The State President was well pleased with the support of the public for the Gunfire Breakfast (in Gallipoli Room) at ANZAC House, the Dawn Service at Kings Park and in particular the attendance at the Street Parade.

"The public’s support for our Veterans continues to gain strength across all age groups from the very young to the mature members of our community which is very gratifying to the RSL. This year’s service and parade showcased service men and women from all conflicts that Australia has been involved in from World War I, through to the present day conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. With the weather being kind to us there were approximately 30,000 people at the Kings Park Dawn Service, and 50,000 attended the street parade; the public was very buoyant when saluting and thanking our Veterans for their Service during the Parade."

The State President thanked all who had participated to make ANZAC Day a great success.

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Chief Executive Officer/State Secretary until a replacement has decided to resume his RAAF Career. Mr Griffiths undertook this action upon his return from recent deployment in Afghanistan. Mr Griffiths submitted his resignation immediately. Mr Griffiths undertook his resignation from the RSL Board of Directors, effective to the RSL, has submitted his resignation as the CEo/State Secretary.

Nola Keen, Executive Editor

Due to overwhelming response from Listening Post contributors it has been decided to increase the available space for articles. To this end we have added an additional 4 pages, starting from March edition and continuing to future editions, increasing from 24 to 28 pages. The president Mr Gaynor said "This demand for extra space indicates that members are showing a willingness to contribute articles to their newspaper, and it pleases me that we have the capacity to provide this service".


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.

Address to: The Managing Editor, The Listening Post

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Email: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au

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Reproduction of articles (or extracts) contained in The Listening Post are welcomed, provided the source is acknowledged. The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject, sub-edit and re-arrange material submitted for publication.

Secretaries and Contributors are reminded that “cut off” dates for inclusion for publication due to being late arrivals, or lack of room.

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The managing editor

Kott Gunning

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Mr Denis Connelly

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Mr Gary Sutherland OAM

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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Nola Keen
From the President’s Pen

2008/2009 BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT FOR VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

For the first time in 12 years the Federal Labor Government presented to the Parliament its budget for the coming year and following is a summary of the implications for the Veterans’ Affairs portfolio.

Although the government in its announcement is committed to fighting inflation the overall budget for Veterans’ Affairs was increased to $11.59 billion and is made up of Compensation and Income Support of $6.34 billion and Health funding of $4.87 billion. This funding will ensure that the payment of pensions and the funding of health care accounts for inflation and additional costs incurred for hospitalization and general medical treatment.

Election commitments already implemented

As of 20 March 2008 a number of initiatives were implemented due to commitments made by both parties prior to the 2007 election, in which legislation was introduced to facilitate:

- New indexation arrangements (particularly the TPI pension based on either CPI or MTWAE whichever was the greater).
- Increased EDA payments
- Increased non-economic loss payments
- Increased veterans’ component (Income Support Supplement which previously was not indexed).
- Increased utilities allowance, senior concessions allowance, telephone allowance.

Election commitments

Legislation will now be introduced so that the following initiatives can be implemented:

- An additional $5 million has been added to the BEST Funding for 2007/2008.
- Broadened bereavement payments so that payment of the TPI pension will be continued for a short period to the estate of a single veteran who dies in indigent circumstances so as to offset costs of a funeral.
- Extended widower access to ISS so as to remove any age restriction.
- Grant automatic war widow status to widows of TTI and Intermediate rate recipients.

BONUSES FOR CARERS/OLDER AUSTRALIANS

Carers’ bonus has been increased by the following amounts on an individual’s circumstance:

- $600 to recipients of carer’s allowance.
- $1000 to recipients of carer service pension or carer payment.
- $1600 to those receiving both carer’s allowance and partner/carer service pension.
- $500 to service pensioners and Gold Card holders over veteran pension age as at 13 May 2008.

Additional financial support for ESOS to include the following:

- New funding of $14.9 million over four years for the TIP Training & Information Program, Building Excellence in Support & Training (BEST) program and includes $6.5 million over three years to restore lapsing funding especially related to the administration of the programme.
- Mental Health
- New funding of $4 million over four years for suicide prevention. $3 million to extend Operation Life. A new pilot project to provide online counselling. $1 million for Program ASIST which will extend promotion of suicide awareness training and increase the range of programs available.
- Long-term medical prescriptions
- GPs will now be able to provide 12-month prescriptions for patients with chronic conditions which will benefit veteran/war widow patients who find it difficult to make repeated visits for prescriptions; however, this will remain at doctor’s discretion, subject to clinical needs and care assessment.

92nd State Congress

The 92nd State Congress will be held at the Mercure Hotel, Irwin Street (opposite ANZAC House), Perth.

The dates for congress are the 28th and 29th of June. The Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Dr Kevin Michael AC will open Congress on Saturday, followed by a report from the State President, addresses from the Minister of Veteran Affairs, Opposition Spokesperson for Veteran Affairs, the WA Premier and the State Opposition Leader, followed by a Congress Dinner at ANZAC House.

On Sunday, Congress Resumes with the Presidents Closing Address at 1:30 hours. For further information on the 2008 State Congress contact Judy Jarvis on 9287 3718.
ANZAC Day Breakfast at ANZAC House

The Returned and Services League (RSL) is Australia’s largest voluntary organisation and is increasingly being supported by young people, says RSL National President, Major General Bill Crews AO. School students in all states of Australia are genuinely interested in our history and want to hear the anecdotal accounts of our experiences.

Now, after a round of presentations at RSL State Conferences, there is growing support for the work of Drug Free Australia.

Many State Sub-branches are offering support to Drug Free Australia, with the view to making sure our young generation gets the facts about the dangers of illicit drugs so that they can make safe and healthy life choices. For example many are signing on as Harm Prevention Supporters. Some are offering space in their newsletters, while others are offering to distribute DFAs quarterly newsletter to thousands of RSL members.

We have, quite quickly, gained a large and influential supporter base – and look forward to working closely on some very positive community education initiatives.

Ross Steele

Dear Editor,

On a recent visit to ANZAC House I noticed the bell mounted on a column facing the bar. The brass plate recognises a gift from Ross Steele. This man was very well known in the Tannenburg area after WWI and after his retirement to Albany from the late 1940’s until his death in 1964. He had a close involvement with the Apex Drive up Mt Clarence and then the return of the Memorial to the Desert Mounted Corps near the summit.

I met him through my father, Ron Halcombe, visiting old soldiers in Hollywood hospital, and visited him twice at his Albany Cottage on Emu Point before leaving Perth for Melbourne for forty years. Since returning I have pieced together his story as best I can with the help of Digger Cleak OAM- Past President of the Albany Sub-Branch.

Your readers may find it interesting. He had no children and it’s a pity his story is fading away with time.

Ross-Steele-Citizen of Albany and Man of Mount Clarence

Ross Steele was born in England around 1890 and became a resident of Albany in 1947 with his wife Margot (nee Marguerite Le Quesne [pronounced Le Kanel]). He had been “invalided out” of The Agricultural Bank of WA for which he had worked for since 1923. His first task had been starting returned soldiers under the post-war Soldier Settlement Scheme. His first “office” was in Tannenburg.

Margot and Ross had met in Capetown before the War and because she had some family here they had come to Australia in 1922. When she died early in 1949 Ross became the driving force for the new Avenue of Honour accompanying “Apex Drive” being created by Apex inaugural president John Moyle and his members and workers to the top of Mt Clarence.

Ross was then very instrumental, mainly through his friendship with Gordon Feast, who was Federal Minister for the Interior and Works, in bringing to reality the suggestion that a memorial which had been erected in Port Said in 1932 to the Desert Mounted Corps of WWI and which had been desecrated by a mob during the “Suez Crisis” in 1956, be re-erected in Albany.

