

# From little things, big things grow

ALEX MITCHELL

FOR Geoff Hack, this little tree represents generations of Australian military heritage — after all it is descended from a Lone Pine tree that grew on a Gallipoli battlefield more than 100 years ago.

The pine will be planted in New Norfolk's Arthur Square on Friday as part of a Remembrance Day service, commemorating the 98th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I.

The tree is one of hundreds of seedlings sown as part of the Tasmanian Centenary of Anzac Lone Pine project, which began in 2014.

The seedlings are descendants of a solitary pine tree at Gallipoli that and gave its name to the 1915 Battle of Lone Pine, which took the lives of 2000 Australians.

Soldiers brought some of the pine cones back to Australia after WWI, which resulted in a tree being planted at Canberra's Australian War Memorial in 1934. Between the 1970s and '80s, Polish immigrant Stephan Mucha

collected seeds from the War Memorial tree and grew his own in Tasmania, one of which was planted at the Cornelian Bay War Cemetery.

Before that tree was removed in 2013, 300 seeds were taken to the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in Hobart where the fourth-generation Lone Pine seedlings are today.

This particular tree will be planted following a service at the cenotaph from 10.45am.

New Norfolk RSL president Mr Hack, who served in the 3rd Battalion during the Vietnam War, said Remembrance Day was important to commemorate fallen soldiers and those who returned home. He said the pine tree planting had great significance.

"It's hard to put words into ... what the day means," he said. "You see photos of the pine tree too, the original one, so it's important."

The seedling has been donated by Tasmanian MP Guy Barnett. Guests are invited to attend a light lunch at the New Norfolk RSL from 12pm. To RSVP call 6261 2931.



WE REMEMBER: Geoff Hack with the Lone Pine seedling that will be planted on Friday to mark Remembrance Day. PICTURE: MATT THOMPSON

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