

**Behind the Names on the Roll of Honour of Fern Tree & District Residents,  
who volunteered or were called up, for Military Service and who are remembered by this building.**

Name:	Address:	Occupation:	DoB	Age	Enlisted:	Rank:	Unit:	Fate:	Date:	Location:
<b><i>The Great War 1914-1918:</i></b>										
† BURSLEM, Claude Henry	Fern Tree	baker	0/11/1894	18	9/09/1914	Cpl.	15 Bn. G Coy.	KiA	0/08/1916	Somme Sector France
MONKS, Harold George	Fern Tree	horse driver	3/10/1888	26	4/01/1915	Dvr.	4/1 Bn.	Rtn to A	5/03/1919	
SMITH, Ethelbert James Leonard	Fern Tree	labourer	0/00/1892	23	16/09/1915	Pte.	13/12 Bn.	Rtn to A	27/07/1917	
SMITH, Harold Ernest Edmund	Fern Tree	labourer	0/00/1896	19	22/11/1915	Pte.	14/12 Bn.	Rtn to A	16/03/1919	
SMITH, Frank Tennyson Myrvin	Fern Tree	labourer	0/00/1893	22	30/11/1915	Pte.	14/12 Bn.	Rtn to A	13/04/1919	
† GRAY, Charles William Thomas	Fern Tree	bushman	0/00/1895	21	17/07/1916	Pte.	22/12 Bn.	KiA	15/04/1917	Langicourt France
† GRAY, Victor John	Fern Tree	bushman	0/00/1893	23	5/07/1916	Pte.	22/12 Bn.	DoW	10/04/1917	Bullecourt France
HUBBARD, Raymond Alexander	Fern Tree	printers mchs	1/11/1894	22	19/11/1916	Gnr.	Field Artillery Brigade.	Rtn to A	31/10/1917	
PITMAN, Lucy May	Fern Tree	trained nurse	1/00/1879	28	31/05/1917	Stff nrs	AANS	still o/s		
SEYMOUR, Thomas	High Peak	miner	0/00/1879	25	8/09/1914	Dvr.	1 Coy AASC	Rtn to A	12/03/1918	
† SEYMOUR, Charles Henry	Neika	farmer	0/11/1874	31	2/02/1915	Pte.	5/12 Bn.	KiA	23/07/1918	Borre France
COLE Oscar	Watchorns Hill	labourer	0/00/1895	21	3/04/1916	Pte.	18/12 Bn.	Rtn to A	21.06/1919	
HANKS, Frederick Harold	Neika	farmer	0/11/1890	26	28/02/1916	Pte.	40 Bn. B Coy.	still o/s		
HORNE, Earnest George	High Peak	labourer	0/00/1895	21	25/09/1916	Pte.	4/40 Bn.	Rtn to A	4/05/1917	
DEVONPORT, James Edward	High Peak	mariner	0/00/1899	18	28/03/1917	Pte.	26/12 Bn.	Rtn to A	2/01/1919	
† LYDEN, Abraham	Ridgeway	labourer	1/00/1894	21	1/11/1915	Spr.	4/8 Field Coy engineers	DoW	30/08/1918	Harbonnieres France
GRAVES, Albert	Ridgeway	farmer	0/00/1897	19	7/04/1916	Pte.	18/12 Bn.	Rtn to A	31/10/1917	
† CHARLES, Francis John	Ridgeway	engineer	0/00/1895	21	1/06/1916	Pte.	20/12 Bn.	KiA	26/02/1917	Le Busque France