Ross had been mustard-gassed at Paschendaele (Belgium) in 1917 while serving with The Royal Field Artillery, and having arrived in WA spent a lot of time in Hollywood Repatriation Hospital. Between October 1954, when work commenced on Apex Drive, and his death on March 17th 1964, Ross devoted high energies to the Avenue of Honour and the establishment on home soil of the wonderful Australian memorial at the top of Apex Drive. He died without issue and is buried beside his Margot in the old Albany Cemetery.

ANZAC Services

The Annual ANZAC Day Service was conducted at the Kings Park Memorial Precinct and also at the Blackboy Hill Commemorative Site on the 9th April, due to ANZAC Day falling, during the school holidays.

The Kings Park Service was conducted by the WA Education Department, with poems read by students from Lake Monger Junior High School, Emma Hains from Williton Senior High School gave the Spirit of ANZAC address, with the Guard of Honour formed by 50 of the Army Cadets Union.

The guest speaker was Brigadier White AM RFD, commander of the 15th Infantry Brigade based at Karrakatta.

The guest speaker was Brigadier White AM RFD, commander of the 15th Infantry Brigade based at Karrakatta.

The Education Department was represented by the Minister of Education Mr Mark McGowan MLA, and Director General of the Education Department of Western Australia Sharon O’Neill RSL (WA) was represented by our President, Mr Bill Gaynor, and Acting State Secretary Mr Gary Sutherland.

On the afternoon of the same day was the Annual ANZAC Day Service at Blackboy Hill, conducted by the Bellevue Sub-Branch and the Shrine of Mundaring, for Primary, Secondary, and Independent Schools in the Hills Area. The keynote address was given by Brigadier White.

Blackboy Hill is of great significance in WA Military History as the area was the first WA Army Training Base, and was first used for this purpose in 1914. Upon completing basic training, the soldiers of the 1st AIF were transported to Albany, WA, before embarkment to the Battlefields of Europe.

The Secretary of the Bellevue Sub-Branch (also the Acting State Secretary) Mr Sutherland said that “it is extremely important that the youth of today remember those who have served and more importantly, those that paid the ultimate price for what is now enjoyed by all Australians.”

The RSL (WA) was represented by the President, Mr Bill Gaynor, and Acting State Secretary, Mr G Sutherland.

Denis Connolly

ANZAC House restaurant staff had a very busy morning after the Dawn Service at Kings Park. The Restaurant Manager, Nigel Von Berghem said the Gunfire Breakfast is proving very popular since its introduction in the Gallipoli Room in 2007, with approximately 150 Breakfasts being served to members and guests this year.

As well as the popular Gun Fire Breakfast, the ANZAC Club continues to prove a popular meeting spot for veterans of all services and conflicts.

Denis Connolly

RSL partnership with Drug Free Australia goes from strength to strength ...

The Returned and Services League (RSL) is Australia's largest voluntary organisation and is increasingly being supported by young people, says RSL National President, Major General Bill Crews AO. School students in all states of Australia are genuinely interested in our history and want to hear the anecdotal accounts of our experiences.

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We have, quite quickly, gained a large and influential supporter base – and look forward to working closely on some very positive community education initiatives.

Photographs by Admin Assist Caitlin Harnwell

Celebrating a successful Tasmanian State Congress are (L-R) Nalene Lincoln, Josephine Baxter, Betty Bohlen OAM and State President, Tony Scott OAM.
Portraits of Australian Heroes

Lance Corporal Thomas Leslie Axford V.C.

Continuing our series of Australian Heroes, we look at one who carried out his orders to the letter and “held his post at all costs.”

Charles Pope V.C.

Continuing our series of Australian Heroes, we look at one who carried out his orders to the letter and “held his post at all costs.”

Thomas Leslie Axford was born on the 18th June 1894 at Carrieton, South Australia. His father, Richard Axford, moved his family to Coolgardie, Western Australia, where Thomas was born. Growing up, Thomas was educated at the local state school. In 1910, when Thomas was 16 years of age, he sought employment at the Boulder Brewery where he remained until his enlistment on the 10th of July 1915. Prior to his enlistment, he served for three years (1912-1915) in the 16th Battalion, located in Western Australia, as part of the Australian Military Forces (AMF).

After basic training Private Thomas Axford (Regimental Number 1399) was allocated for duty 11th reinforcements of the 16th Battalion and embarked on the troopship HMAT BENALLA.

In August 1916 Private Axford was deemed to be “shell shocked” and was allowed two days to recover. August 1916 until January 1918, Private Axford was again out of action.

July 1918 saw Private Axford now promoted to Lance Corporal Axford, at Vaire and Hamel Woods, Lance Corporal Axford was awarded the military medal for action and in the same month, on the 4th of July, now Corporal Axford in action that allowed him to be awarded the “Victorian Cross”. As his recommendation for the award from his Commanding General reads: “Private (Lance Corporal) Thomas Leslie Axford is recommended for the very highest distinction for his very conciseness gallantry and initiative during the operations against VAIRE and HAMEL Woods, East of Corbie, on the morning of the 1st of July 1918. When the barrage lifted and the Infantry advance commenced, the platoon of which Axford is a member was able to reach the first enemy defences through gaps which had been cut in the wire. The adjoining platoon, being delayed in crossing wire, enemy machine guns got into action, and inflicted many casualties, including the company commander. Lieutenant Corporal Axford, with great initiative and magnificent courage, at once dashed in the flank, threw his bombs amongst the machine guns crews, jumped into the trench and charged with his bayonet. Unaided, he killed ten of the enemy and took six prisoners; he threw the machine gun over the parapet, and called out to the delayed platoon to come on. He then rejoined his own platoon and fought with it during the remainder of operations. Prior to the incidents above mentioned he had assisted in the laying out of the tape for the jumping-off position, which was within 100 yards of the enemy. When the tape was laid he remained out at a special point to ensure that the enemy did not discover any unusual movements on our side. His initiative and gallantry undoubtedly saved many casualties and most materially assisted in the complete success of his company in the task assigned to it. (Previously awarded Military Medal, 25.5.1918)”

Citation from the London Gazette (19th August 1918): “CITATION: For most conspicuous bravery and initiative during operations. When the barrage lifted and the infantry advance commenced, the platoon of which Axford is a member was able to reach the first enemy defences through gaps which had been cut in the wire. The adjoining platoon, being delayed in crossing wire, enemy machine guns got into action, and inflicted many casualties, including the company commander. Lieutenant Corporal Axford, with great initiative and magnificent courage, at once dashed in the flank, threw his bombs amongst the machine guns crews, jumped into the trench and charged with his bayonet. Unaided, he killed ten of the enemy and took six prisoners; he threw the machine gun over the parapet, and called out to the delayed platoon to come on. He then rejoined his own platoon and fought with it during the remainder of operations. Prior to the incidents above mentioned he had assisted in the laying out of the tape for the jumping-off position, which was within 100 yards of the enemy. When the tape was laid he remained out at a special point to ensure that the enemy did not discover any unusual movements on our side. His initiative and gallantry undoubtedly saved many casualties and most materially assisted towards complete success of his company in the task assigned to it. (London Gazette: 17th August)”

Corporal Thomas Axford returned to Australia in October 1918, and later discharged from the Australian Army on the 6th February 1919. Thomas Axford, VC, again saw service during the Second World War as the War Room Officer, Australian Echelon and Records Office and was again discharged on the 14th of April 1941, with the rank of Sergeant.

Between the World Wars, Thomas Axford married Lily Foster and resided at Mount Hawthorn, a Perth suburb, Thomas and Lily had two sons and three daughters.

