The annual Quiet Lion Tour to the Thailand end of the Burma-Thailand Railway took place in April. There were four easily Ww's on the pilgrimage. Eric Roediger (AAC), Bill Haskell (AAC) and Neil MacPherson (AAC) and 38 other interested people.

The BSL was responsible for selecting the three Cadets to join the tour. The Cadets were Lauren (Laurie) Butterfly (ANC), Tim Hand (AAC) and Chris Moss (AAC). The Cadets recorded impressions of the Dawn Service which was held in Hellfire Pass from which they have written about below.

April 25, 2003 – a day which will live with us for a lifetime. We awoke in the early hours by a telephone call from a Thai receptionist saying a soft “Good morning.” This began the flurry of activity in our rooms to get ourselves dressed and ready for the most important dawn service we have attended.

It was still dark when we arrived at Hellfire Pass, disembarked from the bus, picked up our wreaths and began the walk down into the cutting. It was an incredibly eerie experience, something that is hard to explain in words but easily felt in emotions. We were surrounded in the darkness by the bamboo torches, not unlike the ones used during the construction of the cuttings. (Hellfire Pass was cleared by the Japanese after the vision that fell before the men worked in the cutting by night under tortue flame.)

We assembled at the far end of the cutting, with the wreaths taking place at the Hellfire Pass Memorial. We waved our way through the crowd of patriotic Australians, young and old alike, and a multitude of people from various other nations to pay tribute to the fallen.

Soon, the service was underway. We were positioned on the left of the Memorial Cross with a clear view of the official party and the wreaths laying ceremony. After hymns and prayers, the Ode of Remembrance was quoted: “They shall grow not old, As we who are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, Nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, And in the morning we will see them,” (Laurence Binyon - extract from In Flanders Fields).

These words were followed by the emotional sound of a bugler playing the Last Post which brought Home to us just why we were there - to remember those men who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the times of war. There is surely nothing more moving than the Last Post as first light starts to break through on ANZAC day morning. From the first Australians to land at ANZAC Cove in Turkey 58 years ago to the men and women who died in other conflicts, the Dawn Service reminds you of their courage, mateship and sacrifice.

At Hellfire Pass, the thoughts had to be of the Australians who died as prisoners of the Japanese - whether ill treatment at the hands of their guards, or from various diseases which were rife in the area. Many men had died at the very spot where we were standing to attention and saluting.

Our appreciation of the life these men were forced to lead was heightened because we had spent the preceding days speaking and listening to four former prisoners of war where we were fortunate enough to have on tour, Graham Gibson, Eric Roediger, Bill Haskell and Neil MacPherson.

Their accounts of the torment they endured and the fact we were at the actual site of the railway which ensured that, on this ANZAC Day, we especially remembered those who didn't make it and those who passed on later due to the appalling treatment they received.

The two minutes silence after the Last Post was another opportunity for reflection. Then, the playing of Reveille uplifted the spirits and signalled the dawning of a new day. And what a glorious dawn it was. As the sun sent down its first rays, we got our first glimpse of the magnitude of Hellfire Pass. The sheer sides of the cutting loomed above us and the Pass stretched into the distance. The vastness of the Pass became apparent and we had never seen anything like it. We were all taken aback by the incredible achievement of the prisoners of war given the circumstances in which they lived and worked.

At the conclusion of the service, we had the opportunity to pay our respects on an individual level by laying down our wreaths as representatives of our services, the ANC, AAC and AAPC. We moved forward in unison, laid our wreaths, paused for remembrance, then stepped back in unison and saluted. There is something very special about being in uniform, representing not only your individual service but also the youth of your country, while standing before a crowd of your fellow countrymen and saluting a memorial to the thousands of men who died at the hands of a brutal enemy while building a railway. Also part of that railway is the very cutting in which you are standing.

This ANZAC Day Dawn Service will live in our memories forever but, as time goes on, we will lose those veterans who helped build the railway. For this reason, it is going to hold continuing significance in the future. The significance of the fact that we were given the opportunity to attend the tour and to meet these truly amazing men is not lost upon us. We realise that it is now our duty to ensure the sacrifices which were made undoubtedly for our benefit which will continue to be remembered and not to dwindle away with time. The story will continue to be told through us – these men will not be forgotten.

A special thank you must go to Lt Col Peter Winstanley (Rtd) for looking after us and ensuring that we received the greatest benefit from our time in Thailand. Also, we would like to thank the rest of our tour members. We could not have chosen a better group with which to share these experiences. They were a fountain of knowledge on the subject of the railway and a great asset to have along. All of them were great company and a pleasure to get to know.

Finally, we must pay a special tribute to the four men who really made this tour come to life. It is one thing to view places of importance but it is another thing to hear exactly why they are of importance and hear the stories behind them. Bill, Eric, Neil and George – you are an inspiration to younger generations. Your strength and courage are matched only by your humbleness, qualities that truly amazed us all. Thank you kindly for sharing some of your experiences with us - your stories will live on eternally.

CUO Tim Hard Australian Air Force Cadets
WO2 Chris Moss Australian Army Cadets
PO Laurie Buttery Australian Navy Cadets

Information regarding the Quiet Lion Tour 2004 can be obtained from:
Peter Winstanley - 9334 5248
Bill Haskell - 9330 3253
Dirk Ackerveld - 9271 0965 or Eric Wilson - 9339 8277.

The three service cadets who joined the Quiet Lion Tour - WO2 Chris Moss (Australian Army Cadets), PO Laurie Buttery (Australian Navy Cadets) and CUO Tim Hand (Australian Air Force Cadets) - at the Dawn Service in Hellfire Pass.

The three service cadets who joined the Quiet Lion Tour - WO2 Chris Moss (Australian Army Cadets), PO Laurie Buttery (Australian Navy Cadets) and CUO Tim Hand (Australian Air Force Cadets) - at the Dawn Service in Hellfire Pass.
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From the President's pen...

The recently held National Executive debate focused on issues arising from the Clarke Review, and agreed that items to be dealt with should be dealt with as expeditiously as possible and attention should be directed to the need for the new MCS legislation. This legislation is necessary to provide a framework within which there have been an enormous impact on past, present and future veterans and all those who served. The MCS is a government priority and with a priority status it will ensure that within this framework it will need our immediate and vigilant attention.

With regard to the Clarke Review, it seems very clear that neither the Government nor our veterans are enthusiastic of the various recommendations as they apply to the Special Rate pension. As many of our veterans are not happy with the certain outcomes on Special Rate it is sufficient to reject such recommendations, however, some of the unfounded and unreasonable assertions could be taken up in the proposed new MCS legislation.

Accordingly, on the subject of above the General Rate benefits, the RSL rejects the Clarke recommendations of the general own proposal which has, at least, the following points:

- Favourable resolution of the Centrelink anomaly.
- A much more realistic Special Rate pension of $60 per fortnight.

The RSL will then continue to steadfastly pursue its current policy on Special Rate Pension which is:

- Centrelink to cease counting disbursements to veterans when means testing the Disability Support Pension.
- Index the TPI pension to variations in the CPI or if that fails an ACC
- 5.00.
- Recognise the TPI pension to MTAWE (whatever the final agreed monetary value the TPI pension is).
- Acknowledge that some erosion of the value of these benefits occurs over the past years because of inappropriate indexing and
- Grant of TPI pension of not less than $60 per fortnight.

On the local scene, from recent media reports that would be a welcome decision by the metropolitan hospitals to be offered Tier 1 Status to provide selected services to veterans, DVA have confirmed that this will be achieved, provided they meet essential treatment standards and are able to provide that service at a competitive cost. The nominated hospitals are at Mandurah, Rockingham, Armadale and Joondalup. Initially, the RSL was apprehensive about the expansion of the Tier 1 Veteran Services program to outer Metropolitan areas as without certain guarantees it was considered that the current service could be compromised and Veterans may not be able to access the service to which they were accustomed and entitled. Through negotiation with Ramsay Health Care and DVA an acceptable scenario for a transitional arrangement was presented to RSL and other ESOs for consideration.

With the confirmation that Australia wide treatment standards would be met and transport provided to the treatment centre of the veteran's choice, the RSL agreed to the arrangement which is scheduled to expire in February 2006 when the new tender process would begin.

The RSL role in the negotiation ensured no veteran would be disadvantaged and that there would be the element of choice. We believe this to be the best possible solution for our members.

The actual process of bringing these new operators into the system may take some months as strict standards must be met before approval is granted.

The Federal Government's plan to welcome home our troops was pleasing.

Operation Falconer is a most appropriate way to acknowledge and also to encourage and support the transition of Returning Veterans.

In Perth, it is proposed to hold a "Welcome Home" march on Friday 20th June 2003. As arrangements are still being prepared you are asked to watch for further advice. The RSL needs to take a high profile in supporting the Army Branches are asked to be there to welcome our troops' home and congratulate them on a job well done. To these Sub Branches that have already been to welcome individual returns, thanks for the support you have shown.

The Returned and Services Union Museum at Artillery Barracks in Fremantle again appears to be under threat.

The RSL, together with community groups and politicians, played a major role in securing the approval for the museum, but it appears as though the defence still have challenged the arrangement that was made last year. We need to show support for the request by contacts in local members to express alarm that there looks like a withdrawal by Defence on the arrangement. This puts the museum future in doubt.

The museum is currently open for extended hours and offering free entry to the community to show its support. Perhaps you can visit a visit to show your support for the retention of the site for the community.

Recent media reports have announced the possible formation of a new veterans pension to combat the cause of ex-service personnel and veterans. It is their stated intention to work as a team through Senate seats in all States to achieve their goal.

In their own right the RSL is a powerful lobby group, and it is important to recognise that it is a political organisation and not affiliated with any political party. Returning Veterans will work with any parties to progress the cause of their fellowship through the community. This approach has served Veterans well in the past and it is something that can be extended to any issue, that is, the wonderful support given over so many years.

As we draw near to the end of the year and the forthcoming Congress it is well to review the many projects that have an ongoing impact on our members. In operation. Our achievements over the past two years have been substantial and highly successful.

- The Administration and financial transactions have been overhauled and the huge financial losses of the past are now behind us. The RSL is still some way to go but the WA Branch has an ongoing project aimed itself on a sound business footing and with careful operation of the business the future should continue to prosper.

- Our communications strategies continue to grow and this, in itself, is a sign of renewed confidence in the manner in which the Branch is functioning. We were the only Branch to recently record an increase in membership.

- Our voice is also heard loud and clear when dealing with Veteran's issues. Issues that affect the Veterans and the veteran community are dealt with on a national level and they are handled that process that is most effective. On the local scene the interests of our members, veterans are well addressed through our Veterans Affairs Committee and Welfare Staff. Their record of achievement is well known.

- Our communication strategies have settled into a regular routine with The Listening Post and Sub Branch Signal forming the print media contact and Election Our home town packs the opportunity to meet with key and important representatives.

- Community profile has been enhanced with our involvement and participation at the launch of the Spirit of ANZAC Tours. Sub Branches and members are doing a magnificent job in promoting themselves in their local areas.

- Our continued support for the Members Retirement and Aged Care Centre which has been a major success in the financial and building stage and the first stage of the concept project is being brought.

In all, the WA Branch is proud of the Board of Directors and the State Executive in recent years in providing sound leadership and financial management in the organisation. We are currently seeking to continue our support initiative to enable your Members Retirement and Aged Care Centre.

M. E. (Bill) Gaynor

OAM

RFDF

STATE SECRETARY'S REPORT

ANZAC Club - Update

The ANZAC Club is still open and operating as normal and has not ceased trading as many appear to believe. It is also appropriate to advise and congratulate it at this time that the State Executive or the Board of Directors stated or implied that Associations that meet in ANZAC House would no longer be able to do so. The ANZAC Club to the provision of a meeting venue for associations.

