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for contributions to next edition

If possible, submissions should be typed and double-spaced. Preferred method of receiving submissions is via email. Photographs can be black and white or colour. This is your journal and contributions are welcome.

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RSL, PO Box 3023 Perth Adelaide Tce, WA 6832
Email: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au

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THE LISTENING POST April 2008

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10,000 copies to members, subscribers and united & Kindred associations.

In the last edition of the Listening Post we overlooked to accredit our Administrative Assistant Caitlin Harnwell for her wonderful skills as a photographer for the front page, and a large spread on the centre pages well done Caitlin.

Members will note that we have a dedicated email address and telephone number for you to contact the Listening Post directly.

Email: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au
Web: www.rslwahq.org.au
Telephone: (08) 9287 3716 Fax: (08) 9287 3732

Service Medals - Roy Leslie Turner
ANZAC House has a set of Service Medals, Discharge Certificates, and Life Membership for Roy Leslie TURNER: Regimental Nos WX5682, WX500257, RAAF A5706. Contact Denis Connelly (08) 9287 3718 for further information.

Assistant Editor Denis Connelly

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From the Australian War Memorial .....
With ANZAC Day but a few weeks away it is time again to reflect on the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women in battle.

This year we commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the ill-fated Gallipoli Landing that saw the cream of our young men perish on the cliffs of Landing that saw the cream of our young men perish on the cliffs of

For more information on the ceremony please contact June Caneo at DVA on 9366 8465 or email HYPERLINK "mailto:june.caneo@dva.gov.au" june.caneo@dva.gov.au.

Retirement Village

RSL has just about completed formalities for the purchase of land for our new retirement village at Jurien Bay. Once the purchase has been confirmed detailed planning will take place to stage the building of just over 100 units and a community centre that will feature state of the art facilities. RSL villages are well known for their standards of excellence and expressions of interest in securing units in the development are running high. With easy access from Perth and Mid-West locations the development is proving to be an instant success.

Remember Indigenous Service

National Reconciliation Week 2008 will take place around Australia from 27 May to 3 June, 2008 providing an opportunity to focus on reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. This year is the 41st anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, the most successful in the nation’s history, in which more than 90 per cent of voters said ‘yes’ to acknowledging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Australian citizens.

The theme for this year’s activities is “Reconciliation – It’s all our story” and reflects on the contribution of Indigenous and non-Indigenous campaigners who worked side by side to make the Referendum such a great success.

As part of National Reconciliation Week 2008, RSL will work alongside ex-service and community organisations to hold a ceremony in Perth to commemorate the contribution of Indigenous servicemen and women.

BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA

One of the initiatives of the new Commonwealth Government will be the designation of the first Wednesday in September each year as the Battle for Australia Day. It expects to have the required legislation through by September 2008 to confirm such recognition.

Although some may argue for a range of different dates for such a commemoration the important fact is that we now have such a date to honour those who defended Australia when, for the first time, our country was in serious threat of invasion.

I hope the veteran community and the public will embrace that occasion and honour it accordingly.

Remembrance Day 2008

Remembrance Day 2008 will be commemorated on Tuesday 11th November, 2008 with the traditional Service being held at the State War Memorial in Kings Park followed by the Luncheon at RAFA Estate Bullcreek. With escalating costs the organising committee was obliged to seek an alternative luncheon venue to keep charges at a reasonable level. At this stage we are confident we can contain costs at the same level as 2007 and produce a dinner and entertainment that will be appropriate for the occasion.

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A service will be held at the State War Memorial in Kings Park on Wednesday May 28th at 10.00am.

State Congress

State Congress is to be held at the Mercure Hotel, Irwin St, Perth over the weekend 28 – 29 June, 2008. We are looking forward to strong support from Sub Branches and robust debate on Congress Motions.

Our Patron, The Governor of Western Australia Dr Ken Michael AC will open the Congress and visiting speakers will include Federal and State members of Parliament.

We will also be presenting RSL Awards of Merititous Medal and Life Membership. The Returning Officer will also announce the result of the election for member of State Executive 2008 – 2011. It will be an opportunity to showcase the League to the community and promote the good work RSL does for veterans.

VC Library

The mammoth task of reorganising the Library at ANZAC House is progressing to the stage where all books have been accessioned and placed on the shelves. Many of the ‘rare’ books are still being assessed and we hope to have them on display over the coming months. State Executive has decided that the Library will be a Reference Library only with no borrowing permitted. As the collection contains many irreplaceable books it would not be in the best interests of the League to permit them out on loan.

President’s Golf Day

It’s on again – the President’s Corporate Golf Day. This year the event will be held at Meadow Springs Golf Course on Thursday 24th July, 2008. It will be a fully sponsored event and a day not to be missed. Further details will be released shortly.
Forty years is half a lifetime. On 30 April 1968, a year 40 years past when public started to recognise that the war could not be won militarily. The Tet Offensive, launched to mark the time of a truce, saw fierce battles and the heaviest fighting battles fought in Vietnam.

As the Americans have recognised, 1968 was a calendar year of war. The Tet Offensive, launched to mark the time of a truce, saw fierce battles and the heaviest fighting battles fought in Vietnam.

For the Australian troops too, 1968 was a critical year. During Tet, the NVA's 32nd Division fought battles and the American public was spotted to see on their TV's troops trying to win back the American embassy in Saigon, the picture of Nguyen Ngoc Loan executing a Viet Cong in Saigon, the picture of Nguyen Van Cu. To a time of a truce, the Americans were keen to see the Tet Offensive, launched to mark the time of a truce, saw fierce battles and the heaviest fighting battles fought in Vietnam.

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Portraits of Australian Heroes

John Carroll VC

Continuing with our series of Australian Heroes, in this article we examine the courage of John Carroll VC.

John Carroll VC was born on the 15th August 1892 to Irish parents in Brisbane, Queensland however his family relocated to Western Australia. As a young man he worked as a labourer in the Bagford and Karanning Goldfields.

On the 27th April 1916, when he was aged 23, John Carroll enlisted in the Australian Infantry Force (AIF) at Peron Bay (near Mandurah) and was posted to the 44th Battalion, which was mostly made up of Western Australians, for basic training. Private John Carroll’s, regimental number 1804, left Australia on the 9th August 1910 on the HMAS Milatida Ship number 282, departing from Fremantle, WA.

On the 13th of November 1916 he transferred to the 33rd Battalion, comprising mainly of NSW servicemen, which were preparing to leave Llandudno Camp on the Salisbury Plains in England for service in France as part of General Monash’s 3rd Division.

The 7th of June saw Private Carroll at Messines Ridge, near Ypres at the Northern end of the ‘Front Line’. It was here that he was involved in the action that saw him awarded his Victorian Cross. His citation read:

“...For the most conspicuous bravery. During an attack, immediately the barrage lifted, Private John Carroll rushed the enemy’s trench and killed one of his comrades. He then noticed a comrade in difficulties and at once proceeded to his comrades assistance and killed one of the enemy. He continued working ahead with great determination until he came across a machine gun team of four men in a shell hole. Single handed he attacked the entire team, killing three of the men and capturing the gun. Later on, two of his comrades were buried by a shell and, in spite of very heavy shellfire and machine gun fire, he managed to extricate them. During the interval known as the lull, Private Carroll displayed most wonderful courage and fearlessness. He is an example of gallantry and devotion to duty inspired all the ranks in his battalion.”

(London Gazette: 2nd August 1917)

The Commander’s Report of the action read:

Non-Commissioned Officers and men.

No 1804, Private John Carroll.

1. Honours recommendation Victoria Cross. For most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

In the battle for Messener Ridge on the 7th June, Private John Carroll acted as a “sniper up” immediately the barrage lifted he rushed the enemy’s trenches and bayoneted four of the enemy. He then noticed a comrade in difficulties and at once proceeded to his comrades assistance and killed one of the enemy. He continued working ahead with great determination until he came across a machine gun team of four men in a shell hole. Single handed he attacked the entire team, killing three of the men and capturing the gun. Later on, two of his comrades were buried by a shell and, in spite of very heavy shellfire and machine gun fire, he managed to extricate them.

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After two of his comrades were buried by a shell and in spite of very heavy shellfire and machine gun fire he extricated them. During the 96 hours the Battalion was in the line Private Carroll displayed most wonderful courage and fearlessness. This was an splendid example of such resource. The Commander of the 33rd during this time was Lieutenant Colonel L.J. Morshede, destined to become one of the famous leaders of the 9th Australian Division - the “Rats of Tobruk” during 1941.

In the Battalion’s subsequent campaigns, Carroll was twice wounded, firstly in July 1917, a month after winning the VC, and again in October that year.

In July 1918 Carroll was transferred to AEF Headquarters, London. He returned to Australia in August for discharge, and resumed civil life in Western Australia. In April 1922 he married Mary, daughter of H Brown. In 1927, while working as a truck examiner at a timber mill as Yankop, south of Perth, Carroll had one foot badly crushed and it had to be amputated.

John Carroll resided at Bedford Park WA and passed away on the 4th of October 1971. He is buried at Karrakata War Cemetery in Karrakata WA.

Footnote: There is a photo of Private John Carroll VC at ANZAC House Perth WA.

References:
1) They Dared Mighty - Edited by Lionel Wigmoot and Bruce Harding AWM
2) Australian War Memorial (AWM) Canberra ACT.

Maxwell Henry Shean D.S.O (BAR)

In this article we look at a Naval Officer who had left Australia at the outbreak of hostilities in 1940 and did not set foot on Australian soil until the cessation of WWII in September 1945.

Maxwell Henry Shean was born on the 6th July 1918 in Perth, Western Australia to proud parents, father Henry Launsborough Shean, who was Under Secretary for Law with the Western Australian Public Service, and his mother Gladys Alicia (nee Bailey).

In the afternoon of the 7th and the following two days and nights, during the consolidation, some attempts at retaliation were made by sniping, machine gun fire, some shelling and a raiding party. These activities, however, were not allowed to interfere with the 33rd’s work, and solidly-held positions were eventually handed over to the relief battalions of the 10th. This advance was an easy victory for the battalion, but it nevertheless produced a crop of minor crises and situations of the type best dealt with by individual resource. Carroll’s resourceful activity, both in the attack and in handling other episodes mentioned in his citation, is a splendid example of such resource.

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The young Max Shean attended schools in South Perth, Como, and North Perth Primary between 1924 and 1934 and later attended Perth Technical College between 1935 and 1937 and matriculated with passes in English, Geography, Mathematics A, Applied Mathematics (D), Drawing B (D), Chemistry, Physics, and French. Which would have prepared him for what was to be his most demanding service career.

1937 saw Max Shean at the University of Western Australia (UWA) studying for his Degree in Engineering, majoring in electrical and mechanical. However, as a result of the coming of the World War, Max’s studies were interrupted for 5 years, however, he completed his Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in 1947.

Maxwell Shean joined the RANVR (Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve) in 1940. After initial training he was selected for Anti-Submarine Warfare Training (ASDIC) and Navigation, Ship Administration, and Gunnery; in 1941 after completing his Anti-Submarine training the now Sub-Lieutenant Shean was appointed Anti-Submarine Control Officer on HMAS Bluebell serving in the Atlantic.
From the Bunker

Portrait of an Australian Hero
Maxwell Henry Shean continued.

Theatre as a convoy escort. On the 11th December 1941, he successfully directed an attack on the German Submarine U208, which was hunting supply ships for the embattled Britain. In 1940, Sub-Lieutenant Shean was awarded a Convenant Watchkeeping Certificate.

In September 1942, Max underwent training for the 12th Submarine FLOTILLA for 30 ton Submarine. The next year, 1943, saw Maxwell Henry Shean promoted to Lieutenant R.A.N.V.R. That same year Lt. Shean was a diver on submarine X0 for the attack on the German Battleship "TIRPITZ".

In October 1943 he was appointed Commanding Officer to submarine X22 and thus was responsible for commissioning trials and training the selected crew. Being well prepared and having a successful outcome in previous appointments, Lt Shean was appointed to X24 to command, to conduct raids and then to conduct operations against German shipping at Bergen. It was during these operations that Lt Shean was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O). Also during this period the Pacific War was not going well for Australia, and the now highly decorated Lt Shean had a strong urge to return to his homeland and assist the Allied effort in the Pacific.

With his extensive experiences in Commanding, commissioning submarine Lt Shean in 1944 was appointed to Command XE4 for operations against the Japanese.

In March 1945 Lt Shean was awarded the Unrestricted Watchkeeping Certificate. The 31st July 1945 saw Lt Shean carry out his most hazardous mission, as Sub Lieutenant Ken Briggs from Queensland cut the submarine communication cable off Saigon to allow the Allies to intercept secret Japanese radio transmission. The Allies had been receiving mixed messages via radio in regards to the intentions of the Japanese forces. The secret information they now obtained clarified that the Japanese had no intention to cease hostilities, hence causing the Allies to drop the Atomic bomb over Nagasaki and Hiroshima on the 6th and 9th of August 1945. The Japanese surrendered in a move that, as Lt. Shean puts it "as the Japanese were undecided, we decided to give them a bit of a hurry up".