Thomas Leslie Axford VC died on the 11th of October 1943, ad cremated at Karrakatta Crematorium. His Victoria Cross and Memorial Plaque are displayed at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, ACT.

Denis Connelly

The Germans, in greater numbers, surrounded the post, and Lieut Pope found himself running short of ammunition. He sent back for this, but before it could arrive he was killed. A gallant and determined attack upon the enemy with a bayonet. His party was seen to fix bayonets and charge into a superior force of the enemy, by whom it was overpowered.

Lieut Pope by his sacrifice, not only inflicted heavy loss on the enemy, but held the position as ordered, to the last.

Lieut Pope’s body was found, with those of most of his men, and eighty dead Germans around the post were evidence of the gallant resistance he had made.

Lt Charles Pope was awarded the Victoria Cross Posthumously as a result of his heroic actions of the 15th April 1917.

CITATION: For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when in command of a very important picquet post in the sector held by his battalion, his orders being to hold his post at all costs. After the picquet post had been heavily attacked, the enemy in greatly superior numbers surrounded the post. Lieutenant Pope, finding that he was running short of ammunition, sent back for more supplies. But the situation grew more desperate, as he was ordered to hold his position. In the hope of saving the position this very gallant officer was seen to charge with his picquet into a superior force, by which it was overpowered.

By his sacrifice, Lieutenant Pope not only inflicted heavy loss on the enemy, but showed his order to hold the position to the last. His body, together with those of his men, was found in close proximity eighty enemy dead, a sure proof of the gallant resistance which had been made.

London Gazette: 8th June 1917

Lt Pope had carried out his orders and held his post at all costs.

Lt Pope had married and was survived by his wife, son and daughter. There is a Studio Portrait of Lieutenant Charles Pope VC hanging in the Australian War Memorial Heroes Gallery, kindly donated by his daughter Mrs E. Woods (nee Pope) along with his Victoria Cross and service medal. There is also a photo of Lt Pope at ANZAC House.

Reference:
1. Australian War Memorial (AWM) Canberra ACT.
2. They Died Magnificently by Lionel Wignmore and Bruce Harding
3. www.wikipedia.com

Denis Connelly
Soon after the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the Australian Flying Corps was initiated as a part of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) under the command of Britain's Royal Flying Corps (RFC). Some after the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the Australian Flying Corps was sent to assist in capturing German Colonies in what is now north-west New Guinea. These colonies surrendered quickly however, before the planes were even equipped. The first operational flights did not occur until May 27, 1915, when the Mesopotamian (Iraq) Expeditionary Force was used to assist the Indian Army in capturing British oil interests in what is now Iraq. The Corps later saw action in Egypt, Palestine and on the Western Front throughout the remainder of World War I. By the end of the war, four Imperial Military Airmen had made the supreme sacrifice.

The LiSTeNiNg POST June 2008 7

Denis Connelly

RAAF in the Beginning

It has come to the attention of the Listening Post that there seems to be a misconception of the origins of the Dawn Service. The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) was formed in 1911. The Australian Military did not have a separate Air Force during World War I. By the end of the war, four Imperial Military Airmen had made the supreme sacrifice. The Dawn Service is a national observance for those who have died in war, a national observance for those who have died in war. It is held in remembrance of those who have died in war, and to honour those who served and died in war. The Dawn Service is held in all capital cities of Australia on Anzac Day, April 25. It is a time for reflection and a time for remembrance. It is a time for those who have served and died in war, and for their families and friends, to come together to acknowledge and honour their sacrifices.

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Dear Ms. McNeill:

"In Australia the Australian War Memorial is currently being expanded and will be dedicated to the memory of Australians who died in World War I. In relation to the first Dawn Service, this is what the Australian War Memorial says:

"The first Dawn Service was held at Sydney in 1927. It was a simple service of remembrance held at dawn, to commemorate those who had died in the Great War. The service was a spontaneous demand for a form of public worship so that, together, people could remember the fallen and pray for their beloved ones. The service was held at dawn as people had come to realize that the fallen had fallen at dawn. The service was a way of bringing people together to remember those who had died in the Great War.

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RSL receives painting Menin Gate at Midnight

RSL (WA) was donated a copy of the world famous painting Menin Gate at Midnight (Ghosts of Menin Gate).

The original painting was painted by Will Longstaff after he attended the unveiling ceremony of the Menin Gate at the Belgian town of Ypres where an estimated 350,000 men of the Empire perished in battles around Ypres.

It is reported that Will Longstaff was so moved by the dedication ceremony that he saw a vision of steel helmeted men rising in the moonlight in surrounding cornfields.

The painting that is now in RSL care was donated by Mr Gordon Lewis (Member of Gonzells RSL) on behalf of the Lewis family who have had a long association with the Gonzells area.

The painting was given to the Menin Gate of the Lewis family about 1930 by Mrs Ellen (Nellie) Proctor in appreciation of hospitality shown to her as a widow and a teacher who had lost her husband in the 1914-1918 Great War in Europe. As accommodation was hard to find for a single person in the Collie (WA) area at the time.

Mr Lewis said that he was “thrilled that the RSL have accepted the painting” and hopes that “it will be revered by all as there was tremendous sacrifice at this place and time by all service men”.

The original painting was done to raise money for legacy in 1927 and now hangs at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra ACT. The copy now in the possession of the RSL (WA) is in its original condition.

As he was receiving the painting, the President, Bill Gaynor, said that “this painting has arrived with its history of a time of the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme in Europe during the 1914-1918 conflicts, and we are indebted to the Lewis family for their donation”.

The painting will hang in ANZAC House (Perth) (WA).

Footnote: The President, Mr Gaynor, who visited the Menin Gate in 2002, said in his speech at the presentation that during his time at the Menin Gate 4,000 baggers appeared at 2000 hours and played the Last Post, followed by a recitation of the Ode to approximately 2000 visitors.

This remembrance activity has happened every evening since 1928, with the exception of the four years of World War II, and it is estimated that this nightly ritual will need to continue until the year 2400, in order to salute each and every name of the servicemen who paid the ultimate price for this conflict.

Denis Connelly

Menin Gate as the Financial Services Officer.

In January of this year I began working at RSL WA Branch at Anzac House as the Financial Services Officer.

I have been a bookkeeper for many years including contracting for many different businesses.

I am married, my husband’s name is Henry, and we have two wonderful teenage boys, Anthony 18 and Chad is 16 years of age.

I spend most of my time organising my family, but love to get together with friends and relax over a few nice wines.

If you need to contact me my direct number is 9287 3703.

Those Who Care for Those Who Dare

Memories of the SASR Auxiliary

This book is a history of the women behind the men of the Special Air Service Regiment and the story of their support group the Special Air Service Auxiliary. The book was written in conjunction with the recent 50th anniversary of the Regiment and was launched during the celebrations.

As we are trying to reach as many wives of serving and ex-Regiment members I am writing to ask if it would be possible to have an article/advertisement included in the next edition of The Listening Post. Could you please advise if this would be possible? If so, in what format you would like the article/ is there a cost involved/ would you like photos etc.

Reference:

1) The Australian War Memorial - Canberra ACT
2) RSL (WA) History - The Australian Flying Corps
3) www.sasr.org.au

Judy Dos Santos
Hello, my name is Judy Dos Santos and I joined RSL Care Memora in July 2006 and worked with Susanna Wee assisting in the Finance area.

I have been a bookkeeper for many years including contracting for many different businesses.

I am married, my husband’s name is Henry, and we have two wonderful teenage boys, Anthony 18 and Chad is 16 years of age.

When I met Henry, he was in the Army and we lived the Army life in Sydney and Townsville until we came back to Perth to settle and have a family.

