

MEDIA RELEASE

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Memorial trees removed in Walwa

Towong Shire Council advises that a number of London Plane trees, planted at the Walwa Recreation Reserve in memory of service personnel killed in the First World War, have been removed to make way for the new Walwa Community Recovery Centre. Towong Shire Council Mayor, Cr Mary Fraser, explained that the decision to carry out these works was difficult, but necessary.

"When considering the location of the new building at the Walwa Recreation Reserve, the community-led project control group together with Council identified that between six and eight trees needed to be removed," said Cr Fraser.

"We understand that these trees had been planted to honour those who had lost their lives in the Great War, so Council and everyone involved in this project has been concerned about their removal,"

The local sub-branch of the Returned Services League was also contacted in relation to the proposed tree removal.

"Following the advice from the Returned Services League, a decision was made to proceed with the removal of some of the memorial trees," said Cr Fraser.

Council will work with the community and the Returned Services League to establish a new World War I memorial in Walwa.

"With the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War this year, it is an opportunity to commemorate the contributions of our local communities to the war effort," said Cr Fraser.

In coming months, Council together with the community will consider options to retain a World War I memorial in Walwa. It is understood that the memorial trees originally had plaques attached, however, the whereabouts of these plaques is unknown. If any member of the Upper Murray community would like to be involved in establishing a new memorial, or if they are aware of where any of the original plaques are, please contact Council.

The Walwa Community Recovery Centre is an initiative of the Towong Shire Council and Border Walwa Football and Netball Club with the support of the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments' under the Natural Disaster Resilience Grant Scheme.