In September 1945 Lt Shean received an Honourable discharge from the R.A.N.V.R. However, 1950 saw Shean in uniforms once more and appointed Lieutenant in Naval Engineering in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve (R.A.N.V.R). In July 1955 he was awarded the Engine Room Watchkeeping Certificate and was promoted to Lieutenant Commander (L.C.D.R). Lieutenant Commander Maxwell Henry Shean D.S.O (Bar) and USA Bronze Star retired from the R.A.N.R.

After leaving the RANR, Max Shean worked in Senior Appointments in the Electrical Engineering Area, for both Local Government and State Government Authorities. Max Shean retired from the then State Energy Commission S.E.C in December 1978.

Since that time Max Shean has been involved with Community Service, volunteering his expertise in a multitude of areas from being a member of the St Carthage's College Finance Committee (1973-1981), a member of Perth Legacy, convenor Project team National Submarine history task force (1993-2000), and the mounting of the H.M.A.S "Ovens" as a memorial exhibit at the WA Maritime Museum in Fremantle and a Life Member of Sail Training Association.

Maxwell Henry Shean married Mary Dempsey Golding in Scotland on the 14th June 1944 and has two daughters, Heather and Ruth, 5 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild. Max Shean is still very active in his community, is a member of Hightgate Sub-Branch and resides in Claremont, Western Australia.

Footnote: Max Shean on volunteering in the services; "On courage, it is a matter of volunteering and steps follow onto the action. Courage is when you say to the Instructing Officer, "Sorry Sir, this is not for me" - that takes courage.

References: Interview with Mr Shean
Records and photographs supplied by Mr Shean
The Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT
Library
Admirability
Whitehall
18th November 1945
The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal to Lieutenant Maxwell H. Shean, DSO. Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve
For service as set fourth in the following.

Citation:
"For meritorious achievement while serving as Commanding Officer of the Submarine, HMAS XE-4, in the vicinity of Cape St. Jaques, off French Indo-China. Displaying outstanding navigational skill in the face of difficult weather conditions, Lieutenant Shean directed his submarine crew in locating, towing and extracting from the sea, two sections from two separate cables which had been used for vital enemy communications between Saigon, Singapore and Hong Kong. Although twice washed over the side into rough waters while directing manoeuvres to and from the area, he radiantly maintained his post, leading his men to safety with sections of the cable as positive evidence of their successful mission. A superb seaman and courageous leader, Lieutenant Shean, by his devotion to the accomplishment of a daring mission, contributed essentially to the success of allied operations in the Pacific war"
The English language is spoken around the world, and in each country there are special words that elicit passion, and others that are ignored or neglected.

Every year the major English dictionaries announce the new words that have been accepted, while others quietly disappear from common use. The reason that we changed our route and direction was that the area was required to accommodate the construction equipment used to build the Mandurah-Perth Railway line.

Mr Sutherland advised that details of the forming up, March details, and service is included in this edition of the Listening Post on Pages 14 and 15.

ANZAC: A special acronym

The English language is spoken around the world, and in each country there are special words that elicit passion, and others that are ignored or neglected.

In English special sacred words, are always capitalised.

The special words referring to God are shown in the written text as: Him, Gospel, Your, Thou etc. The first two lines of the chorus of the hymn “How Great Thou Art” is a good example:

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art.

The Special Case of “Aboriginal/Aborigine”

In anthropology there are studies of many aboriginal groups (Inuit, Maori), but the Aborigines of Australia are always referred to in capitalised form. This marks our indigenous people from those of the rest of the world, the word is capitalised in both noun and adjectival form. Aborigine is the noun, and Aboriginal is the adjective. We read about “Aboriginal housing” and “Aboriginal medicine”. The use of capitals signifies that Aborigine/ Aboriginal are special words, and to use the words in lower case, when referring to Australian indigenous people is seen as insulting.

Historical and Cultural Special Cases

I remember the assertive resistance of Special Air Service troopers to being referred to as “Sas” troopers. Even in the days when they were red berets, they were keen that both of the unit’s name were spelled out: S.A.S. For them, rightly, any diminution of the unit’s correct title destroyed important parts of their culture and their history. No one wanted to argue with them, and so they are always referred to as SAS.

ANZAC too is a special case. In the civilian population there has been a resurgence of interest in ANZAC Day. After the low points following the Vietnam War, like all acronyms, there is a tendency to assimilate the acronym into ordinary language and treat it as a proper noun, with only the first letter capitalised. If this diminution is accepted, then the true meaning of the acronym is lost, and New Zealand’s contribution becomes insignificant. The acronym ANZAC deserves the same level of protection as other culturally significant words.

The price of freedom is not only vigilance, but a willingness to fight for what is right. In the returned and services community, we need to decide if keeping ANZAC in its original form is worth fighting for. If the words, “At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them” are more than empty words, then all of us need to take a stand for what is right. If we let this go, then significant parts of what it means to be Australian are finished.

To help gain support for this worthy cause, the Ellenbrook sub-branch will discuss a notice of motion. We demand that the Returned and Services League of Australia radically overhaul our current continuing action to ensure that the acronym ANZAC only be used in a capitalised form, and it asks our New Zealand comrades to do the same.

This is a cause worth supporting by all sub-branches, and it can only have positive implications for our League.

Change “junk food” generation

The Australian Dental Association (ADA) is pleased to support a global campaign which has been launched to reduce the marketing of unhealthy food to children.

The new International Code on Marketing of Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages to Children will be presented to the World Health Assembly in May. This Code was launched by Consumers International and the International Obesity Task Force to protect children (and their parents) from the unhealthy influence of relentless junk food marketing campaigns that target children.

The code will block all radio and TV ads for high fat, high sugar and high salt foods and snacks between 6am and 9pm – as well as extend restrictions to the use of celebrity, cartoon characters, free gifts, text messaging and online media to sell unhealthy foods to children.

Dr John Matthews Federal President of the ADA said today; “We hope the Australian Government gets behind this important proposal. While the ADA acknowledges that much of the campaign’s focus is on food and beverage advertising and its impact on childhood obesity, the ADA has stressed that the impact of food and beverage advertising to children is equally applicable and detrimental to dental health.

Dental decay has been estimated to be Australia’s most expensive diet-related disease. Evidence also suggests there are strong links between television advertising, poor diet, nutrition and obesity.”

At the same time that obesity levels are rising, there are signs that the incidence of childhood dental decay is increasing. Childhood dental decay needs to be addressed. The statistics show that from 1996 to 1999 five-year-old children experienced a 2.7% increase in tooth decay.

Dr Matthews said, “There was a growing trend that Australian children were consuming too many ‘junk’ foods. The acid content in soft drinks and sports drinks contributing to dental erosion and dissolving enamel. Further, their consumption was part of the growing childhood obesity problem.”

“Victory can only be achieved without oral health. A good diet is a good dental diet. To maintain good oral health the ADA recommends the following: Enjoy a wide variety of nutritious foods, especially those rich in calcium and low in acids and sugars; Enjoy crunchy foods; Drink plenty of tap water with and between meals; Clean teeth twice a day, after breakfast and just before bed; Have regular dental checkups – don’t wait for a problem to occur.”

The Swan Districts Football Club would be allowing free entry to RSL Members to our ANZAC Day Match.

The Match will be played by Swan Districts v Perth, Steel Blue Oval, Old Perth Road, Bassendean. Our game will be at 2.30pm start. We will do a traditional pre-game acknowledgement of ANZAC Day at 2.00pm and will involve representatives of Army, Navy, Airforce.

Children Under 15 are also free, Concession are $7 and Adults $10. There will be free entertainment for children at all of our games, plus bouncy castles and face painting.

Peter Talangis
Chief Executive Officer Swan Districts Football Club

Phone (08) 9279 8700
The Australian Rising Sun Badge is on of the symbols of the Australian Army and an enduring expression of loyalty and high regard which Australian soldiers have for the badge they wear on the upturned brim of a slouch hat in times of danger to the Australian nation.

Reference:
1) Australian War Memorial
2) Australian Army- "History of the Rising Sun Badge"
3) 3rd Battalion- R.A.R Association
4) Rising Sun' (Badge) - Wikipedia
5) R.S.I. Handbook Compiled by RSL Qld

Denis Connelly

Can You Help

The State Secretary, Mr Sutherland has received a request from the National Secretary Mr Derek Rebson, requesting that we address Mr James Page from the UK about these points: 1) request that we assist a Mr James Page from the UK in his research. 2) Australian Army- "History of the Rising Sun Badge" 3) Fifth Battalion- R.A.R Association 4) Rising Sun’ (Badge) - Wikipedia 5) R.S.I. Handbook Compiled by RSL Qld

I trust this finds you well, and that the information requested for Mr Pages' research be given at all would be greatly appreciated.

James Page
Ph: +44 (0) 1932 864547
Email: jmp10uk@gmail.com
Address: 20 Lodge Close Stoke D'Abernon Cobham Surrey KT11 2SG UK.

Twelfth Annual National Schools Constitutional Convention (Canberra ACT. March 20th to 23rd 2007)

Our Administrative Assistant (Admin Assist) Caitlin was a member of the 2007 National Schools Constitutional that met in Canberra. Caitlin was one of the 15 successful students form WA to attend the Convention. She was among 200 delegates from all Australian States and Territories.

Caitlin kept a diary of activities at the Convention. Last year I went to a Convention at the Constitutional Center in Perth along with Jillian Dixon, Courtney Humphries, and Rosalind-Rae Whitney, after being recommended by Mrs Duggan, our Political and Legal Studies teacher. There were two conventions with about 150 students at each one, all of us vying for one of the 15 places to win an all expenses paid trip to Canberra for the National Schools Constitutional Convention. I was one of those chosen. On the Monday before we flew out all the WA delegates met and talked about last minute information, and was wished well by Lilijana Ravich, Minister for Youth.

Day One:

Day one was taken up mostly by flying. I had to be at the airport by 8:00, ready to leave at 9:05. The other fourteen students from WA and 1 (as well as our chauffeure Norm and Jan) got to know each other pretty well on that 3 ½ hour flight to Melbourne, although we were split up for the last flight to Canberra. When we arrived at the resort we unpacked, then stayed up late talking and greeting the other states and territories as they arrived (we were first).

Day Two:

We went to the National War Memorial first thing, and it was absolutely amazing. Our guide told us all sorts of stories to make us laugh, cry, or feel just amazed. After this we met the other states for lunch at Parliament House, then have a chance to explore freely for 45 minutes, during which time the group of Western Australians went to the Senate, as well as looked around at the portraits of important people. After this it was time to go to the House of Representatives to watch Question Time. Seeing the women and men who represent our country arguing and flinging insults across the room (and in two cases being sent from the chamber) was hilarious.

We then had a workshop and a chance to meet our local M.P’s. Each state and territory put on a formal meal with speakers held in the National War Memorial.

Day Three:

Today was the day the work REALLY began, with the actual convention underway. It was held in Old Parliament House and opened by the Honorable Julie Bishop, Member for Curtin and Federal Minister for Education.

We had speakers talking to us on the issue of federalism (which was the topic). The one that stood out most was Greg Cragan, who made us all laugh with his insults (Western Australians being "red-necked bucks"). We also had The Hon Kim Beazley MP; Senator Brett Mason (Qld), Senator Lyn Allison (Vic), and Senator Kerry Nettle (NSW) come to speak to us in the afternoon, as well as group discussions, and then whole group discussions.

We had a barbeque dinner, as well as a jokebook, so the night was spent dancing, before heading back to our rooms for late night discussions and packing to leave the next day.

Day Four:

We only just managed to drag ourselves out of bed, with the late nights finally catching up on us. We finished packing, then loaded the buses that would take us to Old Parliament House, where we continued from the day before, led by a speech from Dr Narelle Minnigh, about States initiating referendums, followed by discussion.

The afternoon was punctured by tearful goodbyes and promises to keep in contact as our new found friends left. After the closing of the Convention and presentation of the Commonwealth to Senator Gary Humphries we left for the airport, where we waited for over two hours (with only 1 news agency and 1 coffee shop). When we finally boarded our plane (20 minutes late) we were all ready to sleep the trip home, but instead we talked, exchanged e-mail and mobile numbers, and watched the movie.

Once we landed and claimed our bags it was time to say goodbye to our new friends with promises to stay in touch and share photos (the joys of the internet).

Overall this was a fantastic experience and to meet likeminded (and not so likeminded) people who not only have the ability (because everyone has that) but the will to change the world, some through government and the issues addressed throughout the convention, and some in different ways. I learnt new things, made new friends, and was able to share my opinions and ideas on things with other people to come up with ideas bigger and better than before.
After a spell of several years, the RSL hosted a day-long Welfare Seminar at ANZAC House on 19 February, to help brief and inform 25 practitioners from Sub-Branches – several from as far away as Port Hedland.

