

Arch of Victory and Avenue of Honour.

LUCAS BOOKLET. 1921. Souvenir.

“ 1917 Suggestion re planting of trees in honour of the men of Ballarat who enlisted in the A.I.F. This was enthusiastically taken up by the girls and carried to a successful finish; the first planting taking place on 3/6/17 and the last on 16/8/19. There was a tree planted in honour of every Ballarat soldier who enlisted. The trees were planted in order of enlistment, a plate bearing each soldier's name and battalion was attached to every tree guard.

The Avenue is 14 miles long and contains 3912 trees, each being protected by a substantial guard, the whole costing 2,000 pounds.

Having completed this tribute to the soldiers they set to work to erect a suitable entrance to the Avenue”

Costs involved-see insert for photocopying.

Foundation stone Sir W.R.Birdwood 7/2/1920

Opening H.R.H.Prince of Wales 2/6/20

Pyjama suit presented to Prince of Wales completed by 500 girls, “Satin Charneuse, elaborately embroidered”

The Lucas Girls loaded the bricks from Selkirks “the only way they could be procured at that time” to complete the Arch in time for the opening.

The souvenir records that at the time of production there was a maintenance fund for upkeep of the Avenue “the cost of which was very heavy” A returned soldier was permanently employed attending the trees. (subsequently council records indicate that the Ballarat Council undertook responsibility for Avenue[s] of Honour in about 1932)

Dimensions. Height 57 feet

Width 64 feet.

Cost 2,129 pounds, eleven shillings and elevenpence.

A CENTURY OF COUNTRY CLAY. Selkirk-the first 100 years 1883-1983 (N.Haughton.)

Page 10 “One public-spirited gesture of the Company at this time was to donate the bricks for the core of the Ballarat Arch of Victory. Robert Selkirk was approached by the Lucas Girls (who were responsible for the project), asking for the bricks. At the time Selkirks had no transport of their own, so Robert told the girls they could have the bricks provided they carted them. A few days later the girls returned with adequate transport and personally loaded the bricks. The burly Selkirk setters and drawers looked on with benevolent amusement as the girls stacked the bricks onto the carts”.

BALLARAT-a brief history A.W.Strange. 1971

Page 61 “After the end of the 1st.world war the Lucas girls raised the money and planted the trees in the now famed Avenue of Honor which extends for fourteen miles along the Western Highway. A tree in memory of every soldier who enlisted from Ballarat and a bronze plate giving the name, number and unit.