

MEDIA RELEASE

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Community Unites in Remembrance

The Great War 1914-18: Sacrifice and Shadows exhibition at the Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk examines deeper stories of the impact of the war on not only those involved on the front, but on those left back home.

The installation of a memorial wall in the exhibition has received a heart-warming response from the community and visitors. Thousands of people have bought a poppy, and pinned it to the wall with their personal message.

All donations received for the sale of the poppies will be donated to three charities - The Headstone Project, The Australian Red Cross, and Legacy.

The exhibition ends on Sunday 11 November and personal messages relating to individual soldiers and service personnel from the Memorial Wall will be incorporated into a searchable database, which QVMAG plans to make available to the public online.

The searchable database is currently available in *The Great War 1914-18: Sacrifice and Shadows* exhibition space and represents all service personnel who enlisted in Tasmania, as well as those Tasmanians who enlisted interstate. It also includes Tasmanians who enlisted in the military forces of other countries, such as the UK and Canada.

QVMAG Director Tracy Puklowski said 'This is a truly heart-warming and moving exhibition that provides us all with an insight in to the war experiences of Tasmanian soldiers, nurses, airmen and navy personnel.

The exhibition, including the memorial wall has united the community and provided the opportunity for people to pay their respects and share stories of loved ones.'

QVMAG History Curator Jon Addison said: 'The database is the result of a large amount of work by QVMAG volunteers and staff. It has been great to see how this resource has connected people to their forebears, and united the community in remembrance'.

The public can continue to buy a poppy and leave a message on the wall until *The Great War 1914-18: Sacrifice and Shadows* exhibition ends on Sunday 11 November.

Free guided tours of the exhibition are available to the public on Friday 9, Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 November at 1pm. Tours are conducted by QVMAG volunteers.

On Friday 9 November at 1pm, local artist Fred McCullough will be speaking about his artworks on display in *The Great War 1914-18: Sacrifice and Shadows*.

You're invited to view the exhibition, memorial wall and chat with curator Jon Addison and artist Fred McCullough today at 1.30pm at the Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk.