suitably qualified heritage practitioner. Visit www.heritage.tas.gov.au for a directory of consultants.

Under Part 6 of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act* 1995, approval from the Tasmanian Heritage Council is required for any works to a place entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register. Approval may be in the form of a certificate of exemption or a permit.

Where your proposed works are minor and won't affect the significance of the place, the Heritage Council may provide you with a certificate of exemption so you do not need to submit a development application. Please contact Heritage Tasmania to check whether your works would be exempt. If you do not have a certificate of exemption, you will need to lodge a development application with your local council. Your local council will forward your application to the Heritage Council to assess any impacts on the historic heritage values of the place.

How long before I receive a decision?

The development application process may take up to 42 days from the date it is lodged with the local council. If you do not provide enough information with your application, it may take longer. Please contact Heritage Tasmania to check what information you need.

Are there any penalties for not abiding by the Act?

Yes. However the Heritage Council tries to work proactively with owners to resolve issues through discussion and mediation, rather than by conflict, objection and using penalties.

Above: Holy Trinity Church, Ulverstone Photograph by Arthur Garland

Right: Cenotaph, ANZAC Memorial Park, Lindisfarne Photograph by Arthur Garland

Back cover: Huonville Soldiers' Memorial Photograph by Arthur Garland

Useful Links

Tasmanian Heritage Council Draft Works Guidelines: www.heritage.tas.gov.au

Practice Note 11: The Heritage Value of Cemeteries (see section 4: Principles of Monument Conservation) www.heritage.tas.gov.au

Practice Note 7: Moveable Heritage www.heritage.tas.gov.au

State Government Victoria Department of Planning and Community Development www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/veterans/victorian-veterans-virtualmuseum/preserving-veterans-heritage/preserving-war-heritage-andmemorabilia

NSW Public Works Department: 'Caring for Our War Memorials' www.publicworks.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/pdf/Caring%20 for%200ur%20War%20Memorials.pdf

Burra Charter: www.australia.icomos.org/publications/charters/

Heritage Tasmania: www.heritage.tas.gov.au

Monument Australia: www.monumentaustralia.org.au

Soldiers' Memorial Avenue, Hobart Tasmania: www.soldierswalk.org.au

The Avenues Kit: the complete guide to restoring memorial avenues and avenues of honour in your community (2006), (Produced by Adrian Howard for Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue Inc; available at LINC Tasmania)

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the Victorian State Government, particularly Department of Veterans Affairs and Heritage Victoria, for use of its series of fact sheets on preserving war heritage and memorabilia.

Contact details

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