Recently there have been some very positive developments with the Western Australian Police Services Social Club and RSL Sub Branches facilities in an effort to retain its membership. The Club is at a meet and a current need for a social venue by Police.

It is expected that delegates to Congress will give direction as to the future of the Club, we remain positive on the outcome and there will be change in the future.

MEMBERSHIP - 2003

The Branch, through the Sub-branches has passed last year's objectives and is in a very healthy position and for these times it is very pleasing to record this success. This increase clearly indicates that almost 11000 people that support the ANZAC Club and the RSL Sub Branches in the Camaraderie in our country's largest Ex-Services Organisation.

SHANE M. SEERS OAM JP

AUSTRALIAN FORCES OVERSEAS FUND (AFOF)

The RSL is proud to once again be providing support to our troops overseas, in the provision of the RSL parcel, now a tradition that has been provided for decades.

The RSL AFOF Committee is currently in Sydney with volunteers packaging approximately 2500 parcels for dispatch to our men and women serving overseas.

The RSL AFOF fund provides parcels to our service men and women twice annually, being June and December. The continuation of the AFOF requires your support, donations can be forwarded to the State AFOF Branch Fund.

The Branch has now issued all relevant documentation for the provision of the 58th State Congress to be held on the period 12-13 July 2003 at the Accacia Hotel, Northbridge.

The most important document for all branches to action in the 'Agenda' with the presentation of the report of the Subcommittee, membership, it is important that the agenda items are openly discussed at sub-branch meetings.

The agenda may directly affect the outcome of the Congress. As all levels with all levels of Government have input into the State and National issues that will be raised in the Congress, it is important for resolving in September 2003.

The most common agenda items are applicable to entitlements and compensation for which details of these items are referred to NHO for discussion. The Sub Branches at the Congress items to be discussed and resolved at State Congress are:

- Veterans Entitlement Act be amended for Government payments for overseas compensation, pensions and allowances granted currently administered by Centrelink to be transferred to DVA.

These are only a small number of the items to be debated and resolved, to have your say on these and other important attend your sub-branch meetings.

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SHANE M. SEERS OAM JP
Getting the word out

Any regular reader of this column will know that since 1 July, 1994, a radical new “scheme” of deciding veterans’ Disability Claims was introduced: Standards of Proximate Similarity (SoPs) for short. A body of senior medical experts, set up by the government of the day, gave the thing the ostentatious title “Repairment Medical Authority (RMA)” tasked to “draw up a set of these documents – each of which spells out only circumstances under which a claimed disability can be connected to a person’s service. These SoPs became enshrined in legislation, encompassed within Section 196 of the Veterans’ Entitlement Act (1953).

Any regular reader would also be aware that from time-to-time, these SoPs are subject to amendment; or, more simply “overhauled”, and re-issued. Sometimes the rules laid down are “tightened”; and sometimes they are “loosened” – I am always genuinely concerned for a veteran or ex-service member, whose claim was refused under the rules of a SoP in the past – which was later revised and “leniency”, when a claim, under the later version, may well have succeeded.

This is one of the main reasons I try to get the word out, through this column – when a revised batch of SoPs is gazetted. It may just alert someone out there so that they might be encouraged to “try again”.

Although a number of recent “amended versions” have involved little more than changes in terminology, among some recent SoPs that have “loosened” the required criteria, are:

Malignant neoplasim (cancer) of the breast, for example, although the minimum period of smoking required remains the same i.e. 15 “pack years” – 20 days, every day, for 15 years – the earlier SoP required onset of the cancer to be within five years of ceasing smoking (if the person had ceased) – but this has now been broadened to read: “within twenty-five years of cessation of smoking).”

Unfortunately though, the factor requiring exposure to atomic radiation (previously being “within 4km of the epicentre of the A-bomb explosions on Hiroshima or Nagasaki within the week immediately following”) has been replaced by a requirement to establish a dose of “at least 0.05 Sievert” from such atomic radiation. As to how one could possibly establish this measurement, 58 years after the event, disquiets me. I simply cannot see that it could be done).

Atrial fibrillation: This SoP has been broadened quite significantly. Previously, “suffering from cardiac disease” was the major prerequisite factor. The new version names various heart conditions in turn (i.e.: ischaemic heart disease / myocarditis/ cardiomyopathy/ congestive heart failure etc) but additionally now includes:

• Congenital heart disease
• The presence of hypertension (mind you: the SoP for Hypertension is a hard one)

Suffering from hyperthyroidism

• Drinking at least 250 kg of alcohol within a 10 year period within the 15 years immediately before the clinical onset

Undergoing cardiac or thoracic surgery within the 30 days immediately before the clinical onset of atrial fibrillation

Suffering from chronic bronchitis with pulmonary obstructive or emphysema at the time of clinical onset

Undertaking strenuous physical activity for an average duration of at least 3 hours a week for a minimum of 40 weeks per year – each year, for at least five consecutive years.

These are big changes. (As you can see through, the SoPs remain pretty complicated and pedestrian).

Several that have been “tightened” are:

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**Hollywood Private Hospital**

**Hollywood Private continues to expand**

Two more milestones in Hollywood Private Hospital’s major $23 million expansion program have recently been completed with the opening of two new operating theatres and the redevelopment of the hospital’s Palliative Care Unit.

The state-of-the-art operating theatres cater predominantly for orthopaedic implant surgery and will also lead to the opening of more beds to accommodate the increase in activity through the new theatres.

The complete refurbishment of the hospital’s 20-bed Palliative Care Unit, which cares for people with a terminal illness, has provided patients with an excellent standard of accommodation.

The unit, which was previously mostly shared accommodation, now boasts 12 single rooms and four double rooms, all with en-suite.

Other improvements include doubling the size of the patient lounge and creating a large nurses station.

According to Executive Director Kevin Cass-Ryal, “These projects are just one example of our commitment to providing the best possible service to our veteran patients.”

Already one of the largest private hospitals in Australia, other redevelopment projects currently underway at Hollywood include the construction of:

- A new state-of-the-art Central Nutrition Support Unit, to be completed in late June 2003;
- A new 9-bed Intensive Care Unit, to be completed towards the end of 2003; and
- Two more operating theatres.