It turned out to be a very stimulating and robust forum for all who attended, and beautifully gave each attendee an exchange ideas, share knowledge of “best practice”, and be updated on some of the latest aspects in the delivery of “welfare.”

In the six months I have been the RSL Welfare Officer at ANZAC House, I have learned that there is quite a bit of misunderstanding as to what IS “welfare” – particularly when it comes to the area of monetary relief – so I tailored my presentation at the seminar to explain some of these issues more fully. This confusion has been substantiated by members of the public who come to cover a myriad of running expenses: wages to hard-working, minimal staff, wages to cleaners, new section repairs, phones, postage, stationery etc – and the printing and distribution of “Listening Post” magazine.

What IS “Welfare”? As stated above, that state that there is quite a bit of misunderstanding as to what IS “welfare” – particularly when it comes to the area of monetary relief – so I tailored my presentation at the seminar to explain some of these issues more fully. This confusion has been substantiated by members of the public who come to cover a myriad of running expenses: wages to hard-working, minimal staff, wages to cleaners, new section repairs, phones, postage, stationery etc – and the printing and distribution of “Listening Post” magazine.

The fact of the matter is that not one cent of annual Membership fees goes to the welfare coffers! Like any organization, we do need to cover the costs of running the Club. The Sub-Branch Signal. This two-page document is spread out broadside and side, and the role of State Branch and Sub-Branches with respect to welfare generally. In broad terms - welfare is varied, and devoted to trying to enhance the well-being and quality of life of all “Elbow” Members (as well as non-members who are also veterans and ex-ADF personnel).

These principles cover such as in the form of cash. Credit Card debt is treated with great caution. Funds are never provided for alcohol, cigarettes or gambling.

Summary: I hope the foregoing helps to clarify how monetary welfare assistance is distributed by and through the RSL. Every cent paid out is carefully accounted for and subject to annual audit – but be assured the applicant's details remain secret. Every application form filled out for RSL我现在 being used in Australia, is marked “CONFIDENTIAL”, seen only by me and signed off by the State Treasurer, then filed securely. So too, all documents evaluated by the WA Aged Soldiers', Soldiers' and Airmen's Benefit Fund Trust are marked “CONFIDENTIAL”, seen by no-one else but the Trustees and me, and filed securely.

Margaret Harnew
Former Senior Advocate

Heritage Medals dealers in Western Australia:
Heritage Medals/Military Framers: Shop 9, 7 Delage Street Joondalup Phone 9300 3318
Medals Mounting & Framing: 298A Parade Cannington; Phone 9358 5058
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Card-carrying ADF and ESO members receive special discounts on all medal mounting services and get priority level service. Personalised attention and lots of easy on-site parking... come on over!
Music for A Summer’s Evening at Menora Gardens

The first official twilight function was held on Monday 25th February in the landscaped garden area of Menora Gardens and was a delightful evening enjoyed by about 150 people.

“Music for a Summer’s Evening” was attended by Social Club members from Menora and Pearson villages. Along with their friends and families, they meandered around the garden in a bid to find the perfect spot to sit back in their deck chairs, sip on a glass of their chosen tipple and enjoy a pre concert nibble.

Following on from a hot and humid 35ºC day, the evening presented a slight breeze which helped to relieve the heat of the day.

The “Silver Threads Brass Ensemble” held court from the decking of the dining area of the restaurant for about an hour with songs from around the world, including Italy, Spain and Australia, which were played by band members from around the world, including Yorkshiremen, Scotsmen, Englishmen and Australian members.

Band Master, Irwin was a hit with the crowd with his intermittent banter between songs, while some observations on life from another band member elicited more than a few giggles from the crowd. One of his racier observations being, “Why are most nudists those you don’t want to see naked anyway?”

Throughout the evening, Menora Gardens Lifestyle Manager Kaye Ireland did her usual best to get the crowd up on their feet for a jiggle on the spot or a bit of a march during “When the Saints Go Marching In”, but all she got was a heckle and a few laughs from the crowd for her efforts.

A highlight of the bands play list was a rendition of a number of Australian songs including, Waltzing Matilda, Still Call Australia Home, Love to have a Beer with Duncan and the theme from Skippy.

A souvenir from the night, in the form of a Silver Threads DVD, was placed up for grabs for the person in the crowd that correctly guessed the number of songs in the rendition. After a few attempts a lucky gentleman won the DVD with his guess of 23 songs.

The children’s play area was put to use during the evening as a couple of very full of life toddlers played in the area, between dancing to the band, making new friends and racing throughout the garden.

Following on from the music, many of the concert goers stayed on to enjoy a sumptuous BBQ feast, which included meat, sausages, bread rolls and a number of lovely fresh salads, all cooked and prepared on the spot by the restaurant chef.

A synthetic lawn bowls area has recently been created and completed in the garden area, so was tested out by a couple of eager residents, Menora Gardens Executive Officer Linda Jackson, Special Projects Manager Ken Hamilton and some other bowls fans. This test run produced talk of erecting some lights over the area for some night games.

The new landscaped area is a gorgeous spot to sit and enjoy some good company, a bit of banter, some lovely music and a meal surrounded by the newly planted plum trees all in an environment that is safe for the grand kids to run around and enjoy.

The evening was a great success, so here’s looking forward to future functions held in the landscaped area at Menora Gardens – just another enticing reason to become a member of their social club!

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The Victoria Cross (VC) is a military decoration awarded for valor “in the face of the enemy” to members of armed forces of some Commonwealth countries and previous British territories. It takes precedence over all other posthumous General Service Medals and medals. It may be awarded to a person of any rank in any service and civilians under military command, and is presented to the recipient by the British monarch during an investiture held at Buckingham Palace. It is the joint highest award for bravery in the United Kingdom, second only to the George Cross, which is the equivalent honour for valor not in the face of the enemy.

The VC was introduced in 1856 by Queen Victoria to reward acts of valor during the Crimean War. Since then the medal has been awarded 1,856 times to 1,853 individual recipients. Only 14 medals have been awarded since the end of the Second World War. The traditional explanation of the source of the gunmetal from which the medals are struck is that it derives from bronze casselets of two cannons that were captured from the Russians at the siege of Sevastopol. The historian John Glenfield has since proven through the use of X-Rays of older Victoria Crosses that the metal used for VCs is in fact from antique Chinese guns and not of Russian origin. One theory is that the guns were originally Chinese weapons but the Russians captured them and reused them at Sevastopol. It was also thought that some medals made during the First World War were composed of metal captured from different Chinese guns in the Boxer Rebellion but the original metal was used after the war. It is also believed that another source of metal was used between 1942 and 1943 to create five Second World War VCs when the Sevastopol metal went missing.

The barrels of the cannon in question are stationed outside the Officers’ Mess at the Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich. The remaining portion of the only remaining cascaded, weighing 358 tons (10,400 pounds), is stored in a vault maintained by 15 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps at Donnington, Telford. It can only be removed under armed guard. It is estimated that approximately 80 to 85 more VCs could be cast from this source. A single company of jewellers, Hanscocks of London, has been responsible for the production of every VC awarded since its inception.

**Origins of the Victoria Cross**

In 1854, after 40 years of peace, Britain found itself fighting a war against Russia, much like it had in the wars with Napoleon of the first wars with modern reporting, and the dispatches of William Howard Russell described many acts of bravery and valor by British officers that went unrecognized.

Before the Crimean War, there was no official standardized system for recognition of gallantry within the British armed forces. Officers were eligible for an award of one of the junior grades of the Order of the Bath and Brevet promotions whilst a Mention in Despatches existed as an alternative award for acts of lesser gallantry. This structure was actually very limited; in 1840 it was estimated that approximately 80 to 85 more VCs could be cast from this source. A single company of jewellers, Hanscocks of London, has been responsible for the production of every VC awarded since its inception.

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The cross is suspended by a ring from a serrified “V” to a bar ornamented with laurel leaves, through which the ribbon is threaded. The suspension bar is engraved with the recipient’s name, rank, number and unit. On the reverse of the medal is a circular panel on which the date of the act for which it was awarded is engraved in the centre.

The ribbon is crimson, 38 mm (1.5 inches) wide. The original (1856) specification for the award stated that the ribbon should be red for army recipients and blue for naval officers. However, the dark blue ribbon was abolished soon after the formation of the Royal Air Force on 1 April 1918. On 22 May 1920 King George V signed a warrant that stated that all recipients of the VC would receive a red ribbon and the living recipients of the naval version were required to exchange their ribbon for the new colour. Although the Army warrants state the colour as being red it is defined by most commentators as being crimson or “wine-red”.

**Awarding the Medal**

The Victoria Cross is awarded for: “... most conspicuous bravery, or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.”

Awards of the Victoria Cross have always been announced in the pages of the London Gazette. A recommendation for the VC is normally issued by an officer at regimental level and has to be supported by three witnesses. In the case of a gallant and daring act being performed by a squadron, ship’s company or a detached body of men (such as marines) in which all men are deemed equally brave and deserving of the Victoria Cross then a ballot is drawn. The officers select one officer, the NCOs select one individual and the private soldiers or seamen select two individuals. For both individual and group awards the recommendation is then passed up the military hierarchy until it reaches the Secretary of State for War (now the Secretary of State for Defence) and then the monarch. Today, Royal assent is still required and the VCs are presented by the monarch.

Separate Commonwealth Awards

In recent years, several Commonwealth countries have introduced their own honours systems, separate from this British Honours System. Australia, Canada and New Zealand[28] have each introduced their own decorations for gallantry and bravery, regulations to British regulations such as the Military Cross with their own awards. Most Commonwealth countries, however, still reserve some form of the VC as their highest decoration for valor.
A Canadian version has been cast though in 2004. Vimy Memorial on 7 April 2007. This date 2007, for this actions in conflict in Afghanistan the New Zealand and Australian VCs are the VC into its own honours system. While the British VC. As of July 2007, only one of the separate VCs have been awarded, to a New Zealand serviceman, Bill Apirana, on 2 July 2007, for his actions in conflict in Afghanistan in 2004.

A Canadian version has been cast though that was originally to be awarded to the Unknown Soldier at the rededication of the Vimy Memorial on 7 April 2007. This date was chosen as it was the 99th anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge but pressure from Veterans organisations caused the plan to be dropped.

The New Zealand and Australian awards created are still created from the gunmetal captured during the Crimean War but the Canadian VC is not. It is currently made from an unspecified source.

**Authority and Privileges**

**Order of precedence**

As the highest award for valour of the United Kingdom, the Victoria Cross is always the first award to be presented at an investiture, even before knights, as was shown by the investiture of Johnson Beharry who received his medal before General Sir Mike Jackson. Due to its status the VC is always the first medal worn in a row of medals and it always appears first in post-nominal letters before any other awards or honours. Similar acts of extreme valour that don’t take place in the face of the enemy are honoured with the George Cross which has equal precedence but it is awarded second due to fact that the GC is newer.

**Salute**

There is a widespread erroneous myth that it is statutory for “all ranks to salute a bearer of the Victoria Cross.” There is no official requirement that appears in the official Warrant of the VC, nor in Queen’s Regulations and Orders but tradition dictates that this occurs and as such the Chief of Staff will salute a private soldier awarded a VC or GC.

**Annuity**

The original warrant stated that NCOs and private soldiers or seamen on the Victoria Cross Register were entitled to a £10 per annum annuity. In 1898, Queen Victoria raised the pension to £50 for those that could not earn a livelihood, be it from old age or infirmity. Today holders of the Victoria Cross or George Cross are entitled to an annuity, the amount of which is determined by the awarding government. Since 2002, the annuity paid by the British government is £4,495 per year. As of January 2005, under the Canadian Gallantry Awards Order, members of the Canadian Forces or people who joined the British forces before 31 March 1949 while domiciled in Canada or Newfoundland receive $3,000 per year. The Australian Government provides the two surviving Australian recipients a Victoria Cross Allowance under Subsection 103.4 of the Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986. In January 2006 the amount was $4,230 per year which is indexed annually in line with Australian Consumer Price Index increases.

**Recipients**

A total of 1,356 Victoria Crosses have been awarded since 1856 to 1,352 people. Three people have been awarded the VC and Bar, that is a medal for two separate actions; Noel Chavasse and Arthur Martin-Leake, both members of The Royal Army Medical Corps, and New Zealander Charles Upham. In 1921 the award was given to the American Unknown Soldier of the First World War (The British Unknown Warrior was reciprocally awarded the US Medal of Honour) which is in existence that is not counted in any official records. In 1856, Queen Victoria laid a Victoria Cross beneath the foundation stone of Netley Military hospital. When the hospital was demolished in 1966 the VC, known as “The Netley VC”, was retrieved and is now on display in the Army Medical Services Museum, Ash, near Aldershot.