Those Who Care for Those Who Dare

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RSL Royal Australian Air Force Badge

The RAAF Badge was accepted by the Chester Herald in 1939. The badge is composed of the Imperial Crown mounted on a circle featuring the words Royal Australian Air Force, beneath which scroll work displays the Latin Motto Per Antae Ad Astra. Surrounding the badge is a wedge-tailed eagle. Per Antae Ad Astra is attributed with the meaning “through Struggle to the Stars” and is from Sir Henry Rider Haggard’s novel The People of the Mist.

References:

1) The Australian War Memorial - Canberra ACT
2) Wikipedia - History of the Royal Australian Air Force
3) www.lapardovairforce.com

Menin gate at Midnight (Ghosts of Menin Gate)
Keith Archibald Flanagan OAM Leaves a Legacy of National Significance

If broached about the subject Keith would grudgingly admit that the adult years of his life had not been an easy pathway even apart from the torturous wartime years as a POW under cruel Japanese control in Java, Thailand and Japan.

He would talk little about his personal concerns and more often than not would launch into a string of ideas and projects that he had in mind which invariably involved the Thai-Burma Railway story or enhancing the image of his wartime hero Weary Dunlop.

In his last months at Hollywood Hospital his room was a flurry of activity. A procession of theatre and TV Producers, filmmakers and Ex-POW mates filed through his door, in conjunction with the constant ring of his phone.

Born on May 17, 1920 in Subiaco, Keith was the second youngest of five children. His family moved from Neldale to Bunbury where his father Arch developed a successful timber business, supplying jarrah sleepers for the then new Trans-railational railway in addition to export gains.

Keith attended Scotch College and it was probably his introduction there to the not-so-gentle art of boxing that helped to hone his determination and doggedness in pursuing his many projects and ideas over the years that followed.

His boxing skills seemed to be in contrast to his nature which many saw as a genial person, always willing to help others, eloquent in speech, with extraordinary writing skills and someone who could quote extracts to help others, eloquent in speech, with extraordinary attributes.

It was in this background that Keith recognised Weary's rare qualities. Alongside other surgeons, Weary and his contemporaries performed virtual miracles in very primitive conditions.

After the war Keith held a number of journalism jobs including sports writer, UK golf correspondent for the Sydney Daily Telegraph. He worked for the "West" as TV critic, sub-editor, literary editor and theatre critic, in addition to being an ABC broadcaster and TV panellist on Meet The Press. As an actor he worked on stages in Melbourne and Sydney by night and did radio work by day.

In the last 13 years of his career he was the "Head of Information" for the former WA Department of Conservation and Environment, retiring in 1985 to become more involved in some of his special long time projects.

Keith never put to rest the great leadership and military gift he got from Weary Dunlop in the POW camps in Java and Thailand. He would also later learn of the contribution of a Thai trader Khan Boopang, "Snipperloh from Pompong" who, along with his daughters, risked torture and death to smuggle medicines and money to the POW camps.

Keith was keen to have Weary revise the Thai railway and phoned him at home in Melbourne. After flying out on a plane to see him Keith thought they had reached an agreement but Weary called him from Weary to join him and other POW's to visit Thailand over the 1985 Anzac day period. Weary gave the Anzac Day address at the King's Park War Memorial, Singapore from the POW was at the Central Cemetery, paying a special tribute to Boopang in addition to other Thai's who helped the POW's. At the end of the tour, Keith floated the idea of creating some sort of Weary Dunlop foundation and Weary said "What about Boopang? They compromised with the Weary Dunlop Weary Dunlop Friendship Fellowship, which was launched in Perth in 1986 and has since seen some 70 Thai Surgeons gain valuable information in specialist areas under Australian mentors. The fellowship is self-funded and enables around 4 Thai surgeons to come to Australia each year.

In 1993 the then Prime Minister John Howard recognised Boopang with a $50,000 grant to the fellowship.

On many Anzac Day periods over the past 25 years Keith funded films to accompany him to Thailand where they recorded many hours of footage of the rail line and interviews with Weary, designed to be incorporated in a documentary on the episode.

In 2004, Keith was awarded the Order of Australia for services to young people.

He was an innovator with a passion for his country. Quick to embrace technology, he had a wire audio microphone attached to his chest to record conversations in addition to owning what must have been one of the first personal computers and word processors in Perth - the long forgotten 'BBC Accent'.

Keith was also a speechwriter for Charles Court who was the Minister for Industrial Development - what a team, the master with words and the master orator.

In his final days at Hollywood Hospital, Keith negotiated with the 7 network and is understood that Kerry Stokes gave his blessing for a DVD entitled The Quiet Lion to be shown on TV this Anzac Day commemorating the many POW's who died trying to escape. Weary and with extensive contribution from Keith, tells the tragic story of human sacrifice and suffering in the largest battle of the war. The Red line and highlights the work of Boopang and his family in helping the POW's out of the camps.

The tours have been a life-changing experience for many participants, particularly in young people who have undertaken the trip over 100 including 36-40 students will do the tour.

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Memorial Rededication

A rededication for the Kings Park Memorial for Weary Dunlop was held on Friday, the 29th February 2008, on the 66th Anniversary of the fall of Singapore and onto Thailand where they recorded many hours of footage of the rail line and interviews with Weary and Weary Dunlop making virtual miracles in very primitive conditions.

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The Burma Railway, Hellships & Coalmines

It is true that there are official war histories and during battle, war literature that adds life and meaning to the factual accounts that often dominates many of the writings. ‘The Burma Railway, Hellships & Coalmines’ is a different presentation of Australians at war. It combines the factual with the human endeavour and provides a perspective of life on the battlefield as told through the eyes of the very people who were there. It provides meaning to the battlefield as told through the eyes of the very people who were there. It provides meaning to their survival skills that saw them through the ordeal. The wartime hardships, the camaraderie, the frustrations, the care for them in their time of need. The Fund is open 10:00am to 5:00pm weekdays, and Saturday & Sunday 10:00am to 2:00pm, and other times by appointment.

The WA Aged Sailors’ Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Relief Fund Trust:

Many applicants who are assisted are offered on regular incomes (usually pensions, but not always) – often below $700/$800 a fortnight – encourage them to get their affairs in order, and keep their households going on a budget, sometimes on restricted incomes (usually below $700/$800 a fortnight). Some couples try to pay rent, run a car, put food on the table, and keep their households going on a budget... - encourage them to get their affairs in order, and keep their households going on a budget, sometimes on restricted incomes (usually below $700/$800 a fortnight). Some couples try to pay rent, run a car, put food on the table, and keep their households going on a budget.
RSL Eastern Hills Community Care Soon to be Up and Running

RSL Care WA has recently been awarded 20 Aged Care packages in the Kalamunda region. Following on from the completion of a Strategic Organisational Review, which emphasizes a broadening of services to meet the needs of the wider community, RSL Care WA has applied for and been awarded 20 Aged Care Packages.

General Manager, Linda Jackson stated, “Part of a strategic plan for RSL Care WA was to establish a need and then provide care in rural areas. After extensive surveys, it was found that a need for Community Aged Care Packages in the Eastern Hills area was required.”

“In addition, the Eastern Hills sub branch have been very supportive of veterans in the area and as a result of this continued support, RSL Care has applied for and received 20 packages which we will endeavor to build on in the future.”

Last year RSL Care WA purchased an area which was once shop on Canning Road and have proceeded to convert the space into an office for the appointed co-coordinator, Vikki Macheda to operate from.

Most recently, Ms Macheda held a position as a Carer at the Menora RSL Care site where she received extensive in house training. Ms Macheda also possesses demonstrated experience in community care and coordination, cultural sensitivity and an awareness of special needs groups.

The support of 2 further carers will assist in the positions required to service the individual needs of the 20 new clients in the area. Currently 12 places of the 20 have already been filled, which highlights the urgent and unmet need for this type of service in the area.

Every new client will receive a comprehensive needs assessment which will help to identify care needs and will form the basis of a Care Plan between the coordinator and the client. Services such as home help, meals, cleaning, respite and shopping are some of the services that can be provided. On-going monitoring will also take place in an effort to identify changing needs.

Clients will also be linked to a variety of interest appropriate activities on a daily basis, including a men’s club, ladies auxiliary, exercise groups, fall prevention groups and other day centre activities.

As with all RSL Care WA clients, families will be encouraged to be actively involved with care monitoring and some aspects of client care and well being. It has been found that they provide valuable information on medical issues as well as historic and lifestyle information.

Shop fitters have completed the works required convert the previous hairdressing salon into an office form where service will operate.

The acquisition is in an excellent location as it is close to the local medical centre, public transport, shopping precinct and a chemist. This will be established and maintained in the area to ensure that RSL Care WA services remain well coordinated and responsive to the special and individual needs of all clients, including those living with dementia.

The areas included in this development will comprise of Kalamunda, the Eastern Hills region and some parts of the Swan precinct, with an aim to expand in the area in the future.

Office hours will be 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday with after hours 24/7 emergency support available from the Menora Village.

For any queries or further information please contact Vikki Macheda the Coordinator, RSL Eastern Hills Community Care on 9293 4994 or RSL Care WA Menora on 9370 6200.
Fine Dining at the ANZAC Club

The ANZAC Club has announced a new initiative to provide various levels of dining facilities. This will be available at the recently refurbished ANZAC Club. The Club Manager Mr Nigel Von Berghiem said that the dining tastes of our members has changed over the years and if we are to satisfy these needs then we will have to update our dining facilities to enable this to happen. To this end we now provide three types of dining, a formal level for when there is need for Corporate Presentations, the facilities for Birthdays, Weddings, Unit Functions, as well as casual dinners that are more commonly known as “Pub Food”.

Mr Von Berghiem also stated that “We at the ANZAC Club welcome inquiries from Members for all our dining services”. The Manager, Mr Von Berghiem can be contacted on (08) 9287 3714 or via email at: anzacclub@rlswahq.org.au

DEDICATION OF DAWESVILLE MEMORIAL

The morning of Wednesday 23rd April was grey and overcast, threatening rain but cleared in time for the dedication service of the memorial prior to ANZAC Day. Although the service had been used for the dawn service in 2007 it had not been properly dedicated as it was only completed the day before ANZAC Day. To rectify this, a dedication was arranged by the writer with Father Len Russell, Reverend Pam Halbert and Major Margaret Hughes. Bob Russell (no relation) assisted with the ceremony. This was to be a low key affair mainly for members of the ceremony. This was to be a dedication was arranged by the writer with Father Len Russell, Reverend Pam Halbert and Major Margaret Hughes. Bob Russell (no relation) assisted with the ceremony. This was to be a low key affair mainly for members of the ceremony. This was to be a dedication was arranged by the writer with Father Len Russell, Reverend Pam Halbert and Major Margaret Hughes. Bob Russell (no relation) assisted with the ceremony. This was to be a low key affair mainly for members of the ceremony. This was to be a dedication was arranged by the writer with Father Len Russell, Reverend Pam Halbert and Major Margaret Hughes. Bob Russell (no relation) assisted with the ceremony. This was to be a low key affair mainly for members of the ceremony. This was to be a dedication was arranged by the writer with Father Len Russell, Reverend Pam Halbert and Major Margaret Hughes. Bob Russell (no relation) assisted with the ceremony. This was to be a low key affair mainly for members of the ceremony. This was to be a dedication was arranged by the writer with Father Len Russell, Reverend Pam Halbert and Major Margaret Hughes. Bob Russell (no relation) assisted with the ceremony. This was to be a low key affair mainly for members of the ceremony. This was to be a dedication was arranged by the writer with Father Len Russell, Reverend Pam Halbert and Major Margaret Hughes. Bob Russell (no relation) assisted with the ceremony. This was to be a low key affair mainly for members of the ceremony.

The ceremony was a shortened version of the procedure as used for the dedication of a memorial with the blessing by the three members of the clergy crossed the Fray. After, the Rouse, Lord’s Prayer, Benediction and Advance Australia Fair. During the one minutes silence, with impeccable timing, a RAAF trainer did a fly-over and dipped his wings. Everyone was agast not having expected such an experience. Would have loved to be able to claim the credit for this action but let us just put it down to divine intervention.

Although this was a very simple ceremony it was presented with dignity and professionalism and quite moved the small attendance. The presenters were then taken across the road to the Leprechaun Tea Rooms for morning tea funded by Bob Russell.

Theattached photos shows Bob Russell, Past President & prime mover for the memorial and John Bates, secretary and MC, going over their notes before the ceremony. (Photos courtesy Bob Russell)

RSL Out Reach Program

RSL (WA) with support from DVA (Best Grant) has introduced a program where our Pension Officers are travelling to major regional centres to speak to RSL members.

Mr Jim Boland (Senior Advocate) and Mr Ron O’Connor (Pension Coordinator) visited Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch members and non-members alike, discussing advocacy and Welfare procedures and requirements.

There were also meetings with individuals on issues pertaining to individual files and Pensions Claims requirements. Mr Boland and Mr O’Connor also had an interview on local ABC Radio.

On the 28-30 April Mr Boland and Mr O’Connor travelled to Geraldton to meet with RSL Veterans to discuss Pensions and Welfare issues.

Mr Boland said that the Out Reach Program hopes to visit Albany, Bunbury, and Busselton in the near future to continue to keep the veteran community informed on the latest regarding Pensions Claims/Procedures and Welfare. He also commented that “it’s extremely important that members be informed of the latest on Pensions Claims and that members can meet with ANZAC House Pensions Staff.

“The dates for the visits to the Albany, Bunbury and Busselton are still to be confirmed but we will advise Sub-Branches involved at the appropriate time,” Mr Boland said.

Mr Boland and Mr O’Connor can be contacted at ANZAC House on 9287 3799.

Denis Connolly

History of the Australian Army Trackers and War Dogs Association Inc.

In 2000, Peter Haran, a tracking dog handler who served in Vietnam, wrote a book detailing his wartime experiences called “Trackers - The Untold Story of Australian Dogs of War”. As a result of the book the Sunshine Coast Vietnam Veterans’ Association, instigated the building of a memorial at Alexandria Headsland on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, dedicated to the 11 tracking dogs that served in Vietnam and who were killed or went missing from that time, were unable to be brought back to Australia.

Following this dedication, a number of like-minded Vietnam ex-trackers discussed the formation of a trackers association aimed at fostering a closer relationship among those who have served with military dogs. In December 2001, approval was granted for the Australian Army Trackers and War Dogs Association to be incorporated in the state of Queensland. From humble beginnings with only a hand full of members, the Association now boasts some 600 members Australia wide. Memberships includes veterans who served in Korea, Malaya, Borneo, South Vietnam, Somalia, Bougainville, East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

The first Association reunion was held in March 2002 at Alexandria Headsland and the Association took the opportunity to dedicate plaques to recognise those dogs that served with Australian forces in Malaya, Borneo, South Vietnam, Somalia, Bougainville. With the attachment of those plaques to the memorial, this truly recognise the work of the War Dogs. Following this reunion, Major General Peter Phillips, AO, MC, the Governor of the State of the RSL, agreed to become the Association’s Patron. In April 2003, the Association held its second reunion in Gooolwa, South Australia and dedicated a new monument to recognize trackers as a team. This monument is now accepted as the National Trackers Memorial. On ANZAC Day 2003, the Association for the first time in its short history marched through Adelaide under its own banner.

In April 2004, the Association held its reunion in Rockingham, Queensland. As part of this reunion, a two-day seminar followed by a dog biathlon for serving dog handlers was also conducted. Those who attended the activity marched on ANZAC Day as a single entity under the Association’s banner.

The 2005 reunion was to held at the Amberley RAAF Base in Queensland from 16-20 March. The reunion included a two-day working dog seminar, which was attended by members from the Army, Air Force, Australian Correctional Services, Customs and Quarantine Inspection Services. A dog biathlon was held on Friday 18 March with 29 members and dogs competing. This proved to be a major highlight of the reunion. On Sunday 20 March, a memorial and dedication service was held at the Amberley Air Force Base to recognise those dogs and handlers who served in East Timor and the Solomon Islands. These plaques are now displayed on the National War Dog Memorial.

During the week war dogs from all over Australia and service dogs will be competing in a Biathlon, they will also be on parade for the dedication of a war dog memorial in Baldivis. At the same time past and present war and service dogs who have served overseas or who have 5 years or more service to the community will be acknowledged (having previously been recognised at a medal presentation in the Eastern States).

Recently the Association has undergone a name change to reflect the role dogs play in both war and peace. It is now called Australian Defence Force Trackers & War Dogs Association.

A reunion is being planned for 20 - 26 October 2008 at the Totally & Partially Disabled Veterans, WA, 167 Mandurah Road Baldivis. This will be the first gathering of the ADFWTDA, to be held in Western Australia.

During the week war dogs from all over Australia and service dogs will be competing in a Biathlon, they will also be on parade for the dedication of a war dog memorial in Baldivis. At the same time past and present war and service dogs who have served overseas or who have 5 years or more service to the community will be acknowledged (having previously been recognised at a medal presentation in the Eastern States).
Flame Ceremony held at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris on ANZAC Day.

Australia’s Federation Guard member, Private Rhiannon Brown, stands at attention during the Reviving of the Flame Ceremony held at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris on ANZAC Day.

The Reviving of the Flame Ceremony is held annually on ANZAC Day to commemorate the Anzac service and sacrifice during World War I. The event is attended by dignitaries, veterans, and the public to pay tribute to those who served.

Many more watched as they move along Knights Terrace toward Pilgrim Park where the service of remembrance was to be held.

Up the hill and past the police station, the only sound was the tramping of feet and occasional talk among the onlookers.

This year at Denham, Shark Bay, the local veterans and their families have been joined by others from Carnarvon and elsewhere to remember the loss of family, friends and mates in all wars, and especially the loss of HMAS Sydney II, 140km west. Being the closest town on the mainland, this was particularly significant as 643 Australians lost their lives in the largest loss in Australian maritime history.

The flags at Pioneer Park flutter as Steve Copeland began the service begins with the hymn ‘O God our help in ages past’, followed by an address by RSL Chief Marshal Arthur J Stantron.

Representative Digger Cleak, RAN Chaplain Robert Graue and CEO Colonel Stephen Lee. There were seven student speakers, delivering the Governor’s Message, two resolutions, RSL Ode to the Fallen, Prayer of Remembrance as well as a student speaker from Hamilton Senior High School. Music was provided by the Band from Hamilton Senior High School. Part of the service included the students from each school laying a wreath on the monument.

This ANZAC Parade and Service has become very popular among the schools and students, it is a Youth Project that I consider worthy of ensuring that it continues throughout the years to come. Next Year will see us return to the ANZAC Youth Parade and Service on Wednesday 8th April 2009.

Arthur J Stantron RSL Chief Marshal

Lest we forget.


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Lest we forget.

Lest We Forget
KOREA - THE FORGOTTEN WAR?

By WL. (Bill) Tice

Commemorations and celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli, the 60th anniversary of victory in Europe (VE Day), the landing of Okinawa and Nagasaki followed by VP Day and the end of WWII and the 30th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War received maximum media coverage during 2005 as there were other wartime events since. Between WWI and the Vietnam War, Australia was involved in another conflict which seems to have been overlooked, the Korean War. The 57th anniversary of the signing of the Korean Armistice will occur on the 27th July this year (2008).

The following is a summary of the first six months of Australia’s involvement in the Korean conflict from June to December 1950. Space permitting, the remaining 2 and a half years until the truce in July 1953 will appear in future issues of The Listening Post.

Just before dawn on Sunday, 25 June 1950, massed troops of the Korean People’s Army crossed the 38th parallel, the artificial barrier dividing North and South Korea. Until June 1950, North Korea had been heavily armed by Russia, but South Korea, with the loss of 44,000 South Korean troops.

As a Chinese force threatened to isolate the 27th Brigade, the same day that 1RAR joined the brigade on the Jamestown line, Brigadier General Peter Thomas Daly, an Australian officer, was appointed to take command of the 28th Brigade, the same day that 1RAR joined the brigade on the Jamestown line. Daly was informed of the situation and his appointment. Daly was informed of the situation and his appointment.

When the other two battalions of the 27th Brigade, the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders and the Middlesex, the Australians were flown north to take part in the drive north from the 38th parallel. Three miles south of the parallel, at Kampong, they joined the US 1st Cavalry Division to spearhead the drive on the North Korean capital, Pyongyang. North of Sarwon on the night of the 17 October the Australians encountered a column of North Korean troops whose leader called out “Risky” and fighting began. Soon after, Major J.B. Ferguson, the second-in-command 3RAR, called out for the enemy to surrender telling them through an interpreter that they were surrounded. As a result of the 1,982 North Koreans surrendered.

For the Australians, the final battle was the capture of the capital of North Korea, Pyongyang. On 27 September, the Australians and a US Cavalry Division were forced to a line along the Naktong River in the South Korea. The Australians lost 12 killed and 64 wounded in the battle of the capital.

Enforcing bitter winter winds with temperatures plunging well below zero, the brigade moved slowly north from 11 November and 16 November. The soldiers were forced to wear heavy clothing and rice straw was used to pack the slit trenches for warmth.

I have been a chronic sufferer of back pain for over 30 years and to say that sometimes I was crippled would be an understatement. I have had three laminectomies, one in 1989, the next 18 months was followed by another 18 months after that; all very painful. I was told I would have to have a spinal fusion if ever needed another operation and there was no way I was going to have that, so I lived on an anti-inflamatory and very strong pain killers for years, developed stomach ulcers.

Enduring bitter winter winds with temperatures plunging well below zero, the brigade moved slowly north from 11 November and 16 November. The soldiers were forced to wear heavy clothing and rice straw was used to pack the slit trenches for warmth.

Chinese intervention had halted MacArthur’s drive north, so determined to win the war he unleashed a major air campaign and ordered his armies on the 26 November to begin a drive to the Yalu. He made a rash promise to the wives and mothers that ‘the boys will be home for Christmas.’

At Tokchon the Chinese struck the centre of the United Nations line where a whole South Korean Corps was disintegrated. Seven Chinese divisions surrounded the 1st Marine Division in the Chosin Reservoir area and the marines made a fighting withdrawal to the port of Hungnam.

In reserve at the time the 27th Brigade was ordered to Kunju and the south to Chusan near Pyongyang where the Taedong River was fished out. River ferry was protected by 8RAR. Pyongyang was abandoned by the Eighth Army by 5 December. The Australian Battalion made an orderly withdrawal of 320 kilometres in nine days and formed part of a rearguard at Ujungbu crossing Seoul where they enjoyed a relaxed Christmas.

By the end of 1950 the Chinese had renewed their offensive and Seoul fell on 4 January 1951 giving the Chinese and North Koreans possession of all North Korea.

Eighteen months after the outbreak of the war, 1 January 1952, Brigadier (later Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas) Daly, an Australian officer, was appointed to take command of the 27th Brigade, the same day that 1RAR joined the brigade on the Jamestown line.

I started using the e-cell and thought why not give it a go. I noticed relief within the first week.

I used it every night for 30 minutes. If I find I have done too much during the day and start to get back pain, I just strap on the e-cell - it works quickly for me with great relief from pain.

With grateful thanks,
Margaret
President Australia

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Making life more enjoyable.

To say that I was crippled by back pain would be an understatement

“The e-cell® works quickly for me, with great relief from pain”

I have been a chronic sufferer of back pain for over 30 years and to say that sometimes I was crippled would be an understatement. I have had three laminectomies, one in 1989, the next 18 months was followed by another 18 months after that; all very painful. I was told I would have to have a spinal fusion if ever needed another operation and there was no way I was going to have that, so I lived on an anti-inflammatory and very strong pain killers for years, developed stomach ulcers.

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*®

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The Ambassador of the Czech Republic, His Excellency Dr Juraj Chmiel, laid a wreath at the Australian War Memorial to commemorate Liberation Day on Thursday 8 May.

Liberation Day is recognised each year, to commemorate the liberation of the Czechs by American and Russian forces and mark the end of the Second World War in 1945.

Memorial welcomes Badoce Victoria Cross

The Australian War Memorial today welcomed news that Mr Kerry Stokes AO and the South Australian Government had purchased Major Peter Badoce’s Victoria Cross.

“We are very thankful for the generosity of Mr Kerry Stokes AO and the South Australian Government for purchasing Major Peter Badoce’s Victoria Cross,” said Director of the Australian War Memorial, Steve Gower.

“I am absolutely thrilled that the Victoria Cross will be available for all Australians to view at the Australian War Memorial after its public display in Adelaide for 12 months”.

“The Victoria Cross is the Commonwealth’s highest military honour, and serves to remind all Australians of the great sacrifice made by Australian servicemen and women.”

“The Memorial is very fortunate to have 58 Australian Victoria Crosses currently on display, and plans are currently being prepared by leading architect Richard Johnson to upgrade the Hall of Valour where these precious medals are kept,” said Steve Gower.

The Australian War Memorial displays the largest public collection of Victoria Crosses in the world.

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Dr Margaret Sturdy
Director of Medical Services
Hollywood Private Hospital

Hollywood Private Hospital continues to care for you through the provision of high-quality, easily accessible hospital care when you are at your most vulnerable. Our redevelopment is progressing well, and we expect our new multi-storey car park to open shortly. The foundations for the new ward block are laid, and we will see that growing out of the ground over the next couple of months.

If you do require hospitalisation and wish to come to Hollywood Private Hospital, ask your GP to refer you to a specialist who is active at Hollywood.

Following is some information on influenza and vaccination which you would like to read about in The Listening Post.

Influenza is a serious condition, caused by a virus, which results in fever, cough, headache and muscle pain along with the common symptom of nasal congestion and sore throat. The virus may infect the lungs, causing viral pneumonia, which is frequently fatal.

Influenza is largely preventable by vaccination. The vaccine is most effective if a large proportion of the susceptible population takes it up, providing what we call herd immunity. The vaccine provided in Australia changes every year in response to the common strains which are doing the rounds in the northern hemisphere over the previous winter.

There are lots of myths about flu vaccine, and the aim of this article is to debunk those myths and to encourage you to have an annual flu vaccine.

1. "Last year I got the flu from the vaccine".

This is a biological impossibility! The flu vaccine contains no live virus. It is made up of 3 strains of influenza. It will not protect you against any other strains of influenza, so these may still infect you. If you are inoculating one of the vaccine strains at the time you have your vaccine, you have a high chance of becoming clinically ill. However, there have been many studies which suggest that in these circumstances, the illness will be less severe and of a shorter duration.

2. "I had flu vaccine and still got the flu".

The current vaccine will protect you against 3 strains of influenza. It will not protect you against any other strains of influenza, so these may still infect you. If you are inoculating one of the vaccine strains at the time you have your vaccine, you have a high chance of becoming clinically ill. However, there have been many studies which suggest that in these circumstances, the illness will be less severe and of a shorter duration.

3. "I had flu vaccine and it did not stop me getting the cold".

The common cold is a continuous source of concern and ill health, particularly over winter. The common cold is not influenza, and therefore the flu vaccine is not protective. It generally consists of upper respiratory symptoms such as runny blocked nose with sneezing and a sore throat. It should not cause fever, but can make you feel quite unwell. It is usually brief and it is unusual for it to be associated with serious complications.

4. "There are a lot of serious complications from the vaccine".

Serious complications have been described but are very rare. The common complications are soreness at the site of the injection, and low grade fever and muscle and joint aches which usually last 24 - 48 hours and are relieved by paracetamol.

5. "Flu vaccine will protect me from bird flu".

Unfortunately no! But the bird flu is a bird flu - not a human flu. Viruses usually like to infect only one species, but some can cross the species barrier. For a virus a successful foothold it has to be able to infect the host easily, and to be easily spread from host to host. Bird flu is easily transmitted between birds and highly contagious to birds. It has been shown to be transmitted from birds to humans and between humans, but not to a high degree. Certainly human influenza is of much greater concern.

It is not too late to receive your flu vaccine for winter 2008. Your GP will be able to provide you with your vaccination and urge you to see your GP in the next week or so before the flu season takes hold.

Cottesloe Primary School ANZAC Day

The school choir gave an excellent performance singing the National Anthem and "We shall not forget", "The green and the gold" and "One day". It was rewarding to see the children take on roles that at other times have been reserved for veterans and dignitaries.

Matthew Eton, Acacia Jeffs and Jessica Mews introduced the guests and addressed the assembly. Mitchell McTavish, Ramis Hassan, Matthew Eton and Edward Lemon told the Anzac story, illustrated by pictorial presentations either side of the flag. "Two of the youngest in the school, Jamie Bougher and Tori Seinereis, laid the wreath, Year six students recited the Ode and a student raised the flag and all with a confidence and solemn manner that was a credit to the school, to their families and to themselves. Well done to all of you." The photographs by branch Secretary Lynn Durant-Lovell and Neville Green Mr Bill Grayden AM addressed the assembly with granddaughter Acacia Jeffs looking on.

The Cottesloe Sub-branch representatives. From left: Neville Green, Ted Hawkins, Doug Hill and Harold Durant. Dr Neville Green Vice President Cottesloe Sub-Branch 9384 0075

Vietnam Tours 2008

Our tours to Vietnam visit some of the former battle areas and importantly provide some of the best sightseeing attractions the country has to offer. You can join one of the below tours or we can design an itinerary to suit the individual or group.