Last year three major projects were completed as part of the hospital’s expansion program, including a second Cardiac Catheter Laboratory which opened in April 2002, construction of two new 30-bed wards which opened in May 2002 and a 10-bed extension to The Hollywood (Hollywood’s mental health unit) which was completed in August 2002.

**Correction**

In the last edition of "The Listening Post", an article about the meaning of Hollywood Private Hospital’s Gastronomy Unit after Victoria Cross (VC) recipient Second-Lieutenant Hugo Throssell, incorrectly identified Second-Lieutenant Throssell as the first West Australian to be awarded a VC. The first West Australian VC recipient was actually Lieutenant Frederick Bell of the West Australian Mounted Infantry. The hospital apologises for the error.

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**New radio station relives the Golden Years of Radio**

Hollywood is proud to announce its support of new community radio station, Capital 90.5 FM.

The station, which was broadcasting earlier this year as 101 Capitol FM, catered for the 55 and over age group, reliving the ‘golden years of radio’.

Executive Director Kevin Cass-Ryal said, “Hollywood is thrilled to be involved with a station dedicated to the ‘more mature’ radio listener, but I'm sure that many of our patients and staff, regardless of their age, will enjoy listening to Capital FM.”

The hospital has provided the station with a series of ‘Health hints from Hollywood’ — educational community announcements concerning relevant health issues.

The scripts were written and spoken by Dr John Stokes, Hollywood’s Liaison GP, who said that he enjoyed the challenge and the radio experience.

So why not tune into Capital 90.5 FM some time, relive some ‘golden oldies’ and pick up some practical health hints from ‘Dr John’.

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**TIME TO GET OUT YOUR DANCING SHOES!**

It’s on again! Hollywood Private Hospital’s Annual Tea Dance is being held on Thursday, 9 October 2003, from 1.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the Belmont Sports and Recreation Centre (on the corner of Keane Street and Abbernethy Road, Cloverdale).

Due to the popularity of the dance we select names via a draw system. For your chance to attend the dance, we ask you to complete the ticket request form below and return it to us by Friday, 15 August 2003. Entry is free and includes afternoon tea, and the winning names will be posted out prior to the event. Please note that there is a limit of TWO tickets per application, due to venue size.

Hollywood Private Hospital — Afternoon Tea Dance, Thursday 9 October 2003

Name:

Post Code:

Phone:

No. of tickets (max of 2):

Send this form to “Hollywood Tea Dance”, Community Relations, Hollywood Private Hospital, Monash Avenue, Nedlands 6009 or fax it to (08) 9389 8470 by Friday, 15 August 2003.

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**Nurses return from Quiet Lion tour**

Hollywood Private Hospital nurses Helen Ryan (Charles Pope Ward) and Mignonette Carter (Assessment Centre, Conroy Care Unit) recently returned from the annual Weary Dunlop ‘Quiet Lion’ tour of Thailand.

The Little Lion Tour was named in memory of Sir Edward ‘Weary’ Dunlop who was a prisoner of war (POW) and camp surgeon on the Burma-Thailand Railway. He was also known as the ‘Quiet Lion’ because of his great heart, spirit and quiet nature.

The two nurses were part of a 44-strong tour group who spent ten days in Thailand on a pilgrimage to the area where Australian POWs worked on the ‘death railway’.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the completion of the Burma-Thailand Railway, the 415-kilometre railway from Nong Pladuk in Thailand to Thanbyuzayat in Burma.

Foler former POWs from WA – Bill Haskell, 83, Eric Roediger, 93, George Wiseman, 93, and Neil MacPherson, 83, who helped build the notorious railway, were part of the group.

“I was extremely privileged and proud to be in the company of tour former POWs who shared with me so many anecdotes and stories, told with a sense of humour, respect and humility that I found sad and wonderful at the same time,” Mignonette said.

“I had no family members involved with the railway, however, I now feel part of a family of incredibly courageous and humble men,” she said.

Helen’s father was a POW on the railway but during her childhood little was said of his time spent on the railway.

Bill Haskell and Eric Roediger, the tour’s unofficial tour guides, were able to fill in much of the missing information.

“They were able to tell us what it was like surviving in the madness and suffering of the death railway, for what must have seemed like an eternity for those who managed to survive,” Helen said.

Upon her return to Australia, Helen made a short visit to see her father in Adelaide to recount her trip and for the first time she was able to open up to her and tell her of his experiences during his time on the railway.

“I think I may have interested him enough to want to join the group next year, which knowing my father and his reluctance to travel is an achievement in itself,” Helen said.

Both Helen and Mignonette said the dawn service at Helfire Pass and the memorial services at Kanchanaburi Wat Cemetery on ANZAC day was a highlight of the tour.

“Bill Haskell was the guest speaker at the main ANZAC day service at Kanchanaburi Wat Cemetery and his speech was from the heart, he gave us an idea of what he and his mates had suffered during the building of the railway,” Mignonette said.

Helen and Mignonette will be giving a presentation to other Hollywood staff members to share their experiences.

“I learnt about the madness and hell of war, but my greatest lesson was about the human spirit, mateship, humility and the human need to survive no matter what the situation,” Mignonette said.

Hollywood sponsors two nurses every year, to go on the tour, which honours WWII veterans.

This is the sixth time the hospital has supported nurse participation on the tour. This year the hospital also sponsored three Returned Services League caddies (representing the Army, Navy and Air Force) to take part in the tour. (See main story, page 1).

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The story of the new chapel windows

The beauty of fused glass and its power to convey a message was illustrated recently with the installation of eight new windows in Hollywood Private Hospital’s Chapel.

The windows are a unique part of the “Chapel 2000 Project”, established by the hospital’s Chaplains to build on the past and look to the future.

Each window portrays one of God’s blessings to humankind, which complements the purpose and value of the building to the hospital and wider community.

Hollywood Chaplain Reverend Graeme Manolas said, “This part of our project is unique as the windows were all donated by organisations and individuals who have a connection with the hospital.