There are several statistics related to the largest number of VCs awarded in individual battles or wars. The largest number awarded for actions on a single day was 24 on 16 November 1857, at the relief of Lucknow and the amount awarded in a single action was 11 for the defence of Roskie’s Drift on 22 January 1879. The record for the number of Victoria Crosses awarded in a single conflict was 634 during the First World War. Following the death in November 2005 of Captain Umar Singh, the last surviving Indian holder of the VC there were only twelve surviving holders of the VC – six British, two Australian and four Gurkhas – eight of them for exploits during the Second World War. The VC holders of the Victoria Cross attended the 150th Anniversary service of remembrance at Westminster Abbey on 26 June 2006. Irishman, Surgeon General William Manley, remains the sole recipient of both the Victoria Cross and the Iron Cross. The Victoria Cross was awarded for his actions during the Walkato- Hauhau Maori War, New Zealand on 29 April 1864 while the Iron Cross was awarded for tending the wounded during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870–71. New Zealand Flying Officer Lloyd Trigg, has the distinction of being the only serviceman ever awarded a VC on evidence solely provided by the enemy, for an action in which there were no surviving Allied witnesses. The recommendation was made by the captain of the German U-boat U-468 sunk by Trigg’s aircraft. Lieutenant-Commander Gerard Roope was also awarded a VC on recommendation of the enemy, the captain of the Admiral Hipper, but there were also numerous surviving Allied witnesses to corroborate his actions.

**Forfeited VCs**

The original Royal Warrant involved an expulsion clause that allowed for a recipient’s name to be erased from the official register in certain wholly discreditable circumstances, and his pension cancelled. King George V though felt very strongly that the decoration should never be forfeited and in a letter to his Private Secretary, Lord Stamfordham, on 26 July 1920, his views are forcibly expressed: The King feels so strongly that, no matter the crime committed by anyone whom the VC has been conferred, the decoration should not be forfeited. Even were a VC to be sentenced to be hanged for murder, he should be allowed to wear his VC on the gallows.

After his intervention the rules pertaining to forfeitures were changed in 1931 and the eight men who had lost their VCs were restored to official lists.

**Sales of the VC**

Some recipients have felt the need to sell their medals, often to avoid rows between their children. “By selling the medal they’re raking the problem away. Now that they sell for such a huge sum, it is very difficult for someone to leave their medal to a regiment. The most important thing is that it is on display somewhere to serve as a future inspiration.” Diddy Grahame, Secretary of the VC and GC Association.

The inherent value of the VC can be seen by the increasing sums that the medals reach at auction. In 1955 the medal awarded to Edmund Barron Hartley was bought at Sotheby’s for the then record price of £300. In October 1966 the Middlesex Regiment paid a...
**Dawn Service (6.00am)**
*Kings Park & Botanic Gardens*

The annual Dawn Service will be conducted at the State War Memorial Precinct of Fraser Avenue, commencing at 6.00am. Leading up to the Service, a programme of historical material from the archives of the National War Museum will tell the story of Australians at war. A number of big screens have been erected around the memorial precinct to show this film and also relay vision of the Service itself.

**The conduct of the Dawn Service comprises:**
- The Still - 6.00am
- Laying of Official Wreaths
- The Last Post
- Silence
- Reveille
- The Ode

At the conclusion of the silent Dawn Service an address will be delivered by Commodore Richard Shalders CSC RAN ADC (Royal Australian Navy).

**Special Access - Seating**
For the comfort and assistance of elderly and disabled veterans, seats will be placed on the upper level of the Court of Contemplation. Entry to this area is through the main entrance to the State War Memorial.

**Special Access - Parking**
The Fraser’s Restaurant car park off May Drive is reserved for the aged, frail and disabled.

**Dawn Service Bus Shuttle**
A free shuttle will operate from near the Vietnam Memorial Pavilion in the Western Power Parkland on May Drive. The shuttle will run from 4.45am to 5.45am, returning at the conclusion of the Dawn Service.

**Kings Park**
Kings Park Kiosk Open: 5.00am - 5.40am (closing for the service) The Kiosk, Tea Rooms and Fraser’s Restaurant all open at 6.30am.

**ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast (7.00am)**
Following the Dawn Service in Kings Park and preceding the ANZAC Day March through the City a traditional gunfire breakfast will be held in Stirling Garden in St Georges Tce (next door to Council House) commencing at 7.00am. Veterans and members of the community are invited to attend and share the spirit of ANZAC Day.

**ANZAC Day March (9.20am)**
The March will commence with the Australian Defence Forces stepping off from Langley Reserve at 9.20am. Hospital vehicles and troop carrying vehicles will follow the ADF. Veteran Contingents step off at 9.40am from the intersection of Barrack St and St George’s Terrace. The Parade marches west along St Georges Terrace, left in to William St and then left on to The Esplanade Reserve. The salute (to the Right) will be taken on St Georges Terrace at the saluting dais in front of Trinity Church.

Officer is the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC.

**ANZAC Day Service (11.00am)**
The Parade will enter The Esplanade Reserve off Williams St. The Parade will form up on the Esplanade facing north. The ANZAC Day Service will commence at approximately 11.00am when all Units and Associations are assembled.

**Public Facilities**
Seating for aged, frail and disabled is also available at the front of the Parade. In addition, there are large areas of open grass available for the public on the Reserve. Toilet facilities will be available on both sides of the Reserve.

**CBD Parking**
All City of Perth Parking open air carparks will be open on ANZAC Day. Fees will not apply at the following carparks between 6am-1pm – Terrace Rd, Point Fraser, Plain St, Queens Gardens, Fire Station and Entertainment Centre. Thereafter standard carpark fees will apply. Standard fees will apply at all other City of Perth Parking carparks at all times.

**Public Transport on ANZAC Day**
Transperth InfoLine (bus, train & ferry) 13 62 13 or www.transperth.wa.gov.au TTY (for hearing impaired) 9428 1999
Forming Up Areas

HAY STREET MALL

ST GEORGES TERRACE

WILLIAM STREET

THE ESPLANADE

RIVERSIDE DRIVE

ORDER OF MARCH, FRIDAY 25 APRIL 2008

1. Electrical Forces
2. Legislative Forces
3. Defence Forces Contingent
4. Ex-Service Contingent
5. Royal Australian Navy
6. Royal Australian Air Force
7. Australian Army
8. Royal Australian Police
9. WA Fire & Rescue Service
10. Australian Army Cadets
11. Australian Army Cadets Training Team Vietnam
12. RAAF Police
13. Royal Air Force Cadet Unit
14. WA Police
15. Defence Reps
16. Jeeps
17. Hospital Cars
18. 7 Wing Aust. Air Force Cadet
19. Fleet Air Arm Cadet Unit
20. HMAS Sydney Assn
21. HMAS Hobart Assn
22. HMAS Westralia Assn
23. HMAS Brisbane Assn
24. 2/7th Field Regiment Artillery
25. 2/3rd Field Regiment Artillery (WA)
26. Ex-Wrans Assn
27. “N” Class Destroyers
28. 1st Field Hospital
29. Royal Flying Doctor Service
30. RAN Clearance Divers
31. Far East Strategic Reserve (Navy) Assoc
32. Vietnam Logistics Support Veterans Assn
33. Submarines Assn Aust
34. Submariners Assn of Aust
35. Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships
36. Allied Merchant Seamen Assn
37. 6th Aust Division Cavalry Regiment Assn (WA)
38. Royal Green Jackets Assn
39. “Z” Special Unit Assn/16th Cameron Highlanders
40. “Z” Special Unit (Aust) Inc. International
41. Royal Australian Air Force Cadet Unit
42. Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) Branch
43. 2/3rd Field Regiment Artillery
44. 2/2nd Field Regiment Artillery
45. Royal Army Cadet Unit
46. Royal Australian Army Corps (Aust)
47. Royal Australian Army Corps (Aust) Branch
48. Royal Australian Engineers
49. Army Catering Corps
50. Royal Australian Army Service Corps
51. Royal Australian Signals Assn (including 11 Division Signals Assn)
52. 2/7th Australian Infantry Battalion
53. 2/11th AIF Battalion Assn
54. 2/16th Battalion Assn/16th Cameron Highlanders
55. 2/26th Battalion Assn
56. 2/43rd Battalion Assn
57. 2/48th Battalion
58. 2/50th Battalion
59. 2/53rd Battalion
60. 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion
61. 2/13th Field Ambulance
62. 2/7th Field Regiment Artillery
63. 2/13th Field Ambulance
64. 2/14th Field Regiment Artillery
65. 1 RAR
66. RAR Association
67. 13th Brigade AIF Group (11th, 16th, 28th, 44th Battalions)
68. 133. Guides
69. Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (VATTV) Assn
70. Australian Army Trenching Team Vietnam (VATTV) Assn
71. 100. BCOF Assn
72. 107. Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans Assn
73. 106. National Servicemen’s Association
74. 105. Defence Reserves Assn & (WA University Reg Assn)
75. 104. 86 Transport Platoon Vietnam Reunion 2008
76. 103. Vietnam Veterans Assn
77. 102. Malaya & Borneo Veterans
78. 101. North American Veterans Unit
79. 100. Australian Air Force Cadet Branch
80. 99. North American Veterans Unit
81. 98. RAAF Police Assn
82. 97. Australian Air Force Cadet Branch
83. 96. No. 3 Telecommunications Unit Association
84. 95. RAAF Police Assn
85. 94. 25 Squadron
86. 93. Red Cross Aides
87. 92. Catalina Club of WA
88. 91. Fighter Squadron Assoc. & 3 Squadron Assn
89. 90. RAAF Nursing Service
90. 88. WAAAF Branch
91. Women’s Royal Australian Army Corps
92. 87. Royal Australian Air Force
93. 86. Red Cross Aides
94. 85. Women’s Royal Australian Army Corps
95. 84. Royal Australian Nursing Corps Assn
96. 83. RAR Association
97. 82. VADs & Australian Army Medical Women’s Service
98. 81. Returned Sisters
99. 80. 2/13th Field Ambulance
100. 79. 2/7th Field Regiment Artillery
101. 78. 1st Field Hospital
102. 77. Royal Australian Army 2nd Division
103. 76. Ordnance Field Park Reunion 2008
104. 75. Royal Australian Army Service Corps
105. 74. 86 Transport Platoon Vietnam Reunion 2008
106. 73. Brigade
107. 72. 13th Division
108. 71. HQ 1ATF
109. 70. Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (VATTV) Assn
110. 69. Australian Army Trenching Team Vietnam (VATTV) Assn
111. 68. Royal Australian Police
112. 67. Royal Australian Police
113. 66. Royal Australian Police
114. 65. RAR Association
115. 64. RAR Association
116. 63. 13th Brigade AIF Group (11th, 16th, 28th, 44th Battalions)
117. 62. 1st Field Hospital
118. 61. 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion
119. 60. 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion
120. 59. 2/48th Battalion
121. 58. 2/43rd Battalion Assn
122. 57. 2/48th Battalion
123. 56. 2/50th Battalion
124. 55. 2/26th Battalion Assn
125. 54. 2/16th Battalion Assn/16th Cameron Highlanders
126. 53. 2/11th AIF Battalion Assn
127. 52. 2/7th Australian Infantry Battalion
128. 51. Royal Australian Signals Assn (including 11 Division Signals Assn)
129. 50. Royal Australian Engineers
130. 49. Army Catering Corps
131. 48. Royal Australian Army Corps (Aust)
132. 47. Royal Australian Army Corps (Aust) Branch
133. 46. “Z” Special Unit (Aust) Inc. International
134. 45. Royal Army Cadet Unit
135. 44. Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) Branch
136. 43. 2/3rd Field Regiment Artillery
137. 42. Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) Branch
138. 41. Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) Branch
139. 40. “Z” Special Unit Assn/16th Cameron Highlanders
140. 39. “Z” Special Unit Assn of WA
141. 38. Royal Air Force Cadet Unit
142. 37. 6th Aust Division Cavalry Regiment Assn (WA)
143. 36. Allied Merchant Seamen Assn
144. 35. Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships
145. 34. Submarines Assn Aust
146. 33. HMAS Brisbane Assn
147. 32. Vietnam Logistics Support Veterans Assn
148. 31. Far East Strategic Reserve (Navy) Assoc
149. 30. RAN Clearance Divers
150. 29. 2/7th Field Regiment Artillery
151. 28. 1st Field Hospital
152. 27. “N” Class Destroyers
153. 26. Ex-Wrans Assn
154. 25. 2/13th Field Ambulance
155. 24. HMAS Westralia Assn
156. 23. HMAS Brisbane Assn
157. 22. HMAS Hobart Assn
158. 21. HMAS Sydney Assn
159. 20. HMAS Perth National Assn
160. 19. HMAS Sydney Assn
161. 18. Naval Aviation Branch
162. 17. Royal Australian Police
163. 16. Zealotes Police
164. 15. Australian Police
165. 14. Police Rangers
166. 13. Royal Australian Police
167. 12. Royal Australian Police
168. 11. Royal Australian Police
169. 10. Royal Australian Police
170. 9. Royal Australian Police
171. 8. Royal Australian Police
172. 7. Royal Australian Police
173. 6. Royal Australian Police
174. 5. Royal Australian Police
175. 4. Royal Australian Police
176. 3. Royal Australian Police
177. 2. Royal Australian Police
178. 1. Royal Australian Police

Please note: Bands have not been added.

