

# Memorial to be updated

JACK MONTGOMERIE    Last updated 05:00 11/12/2014

The Unveiling of 8/1914 Trooper MacKenzie of the 8th SCMR at the Fairlie Village Green.

New research will see more fallen Mackenzie District soldiers' names added to Fairlie's war memorial.

The Mackenzie District Council approved funding on Tuesday to add more names of locals who died in World Wars I and II to the cenotaph.

Fairlie woman Jennifer Cordes, who presented the funding application on behalf of the Mackenzie Cenotaph Memorial Committee, said research showed some names had been omitted from the cenotaph.

Cordes said 18 months of research had turned up the names of about 20 men who had died in World War I and eight from World War II. Digitised military service records and local historians Tony Rippin, Jeremy Sutherland and the late Paul McNichol, had been particularly helpful in finding the omitted names.

Genealogy groups around the country had also researched omitted names from their local memorials.

The new names included Corporal William Brass, a former Aoraki/Mt Cook climbing guide who was killed in action at Gallipoli in April 25, 1915, when he was 26.

Fairlie-born machine gunner and former engine driver Percy Melville Close was also among those whose names were to be added to the memorial

The council agreed to grant 60 per cent of the cost of adding black granite plaques below the memorial's existing white marble plaques, from its heritage protection fund. Initial estimates suggested the plaques would cost about \$3400. Using white marble plaques would cost about \$4700.

Garth Nixon had suggested the black stone would better indicate the plaques were new additions. Cordes said the different colour would be similar to changes made to Geraldine's war memorial.

Mackenzie District Returned and Services Association president Mick Glover said he was "very pleased" with the news. Glover said it was important a full and correct record of the area's war dead be listed on the cenotaph.

Cordes said the group would now seek further funding from local trusts and individuals.

**- The Timaru Herald**