



Guy Barnett, Liberal Member for Lyons

## Unveiling of WW1 Harris Brothers Memorial

It was with great honour and humility that I officially unveiled two sculptures commemorating ANZAC heroes the Harris brothers at their local school, now Magra Primary School.

Carved from two macrocarpa pine trees planted in 1920 at the brother's country schoolhouse in their memory, these stunning pieces by renowned sculptor Eddie Freeman, are a fitting tribute to two young men who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The Hodgman Liberal Government is proud to have supported this project, providing a \$15,000 grant.

The Harris Brothers Memorial Tree project was the vision of local community member, Mrs Rose Hardwick and her daughter Jackie Slyp, descendants of the brothers, who wished to preserve the memory of the two young men who left this beautiful valley in 1916 to serve their country, never to return.

The passion and commitment of these two women, along with the support of the CWA Tasmania and funding from the Australian and Tasmanian Governments, and Norske Skog Boyer, is the reason these magnificent sculptures stand here today reflecting the memory of these extraordinary young Tasmanians.

The commemorative trees were never signposted and had fared badly over the years, with locals unaware of their significance until recently when, as part of wider family research, an article was uncovered from the Mercury reporting the plantings.

Given the poor condition of the trees, a decision was made to preserve the brother's memory with sculptures installed on the base of the original trees.

I commend the vision and dedication of those behind the Harris Brothers Memorial Tree project, and sincerely hope that all who look on these sculptures gain a better understanding of the sacrifice these two fine young men made for the country they loved.