The final Forming Up areas will be advertised in The West Australian on Saturday, 22 April 2008 and on the RSL website: www.rslwahq.org.au

The SALUTING - “EYES RIGHT” dais is to be located in St George’s Tce in front of Trinity Church.

PursloweFunerals is proud to announce their 100 year anniversary.

Things have changed, but our commitment to the Perth community hasn’t.

Purslowe Funerals have been a trusted provider of funeral services for Perth families. Today we are a modern, Australian owned company that can provide you and your family the exact funeral service you desire.

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THE LISTENING POST April 2008 15
new record figure of £900 for a medal awarded after the Battle of the Somme. In January 1969 the record reached £1700 for the medal of William Rennie. In April 2004 the VC awarded in 1944 to Sergeant Norman Jackson, RA, was sold at auction for £235,250.

On 24 July 2006, an auction at Bonhams in Sydney of the VC awarded to Captain Alfred Shour fetched a world record hammer price of AU$1 million. Captain Alfred Shour was awarded the VC posthumously in 1915 for hand-to-hand combat at the Lone Pine trenches in Gallipoli, Turkey. The buyer (Kerry Stokes) has indicated that it will be displayed at the Australian War Memorial with the eight other VCs awarded to Australians at Gallipoli.

Thiefs of the VC
Given the rarity of the Victoria Cross and the fact they are rarely sold, these decorations are highly prized on the black market. Several VCs have been stolen and being valuable have been placed on the Interpol watch-list for stolen items.

The VC awarded to Milton Gregg, which was donated to the Royal Regiment of Canada Museum in London, Ontario Canada in 1979, was stolen on Canada Day, (1 July 1980), when the museum was overcrowded and has been missing since. A VC awarded in 1917 to Canadian soldier Corporal Filip Konowal was stolen from the same museum in 1973 and was not recovered until 2004.

In the UK
In 2004 a national Victoria Cross and George Cross memorial was installed in Westminster Abbey close to the tomb of The Unknown Warrior. Westminster Abbey is a living monument to British history in that it contains monuments and memorials to central figures in British History including Charles Darwin and James VI & I. As such it was a significant honour for the VC to be commemorated in Westminster Abbey.

National Museums with significant (10 or more) VC holdings in the UK include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Museum</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of VCs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Imperial War Museum</td>
<td>Kennington, London</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The National Army Museum</td>
<td>Chelsea, London</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal Green Jacks Museum</td>
<td>Winchester, Hampshire</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal Engineers Museum</td>
<td>Gillingham, Kent</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Army Medical Services Museum</td>
<td>Mytchett, Surrey</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal Regiment of Artillery Museum</td>
<td>Woolwich, London</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Queen's Own Highlanders Museum</td>
<td>Anderston, Inverness-shire</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The South Wales Borderers Museum</td>
<td>Brecon, Wales</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Green Howards Regimental Museum</td>
<td>Richmond, Yorkshire</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal Fusiliers Museum</td>
<td>Tower of London</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The National Maritime Museum</td>
<td>Greenwich, London</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The National War Museum of Scotland</td>
<td>Edinburgh Castle</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The RAF Museum</td>
<td>Hendon, London</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sherwood Foresters Museum</td>
<td>Nottingham</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gurkha Museum</td>
<td>Winchester, Hampshire</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal Marines Museum</td>
<td>Portsmouth, Hampshire</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum</td>
<td>Caernarfon Castle, Wales</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outside the UK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Museum</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of VCs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian War Memorial</td>
<td>Canberra, Australia</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian War Museum</td>
<td>Ottawa, Ontario</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QEII Army Memorial Museum</td>
<td>Waito, New Zealand</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Private collections

Lord Ashcroft
British businessman and politician Lord Ashcroft has amassed a private collection of over 140 VCs. Lord Ashcroft purchased his first medal in 1986 and the collection now contains over a tenth of the medals ever awarded, the largest private collection of such medals ever accumulated. The medals are now looked after by The Ashcroft Collection and a book detailing the collection was published in November 2006.

Canon William Lumniss
Canon William Murrell Lumniss, MC, was a military historian who built up an archive on the service records and final resting places of Victoria Cross holders. This was then summarised into a pamphlet which was taken to be an authoritative source on these matters. However, Lumniss was aware of short-comings in his work and encouraged David Harvey to continue it. The result was Harvey's seminal book Memorials to Courage. In 2007 the Royal Mail used material from Lumniss’ archives to produce a collection of stamps commemorating Victoria Cross winners.

In Australia our first Victoria Cross recipient was Captain Neville Reginald Howe V.C. from The New South Wales Army Medical Corps for action on the 24th July 1900. At Vredefort Orange Free State, South Africa, the citation for Captain Howe reads: “During the action at Vredefort, on the 24th July 1900, Captain Howe went out under a very heavy cross-fire and picked up a wounded man and carried him to a place of shelter. (London Gazette: 4th June 1901)”. In Australia we have two (2) surviving V.C. holders, Mr Keith Payne V.C., (see Listening Post October 2007, Page 6) and Mr Edward Kenna V.C.

References:
Wikipedia.org (Encyclopaedia).
The Department of Veteran’s Affairs.
“They Dared Mightily”, edited by Lionel Wigmore and Bruce Harding Published by Australian War Memorial ACT 1963.

Denis Connelly
The Australian War Memorial has recently acquired personal effects belonging to Lieutenant JR ‘Jack’ Millett, including rare escape maps. Millett, born in Subiaco in 1912, was a prisoner of war during the Second World War in Germany, and earned his reputation as the ‘map maker of Colditz’.

“The collection of photos, medals and maps is very comprehensive,” Senior Curator, Nick Fletcher said. The collection of mimeograph maps is significant because until now, Australian War Memorial has not held any ‘master maps’ used to make mimeograph copies for prisoners attempting their escapes.” Also of interest is a hand-made key rolled from sheet-metal by the prisoners. “The key was used to break-in to the food storage at the camp, which would have helped greatly with the prisoner’s survival inside Colditz.”

“The public has been very interested in this new collection, so we are working very hard to preserve the large collection as quickly as possible. The maps have generate the most interest, but it is unlikely they will ever be on permanent display because they are so fragile. However, once conservation is complete they will be available through the reading room in the research centre,” Mr Fletcher said.


Map-Maker Millett

A sample of the collection.

EASE THE PAIN OF YOUR FAMILY'S LOSS
WITH A PRE-PAID FUNERAL FROM BOWRA & O'DEA.

IN THE CONFUSION AND EMOTIONAL NUMBNESS THAT FOLLOWS WHEN A PERSON DIES, IT CAN BE DIFFICULT FOR GRIEVING RELATIVES TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Bowra & O’Dea Directors, wholly owned and operated in Western Australia for more than 130 years, are now offering a special service to RSL members interested in PrePaid Funeral Plans.

There are many benefits to a PrePaid Funeral Plan:

• The peace of mind of knowing your family will not have to make burdensome decisions at difficult time.

• The opportunity to design the funeral service as you wish and not as others would like it.

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• You will lessen the anguish that family may feel regarding whether they did the right thing.

• We will arrange an obligation free appointment to discuss your personal needs.

• Your PrePaid Funeral Plan can be paid in instalments.

Special extras for RSL members:

• Free extra limousine

• No administration fee for immediate payment in full

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ON (08) 9231 5100

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The benefits of walking

By Dr Margaret Sturdy
Director of Medical Services at Hollywood Private Hospital

This is the next instalment of healthy living articles contributed to Listening Post by Dr Margaret Sturdy, Director of Medical Services at Hollywood Private Hospital.

If you have any suggested topics for further articles, please let me know either by email HYPERLINK "mailto:sturdym@ramsayhealth.com.au"sturdym@ramsayhealth.com.au or by phone 9546 6249.

Hollywood has a proud tradition of caring for the ex-service community in many ways. We are planning to send two of our nurses to provide support to the Wavy Dunlop tour to the Thai Burma railway for the ANZAC Day service. We have provided this support for many years now. We believe that our staff attending this pilgrimage gain a first hand insight into the conditions in which the prisoners of war were exposed. With that insight comes a greater admiration and respect for this very unique group of Australians, to whom the country is indebted.

Hollywood continues to provide a wide range of important medical and surgical services to the Veteran and War Widow community in Western Australia. With over 60 years of experience, no other hospital in Western Australia has Hollywood’s expertise or understanding of the special needs and wants of the ex-service community. If you are requiring hospitalisation and wish to come to Hollywood, please ask your GP to refer you to a specialist who regularly admits to Hollywood Private Hospital. Any queries with admissions over the phone 9346 6249.

Any questions with admissions requiring hospitalisation and wish to come to Hollywood, please ask your GP to refer you to a specialist who regularly admits to Hollywood Private Hospital. Any queries with admissions over the phone 9346 6249.

There is one simple activity which has recently regained its status as a crucial aspect to a healthy long life. I’m sure you will have heard of people from certain areas of central Europe, for whom a lifespan of over 100 years is not uncommon. And when you see pictures of them, it is hard to believe that they are as old as they say. However, they put their long lives down to walking.

Let’s look at a couple of areas in more detail.

Osteoporosis is the process whereby bones become weakened and more liable to fracture with minimal trauma. At Hollywood we often see people who have dreadful back pain after a minor incident, and when X-Ray their spine, we see that there is a compression fracture of one or more of the vertebrae. The bone has lost its strength because of loss of calcium as well as the structural elements of the bone. It is well known that women going through the menopause are at a high risk of loss of bone density. However the condition occurs in men and also in young adults whose diet may be deficient in calcium. There is overwhelming evidence that adequate dietary calcium, combined with weight bearing or load bearing exercise will go a long way to preventing degeneration of bones which is frequently associated with ageing.

In practical terms what does this mean? Well I know that certain foods are rich in calcium. Dairy foods, meat and fish are all good sources – especially fish with soft edible bones such as salmon (this also gives the added benefit of being high in omega 3 fatty acids) if these foods are not to your palate, then a simple once or twice a day calcium supplement may be recommended by your GP. Weight bearing exercise such as walking has been shown to dramatically reduce the rate of loss of bone density, and to restore strength to weakened bones. There is good evidence that the rate of compression fracture of the spine can be reduced by simply walking every day. Of course there are other medications which are available for this condition, but a half hour a day of prevention is better than a lifetime of medication.

One of the big fears of ageing is the fear of memory loss. Some forgetfulness is normal for those of us who have never gone out to the shops to get something, and come back with 10 other things but not the one you went for! However conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease which causes progressive and ultimately devastating memory loss are not normal and not are they an inevitable feature of ageing. Alzheimer’s disease is caused by the deposition of protein-like substance in the brain, called beta amyloid. It is found most densely in the areas of the brain associated with memory. The early features of the condition are very difficult to detect, with the loss of recent memories being most affected. A typical example of this may be that the sufferer may not remember what happened in their lives yesterday, but may be able to give detailed accounts of events of their childhood. In the worst cases the sufferer may not recognise loved ones. And therein lies the tragedy of the condition, as it affects not only the sufferer, but also everyone else in the sphere of their lives. Whilst we are now closer to understanding many of the factors involved in the deposition of beta amyloid, we are still a long way off a cure. However, there is some promising research which is being conducted by Professor Ralph Martin’s at Hollywood Private Hospital suggesting that regular daily exercise can be preventive, and can slow down the progression of memory loss. This typically involves around ½ hour a day of walking. That is a pretty good investment in your future! I am also a great exponent of the ‘use it or lose it philosophy’. Regular brain exercises are essential to keep the brain active and functioning well. Any brain activity is good, and this means reading, crossword puzzles, mathematical puzzles, debating and even discussions about current affairs are all acceptable, desirable and highly recommended.

The other key area in which walking can be of benefit is that of general wellbeing. The benefits of exercise include cardiovascular fitness (i.e. healthy heart and lungs), general muscle strength and balance enabling you to remain active for longer and reducing the risk of falls, and improvement in mood. Many studies of people with depression comparing various treatments show that depressed people who exercise recover more quickly and with less need for medications than their counterparts who do not exercise. The proposed reasons for this relate to the release of ‘happy chemicals’ in the brain brought on by exercise.

How’s your GP? I hear you say. Ron Clarke, one of Australia’s greatest middle and long distance runners said in his book “Running” that the hardest thing about running is putting on your shoes and walking to the front door. I would like to misquote him and say that the hardest thing about going for a walk is putting on a pair of comfortable shoes and walking out your front door. Do you not need to walk fast, you do not need to walk far, you do not need to carry weight or swing your feet like the ‘power walkers’ (also known as the wally walkers) do. You simply need to walk out of your house and stay on your feet for about half an hour a day. You will feel the benefits straight away. You will have the longer term benefits of increased muscle strength, bone strength and general fitness. Want a bit of company? Why not start a neighbourhood walking group. Get to know your neighbours better. Get to know your streets. Enjoy your walk or maybe even drive to another locality and walk around there – go to the beach or to King’s Park or along the beautiful Swan River foreshore – how lucky are we? WALKING FOR ½ HOUR A DAY IS THE BEST INVESTMENT YOU CAN MAKE IN YOUR FUTURE HEALTH.