<b><i>World War II 1939-1945:</i></b>							<u>All AIF, if not stated</u>			
SMITH, Norman Joseph	Fern Tree	hairdresser	9/06/1914	25	12/10/1939	Pte.	2/33 Bn.	disch.	14/12/1942	
MOORE, John Defouchecourt	Fern Tree		24/09/1919	20	7/11/1939	Pte.	9 Aust. Div. Sigs	disch.	19/09/1945	
DEEGAN, Vivian Joseph	Fern Tree		27/07/1921	39	4/01/1940	Pte.	AAOC (M)	disc	12/01/1944	
JARVIS, Roy Lawrence	Fern Tree		27/02/1920	20	4/03/1940	Pte.	2/1 Field Rgt.	disch.	22/10/1945	
† SMITH, James Henry Robert	Fern Tree	farmer	4/10/1908	31	5/06/1940	Cpl.	2/3 M.G. Bn.	PoW	19/07/1943	Burma Ry. Thailand
ARCHER, Edward Lawrence	Fern Tree	storekeeper	31/01/1895	45	7/06/1940	Pte.	A Sect 9 Supply Per Coy	disch.	15/04/1941	
CHARLES, Cyril Frank *	Fern Tree	clerk	2/09/1896	44	22/07/1940	Lt.	DRO 6th Military Dist	disch	26/10/1945	
RICHARDSON, Thomas William	Fern Tree		25/08/1910	30	4/02/1941	Cpl.	2/12 Aust. Infantry. Bn.	disch.	4/04/1946	
JARVIS, Gerald James	Fern Tree		16/10/1922	19	28/04/1941	LAC	RAAF 58 Op Base Unit	disch.	22/01/1946	
REDBURN, George James	Fern Tree		19/10/1904	36	13/05/1941	Spr.	2/3 Aust. Docks Op Coy	disch.	11/10/1945	
SMITH, Ivor Keen	Fern Tree		25/05/1922	19	7/10/1941	Pte.	2/26 Aust. Infantry. Bn.	disch.	12/02/1946	
STREET, Leonard Arthur	Fern Tree		17/04/1922	19	10/10/1941	Pte.	37 Works Coy	disch.	18/03/1946	
REID, Bruce Connibear	Fern Tree	dairy man	13/08/1908	34	25/03/1942	Bdr.	2/4 Light AA Rgt.	disch.	6/12/1945	
SAUNDERS, John	Fern Tree		16/04/1923	19	21/04/1942	Pte.	HQ 3 Aust. Div.	disch.	27/06/1946	
DALY, Arnold John	Fern Tree		6/01/1917	25	21/06/1942	L/Cpl	280 Light Aid Detach.	disch.	30/05/1945	
REID, Walter Alan	Fern Tree	dairy man	3/09/1912	29	21/07/1942	Pte.	10/48 Aust. Infantry. Bn.	disch.	6/02/1946	
STREET, William John	Fern Tree		7/03/1920	22	30/07/1942	C'mn.	281 Light Aid Detach.	disch.	2/04/1946	
DALY, Ronald Martin	Fern Tree		30/06/1913	29	26/10/1942	Pte.	12/40 Aust. Infantry Bn.	disch	8/01/1946	
STREET, Stanley Charles	Fern Tree		26/02/1923	19	23/12/1942	Gnr.	56 Aust. Coy AA Rgt.	disch.	26/07/1946	
VALENTINE, Eric Barrie	Fern Tree		2/02/1925	18	26/02/1943	F/O	RAAF 105 Ftr Ctrl Unit	disch.	3/10/1945	
DAVIE, Peter George	Fern Tree		4/03/1925	18	9/03/1943	Pte.	General Details Depot	disch	11/07/1947	
