



artist impression only

Garden of the Grieving Mother

Community Appeal





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The design ambition for the 'Garden of the Grieving Mother' is to create a thoughtful and peaceful memorial that is cohesive to the existing Avenue of Honour precinct. Geographically situated in a network of memorials it provides a quiet place away from the road to pause and contemplate the sacrifices of war.

Two large scale axes gesturally make their mark across this unique site. This promotes a clear pedestrian route to the Avenue of Honour on the West and a strong visual connection to the Arch of Victory to the North. Peter Corlett's 'Grieving Mother' sculpture is located at the intersection of these two axes - casting her eye across the passage of verse displayed on the pavement to the Arch of Victory beyond. This symbolic relationship between the mother and the Arch captures the disconnect felt by those left behind.

As the 'Garden of the Grieving Mother' memorial will be experienced both from the vehicle and on foot it was crucial to consider both of these experiences when designing this space. Slight variations in topography, materiality, lighting and mass planting schemes means this evolving landscape can be appreciated at a variety of scales and interactions.

The project

The Arch of Victory/Avenue of Honour Committee has launched a community appeal to create the 'Garden of the Grieving Mother' memorial at the Arch of Victory in Sturt Street, Ballarat.

To be constructed on two blocks of land in the south west corner of the Arch of Victory precinct, the site will be transformed into an area of contemplation for visitors.

Featuring the statue titled 'Grieving Mother' the memorial will remind visitors of the effects of World War 1 on the mothers, fathers, families and friends left at home. Of those who went to war, one in five lost their life (744 of the 3801 memorialised in the Avenue of Honour), over two in five were wounded and the remaining two in five were effected in other ways.

The 'Grieving Mother' has been created by eminent sculptor Mr.Peter Corlett OAM acclaimed for his other commemorative works including '*Cobbers*' at Fromelles in France and at the Shrine of Remembrance, '*Weary Dunlop*' near the Shrine of Remembrance and '*Simpson and his Donkey*' at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

The 'Grieving Mother', set to be the only full sized statue of its kind in Australia, will be the centrepiece in the proposed site plan which features a simplistic area with vegetation, paving and seating.

How can you help?

The project will be initiated with funds from the Arch of Victory/Avenue of Honour Committee and the City of Ballarat. To complete the project, a further \$150,000 is sought through government grants, public donations and 'in kind' support for paving and landscaping works.

It is hoped that the 'Garden of the Grieving Mother' project will be completed and ready for an official opening in early 2017.



The Grieving Mother

*I had no skill to offer, I had no wealth to spend;
Mine was a greater glory, I had a son to send.*

*Silently the shades of evening, gather round my lonely door,
Silently they bring before me, the face I shall see no more.*

The Grieving Mother

Of the 3801 servicemen and women commemorated in our Avenue of Honour, 742 soldiers and two nurses made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives. Many hundreds of those who came home still had their lives destroyed by the physical and psychological wounds they had suffered. Barely a street in Ballarat at that time was spared the grief and trauma that was the consequence of the casualty lists. Families were left grieving for loved ones who did not return, or for loved ones whose lives had become shadows of what they might have been. Parents, siblings, neighbours and friends all shared the grief and sadness, but there is no stronger human bond than that that exists between a mother and the children she has carried, given birth to and nurtured.

Our Avenue commemorates 42 pairs of brothers who lost their lives in the service of their country, which meant 42 mothers who experienced the crushing grief of losing two sons. Among these brothers were the Moore twins, Clement and Ina, who were born on the same day and killed in the same battle in France, and the Sells boys, Samuel and William who died on the same day at Lone Pine, Gallipoli. There were also the Tait brothers, Robert and Lawrence, who died two weeks apart in the last month of the war; their mother learning of the loss of her sons at the same time she learned that the war was over. One of the saddest stories is that of Christina Daly who was so shattered by the news of the death of her son, William, that Ballarat's Chaplain Snell, in the knowledge William's younger brother James had also been killed, wrote to the military authorities asking that news of James' death be withheld. *'It is feared that in her present condition of health the shock would prove fatal to her.'* Sadly, news of his death was published in The Courier, but she survived the blow and ultimately revealed that young James had been just 17 years of age.

When the news broke that the Armistice had been signed and the war was over, Nurse Anne Donnell recorded in her diary her inability to embrace the celebrations because *'in the gladness I am saddest because I think of those who are lost, the mothers at home whose boys are not going back to make them glad.'*

The Grieving Mother statue will stand as a permanent memorial to the mothers and families at home who experienced the grief and deep anxiety that is the consequence of war, irrespective of the colour or style of uniform being worn at the battle front. We hope it will also serve to engage future generations in contemplation of war's impact and inevitable consequence.



About the Arch of Victory/Avenue of Honour Committee

The Arch of Victory/Avenue of Honour Committee has worked tirelessly for many decades to preserve the Ballarat Avenue of Honour and Arch of Victory which are iconic and highly significant memorials to those who enlisted in Ballarat to serve in World War 1.

The Committee's volunteers strive to maintain the integrity of the Avenue and to ensure the Arch of Victory and Avenue of Honour continue to stand as a lasting memorial to service and sacrifice, and as a plea for peace. What you see today is the result of the tireless efforts, fundraising and dedication of many volunteers.

Past projects

Over the past five years, in the lead up to the Centenary of ANZAC, the Arch of Victory/Avenue of Honour Committee in partnership with the City of Ballarat has delivered a series of significant projects for Ballarat:

- Arch of Victory restoration project – featuring a special re-opening celebration with the Governor General Quentin Bryce in 2011.
- Avenue of Honour upgrade project – 'Fenceline to Fenceline' project carried out over a period of three years, with regular mowing, clean-up of suckers, gorse and shrubs. Extensive earthworks were also delivered as part of the project to improve drainage.
- Tree and plaque replacement – works to ensure 3801 sites along the 22 kilometre Avenue had trees and plaques in place by April 2015.
- Tree replacement program – 17 year project of operating a nursery and replacing over 100 trees in groups each year since 1997. Currently 2000 of the 3801 trees have been replaced.
- Avenue Overpass and re-opening of the rail crossing project – project to restore the continuity, integrity and accessibility of the Avenue subsequent to its severing in 1993 by the Western Highway bypass of Ballarat. Celebrated with an official event in April 2015.

Donations



The Arch of Victory/Avenue of Honour Committee welcomes donations big and small. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Name:

Address:

Contact number:

Community organisation/group (if applicable):

Amount (*please circle*):

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$2000 _____ other

Paying by (*please circle*):

Cheque Credit Card

Cheques to be made out to: Arch of Victory/Avenue of Honour Committee

Type of card: *VISA, Mastercard etc*

Number on card:

Expiry Date:

Please return this slip, along with a cheque or credit card details to:
Mr J. Johnson, Hon Sec/Treasurer, C/- Sovereign Hill, 39 Magpie St, Ballarat, 3350.

CONTACT US

For more information about the 'Garden of the Grieving Mother' project contact the Arch of Victory/Avenue of Honour Committee on 5337 1111.