Of course you love your parents (…but sometimes they just drive you crazy)

When providing daily care to someone with dementia, or someone frail aged, the time comes when the carer needs a break.

For everyone’s sake, carers need time off to rest and recharge.

Bethanie Community Care has several programs which can provide assistance on a daily, weekly, extended weekend, or going, once off or emergency basis.

In other words, whenever and however respite or assistance is needed, we can help.

The Host Family program provides an extended respite period, lasting up to 66 hours, or there are shorter carer respite occasions available.

We can also arrange for staff to visit and provide a range of services, like cleaning or cooking, as and when required.

The Community Care Packages and the National Respite for Carers Program provided by Bethanie Community Care are funded by the Australian Government.

How to access the services

All you need to do is call.

A Doctor’s referral is not required, nor is an ACAT assessment.

Pick up the phone

It’s this easy: call 1300 768 408 and ask what help is available. But don’t put it off. Call today.
The ANZAC on the Wall

I wandered through a country town 'cos I had time to spare,
And went into an antique shop to see what was in there.
The old man kept on talking and, according to his tale,
The photo was unwanted junk bought from a clearance sale.
I asked around; the old man said, "but no one knows his face.
He's been on that wall twenty years, deserves a better place.
For some one must have loved him so, it seems a shame somehow.
I nodded in agreement and then said, 'I'll take him now.'

My nameless digger's photo, well it was a sorry sight
A cracked glass pane and a broken frame - I had to make it right.
To prise the photo from its frame I took care just in case.
'Cause only sticky paper held the cardboard back in place.

I peeped away the faded screed and much to my surprise,
Two letters and a telegram appeared before my eyes.
The first reveals my ANZAC's name, and regiment of course
John Mathew Francis Stuart - of Australia's own Light Horse.
This letter written from the front, my interest now was keen
That's why we need you home son" - then the flow of ink went dry-
"Your Kathy calls around a lot since you have been away
And she could not face the awful truth, to strangers she would say no.
Would you no greater cattleman had left the town before.
And always softly say "yes dear - John will be home next week."

That's when she died, Bluey moved on, to Queensland some three weeks later.
And always softly say "yes dear - John will be home next week."
So as John's gallant sprit rose to cross the great divide
That's when John's life was sacrificed, the record's crystal clear.
It raged for several minutes, it gave us all a fright

That's why he takes the pride of place - my ANZAC on the Wall.

I wish I had a chance to meet my visitors today
Knowing they remember well the reason that I died.
A Poppy? Yes and flag as well I feel a sense of pride
As I've heard wiser men, Acknowledge there are many things that go beyond our ken.
Where craggy peaks guard secrets neath dark skies torn asunder
Would you no greater cattleman had left the town before.

A nameless face within a frame on every mantle piece.
Some proof of numerology, or just a quirk of fate?
Because he'd never feel his master on his back again?
Is that why Billy bolted and went racing as in pain?
Some lightning bolts back home a signal from the other side?
So I continued digging cause I wanted to know more
I found John's name with thousands in the records of the war.
"Then he copped it at the front from some stray shrapnel"
"But 4pm in Beersheba is midnight over here......."
That's when John's life was sacrificed, the record's crystal clear.
By: JE Miller

My Dream

How many people need to die? How many tears do we have to cry?
How much heartache, how much pain? How many times can we do it again?
How many wars 'till we get the peace? How many deaths 'till we find release?
How many bombs, how many tears? How many hundreds of thousands of years?
I dream of a future free from war.
I dream for peace on every shore.
I dream for bullets to run dry.
I dream for love to multiply.

How many warnings about the heat? How many times can we defeat it?
How many floods, how many flames? How much more can we play these games?
How many houses blown away? How much more will we have to pay?
How many times can we ignore? Nature has come to set the score.
I dream for a future green and light.
I dream for day as well as night.
I dream for trees that are always green.
I dream for air that's fresh and clean.

How many riots and turf wars? How many bodies on the floor?
How much racism can we take? How much before a big mistake?
How much longer can it rage? How much longer 'till it must assuage?
How many times must we ask? We all know colours just a mask.
I dream of a future where colour don't matter.
I dream of a place where blood doesn't splatter.
I dream of there being no black and no white.
I dream of everything being all right.
I dream of equality, of ending this mess.
I dream of a time with less distress.
I dream of a future, bright and clear.
I dream of Gen 't, bringing it here.

Caitlin Harwell, 17

A New Hat

Peace and quite consume me as I spend my well earned rest
Dwelling on my life that was, I know I passed the test.
My fallen mates beside me, they're hero's one and all
And for paying life's eternal price in answering the call.
Suddenly a strong sensation wakes me from my sleep
Muffled voices trickle down beneath the earth so deep.
The sound of footsteps gathered close- it makes me wonder why?
For ninety years the strolling echo's simply wandered by.
Could it be that someone close remembers where I lay?
Is my memory still endured from long gone yesterday?
A nameless face within a frame on every marble piece.
Is what becomes of us when distant memories cease.

The muffled thud of closing doors awakens me again
The whining sounds of motors in the distance start to wane
My spirit reaches upward- ever slowly through the ground
To view the tell-tale poppy of friends do newly found

A Poppys? Yes and flag as well I feel a sense of pride
Knowing they remember well the reason that I died.
How many floods, how many flames? How much more can we play these games?
How many times can we do it again?
But what is this? There's something else been left beside my stone
A brand new hat with badge and strap like the one I used to own.
I wish I had a chance to meet my visitors today
To find out what connected us and what would make them stay
To a plot of land within a field in a foreign country side
To lay a flag, new hat and flower where the soldiers ghosts reside

The mighty shadow slowly sets it's veil over all
And as I sleep my thoughts and dreams so vividly recall
Of home, of friends, of family- the essence of our lives
Amidst the flags that the flowers- our memory survives.

Anonymous

By: JE Miller
We’re doing alright!!

We may not be as smart as we were
But we are doing alright…
Even though we cough and splutter
And stay awake at night...
We brush up quite reasonable
For girls who are eighty plus
We take the things just as they come
And never make a fuss...
We do have trouble finding things
That we know we haven’t lost
We know they must be here somewhere
And we’ll find them soon, at any old cost.
The spectacles seem to take on legs
When there is something to be read
You search around quite madly
Then find them on your head…
You go to fetch a certain item
And the memory takes a lapse
So back you go to base again
To put the brain to tax…
They talk about incontinence
That comes with our old age...
When in time the bladder weakens
Until it reaches non-stop-stage.
But we are doing really fine
Men no longer make us passes.
Now I’ve got the morning paper…
But where did I put my framing glasses?

Edie Arnold

COOKING FOR ONE OR TWO

“Cooking for One or Two” is a DVA funded program run by the peak nutrition organisation, Nutrition Australia. The program is aimed at veterans over the age of fifty who have had very little experience at cooking or may lack the motivation to cook for themselves.

The cost is $42.00.00 which includes all food, nutrition discussions and resources plus a copy of Nutrition Australia’s "Adding Life to Your Years" – the cookbook. The classes run once a week over six consecutive weeks from 10.30am until 1.30pm. Both men and women are welcome to attend.

Narelle Little, Nutritionist and "Cooking for One or Two" coordinator, says that the course is very interactive and social.

"The participants work in pairs to prepare and cook a two course meal each week. They then sit down and enjoy the meal together”.

"The atmosphere is very relaxed and friendly and it’s a great opportunity for people to meet others from their local area in a similar situation”.

New classes will commence on May 5th at the Yokeine Bowling Club and May 9th at the Mt Pleasant Bowling Club. Places are limited so please register your interest early to avoid disappointment. To book please contact Narelle Little from Nutrition Australia on 6390 4245 or email narelle.little@ceu.edu.au.

THE LISTENING POST April 2008 21

A PEARSENTATION
AND TOUR AT WOODBRIDGE

THE HARPERS

THE ANZACS

LEST WE FORGET

ANZAC DAY

FRIDAY 25TH APRIL

2.00 TO 3.30PM

ADULTS $7.50

CONCESSION $5.00

CHILD $4.50

FAMILY $20

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

TEL: 9321 6068

EMAIL: trust@ntwa.com.au

NATIONAL TRUST
OF AUSTRALIA (WA)

The Unknown Comic

It was April and the Aboriginals in a remote part of Northern Australia asked their new elder if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was an elder in a modern community he had never been taught the old secrets, but not wishing to seem untrained he told the tribe that the winter was indeed going to be a cold one, and that they should gather firewood to be prepared.

Being practical, after a few days he walked out to the telephone booth on the highway, called the Bureau of Meteorology and asked if the coming winter was going to be cold. The meteorologist told him it was going to be very cold. So he went back and told the tribe to gather more firewood.

A week later the elder again phoned the meteorologist who told him he was absolutely sure that the winter was going to be very cold. The meteorologist explained: “There are reports coming in that the aboriginals have been out collecting firewood like crazy, and that’s always a sure sign!”

Edie Arnold

Honour the memory of Gresley and Wilfred

Special presentation

to take place on ANZAC Day at the National Trust’s Woodbridge property near Midland.

This presentation honours the memory of Gresley and Wilfred Harper who were killed at the Battle of the Nek on 7 August 1915.

Many thanks to Joy Lefroy, Coordinator Education & Learning.

2/3 COMPOSITE A.A. REGT. (W.A.)

NATIONAL TRUST
OF AUSTRALIA (WA)

THE ARMY MUSEUM OF W.A.

ARTILLERY BARRACKS

BURLINGTON STREET, PERTH WA 6000

PHONE 93857533

THE 2/3 COMPOSITE A.A. REGT. (W.A.)

ANZAC DAY will be presented to

THE ARMOURY

2/3 THE BOUTYUARD

FYOICL BOYRCL, W408

PHONE 93857533

TUES 24TH APRIL, 2009

2/3 COMPOSITE A.A. REGT. (W.A.)

NATIONAL TRUST
OF AUSTRALIA (WA)

THE A MUSEUM OF W.A.

ARTILLERY BARRACKS

BURLINGTON STREET, PERTH WA 6000

PHONE 93857533

TUESDAY 7TH MAY, 2009

MUSEUMS AND INSTITUTIONS ARE TO BE WORN.

THESE COLOURS WILL BE HANDED OVER BY MAJOR MILTON McCOWNED TO THE

ASSISTED BY JIM MANNERS, AS THE LONGEST SERVING PRESIDENT OF THE

TUESDAY 9TH MAY, 2009

THOSE ATTENDANCE AT THE CELEBRATION.

MOORING TO BE RESERVED FOR WAR VETERANS.

JOHN C. McCOWN PRESIDENT

W.A. REMEMBRENT COMITTEE

2/3 COMPOSITE A.A. REGT.
Adelaide hands in her Ensign

Shortly before 1100 on Saturday January 19, 2008, the Australian White Ensign was hauled down aboard HMAS Adelaide for the final time as the decommissioned. The decommissioning of a ship is a poignant moment and in Adelaide’s case it was even more so, marking the end of an era for the Royal Australian Navy with the decommissioning of its original Adelaide Class Frigate (FFG). While Adelaide is not the first RAN FFG to be decommissioned, HMAS Canberra being the first of her sisters to pay-off in 2005, the decommissioning of the First-of-Class is always a landmark occasion.

In front of some 400 family members, VIPs and assembled invitees, Adelaide’s crew paraded for the last time as Commander Australian Fleet, RADM Nigel Coates presided over the sombre ceremony. VIPs who joined the Chief of Navy, VADM Russ Shalders AO, CSC, RAN, at the decommissioning included the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, the Hon Di Mike Kelly and the Guest of Honour, Ms Amanda Synnot, daughter of the late former Chief of Defence Force Staff and CN, ADM Sir Anthony Synnot whose wife, Lady Anne Synnot, commissioned Adelaide in November 1980 in Seattle. (Lady Synnot regretted she was unable to attend). A number of former Commanding Officers and members of the commissioning crew was in attendance.

In keeping with tradition, the last member of the ship’s company to march off the ship was the Commanding Officer, CMDR Rob Slaven. He marched ashore with the ship’s last Australian White Ensign, which he formally presented to the Fleet Commander for safekeeping until it is presented at the decommissioning of the next HMAS Adelaide. CMDR Slaven was the 24th Commanding Officer to have enjoyed the honour of commanding the RAN’s premier warship.

Among the decommissioning crew were several personnel who had watched a very shiny and new Adelaide proudly arrive in Sydney for the first time on December 17, 1982. Two of the ship’s Heads of Department, the Weapons Electrical Engineering Officer (WEO) CMDR Brian Chase and Mechanical Engineering Officer (MEO) LCDR Ron Condor, were both ABs serving in HMAS Swan and remember watching the first of the ‘plastic fantastics’ arriving, both agreeing that “they’d never want to serve in one of those!” Famous words indeed!

