

Memorial Trees Goodwood Oval

The land for Goodwood oval was secured by council in September 1918. A committee was appointed to work on the improvement of the land under the supervision of council, known as the Goodwood District Recreation Grounds Association and were to manage the grounds.

Council erected a post and wire fence around the 10 acre area in 1920. A jarrah picket fence was erected in 1935.

In 2021 the President of the Goodwood Saints approached us and Jared Wilson handled the enquiry, stating that he believed the cork trees were planted for WWII soldiers that played for Goodwood Football Club.

In summary

1919 - first planting of memorial trees was August 1919, by students of Goodwood Primary planting in honour of WWI soldiers

1921 – Council planted 24 trees at the Goodwood Recreation Ground – type not specified (would need to retrieve original council records to determine – not held by Museum)

1921-Oak trees were planted on Saturday the 18th of June 1921 by brethren of the United Ancient Order of the Druids (U.A.O.D.) to commemorate members of the local Druids' lodge (Victory Lodge No. 37) from news article the following soldiers were commemorated (article is difficult to read so may not be accurate): **Corporal Brother H Lee-Thomas, Private P. O'Dea, Private Brother F D Francis, Private Brother A H Francis Private Bro. J Brooks, Private Bro H(?) Atkinson.** The article says these were oak trees.

1922 - Approval was granted by the Council in November 1922 for the Forestville Hockey Club to plant trees on the Grounds "in memory of three fallen soldiers" who were members of the club. According to the History of the Forestville Hockey Club written by Martin Coan, the following soldiers from the club lost their lives in WWI – **Kenneth A Fraser, C L McLellan, N G Simons.**

1944 - a newspaper article noted that the Unley City Council were planning on cleaning up the area around the trees and adding "metal plaques affixed to short white posts" in memory of the members of the local Druids' lodge who were killed in World War One.

1947 - In minutes from the meeting of the Victory Lodge of the United Ancient Order of Druids they state that 4 evergreen oaks were procured to be donated by Kemp's nursery to be planted as a memorial to the fallen from Victory Lodge in WWII. The City of Unley agreed that the trees could be planted in the playground area of the Goodwood Recreation Ground. Unley council planted the trees and supplied guards and posts for the plaques. Plaques were also erected and a dedication ceremony on 2/11/1947. (copies held by UM) No list of names in the documents aside from **W J Hollis.**

In 1985 there is memo from the RSL which refers to the 1946 Victory Lodge Minute Books - A Harold Fisher (no reference to who he was) says that 8 Oak trees which were planted in honour of WWI diggers were bulldozed to make way for a mound (terrace), although there seems some uncertainty as to whether this was true. (held by UM)

1985 - On 3rd June 1985 a letter from the RSL to the Victory Lodge mentions 4 cork oak trees planted in memory of “your fallen brothers”, which are probably the ones referred to in the 1947 minutes.

One plaque remains at the Goodwood Oval at the base of a tree and commemorates a World War Two serviceman. The plaque says “U.O.A.D. Victory Lodge in Memory of Bro. W. J. Hollis who paid the supreme sacrifice Great War 1939-1945”. For further details about Hollis visit the Virtual War Memorial’s website [here](#).



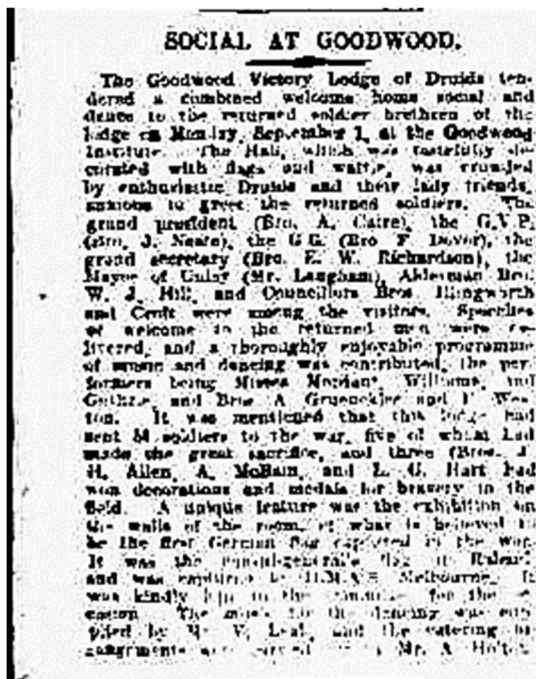
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Other notes

An article in the Daily heralds, 5/9 /1919 states that 5 Druids died in WWI but does not mention their names.



Sources

Avenues of Honour website -<https://avenuesofhonour.org/places/south-australia/adelaide/goodwood-oval-memorial-trees/> (We would have written the information provided on this website, I assume, although the museum wasn't involved in this. I think Jared Wilson may have been while he was here.)

ARBOR DAY AT GOODWOOD, 1919, August 5. *The Advertiser*, p. 10

Goodwood Recreation Grounds (1921, June 22). *Critic*, p. 11

"Municipal Corporations" (1921, June 16) *The Register*, p. 5

Unley City Council. (1922, November 22). *The Register*, p. 11

Memorial Trees at Oval (1944, October 19). *News*, p. 7

[Goodwood Oval Memorial Trees | Monument Australia](#)

The trees commemorate those who served in World War One and World War Two.

Goodwood Oval, previously known as Goodwood Recreation Ground, has had many separate tree-plantings over the years to commemorate soldiers who served in World War One and World War Two. On different occasions, trees were planted by local school children, Druids, and the Forestville Hockey Club. Many of the trees and their associated plaques have disappeared with the passage of time.

The first planting of memorial trees occurred on Friday 1 August 1919, when children from Goodwood Primary School planted trees around the Goodwood Recreation Ground to commemorate the soldiers from the school who served in World War One.

The following newspaper articles in Trove (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>) refer to the planting of the trees referenced in the websites above.

[Personal. THE LATE MR. C. R. MORRIS.](#)

Article - Critic (Adelaide, SA : 1897-1924) **Wednesday 6 August 1919** - Page 7

ARBOR DAY AT GOODWOOD.

The scholars of the Goodwood public school celebrated Arbor Day on Friday, when trees were planted round the Goodwood District Recreation Ground in memory of the soldiers from the school. The proceedings were arranged in conjunction with the Goodwood school committee and the Unley City Council. After the saluting of the flag by the children, the headmaster (Mr. Sutton) introduced the visitors, and explained to the children the importance attached to Arbor Day, and then called Mr. W. H. Trotter, as chairman of the school committee, to take charge of the proceedings. The Mayor of Unley (Mr. Langham) addressed the children, and speeches were also delivered by the Hon. F. S. Wallis and Major Smeaton, M.P. Trees were planted by the Mayor of Unley, Hon. F. S. Wallis, Major Smeaton, Alderman Yelland, Mr. W. G. Trotter, Mrs. W. Steed (hon secretary of G.S.C.), Mrs. E. R. Lloyd (hon. treas.), Mr. G. H. Greenham (hon. secretary of Grounds Association) Councillor Croft, Rev. A. C. Hill, Mrs. B. Croft, Mr. E. J. Ashton, Mr. K. Sutton (head master), Alderman Hill, Alderman Williams, Hon. H. Tassie, Mr. C. E. Vardon, M.P., Cr. Hobbs, Mr. W. Hill, Junr., Cr. Illingworth, and the children.

[No Title](#)

Article - Critic (Adelaide, SA : 1897-1924) [Wednesday 22 June 1921](#) - Page 11

GOODWOOD RECREATION GROUNDS.

An interesting ceremony took place last Saturday, when the U.A.O.D., Victory Lodge, No. 37, performed the ceremony of planting Oak trees in memory of Brethren who died in the Great War.

The Unley City Council were in attendance, and His Worship the Mayor (Mr. H. C. Richards, M.P.), addressed the gathering. Arch-Druid Host gave an inspiring address, which was supported by the Grand President, Mr. F. Dover. Mr. W. J. Hill, President of the Recreation Ground Committee, said the trees would have their special attention.

The Last Post was sounded, and the Salvation Army Band rendered several items, after which those present adjourned for light refreshments.

[UNLEY CITY COUNCIL. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20.](#)

Article - The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) [Wednesday 22 November 1922](#) - Page 11

put of metal from the corporation quarry had been 905 tons for two weeks.—The Recreation Grounds Committee reported, after a conference of a subcommittee with representatives of the Goodwood District Recreation Grounds Association, in respect to Goodwood Recreation Ground matters. The conference had approved of the bylaw, which had recently been made in respect to the ground, and also that the association should be granted permission to lay out a cricket pitch. Further, that the association should be empowered to charge cricket, and other sports clubs for the use of ground and dressing rooms. The amount to be charged to be left to the discretion of the association. Approval was also given to plant trees on the ground in memory of three fallen soldiers, who were members of the Forestville Hockey Club.—The Town

[Memorial Trees at Oval](#)

Article - News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954) [Thursday 19 October 1944](#) - Page 7

Memorial Trees at Oval

Unley City Council has decided to improve the appearance of the oak trees planted at Goodwood Oval in memory of members of the local Druids' Lodge who were killed in the 1914-18 war.

At the request of the Goodwood Recreation Grounds Committee, the space round the trees will be cleared of rubbish, and metal plaques affixed to short white posts.

MEMORIAL OAK TREES PLANTED.

On Saturday, the 10th June, at two o'clock, a large gathering of members of the lodge, and a number of friends, met at the lodge, and an impressive ceremony of planting memorial oak trees in memory of each of the lodge brothers who was killed in the great war. The trees are planted with substantial iron guards, and a last brass memorial plate is attached to each. Three hundred brethren and their friends were present, and the trees were planted by the nearest relatives of the deceased soldiers. The names of the brothers commemorated were Corporal Brother H. Lee-Thomas, Private P. O'Dea, Private Brother F. D. Francis, Private Brother A. H. Francis, Private Bro. J. Brooks, and Private Bro. A. Atkinson. The Mayor of Unley (Mr. J. Richards, Esq., M.P.), Alderman Bendall, Councillors Croft, Myers, Langworth, and Bellick, the grand president (P.A. Brother F. Dover), and the other grand lodge officers of the order were also present. Appropriate speeches were delivered by the Arch-Druid (P.A. Brother W. J. Hoss), the mayor, the grand president, and Mr. W. J. Hill in the order named. At the close of the ceremony of planting the trees the Union Jack was lowered to half-mast, while the Last Post was sounded by Private A. Walton (A.I.F.), and the band played "Go Bury Thy Sorrow." Afternoon tea was provided by Messrs. Cooke and Tait, Ltd., and the Goodwood Salvation Army Brass Band provided appropriate music during the afternoon. The trees were kindly provided gratis by the Director of the Botanic Gardens (Mr. Bailey) and his interest in the matter was much appreciated by the lodge brethren.