“The new windows will help ensure the Chapel remains as important as it is today, in the future.

“They will be a constant reminder of the hospital’s past, remembering the history of Hollywood’s veteran community, our involvement in war and the need for care and healing for both veterans and the families of veterans,” he said.

The project would not have been possible without the support of the veteran community – the Returned and Services League of Australia, WA Branch, the War Widows Guild of Western Australia and the Vietnam Veterans’ Association of Australia, WA Branch – who all donated windows.

There was also support given from individuals – Mrs Pam Beall, wife of former patient Wilfred Sidney Beall, Ms Huang N Yee, who found absolute solace in the Chapel and Mr John FiteGerald, a regular Sunday worshipper in the Chapel, who also served as a volunteer in the hospital’s Palliative Care Unit, who each donated a window.

The hospital’s Palliative Care Unit and Hollywood Private Hospital staff also sponsored a window each.

The Chapel windows were designed by Cristina White-D’Aruz and local artist Ian Dixon built them at his Jolimont studio.

A blessing service of the eight new Chapel windows was held on Sunday May 4 with special guest, Anglican Archbishop Dr Peter Carney. The sponsors of each of the windows, Hollywood staff and other special guests were invited to the service, which was the first opportunity most of the guests had to see the finished windows.

At the blessing Archbishop Carney spoke of the value of such things of beauty and inspiration where people can come to have their spirits lifted.

The Hollywood Private Hospital Chapel was built as part of the original military hospital and represents the significant history of care that has been provided on the site, to the veteran community and others, during and following World War II.

The Chapel is a place of refuge and shelter for patients and their families and has been a part of the healing and well-being of many people over many years.
The area for the Dawn Service was as tranquil and beautiful as a place could be, with the quiet gentle lapping of the waves on the adjacent beach and the only sound to break the silence. It was hard to imagine that such peace had once been the scene of such bloodshed and carnage.

I laid a wreath on behalf of the National Branch of the RSL at 10.30 a.m. At each service the organisation was by far the most memorable and moving experience. The weather was somewhat chilly before the Dawn Service, but the overgrown vegetation, the SARS virus and the media hype ‘in' Australia, placing emphasis on the dangers of travel overseas.

At Gallipoli, my grandfather spent much of his time located at Brown's Dip conducting burials for those killed in action. It was therefore wonderful to easily find that area (adjacent to Lone Pine) but the overgrown vegetation unfortunately precluded me from identifying anything familiar from the photos that grandfather had taken in 1915.

The ‘Martin's' Cenakkeale Association' presented Steph and a number of the Australians attending the Memorial Service with a long stemmed red rose, which was a small label on which was written, 'In memory of the name and unit of a soldier killed at Gallipoli'. The name on each rose corresponded to the name of every soldier whose headstone is in Lone Pine cemetery. Steph found the headstone of the soldier whose name was on her rose and placed it on the ground beside the headstone. This kind and thoughtful gesture was very much appreciated and was commensurate with our own impressions of the Turkish people whom we have met during the three weeks we travelled in Turkey prior to ANZAC Day.

We found the people to be very courteous, scrubulously hospitable and very welcoming – especially to Australians whom they seem to quite like. On two particular occasions in unrelated instances, I had discussions as best I could with Turkish men a few days before ANZAC Day. On both occasions being Australian was obviously something they highly regarded. Later, when it was revealed that our grandfathers had actually fought at Gallipoli there were embraces and a great deal of excitement as well as tears. The Turks are very tough people with big hearts and having regard for their history since 1915, if one were in a tight spot, it's a Turk I would appreciate being with after we'd run out of Aussies and Brits of course!

One day, God willing, I would very much like to visit Gallipoli again. If I don't return however, I will always remember walking the peaceful pebbled beach at ANZAC Cove alone. It was one of the most tranquil and beautiful beaches I've ever seen with a special atmosphere. I found some sheep at the base of one of the steep slopes for which one needed to dig to locate. The spirits of those who fought and died were clearly perceptible. Neither Steph nor I will ever forget the experience of visiting Gallipoli.
Helping out T.S.Broome

The Roecklund Masonic Lodge Broome, and the Broome RSL Club heard of the difficulty experienced by the Navy Cadets of "T.S.Broome" in moving to Broome, thanks to 25 Cadets into the camping/exercise location which is usually at Fitzroy River area, which is a 250 km journey from Broome. The Cadets were mobilised with the aid of a borrowed trailer to move their bedding, camping and cooking gear, food supply and the training equipment necessary for the weekend exercise.

The borrowed trailer (from State Emergency) had to be returned to Broome in case it was needed for an emergency. A parent undertook this task and then returned to the training venue. One component of the trailer parent had to drive to Broome, collect the trailer and return to the cadets at the training area, load the equipment and all things onto the trailer and drive back to Broome.

On Anzac Day, after the march and public parade at Bedford Memorial Park the President of the RSL Club and a member of the Roecklund Masonic Lodge decided to buy a 8ft x 5ft equipment trailer and transported it to the Australian Navy Cadets as a small token of appreciation of "Freemasons Helping People" and "RSL Serving the Community.

The trailer was made by John Papas Trailers, Perc Lifted with Broome license plates "BM-11195" and transported to Broome by road train with the assistance of Pacific Freightlines.

A flag bearer for the Kimberley Masonic Lodge (Vice-Stake W.Bro. William V. Vince - Pilbara) who inspected the presentation which was carried out by W.Bro. Vince Pilbara, (in Army rank this Cdrve. is one rank below a Brigadier) and the Command W.O., Lt. K. Williams, who inspected the Cadets who paraded in full uniform with the Commanding Officer, Lt. B. White taking the parade.

On arrival in Broome the signwriting was undertaken by B.K. Signs & Promotions. The Colour Sergeant trailer was met with funds raised with the support of the Patrons of Diver's Tavern where a raffle is conducted each Friday with the raffle prizes being fresh seafood donated by Roecklund Seafoods as a Community Support venture.