During her 27 years of service Adelaide has been involved in almost every operation the RAN has undertaken. Adelaide was one of the first RAN warships to deploy to the Gulf in 1990, deploying twice more into the Gulf as part of Operation Slipper in 2002 and Operation Catalyst in 2004. Adelaide also assisted during both East Timor operations in 1999 and 2006. Adelaide also attained fame as the ship that conducted the search and rescue of the Antarctic station Thalassa. The ship also deployed to the Southern Ocean in 1997.

The name Adelaide will not be missing from the Australian Fleet for long however, with the second of the new Canberra Class Landing Helicopter Dock (LHDs) soon to be built, earmarked to carry the name proudly into the future.

Impoverished communities in Mauritius will receive some unexpected help this year from a group of university students in WA. A group of Curtin University students will work with the Helping Hands Society, a newly formed organisation that aims to provide financial and material aid to Mauritian families in need. Students from the John Curtin Leadership Academy at Curtin University have lent their skills and experience to this organisation professionally and commercially.

Five students from a range of study areas will work together with the organisation to improve business practices, financial sustainability and publicity.

The JCLA student team has planned several events to encourage private and public awareness for this cause including a soccer tournament and corporate sundowner.

The student team has also teamed up with ANZAC House to launch the first ever International Children Aid Fundraiser on April 25 to raise funds for the Mauritian cause.

JCLA team member Daniel Harley, 19, said this new initiative is ultimately aimed at helping children all over the world. “This is just the beginning for us, we are hoping this event will be sustainable so that each year we can help children from different regions around the world,” Mr Harley said.

The JCLA became interested in the Mauritian cause through their involvement with the Helping Hands Society. Helping Hands began as a family charity but has now grown into a registered organisation of more than thirty members.

The Mauritian-born president of Helping Hands Daniel de Casanove said student input would be invaluable to the organisation. “We estimate we have 35 sponsors that provide $20,000 a month to Mauritian families in need but we want to grow, and become bigger,” Mrs de Casanove said.

I’m hoping the students will be able to help us grow, help us develop professionally, and perhaps inject some fresh ideas into the organisation.” Mr Harley said the Mauritian project was one of the most ambitious undertakens by the JCLA team.

“In the past we’ve worked with more local charity organisations and to be able to go international this time seemed like a natural next step for us,” Mr Harley said.

Holiday Accommodation now available at Baldivis

The “Totally and Permanently Disabled Veterans of WA Inc.” (TPDVWA) have announced that recently built facilities at picturesque 1677 Mandurah Road, Baldivis has short term accommodation available.

The Manager, Mr Peter Douglas said that “we were pleased, as what we have achieved here. This facility is of great benefit to veterans and their families, and to serving personnel and their families, where they can take a break from everyday pressures and recuperate.”

Time out units are available for wives and children as well as serving personnel and Legacy.

Units are two bedroom. One Unit is designed for the disabled. The fees are $30.00 per night or $210.00 per week.

A room at the main house will cost $10.00 per night.

All are set in pleasant rural area, BBQ area available.

Only 10 min from Doctors, Shops & Beach. Any bookings must be referred by a Welfare Officer or your ESO John Carter Carer/Carer Unit 5

Phone 08 9524 3588. Mobile 0417 320 802

Peter Douglas Manager Phone 0413 009 906 1677 Mandurah Road BALTIVIS WA 6171

Pennant Donation

As a final gesture, the Ship’s company of HMAS ADELAIDE would like to donate a ship’s pennant that was flown during the final year of her service prior to decommissioning on 19 January 2008. We ask that this pennant be Traned, and displayed in a prominent position so that everybody that has served on ADELAIDE can be reminded of their dedicated service they have contributed.

R.B. Slaven

Help for Veterans Children

The Federal Government will spend $360 million over the next three years to help families pay for dental check-ups for teenagers.

Families will be able to claim a rebate of up to $150 per child each year, which will cover about half the cost of a comprehensive check-up.

About one million teenagers are expected to benefit from the plan.

Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner says the measure honours a promise made during the election.

“There are a lot of teenagers out there who need to go to the dentist more often than they do,” he said.

“This is about taking pressure off those Veterans families that do take their kids to the dentist for the annual check-up.”

Quartier Militaire region.

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“This is about taking pressure off those Veterans families that do take their kids to the dentist for the annual check-up.”

Mr Hatley said the Mauritian project was one of the most ambitious undertakens by the JCLA team.

“The families we target are employed in the cane fields, not only do they make less than 20-dollars a week but they can only work a few months a year,” Mrs de Casanove said.

The JCLA was established in 2006 as a program to improve graduate employability and develop leadership skills in students. The JCLA director Jarrad Brown said the program offers students an edge in the very competitive job market of today.

There is a huge gap between senior partners of companies and graduates, this program seeks to bridge this gap by providing valuable networking skills as well as developing leadership potential,” Mr Brown said.

The program takes its name and inspiration from World War Two Prime Minister John Curtin who is remembered for his leadership, vision and community service.
Who would have thought in 2003 when the latest hostilities commenced for Australian forces in the Middle East that we would still be here some five years later? I am sure. Well G’day from the Middle Eastern Area of Operation MEAO for short, four months have passed since my arrival in theatre and all I can say is “How time flies when you’re having fun”.

This may not be the most appropriate phrase to use however, must will agree that it’s the memories of good times away that we take home with us following any operational deployment.

When I was approached last May by the ADF to again deploy to the MEAO as a member of Task Group 633, I felt both privileged and proud to be considered. As a Reservist and full time employee of RSLWA, the decision was not an easy one however, after lengthy discussions with my wife & family, my Reserve Squadron CO and the Board of Directors at RSLWA, I decided to accept the role & deployed in late August of 2007.

My role here within the MEAO as the Warrant Officer of Task Group (TG) 633 4 differs little from that back in Australia within the reserves. I support the Commander of the TG and when necessary, assist the Airmen & Airwomen within the TG.

The billet here necessitates frequent travel throughout both Iraq & Afghanistan. The prime purpose of this travel is to call on those Air Force personnel from our TG who are embedded within Army & NATO organisations and to pass to them, the Commanders Intent / Orders first hand from a familiar/common source, me. When you consider the land area between these two countries occupy, the distance between them, the mountainous terrain and the frequent poor weather periods, it’s not difficult to see that flying time between locations is high, visits can take over a week to complete.

My travels have however, offered me the privilege of witnessing first hand all aspects of our operations within the MEAO. Many Units are Tri-service, formed from Army, Navy & Air Force personnel, the passion & conviction displayed by all is infectious.

The Australian Defence Force of today may be small in numbers however, like those who served before them, our Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen are receiving many of the same accolades they did. The fine traditions set many years ago are held high by today’s Servicemen, you can all be proud of their efforts.

Considering the relatively small footprint our ADF holds within the AO, we continue to fight above our weight division and achieve much with little. I return home to Australia shortly and will again take up the challenges that the RSL brings. I hope that the cooperation I have witnessed during the past months between our 20+ coalition partners is embraced by the Australian Ex-Service community and we move forward as one, like all Servicemen do.

Cheers, Ian Griffiths

2008 International Children’s Aid Fundraiser
March 25th, 2008
Ausenco
Level 2, 44 St Georges Terrace

Hello,

I am writing this letter to invite you to attend a sun downer presentation from John Curtin Graduate School of Business located at 78 Murray Street, Perth.

The sun downer is the corner stone of initiating a soccer tournament to the public which it will be held on the 25th of April 2008 at Perth International Hockey Stadium on the Curtin University campus. The 2008 International Children’s Aid Fundraiser established by the University campus. The 2008 International Children’s Aid Fundraiser is for the benefit of children that are part of the 125,000 Mauritians below the poverty line. This year our goal is to aid sustainable maximum benefit to the children of Mauritius. This year’s project has been inspired by the Helping Hands Society of WA Inc. and is working closely with the Helping Hand Society of WA Inc. to help insure our vision will supply maximum benefit to the children of Mauritius. This year’s project has been inspired by the Helping Hands Society of WA Inc. and is working closely with the Helping Hand Society of WA Inc. to help insure our vision will supply maximum benefit to the children of Mauritius.

The Academy will be Curtin’s Mauritian student network, which is the largest in the State. The Academy will be located within Defence including civilians & reservists. During the summer months personnel work in hot & dusty conditions, temperatures frequently exceed 50 degrees C during the day and rarely drop below 35 degrees C at night. During the winter, -10 degrees C is common in the northern parts of both countries. The professionalism, courage, ingenuity, humour & mateship, displayed by all who serve is inspiring.

The fine traditions set many years ago are held high by today’s Servicemen, you can all be proud of their efforts.

Considering the relatively small footprint our ADF holds within the AO, we continue to fight above our weight division and achieve much with little. I return home to Australia shortly and will again take up the challenges that the RSL brings. I hope that the cooperation I have witnessed during the past months between our 20+ coalition partners is embraced by the Australian Ex-Service community and we move forward as one, like all Servicemen do.

Cheers, Ian Griffiths

You never know who it might help

Bring new hope to those with cancer by making a gift in your will. Bequests to The Cancer Council WA help fund life saving research that will ultimately help us defeat cancer.

For confidential information about making a bequest to The Cancer Council WA please call Suzanne Cavanagh on (08) 9212 4351

The Cancer Council WA

30 Hay Street, West Perth WA 6005
Tel (08) 9212 4351
Fax (08) 9212 4334
www.cancerwa.asn.au

Dental 9

All aspects of dental care fully covered by DVA for Gold Card Holders

Suite 1/9 The Avenue
Midland 6056
Phone: 9250 6633
Heart Health Group eligibility was recently extended to include Vietnam Veterans and Australian Veterans of all conflicts and peacekeeping operations. 

The Heart Health Program (HHHP) extends over 52 weeks and includes two structured physical activity sessions per week plus 15 education sessions. Each HHHP program requires at least 15 veteran participants to commence. 

The aim of the program is: 

To increase heart health through regular exercise. 
To establish healthy and sustainable lifestyle improvements. 
To promote social contact between veterans in the community. 

Prior to enrolling in the program veterans need to complete a personal consent form and obtain medical clearance from their general practitioner. 

VVCS (WA) provides a range of services which includes individual, couple and family counselling, regional and outer metropolitan Outreach Services, Veterans Line (an after hours crisis line), and a range of group programs. 

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** 
**PLEASE CONTACT THE VVCS PERTH GROUP**
**PROGRAM COORDINATOR ON 1800 011 046**

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**JOIN OUR 2008 HEART HEALTH GROUP PROGRAM**

**HEART HEALTH GROUP PROGRAM**

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** 
**PLEASE CONTACT THE VVCS PERTH GROUP**
**PROGRAM COORDINATOR ON 1800 011 046**

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**TRIP TO TAMMIN**

A few members of the Northam Sub-Branch travelled to Tammin on the 19th of January to see what could be done to keep the Tammin Sub-Branch going. They have only one member still residing in the town, as all the other members have left. 

We met up with the outgoing Secretary and a few members of the local community. After talking we realised that Tammin actually has a lot going for it. They not only have enough people in the town that can become members due to time in the services, but they also have a few town folk that would like to join as affiliate members. 

Donna Prytulak, the Regional Representative, will be attending the local school ANZAC service, with a yearly competition for the year seven students “what does ANZAC Day mean to me?” 

I would say Tammin would be around for a while, and I would like to thank the people there for the response, and wish them well.

---

**Sub-Branch News**

**Wyalkatchem Sub-Branch**

On Thursday the 20th September 2007, Mr Nevill Woods, President of the Wyalkatchem Sub-Branch of the RSL was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his commitment and dedication for 28 years of voluntary work with the Sub-Branch from the Federal Government. 

The Shire President of Wyalkatchem, Mr Eddie Garner presented the Certificate to Mr Woods in the presence of local members of the RSL and the Regional Representative of the State Executive, Mrs Donna Prytulak and the Shire Councillors. 

On the Saturday, roses were planted in new beds at Pioneer Park, Wyalkatchem where the ANZAC Parade enters. This is the start of a memorial rose garden where it is hoped all 840 locals who returned from various wars will have roses planted in their honour.

Tom Cleverly Assistant Secretary

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**Scarborough Sub-Branch**

Priority Number One: ANZAC Day. Friday 25th April.

Welcome to our Annual Service at our Memorial Gardens, Doubleview Bowling Club 17 Shear Crescent, DV at 3.00pm.

It is our intention to present a Catafalque Party from Transport Coy 13, an Army Band from Irwin Barracks and hopefully a hover. Sorry we couldn’t incorporate a battleship from the Navy. Additionally, after the Service refreshments will be served at the Club. The public and service personnel are invited and if it is wished they will be able to attend morning services elsewhere.

AGM:

At our March General Meeting our President, John Neep, welcomed one of our favourite Councillors. 

The welcome was particularly warm as she presented us with a substantial cheque from the ANZAC Day Working Group Small Grants Scheme. Work is continuing with new Bagpoles, cleaning the Wall of Remembrance, relaying slabs, and general maintenance and improvement.

As customary a number of our members will be attending Services at our four local schools. This important event is capably and respectfully organised and conducted in each school by the children, ably assisted and supervised by dedicated staff. We greatly appreciate and enjoy the respective ceremonies.

New Secretary:

Congratulations to our new secretary, Pat Irwin, for continuing the good work done by his predecessor. Functional ideas and innovations introduced by him are working well.

Social Events:

Currently three coach trips are being finalised. These are Mystery Tours and will take place each Thursday on the following dates: 15th May, 17th July and 11th September. Further details will follow. Inquiries to 9446 1331.

We welcome you to an active branch so join us at the Doubleview Bowling Club on the second Monday of each month at 2.00pm.

Lone Pine Planting:

Thanks to our Warden, Doug Piggott, two more Lone Pine shrubs were available and were donated by the City of Stirling. These will be planted in a dedicated place in Spring.

Our thanks are extended to Blazing Saddles Cyclopedia for repairs to our wheelchair.

Bill Richards

9448 3520

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**Crossword**

Across

1. Crippled by dive-bombers on 29th June 1941. HMHS............. WOJ JUNE.
2. Australian Army Training Team Viet-Nam.
3. Australian official correspondant was Charles Edward Fisher.
4. A famous Lancaster of the RAAF that made 75 bombing raids over Germany in WW1.
5. Army of The Republic of Viet-Nam.
6. A well known British fighter plane of WW11.
7. British war time Prime Minister.
8. A form that a major battle took place at during WW1 in France.
9. The South Korean Army.
10. A battle took place in this town in France costing many Australian soldiers their lives during world war one.

Down

1. It is said money could not repay them, there is no coinage appropriate to describe it.
3. Australian Jungle Training Centre.
4. The ambitious plan of Major Lyon resulted in which operation against the Japanese in Singapore Harbour in 1945.
5. Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.
6. These French forces commanded the French Foreign Legion Regiments on the German side.
7. The ANZACS landed there on the 25th April 1915.
8. On which HMS ship did the Japanese Commander Major General Tsurumi sign the surrender on 11th September 1945.
9. A near battle that claimed many Australian lives in France during WW1.
10. The forced Japanese death march on Australians in Borneo.
11. The 4th and 12th Regiments of the 4th Light Horse Brigade attacked which Turkish hold town, known as the charge on.........?
12. He was the Kaiser in Germany during world war one.
13. The largest offensive ever undertaken in Vietnam by The Van-Gong in 1968.
14. Sister Vivian..........
15. Australia's official correspondent was Charles Edward Fisher.
17. A battle by the All in WW1. The Australians saved Paris, at this town.
19. The ship carrying the Australian nurses from Singapore, that was sunk off Sumatra.
22. The pass in the Thai Burma railway.
27. A line that the Germans held during world war one.
28. A long four engined bomber of the RAF in WW11.
29. A famous Lancaster of the RAAF.
30. What was the prison that perfected the bouncing bombs.
42. A Japanese prison in Singapore.
44. A Japanese prison in Singapore.
50. The German Airforce was called.
51. The South Korean Army.

---

**Past Events**

**Pony Up**

On the 23rd-24th April 1951 Timor in 1942.

**Trials**

A few members of the Northam Sub-Branch travelled to Tammin on the 19th of January to see what could be done to keep the Tammin Sub-Branch going. They have only one member still residing in the town, as all the other members have left.

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---

**Bill Richards**

9448 3520
The Burma Railway, Hellships & Coalmines
by Tony Carter and Neil MacPherson.
ISBN: 9780646468938 (pbk.)
A New Book was launched on the 16th March, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. Victoria Park Primary School, Perth by Mt Buller and OAM RFD State President, The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated
This book tells of the experiences of two soldiers, Mick McCarthy and Neil MacPherson, during World War II. They enlisted in the army because of a European War and spent most of their military service engaged in a struggle at close quarters with an entirely different enemy.
These men saw the dice of fate roll against them when they were captured by the Japanese – McCarthy captured in Singapore and MacPherson in Java three weeks later. They represent a unique group who saw the entire Burma-Thailand Railway, survived voyages in Hellships, eventually working as coalminers near a small village close to Nagozaki in Japan – the target of the second atomic bomb. Their stories are common to many young servicemen of the time. But collectively they are fascinating, sharing their experiences as Prisoners of War under the Japanese. The reader is allowed to walk beside Mick and Neil sharing their innermost thoughts of the time, made possible by access to their diaries and personal papers. Their stories represent the faith, grit, courage and mateship of individuals thrown into circumstances beyond personal control. An experience to be lived with and never forgotten.

Heroes of Tobruk by David Mulligan for Scholastic Australia.
Heroes of Tobruk is a thoroughly research novel about the iconic Australian battle written for young children ages 12 years plus. This is a moving story about the horror of war and the courage of ordinary soldiers. Endorsed by Peter FitzSimons, author of Tobruk and with an introduction by Lieutenant General Peter Leahey, Chief of Army.
Sarah Hatton

Off the Shelf

Reunions

HMAS Hobart
Bundaberg – 18th OCTOBER 2009 ALL WELCOME. For further information contact Dick Harrison Phone: 07 4159 4515 or send an email to: dick.koala@bigpond.com
Royal Navy, Royal Marines, WRNS and QARNNS
Calling all former personnel, including those who do not belong to any local RNA or similar associations, the 2008 WA reunion of these ex-service personnel will be held at the Rockingham Navy Club, Point Peron Road, Rockingham on Saturday 7th June from 11.30 am to 1600 hours.
Enjoy “Up Spirits” Lunch and Afternoon Tea all inclusive for $25 per person.
Cash Bar and Tea or Coffee available all day. Spouses, Partners and friends welcome.
Meet an Oppo and indulge in some lamp swaying with old shipmates.
Please contact Peter Barsch, 43 Basketville Crescent, Baldivis, Western Australia, Australia. 6171. Ph (08) 9524 2675 Email: pkbarsch@bigpond.net.au for further information.

15th Anniversary 1 RAR
1 RAR will host a reunion to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the 1 RAR Bg Qp deployment to Somalia on OPERATION SOLACE in 1993. The reunion will occur over Townsville during the period of 3-6th April 2008.
Activities:
Thursday 3rd April - Arrival and informal gathering ‘welcoming’ at the 1 RAR Sports Club
Friday 4th April - Dawn service for all Somalia Veterans and present 1 RAR members (including the 1 RAR Band), followed by breakfast and a rotation of activities including modern equipment displays. During the afternoon a BBQ lunch and an informal function will occur for all veterans at the 1 RAR Sports Club.
Saturday 5th April - No organised activities in order to allow individuals to re-acquaint with old mates. A formal dinner in the evening will be the main event.
For more information please contact XO 1 RAR, MAJ Anthony Swinsburg (07) 4771 7455 or 0437 768 698 or email: anthony.swinsburg@defence.gov.au.

2nd Field Ambulance
The Committee of our Association is desirous of publicising our reunion to the widest possible audience of past members of 2nd Field Ambulance. I wonder if you would publish the following notice of our reunion in your next edition of “The Listening Post”.
2nd Field Ambulance Past Members Association will hold a reunion in Adelaide on 17-19 October 2008. A full program of events is planned including a Meet and Greet evening (17 October) Reunion Dinner (18 October) and Big Tour, AGM and BBQ (19 October). If you were in 2nd Field Ambulance and would like to attend the reunion, contact Phil via phone (08) 3869 0250 or email (dha909232@bigpond.net.au).
Thanking you in anticipation, Phil Hay, Secretary 2nd Field Ambulance Past Members Association.
Email: dha909232@bigpond.net.au or Phone: 08 3869 0250.

Notes

Perth City Council during WWII

The City of Perth is curating a historical exhibition exploring what the Perth City Council did during WWII. The exhibition will be opened from Wednesday 16 April and run until 5 May 2008 in the foyer of the Perth Town Hall.
The Council built air-raid shelters for 25,000 people in the CBD and put evacuation plans in place to house civilians from coastal suburbs in the event of an air-raid from the sea. Civic receptions were suspended during the war years but the Perth Town Hall was given over to the Citizens Reception Council (a group of 28 women’s organisations) for use as a daily refreshment and entertainment centre for members of the fighting forces. On display will be memorabilia items, photographs and information from this period.
Any inquiries please contact the Memorabilia Curator Jo Dairysh, City of Perth on 94613403.

Great Southern Regional ANZAC Services 2008

ALBANY SUB-BRANCH
Dawn Service: Mount Clarence Albany commencing at 5.30 am. Gunfire Breakfast: Stirling Club Stirling Terrace (above Albany RSL). ANZAC Parade: Assembly area corner. Stirling Terrace & Spencer Street. Step off at 10.00 am. ANZAC Service: ANZAC Memorial Park, Princess Royal Drive. Commences at 10.40 am. Refreshments: Stirling Club from 12.30 pm. ANZAC Day Race Meeting: Commencing at 1.00 pm. Roberson Road. Service personnel and RSL member’s entry free of charge, will include ‘Two-Up’ commencing at 6.00 pm.

DENMARK SUB-BRANCH

DUMBLEYNG SUB-BRANCH
ANZAC Parade: Assembly area at Post Office, step off 10.45 am. ANZAC Service: War Memorial commencing at 11.00 am. Refreshments: District Club after ANZAC Service. Will include traditional ‘Two-Up’ commencing at 6.00 pm.

KOJONUP SUB-BRANCH
ANZAC Parade: Assembly area at Commercial Hotel (outside) at 2.45 pm. ANZAC Service: RSL Sub-branch Memorial commencing at 3.00 pm.

LAKE GRACE SUB-BRANCH
ANZAC Service: RSL Memorial hall , Nubs Street commencing at 11.00 am.

MOUNT BARKER SUB-BRANCH
ANZAC Parade: Assembly area library car park, Lowood Road at 10.15 am Step off at 10.30 am. ANZAC Service: will be in two parts; Wreath/Flag ceremony at War Memorial Service at District Hall Refreshments: Mount Barker Bowling Club commencing after service.

WAGIN SUB-BRANCH
Dawn Service: Wagin Cenotaph commencing at 6.30 am. Gunfire Breakfast: at Wagin Bowling Club after service. (Subject to funding approval their will be a nominal charge of $5.00)
ANZAC Parade: Assembly area Lions Park adjacent to Cenotaph at 9.45 am.
ANZAC Service: Wagin Cenotaph commencing at 10.00 am. Refreshments: Free lunch at WAGIN Bowling Club commencing at 11.30 am (for catering purposes those attending the Gun Fire Breakfast/lunch are requested to advise should contact the president Ian Menzies on telephone # 9861 2650)
Note: There will be an exhibition of original WW1 photographs at the bowling club several days prior to ANZAC Day.

Bits ’n’ Pieces

The Burma Railway, Hellships & Coalmines
by Tony Carter and Neil MacPherson.

Heroes of Tobruk by David Mulligan for Scholastic Australia.

Bernd FitzSimons, author of Trbruk and with an introduction by Lieutenant General Peter Leahey, Chief of Army.

Sarah Hatton
Mr Allan West (Veteran and RSL Member) has just returned from a holiday in Vietnam.

Mr West has travelled to Vietnam on two other occasions with assistance from Vietnam Affairs. On this occasion Allan approached his local MP, Mr Paul Papalia and the Totally and Partly Disabled Veterans organisations for donations as Allan says, “both of these donations were pleased to assist in purchasing soccer balls for the Vietnam orphanage”.

Half the soccer balls were distributed in the Saigon area with the remainder went to the Huai An land (see letters from Allan West and Trish Franklin).

“Over the past few years the Australian business people in Ho Chi Minh City (old Saigon) got together on the 21st April each year because of the great day. It has become a well known event and the guests are only too happy to bid for the memorabilia up for auction after the game. Some of the items up for auction include signed jumpers, footballs, photos of famous footballers. I believe this event all up and donations overall raises around US$5000 each year.”

Yours sincerely, Allan West

Trish Franklin

Trish Franklin, from the Loreto - Vietnam - Australian Program in HCMC, has been invited to Vietnam (Veteran and RSL Member)
RSL Receives Gift from Turkey

On the 18th of March a member of the newly formed Turkish Sub-Branch (RSL) Mr Osman Iscel presented Mr William Gaynor (President of the RSL WA) a Commemorative plate from the Mayor of the City of Gelibolu (Gallipoli), Mr Cihat Bingol.

The Commemorative Plate depicts scenes of Gelibolu (Gallipoli) showing War Memorials and other sacred sights significant to both side of the Gallipoli campaign.

This gift is on permanent display at ANZAC House, Saint Georges Terrace, Perth.

Denis Connelly

From left: Mr Digger Cleak, Mr William Gaynor, and Mr Osman Iscel at the presentation of the plate to the RSL (WA)

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