RICHARDSON, Charles Sidney	Fern Tree		1/08/1912	30	13/03/1943	Pte.	31 Coy AASC	disch.	6/06/1946	
BROWN, Robert Lindsay	Fern Tree		4/04/1921	22	2/06/1943	Pte.	129 A G Transport Coy	disch.	22/01/1946	
DALY, Martin Reginald	Fern Tree		16/10/1919	23	10/06/1943	Spr.	2/3 Aust. Forestry Coy RA	disch.	14/01/1946	
BROWN, Stephen Lance	Fern Tree	farmer	17/02/1923	20	1/07/1943	Dvr.	129 A G Transport Coy	disch.	28/11/1945	
RATCLIFFE, Walter Alfred	Fern Tree		14/09/1243	19	28/04/1943	Pte.	2/3 Port Operations Coy.	disch	21/01/1946	
ARMSTRONG, John Connicher Foster	Fern Tree	radio annrc.	13/09/1915	28	27/09/1943	LAC	RAAF 6 Recruit Ctr	disch.	26/06/1945	
GARLICK, Leslie George	Fern Tree		7/10/1923	20	20/02/1944	Cpl.	13 Aust. Small Ships Coy	disch.	4/02/1946	
† RILEY, Eric Richard *	Neika	labourer	12/08/1898	41	6/04/1940	S/M	12 Aus. Inf. Training Bn.	died	17/06/1940	Pontville Tas
McPHERSON, Gordon Wallace	Neika		3/01/1910	30	3/07/1940	Pte.	2/40 Bn.	disch.	28/09/1940	
	Darling Pt.			32	13/01/1942	LAC	RAAF 2 Stores Depot	disch.	18/07/1945	
KNOTT, Wilfred George	Neika		2/01/1918	24	21/07/1942	Cpl.	40 Aust. Infantry. Bn.	disch.	15/02/1945	
WEBSTER, Brian Francis Vivian	Neika		23/07/1922	20	25/09/1942	Pte.	40 Aust. Infantry. Bn.	disch.	14/01/1944	
WATSON, Albert John	Neika		26/01/1924	18	27/09/1942	Pte.	40 Bn.	disch.	2/08/1042	
DONOVAN, Sydney James	Neika		18/03/1913	38	11/11/1942	Sgt.	12/40 Aust. Infantry Bn.	disch.	6/01/1946	
WILSON, Roydon George	Neika	farm hand	15/10/1921	22	7/04/1943	Pte.	12 Field. Ambulance.	disch.	18/01/1944	
KNOTT, Hilda Elsie	Neika		19/09/1922	21	28/04/1943	Pte.	AWAS 2 Aust. Sig Trg Bnd	disch.	8/09/1944	
SYMONDS, Betty Kathleen	Neika		30/03/1922	21	20/08/1943	Pte.	AWAS 2 Aust. Sig Trg Bnd	disch.	6/05/1944	
CLIFTON, Marjorie Winifred	Neika		21/04/1924	20	31/05/1944	Pte.	111 Aust. Gen. Hosp	disch.	30/11/1945	
KNOTT, Montie Clyde	Neika		18/05/1911	31	23/05/1943	Gnr.	HQ Hobart AA Bty VDC	disch.	17/08/1945	
HILDERBRAND, Lyell Thomas	Ridgeway		24/02/1910	31	14/03/1941	Pte.	4 Aust. Base Ord. Depot	disch.	8/03/1946	
FINN, John	Ridgeway	fruit grower	14/07/1916	26	20/07/1942	Dvr.	12/40 Aust. Infantry Bn.	disch.	10/05/1946	
GORDON, William	Ridgeway	wood carter	10/06/1922	22	21/05/1945	Pte.	20 Aust. Motor Rgt.	disch.	19/11/1945	

**Military Abbreviations of units, ranks, etc.:**

AA	Anti-Aircraft	AWAS	Aust. Women's Army Serv.	DoW	Died of Wounds	Rgt.	Regiment
AANS	Aust. Army Nursing Service	Bn.	Battalion	KiA	Killed in Action	Sigs	Signals
AAOC	Aust. Army Ordinance Corps	Coy.	Company	MG	Machine gun	VDC	Vol. Defence Corps
AASC	Aust. Army Service Corps	Div	Division	PoW	Prisoner of War	*	Served in WW 1 also
AIF	Australian Imperial Force	DoD	Died of Disease	RAE	Royal Aust. Engineers		
C'mn	craftsman	Cpl.	Corporal	Dvr	driver	F/O	flying officer
LAC	leading aircraftman	Pte	private	Sgt	sergeant	S/M	sergeant major
		Gnr	gunner	L/Cpl	lance cpl.	Lt	lieutenant
		Spr	sapper	Stff nrs	staff nurse		

**Explanatory notes:**

**Names on the roll**, are those resident in Fern Tree, Neika or Ridgeway, when they volunteered or were called up for service. Ex-servicemen, who later became residents, are not included.

† with the name in **bold** identifies a Fern Tree etc. resident who did not return and was listed as either DoD, DoW or KiA.

**Promotions gained** by a soldier etc., during the course of service, their highest military rank achieved appears next to the “fate” column.

**Badges at the Head of the Roll** identify the primary parts of Australia’s defence forces during the two conflicts, in which those on the roll served.

On the left is the cap, hat and collar badge of the AIF [Australian Imperial Force]. This version was in worn by all Australian army units from 1904 until 1949.

On the right is the cap badge of the Royal Australian Air Force, worn from 1921 until 1953. Its forerunner, the AFC [Australian Flying Corps], was part of the AIF during *The Great War*.

**Imperial Decorations** were awarded to all military personnel, to recognise their service during both conflicts. They would have at least included the following medals:

The Great War

British War Medal      British Victory Medal



World War 2

Australia Service Medal 1939-1945      British Victory Medal 1939-1945



“Soldiers Avenue” on Queens Domain, was created in 1918/19 in remembrance of Hobart City resident citizens who did not survive *The Great War*. To form the “avenue”, 520 mainly Himalayan Cedar trees, were planted in their honour. From 2002 onwards, each soldier was also identified with a numbered cast bronze memorial plaque. Here are the plaques for our fallen:



#H5 Burslem, C.H.



#416 Gray, C.W.T.



#412 Gray, V.J.



#97 Lyden, A.



#440 Charles, F.J.

These 5 soldiers are part of the more than 62,000 Australian personnel, who died during *The Great War*.

**Citizen Military Service in Australia.**

From 1903 onwards, all Australia’s former Colonial military forces became the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. From 1909, all able-bodied males, on reaching 18 years of age, were required to undergo peacetime militia training. During *The Great War*, serving overseas was voluntary for citizen soldiers. In WW2, all able-bodied single males over 18, were called-up to serve.

**Our District’s Contribution**

Research has revealed that collectively, the then small hamlets of Fern Tree, Neika and Ridgeway, made a creditable contribution to each war effort, as follows:

*The Great War*, from a total of just 59 households, 18 residents volunteered, 6 of whom died on Europe’s battlefields; and *World War 2*, from a total of 117 households, 37 residents either volunteered or were called up, 2 of whom died.

Our existing Community Centre in Stephenson Place, was built during 1967 as a kindergarten. This was to replace the original 1950 Westringa Road kindergarten, destroyed during the Tuesday 7 February 1967 bushfires. Each was designated as a **war memorial**. The aim was to create a community asset with an enduring practical use; see the two plaques on the western exterior wall.



**Online information sources** used to compile the Honour Roll itself and this publication, included:

- Tasmania’s newspapers on the National Library of Australia Canberra, TROVE website <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>
- *The AIF Project*, ADFA, Canberra <http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/>
- *WW II Nominal Roll* – DVA, Canberra <http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/>

**If you have information** that could add to our knowledge of these Fern Tree, Neika or Ridgeway, soldiers, please contact Terry Gill via: [secretary@ferntree.tas.au](mailto:secretary@ferntree.tas.au)

**Acknowledgements:**

The Association would like to thank two Fern Tree residents for their contributions to making our Roll of Honour a reality, namely:

Research: Terry Gill AFSM, local historian.  
Board fabrication: Geoff Clark, local cabinet maker

Identifying the individuals who volunteered or were called-up, including the 8 known to have made the ultimate sacrifice, the roll of honour closes the circle started by our community in 1950 and continued in 1967.



# Fern Tree & District Roll of Honour

Recognising Fern Tree, Neika and Ridgeway residents who volunteered or were called up to serve in either:

## The Great War, 1914-1918 OR World War II, 1939-1945



Unveiled at 1100 hrs., Sunday 11/11/2018, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armistice Day, at the.

**Fern Tree War Memorial Children’s Community Centre**

For more information, go to:- <http://www.soldierswalk.org.au>.



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