The equipment trailer is being fitted with a mesh cage and roof support to also carry a small craft used on the exercise.

The presentation parade was attended by Commodore R.G.O. Mr. Moon from A.C.T. Cadets, (in Army rank this Cdrve. is one rank below a Brigadier) and the Command W.O., Lt. K. Williams, who inspected the Cadets who paraded in full uniform with the Commanding Officer, Lt. B. White taking the parade.

The Federal Member Mr. Barry Hassie MP, also attended the presentation which was carried out by W.Bro. Vince Pilbara, (in Army rank this Cdrve. is one rank below a Brigadier) and the Command W.O., Lt. K. Williams, who inspected the Cadets who paraded in full uniform with the Commanding Officer, Lt. B. White taking the parade.

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The Stirring Adventures of Arthur Breeden

PROFILE

One day in 1917, while dad and two other young fellows were pulling in the fishing nets on the beach in Augusta, one of them casually said, "I'm going to join up." The other fellow said, "Yeah, I think I'll join up too." Dad then said "Why don't we all go and join up together!"

Dad then rode by horseback a hundred kilometres to Busselton to catch the train to Bunbury to report for duty. Dad was 18 and the Adjutant of the 16th Battalion AIF. After a brief training, he left Australia to serve in Belgium and France.

A WA favourite returns

Many older diggers will remember Randolph Stowe's novel The Merry Go Round in the Sea which was brought to the stage in 1997. The Merry Go Round in the Sea is a classic of modern Australian Literature. An easy to change and the sites of passage, it spans six years in the life of Rob Coran, a small boy growing up in the sleepy town of Geraldton. His world changes in unexpected ways with the onset of WWII when Rob's older cousin joins the Australian Defence Force. Rick returns from the war a changed man, haunted by his experiences as a POW, and Rob must re-evaluate what is important in life. Black Swan Theatre's production of this amazing and inspiring story commenced at the Playhouse Theatre on 24th July. Further details are in this issue of The Listening Post.

How planning ahead can help you ease the pain of a family's loss

In the confusion and emotional numbness that follows when a person dies, it is sometimes difficult for grieving relatives to make decisions about funeral arrangements.

Bowra & O'Dea Funeral Directors, wholly owned and operated in Western Australia by the O'Dea family for more than 110 years, is now offering a special service to RSL members interested in PrePaid Funeral Plans.

There are many benefits to a PrePaid Funeral Plan:

- You have the opportunity to design the funeral service as you wish, and not as others would like it.
- You can protect your pension, as the financial amount paid into the plan will not be considered part of your assets.
- You receive a price inflation guarantee. By taking out a PrePaid Funeral Plan you effectively "freeze the price" of your funeral costs in the future.
- You PrePaid Funeral Plan does not become a part of your estate and it is not subject to any administration.
- You lessen the anguish of the survivors, concerned that they "did the right thing."
- We will arrange an obligation-free appointment to discuss your personal needs. The PrePaid Funeral Plan can be paid in instalments.

Special extras for RSL Members:
- Free extra limousine
- No administration fee for immediate payment in full.
- 5% discount on selected coffins.
- Free standard Will from Conser & Conser to the value of $100.

Savings of up to $600 for RSL Members!

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Summary of the three-week tour of Turkey (see Feature story in page 8)

We travelled as part of a group of 18 West Australians – a fully escorted West Travel tour conducted by that tourist agency and run by Trafalgar. The price was $6,000 each which included most meals (except lunches), transfer and excellent accommodation in 4 star hotels. On a scale of 10, we’d give it 9½ overall as we think it was definitely value for money. In particular the food was first class, we felt 100% safe at all times and the Australian dollar went a long way $1 (Aust) equates to 1 million Turkish Lira.

The following cities or towns were visited in which we spent either 1½ or 3 nights while having organized sightseeing tours in the surrounding places of interest:

1. Istanbul (the capital, pop 11 million known as Constantinople prior to 1930)
2. Bursa, Ankara (political capital of 4 million)
3. Nevsekhir, Konya, Antalya (latter on the Mediterranean)
4. Izmir (5 million, third largest city)
5. Canakkale (half hour’s ferry ride across the Dardanelles from the Gallipoli Peninsula)

STATISTICS – The following facts about Turkey are of interest:

1. 98% Muslim being the only secular Muslim state in the world
2. Largest army in Europe – 1 million – bordered by Georgia, Armenia, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Greece and Bulgaria. She needs to remain ‘strong’
3. Spends 35% GNP on defence and inflation is running at 35% too
4. Unemployment is 16% and there’s no unemployment benefits or national health scheme
5. National Service is compulsory for all males reaching 18 years
6. Population 70 million, 1½ growth, including 10 million Kurds
7. Kurds have 9 dialects and no alphabet
8. Kurds occupy 150 seats in the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) out of 550 seats and want their own state
9. Member of NATO, associate member of EU

DUKW Mystery Solved

When I wrote the article about the Army “Duck” (DUKW) which appeared in the February edition of The Listening Post I could not remember what the acronym DUKW stood for. Subsequently a couple of former Army colleagues have been in touch, one of whom, Barry Hood, a member of the Cotteros Sub-Branch, eventually found an article about the history of amphibious vehicles, Material for the article was obtained from SEACRAFT, January 1953.

I quote: “It’s popular name originated purely by accident, due to General Motors’ engineering department’s code system. In this code, ‘D’ stood for the year (1942), ‘U’ for utility, ‘K’ for front-wheel drive and ‘W’ for two rear driving wheels. Thus the craft’s technical designation was DUKW which Army and Navy personnel had almost immediately shortened (sic) to the conveniently Duck.”
As I write, 8 May 2003, Busselton Sub-Branch has been operating in its own premises for over 18 months. These last 18 months have been an outstanding success for the Sub-Branch. A dedicated club licence has seen us opening every Friday afternoon for fellowship and every Thursday lunchtime during the winter months for an outstanding social function. Both these events have been well attended by members. Plans are under way to develop the premises prepared by Functions Committee. We have a dedicated team of volunteers who have been an outstanding success for the Sub-Branch. Of our two new Vice Presidents, Grant Mc coy and Ken Usher in the junior are providing us with excellent assistance.

