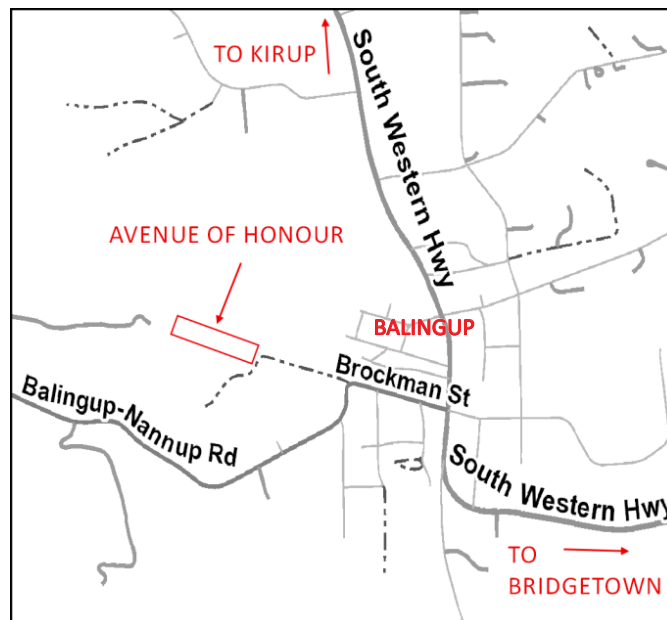


Commemorated in the Avenue

	28	
	27	Mayne, William
Barton, Harold	26	Wingrove, Archibald
Morrell, Raymond	25	Holbrook, Thomas
MacLaren, Duncan	24	Horrocks, Stephen
	23	Leigh, Cyril
	22	Murphy, William
Armstrong, Roy	21	Jacques, Gordon
Jones, Frederick	20	Hockin, Stewart
Jones, Charles	19	Cummings, Alan
Unknown Warrior	18	Women's Sacrifice in War
Fallen Comrades	17	Opening by Field-Marshal Birdwood
Williams, Arthur	16	Wright, Raymond
Boyland, Harry	15	Buchanan, Victor
Martin, John	14	Blackett, Wilfred
Tutton, Edwin	13	Cooke, Leonard
Tutton, Reginald	12	Blythe, Percy
Morgan, George	11	Blythe, Benjamin
Melrose, Wilson	10	Blythe, Andrew
Brennan, James	9	Cheeseman, John
Brennan, Samuel	8	Plunkett, George
Myles, George	7	Waddingham, Francis
Young, Thomas	6	Savage, Alfred
Moore, Felix	5	Delaporte, Richard
Moore, Julius	4	Hore, Fred
Moore, Cecil	3	Maslin, George
Harper, Wilfred	2	Maslin, Thomas
Parmenter, William	1	Hurst, Charles

Entry to Avenue

Where is the Avenue of Honour?



Things to do

- Take a walk along the Avenue for an appreciation of the terrible losses to the community from World War I.
- Enjoy a picnic at either of two picnic areas in Birdwood Park, one halfway along the Avenue and the other at the end of the Avenue by the Balingup Brook.
- Explore the commemorative gardens. Browse the interpretive panels for stories of local soldiers, the Anzacs and the 10th Light Horse Regiment.

The Birdwood Park Group gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support given to this project by the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup and The Balingup Progress Association Inc.

BIRDWOOD PARK

AVENUE OF HONOUR

BALINGUP



53 Brockman Street, Balingup WA 6253

Background

In June 1932, the Balingup Roads Board gave permission to the local RSL to create an Avenue of Honour by planting trees in a local five acre reserve. The Avenue commemorated those who had enlisted from the district and lost their lives in World War I.

Fifty-six oak trees were planted in two lines by the local school children and the Roads Board subsequently formed a road between the two lines. Plaques made of tin on a jarrah stake were placed at the bases of the trees to commemorate the fallen soldiers.



In August 1932, Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood was visiting his daughter who had married the son of a local landowner. He was persuaded to officially open the Avenue on 20 August 1932. In World War 1, General Birdwood commanded Australian and New Zealand forces in Gallipoli and the Western Front.

The day began with a parade which was followed by an inspection of the guard of honour by Sir William, lunch and the opening of the Avenue. Sir William agreed to the reserve being named Birdwood Park. A grand ball and social ended the day's activities.

Over the years, the Avenue had fallen into disrepair. Almost all of the original plaques had disappeared and the history of the Avenue was becoming lost.

In 2009, the Balingup Lions Club set about revitalising the Avenue. With little information available, research was undertaken to identify those soldiers who had a connection to this district and who had died as a result of World War I. Plaques were then placed at the bases of the trees in remembrance of these soldiers.

As a further enhancement to Birdwood Park, picnic tables were installed and interpretive panels tell some of the stories of local soldiers in the War.



Commemorative gardens, containing Australian, North African, Mediterranean and French plants, were also established. The Australian section represents the types of plants the soldiers would have seen for the last time as they sailed away from Australia. The other three sections represent the types of vegetation encountered by the soldiers on the various battlefields.

In 2015, to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the Anzac landing at Gallipoli, a horse hitching rail was erected near the gardens to honour the 136,000 horses that left Australian shores and did not return.



On 28 April 2012, a re-opening and re-dedication ceremony was held, with many descendants of the soldiers in attendance. The ceremony began with a parade headed by four members of the 10th Light Horse (Re-enactment) Troop and the Bunbury City Band.

A jeep carried a lady who had attended the original opening ceremony, and this was followed by descendants, local RSL members, ex-servicemen and others who wished to march. Wreaths were laid near the plaques by descendants.

