

**DEDICATION OF TREES AND PLAQUES ON  
THE SOLDIERS MEMORIAL AVENUE  
COMMEMORATING SECOND LIEUTENANT CHALMERS AND  
PRIVATE GLASS, 52<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
QUEENS DOMAIN, MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2024**

Good afternoon, everyone.

Thank you for all for attending this ceremony to dedicate new plaques to two Tasmanian men who served with the 52<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.

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.

This morning, we attended the Remembrance Day commemorations at the Cenotaph. It is fitting that we are now here on the Soldiers Memorial Avenue to honour and remember two men who gave their all in service to their country.

This Avenue holds a deep significance in the heart of Hobart. It is a place that bridges our present with the past and that offers a space for reflection, connection, and remembrance.

Over a century ago, thousands of Tasmanians left peaceful shores behind to face a world at war. Many went with a sense of duty, some with a spirit of adventure, and others without fully understanding the gravity of what awaited them. Tragically, their journey ended far from home for so many, marked by conflict and sacrifice in foreign lands.

The Soldiers Memorial Avenue was created to offer families and communities a visible connection to their loved ones who did not return. Created in an era when travel to distant cemeteries and battlefields was beyond reach, this Avenue became a sacred place where memories could be honoured.

Today, we recognise two men whose stories remind us of the cost of war: Second Lieutenant Colin Chalmers and Private James Glass, both from the 52<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the First Australian Imperial Force. Their names are etched in the hearts of their families and communities, but now, with this dedication, they have their rightful place among the trees and plaques of the Avenue.

This ceremony marks the first dedication of new trees and plaques since 2015. It is a testament to the commitment of the Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue, who work tirelessly to ensure that the memories of our fallen are preserved, and their stories shared. The dedication today addresses an oversight in which these soldiers, listed on the Roll of Honour in the foyer of the Hobart Town Hall, were not initially identified for inclusion during the restoration efforts of 2005–2015.

We pause today to remember Second Lieutenant Chalmers and Private Glass. Their stories remind us that nearly 16,000 Tasmanians served in the Great War and that approximately 2,900 were killed or succumbed to wounds or disease— a heavy toll for our island community.

We acknowledge and are grateful to the Friends of the Soldiers Memorial Avenue for their ongoing dedication to preserving this Avenue. The Friends' partnership with the City of Hobart, RSL, Hobart Legacy, descendants of the soldiers, and other supporters has strengthened the Avenue's role as a place of remembrance.

Shortly, members of the Chalmers and Glass families will unveil the new plaques. We shall then hear from them about their stories.

Let us ensure that this Avenue and all its memorials are preserved for future generations so that they, too, can understand the sacrifices made.

Lest we forget.