Both the ANZAC Day ceremonies in Busselton were attended by members. Like Busselton RSL, we have been well to ensure a satisfactory amount of hall usage by the community. We have generated a very comfortable amount of revenue for our purposes. Our two new Vice Presidents, Grant McCray and Ken Usher in the junior are providing us with excellent assistance.

A strong welfare team operates under the direction of Welfare Officer Mike Doyle. Mike is an outstanding person and is well to ensure a satisfactory amount of hall usage by the community. We have generated a very comfortable amount of revenue for our purposes. The team are in attendance at every Friday cocking to offer advice and assistance to any member who may require it. Mike is a man of the people and is an outstanding person and is well to ensure a satisfactory amount of hall usage by the community. We have generated a very comfortable amount of revenue for our purposes. Officer Peter Coleman. Bill is a TT's trained person and is well to ensure a satisfactory amount of hall usage by the community. We have generated a very comfortable amount of revenue for our purposes.

Property Officers Kevin Risyel and Don Nelson maintain the premises of the club in good order and are doing an outstanding job.

Police participation was a source of excitement for the school and city youth and added an extra dimension to the occasion.

ANZAC YOUTH PARADE & SERVICE

The sub-branch will be hosting the Sun Gurney VC Memorial Luncheon on the 20th of July. The venue is the RSL Hall, 1 Fred Bell Parade, East Victoria Park.

The cost is $22.50 per head.

East Victoria Park and Vietnam Veterans

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The cost is $22.50 per head.

Our guest speaker is from the Royal Australian Navy.

Tickets to the memorial luncheon can be purchased from the sub-branch in person, or by booking your reservation by telephone on 9361 8802.

There will be first class entertainment for all attendees and a special guest on the day.

Mr Bob Wood, President

President Eric Dewey

City of Rockingham

Sub-Branch helps welcome homes

City of Rockingham Sub-Branch helped family and friends welcome HMAS ANZAC and HMAS Darwin with 21 members from the sub-branch going to H Wharf, Fremantle on Saturday 17 May. The last minute change to Fremantle came at 10 p.m. Friday night due to violent weather and the fear that access to the ships, HMAS ANZAC and HMAS Darwin, would be impossible.

The Sub-Branch’s role was to operate a bookstand on the quayside and provide refreshments for the public.

As a matter of interest, average age of the volunteer labourers for the Sub-Branch was 79 years. There were two occasions where members were over 80 years, but on one occasion, reached eighty. This is a significant milestone, as in the past, most volunteer members had retired by this age.

The New Clubroom has been the centre of attention. It is expected to be a great success for the Sub-Branch. A new Clubroom has been named the John Bavin Room in honour of our esteemed benefactor.

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A high profile within the local community combined with concentrated hard work and social commitment to the veteran community is the reason the sub-branch for this year and for the future.

We are currently achieving the aim and intend to continue to do so.

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ANZAC Day

It was wonderful to note that the spirit of ANZAC is alive and well. This was symbolised by the recent attendance at the ANZAC Day Service held at our memorial site. Fronting our Wall of Remembrance were many visitors from all walks of life. Among the dignitaries were Ian McKinnon, Federal member for Carrine, John Quigley, state member for Bass, Mr Bill Stewart, deputy mayor for City of Stirling and family and the respective Presidents of the Doubleview Bowling Club, John Carter and Carisbrook Primary School.

Our thanks for service rendered are extended to Fr. Tim Russell, chaplain to the Light Horse and Doubleview Bowling Club for most enjoyable afternoon refreshments.

A thoughtful address was made by the branch President, Mr Tony Swilling.

Our official service was proceeded in the previous week by visits to various schools within our region.

Solomon’s Astounding achievements were witnessed at Doubleview and Scarborough Primary School and a delightful moment was the opportunity for some children to interact with the public for the first time.

Again we express our appreciation to the late Bill Ogilvie and both Doubleview Bowling Club for their support.

A previous referral to our Wall of Remembrance serves as a reminder to thank the City of Stirling and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs for their financial contributions. Unfortunately, the war plaques had become weather-worn and rather dilapidated and badly needed replacing. Thanks to the efforts of our memorial warden, Mr Doug Pigott, aided by a number of helpers and financed largely by the public, the plaques were replaced, restoring the wall to the dignity deserved by members who have passed on.

Recently we enjoyed a visit from Mr Bill Heel who as a guest speaker presented some interesting information regarding the Scott Museum at 581 Murray Street open Monday to Friday Tines to 2pm.

As an additional bonus we expressed a vote of thanks for the delivery of a long lost Honour Roll showing Office Bearers from 1944-59 of the Scarborough RSL Sub-branch. The board was discovered at their building.

We hope to welcome new members Mr John (Spud) Murphy, Mr John Kitchin, Mr Don Murray (ex-Emouth) and a Mrs Mary Haddow (affiliate war widow), thanked to friends to those recipients of the Last Post Mr Ray Cestination, Mr F. (Kok) Bartlett, Mr Reg Rollings, Mr George Aird and Mr Jack E R Callahan.

A number of coach trips have been organised during the year. The Committee will visit 60 million year old Thomolobites at Lake Biffen while the second tour will head to the history of York with panoramic views from Mt Stirling.

Our progressive branch extends and invitation to new and re-registering members.

We are an active group who enjoy good company, good tours, RSL, Museum, speakers and other activities. We pay homage to the fallen at our own Memorial Garden and record their passing on our Wall of Remembrance.

We meet at the Doubleview Community Hall on the first Monday of each month at 2:00pm. Following the meeting we enjoy refreshments.

Contact our Secretary, Mr Doug Pigott on 9446 1331.

WI, (Bill) Richards
PRO
9446 3000


Retirement and Aged Care Association (Inc.) UPDATE

Hello to all members

I thought it was about time to give a brief update into the goings on within the RACA as we move towards the 2003 Congress.

