

**Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc  
PO Box 3040, Rundle Mall, Adelaide 5000**



12 August 2006

Terry Bailey  
Assistant Secretary  
Heritage Assessment Branch  
Department of the Environment and Heritage  
John Gorton Building  
Parkes ACT 2600

Dear Terry

Re: Adelaide Parklands National Heritage Nomination - Additional Feature

Enclosed is the newspaper account from "The Register" 31 August 1914 concerning the planting of our War Memorial Oak on 29 August 1914. Of the thousands of trees planted in Australia as War Memorials during and following the First World War we believe this tree planted just 25 days following the declaration of hostilities between Britain and Germany was Australia's first War Memorial Tree. It is also thought to be the first memorial of any type dedicated to WW1.

This English Oak now almost 100 years old (92 years plus age at planting) is located in XXXXXX XXXXX\* on the Adelaide Parklands not far from XXXXXXXX\*. The tree's trunk measures 3.5 metres in circumference and has branches spreading up to 15 metres from the centre. The adjacent brass plaque states "The War Memorial Oak Planted By His Excellency The Governor Sir Henry Galway On Wattle Day August 29, 1914".

This historic memorial planting occurred as part of Wattle Day celebrations, a tradition begun in 1910. A summary of the 1914 ceremonies is also enclosed. Adelaide is the only known location where a War Memorial tree was planted in conjunction with Wattle Day. Queensland's 1914 ceremonies occurred before the outbreak of war. Festivities in South Australia were three days earlier than in Victoria and NSW where Wattle was planted but not as a memorial and ahead of West Australia on time where no tree planting was recorded. Tasmania's 1914 Wattle Day was 22 September.

Yours Sincerely

Kyle Penick  
Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association

\* Location not revealed in order to safeguard the tree.

**Adelaide Parklands – Unique in the World**

## 1914 Wattle Day Celebrations

<b>Date</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Newspaper Account</b>	<b>Comments</b>
24-7-1914	Brisbane	"The Brisbane Courier" 25 -7-1914 page 4h	Before outbreak of War
29-8-1914	Adelaide	"The Register" 31-8-1914 page 7a-d	Wattle and War Memorial Oak
29-8-1914	Perth	"The West Australian" 31-8-1914 page 3d	No tree planting reported
01-9-1914	Sydney	"The Sydney Morning Herald" 2-9-1914 page 8	200 Wattle at Taronga Zoo
01-9-1914	Melbourne	"Melbourne Age" 2-9-1914 page 10	Wattle planted at Richmond
22-9-1914	Hobart	"The Mercury" 23-9-1914 page 4h	No tree planting reported
	Canberra		No Wattle Day - City named 12 March 1913 - Little construction until 1920's

For our website readers I have transcribed a portion of the article from the SA Register 31-8-1914

### Presidential Remarks

Mr Snowden said he would now as Federal President, request His Excellency, in behalf of the Federal Wattle Day League, as well as the South Australian branch, to plant a British oak. They desired in that means to commemorate the greatest war in the history of the world, and also what would probably be the most epoch-making period the world had ever seen, or ever would see. (Hear, Hear.) With the consent of the Adelaide City Council, represented today by His Worship the Mayor, they proposed to exhibit upon an inscribed plate on the site a record to the effect that on Wattle Day, August 29, 1914, Sir Henry Galway, then Governor of South Australia, had planted a memorial oak to keep the people in perpetual memory of the great events which had now just begun in Europe. (Hear, Hear.) Perhaps 500 years hence-although some of them probably would not be there-(laughter)-the children would gather on Wattle Day under the shadow of the great tree and read the suggestive lines placed there by their predecessors.....

The President then requested His Excellency to plant the oak, which would be the only one of its kind ever planted in similar circumstances in Australasia. (Cheers.)

### Address by the Governor

His Excellency said a great compliment had been paid to him by the Wattle Day League in inviting him to plant the oak as a memorial of the great war of 1914. ....Might the oak which he had just planted during the greatest war of nations the world had ever seen flourish in years to come, and might its strength mature with that of the mighty British Empire. Might it as the years went on, stand as a permanent record of a time of great trial, bravely borne by a united and steadfast people, and might it ever prove to be an illuminating landmark in the rising generation in South Australia and stand as the emblem of strength. Planted in war, might the oak flourish in the years to come during continual peace.