The RACA has been operating for some 9 months and though we may not have it all right at this point we are certainly getting close. Issues to keep you informed about are as follows:

Re: development.

* Coast Estate Manalush: This redevelopment was completed in November and to date we have sold 17 of the 22 units (5 unconditioned, 12 conditionals and 2 without offer). We are hoping that the last few will be sold very soon and this will allow us to settle.

* Menora Gardens: I know, this seems to have been going on forever but we are making progress and in the last few months the title has been settled, the financier has been applied for and we are close to appointing a bank to do their due diligence on the project. We are hopeful that we will appoint the successful tenderer and financial institution by the end of June or early July. We hope to firm up on the costing some time in July for all of you who are awaiting the opportunity to purchase an apartment or Independent Living Unit (ILL). We have had some good support for both living styles with the apartments attracting those who want to travel and/or need a few extra square metres of living space. Stage 1A will include one apartment block (of 28 apartments) and 26 ILL’s. The ILL’s will be constructed by our community centre/home.

* Glen Forrest Gardens: I know, this seems to have been going on forever but we are making progress and in the last few months the title has been settled, the financier has been applied for and we are close to appointing a bank to do their due diligence on the project. We have appointed four new members to our Board of Management to give some further impetus. At this point we are operating as an interim board and the RACA meeting in June to ratify the new Board composition. This will give the RACA a much more experienced group to take forward. We still seek the services of a Treasurer (accountant) and given time, we will find a candidate to fill this role. In the meantime we are using the services of a contract accounting firm as back up to the finance section.

Audit: As can be expected there have been some teething issues with respect to the RACA accounts. We are now working with our auditor in September and the accounting treatment of various assets. This will be settled soon and Mr Brian Martin, the state Acting Hon Treasurer, is assisting in reconciling these outstanding issues.

I guess that’s it for this time. I look forward to dishing you a line again in a few months.

Regards
Barry Stanfield

TONGALA SET TO HOST REUNION FOR HORSEMEN

Hundreds of old soldiers and relatives from all over Australia will meet in Tongala later this year to celebrate the 50th anniversary of former Light Horsemen.

Organiser Michael Thompson said the event should be a “big day for the town”, and hoped it would return Tongala’s 80 veterans and their families.

He has even invited Prime Minister John Howard, Chief of Defence Gen. Peter Cosgrove and the Rozette to attend the reunion and the Light Horse Regiments fought with distinction in Gallipoli, France, and Palestine during World War I. Some says Thomas Putnam was Light Horse Regiment in the Milla with members on domestic duty all over Australia.

On the day of the reunion, November 25, there will be a Lidcombe Park Service, the Mouat Union, Maurice Wilson, 84, of Tongala convenor of the Light Horseman in Mangan Street. Good below the statue will be a bronze plaque with a poen dedicated to

For Michael, 25, organizing the event are a labour of love. “My great-grandfather was a light horseman and I became interested in the Light Horse when my medals were passed down to me at the age of 11” he said.

Tongala was one of the first to hire from all over Australia this day is set to be hugo.

NATIONAL SERVICE

I am trying to contact members of the Army intake 1958, 17th National Service Battalion (Sanesbroug WA). Members of Support Company 3 Platoon (Vickers, Morris, Bate) are requested to contact the person who did not respond to calls. The number is 9041 1247 or Email wa_lefty@hotmail.com.

Some of the instructors were Ll McClankey, Sgt Paisley and Capt

Book Reviews

JERRAMUNGUP

Soldiers of the soil
by Terry Spence

Fifty years ago a War Service Land settlement project began in the south-west region of Western Australia, which at the time, was hailed as the most imaginative and boldest of its kind in the western world. Its purpose was to provide some little reparation for servicemen returning to civilian life after World War Two and develop the farms and small residential blocks that would provide produce of both town and country.

During the projects life, records were broken for the amount of land cleared and the number of small farms that were built. The project was a success as a farming project and the ambition to settle a few farmers was successful. We have had some good support for both living styles with the apartments attracting those who want to travel and/or need a few extra square metres of living space. Stage 1A will include one apartment block (of 28 apartments) and 26 ILL’s. The ILL’s will be constructed by our community centre/home.

At the project’s centre was a rustic station, Jerramungup, which had once been home to one of the state’s pioneer pastoralists – the British sea captain who claimed the land from the mercurial, colourful, sometimes controversial, former war army major Colin Cameron directed operations. Much of the credit for the success in which this ambitious plan to settle ex-service men and the farmers’ successful food production to go back for the families.

Throughout the most intense period of the development work hundreds of men were employed either as work projects or private contractors. Hundreds of millions of dollars of government money were spent on roads and land developments and infrastructure. There are still reverberations today generating intense debate over what impact such development had on the land and the farmers in the new millennium must deal with its impact.

The author has written Jerramungup: Soldiers of the Soil from the unique perspective of having worked on the project as a young man in the 1950s and from his later observations of the district’s progress during his career as a journalist. His recollections, records together tell the total Jerramungup story.

$24.00 (postage $5.00)

Contact T. Spence
7 Hillside Crescent
Mandurah WA 6210
3766 4477
tspence@illnet.net.au

8th Division AIF – Wartime letters wanted

Amateur historian Robyn Arvie (daughter of Maurice Arvie, 2/10th Field Regiment) is looking for Wartime letters written by soldiers from 8th Division AIF to be included in a book she and her husband are planning to compile a small book, featuring letters of all kinds written by 8th Division soldiers.

Robyn is especially interested in any letters that were by 8th Division servicemen and women who were on active service in Malaysia and Singapore (75th anniversary) and 7 December 1941 and 18 February 1942, and ALL other letters written by liberated POWs in the weeks immediately following 15 August 1945.

If any readers have letters they would be willing to submit for possible inclusion in a future book, Robyn would be very interested to hear from you.

Robyn can be contacted by mail at 24 Freeland Crescent, Rivervale, Tootoongie WA 6110 or by phone on (03) 6372 1125 – evenings and weekends.

THE LISTENING POST June 2003

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