Our tours travel to Saigon • Vung Tau • Baria • Long Hais • Long Tan • Nui Dat • Cu Chi Tunnels • Mekong Delta • Dalat • Nha Trang • Danang • Ho An • Hue • Hanoi • Halong City • Halong Bay and many other parts of Vietnam

Vietnam Tours 2008

Vietnam Nightlights Tour
15 days, departing Jun 15th, Jul 6th from $3475
Sep 26th, Nov 16th, Dec 6th

Vietnam Long Tan Day Tour
11 & 10 days, departing Aug 12th from $2615

Vietnam in Full Tour
26 days, departing Oct 12th from $4255

The WA Sikh Community have been marching in the ANZAC Day Parade since 2000, but the WA Sikh Band only joined the March in April 2007. Most of the Band members have some military connection with either their parents or grandparents having been Officers of the Military (RAAF, Indian, Malaysian and Singaporean) H and K at ANZAC 2008 shows Kuljit Jaswal (ex FLTLT Logistics Officer RAAF) and her daughter Husveena Singh who is a Snare Drummer with the WA Sikh Band. At present Huveena is the only female drummer (other girls who have since joined and are keen to march as Tenor Drummers with the Band next year).
NEW SUB-BRANCH

Due to a decision by the Cadet Defence Force in Canberra in February, the tour to Vietnam by the National cadets has been cancelled. Efforts to book a group tour for our three cadets to travel overseas as civilians have not been successful due to the time element. The executive committee is now in the process of planning a trip to Canberra in May so they can attend the 40 Year Commemoration of the Battles of Coral & Balmoral to be held at the Australian War Memorial on the 13 May 2008. At least the cadets can get a chance to talk to some of the veterans from that era. Visits to Duntroon and ADFA are also on the agenda. The committee will then organise a trip to Vietnam at such a late date was very distressing to the cadets and the RSL.

As the new appointed Communications Director I discovered that part of my portfolio included assisting and supporting the formation of new Sub-branches throughout the State. With 3 new Sub-branches on the agenda (one metropolitan and two country) it looked like a very busy period ahead, but the two country Sub-branches chose to start their formation procedures after ANZAC Day, therefore allowing time to concentrate on the metropolitan Sub-branch.

Members of the Turkish community had made inquiries regarding the possibility of forming their own Sub-branch and if granted permission, requested assistance to ensure that the correct procedures were followed.

This became a very exciting time for me as I had, over a number of years, established a wonderful working relationship with the Turkish community which included the attendance at Alliance (where I spent numerous years as Sub-branch President) of the Honourary Turkish Consul, the President of Turkish Australians Cultural House and other prominent members of the community to ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services.

Following numerous telephone conversations and luncheon meetings, the big day finally arrived with the Canning Districts Sub-branch kindly granting permission for the use of their facilities for this historic meeting. With the commencement time set at 1030, I was beginning to worry when only a handful of people had arrived by 1050.

However, my fears were unfounded because meeting commenced at 1105 with 16 potential members present.

The meeting closed at 1330 with 16 membership forms being completed and fees paid, the election of the Sub-branch executive officers and the promise of more members in the very near future.

This is the third Turkish Sub-branch to be established in Australia, the other two are in Melbourne and Sydney.

The Sub-branch executive is – Cahit Yesenteren President, Hayati Uyar Vice-President, Caner Tutan Secretary, Seyit Kaplan Treasurer, Umit Demir M/Ship Officer.

I heartily welcome the Turkish Sub-branch and wish them well for the future.

Digger Cleak OAM
Director Communications

Bookings for the Community Youth & Education Display Unit can be made by phoning Chris Campbell on 0409370548. A deposit for $300.00 from the sub-branch will be required at ANZAC House two weeks before the pick-up date. This amount will be refunded on return of the unit in good condition.

Olga Greig OAM
Chairman

Queen's Birthday Honours

West Australians were recognised in the June Queen’s Birthday Honours

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
Companion (AC) in the General Division

Kerry Matthew STOKES AO, WA. Service to business and commerce through strategic leadership and promotion of corporate social responsibility, to the arts through executive roles and philanthropy, and to the community, particularly through contributions to organisations supporting youth.

Medal (OAM) in the General Division

Allan John DEVEREUX, Leeming, WA. Service to the community, particularly through the National
On an overcast still morning in Albany, prayers and hymns were sung by a large audience of ex-nurses and citizens. Many students and teachers from our local schools were present including 80 students from John Calvin School, leading us in Advance Australia Fair and the “Captives Hymn” under the baton of Miss T Hart, and the keyboard was played by Andrew Kroese. An interesting and poignant address was given by Annette Knight. Many beautiful wreaths were laid in front of a blessed altar which was hand carved by the late Bob Sandlings. Each student laid a spray of roses to their respective fallen, massed, drowned or who died of starvation.

Two students from John Calvin School laid a special basket of flowers in memory of Margaret Dryburgh, who wrote the “Captives Hymn” and a special wreath in memory of Vivian Bulwinkel who survived the massacre to bring us the story of the tragedy.

During the week services were held in Augusta by the RLSP, Paul Walley by the City of Melville and South Australia at the Women’s Memorial Hayfield Park. At Kings Park in Perth, five trees were planted by the Honour Avenues Group in memory of the five Western Australian Sisters from my late husband’s 13th AGH in Singapore. He would have been proud to have known that the Sisters have at last been recognised.

Mr. Denis Connolly, Assistant State Secretary, Anzac House, PO Box 25050, Perth, Adelaide Terrace, WA 6832

Dear Denis,

Please addresses your note at hand regarding Captains Hector Waller, who on that important early morning of 1st March 1942 went down with his ship, HMAS Perth. You will remember in November 1941 he wrote:

I am very sorry to hear of the sinking of the Perth, Capt. Waller. I have often wondered if he lived to tell the story, and I hope he did.

On his final leave before going on his last assignment, he visited me in Benalla, and attended my old school and spoke to the pupils. That Benalla and attended old school and spoke to the pupils. That Benalla and attended old school and spoke to the pupils. That Benalla

I hope you have some address of those who were fortunate to visit it, or at least some of the memories of those fortunate to visit it.

Should you have an article in your ‘Listening Post’ or any other publication, I would be pleased if you could send me a copy.

There is a local committee whose aim is to have erected a memorial in memory of those who were unfortunate to visit it, or at least some of the memories of those fortunate to visit it.

This is a special occasion for me as I was just a boy on that fateful early morning of 1st March 1942. I had just been taken from my home, and so I write to you in memory of those who were fortunate to visit it, or at least some of the memories of those fortunate to visit it.

I hope you will keep me posted on future developments.

You may be able to advise me if you know of any surviving naval personnel who come through the sinking of the Perth. Names and addresses would help.

Yours in service, Neil McQua.ner.
Eighty of the original 207 Junior Recruits (JRTEs) from the 22nd Junior Recruit Training Establishment (JRTE) met and marched at Leeuwin Barracks on the Saturday 29 March 2008 to celebrate their 40th year of enlistment into the Royal Australian Navy as 15-16 year olds.

While not a pretty sight to behold, the 22nd Intake Division now ‘weathered by the years’ and under the direction of ex JR Peter Young from Canberra, marched the Division around the famous parade ground that is so fondly remembered by all Junior Recruits. The salute was taken by the spouses of the ex JRs and the unique event passed quietly into history, probably never to be repeated by the 22nd JRTE Intake.

The reunion included a ‘meet and greet’ evening at Rosie O’Grady’s in Fremantle on the previous Friday evening and an organised tour of HMAS STIRLING, including a ship visit to HMAS PERTH (Commander Michele Miller) on the following Saturday. The Reunion Dinner was preceded by a march past on the ‘old Parade Ground’ and a trip down ‘memory lane’ revisiting the Dining Hall, Rhodes, Marks and Morrows A, B, C Accommodation Blocks and an eight buck caboose, which was home for the first 12 months in the Navy.

The Reunion Dinner was held in the Swan River Yacht Club adjacent to the renamed Leeuwin Barracks. The guest speaker was one of the original 22nd JRs, Rear Admiral Brian Adams, RAN (retd) spoke about the origins and background of the Tugoons and JR Enlistment Schemes, and that it was intended to unveil a memorial on the East Fremantle foreshore, opposite Leeuwin Barracks in 2010 to remember the 15,000 JRs who had graduated from the JRTE Scheme ‘Snips Junior’, The Establishment’s Barber, was also a guest speaker and spoke about his recollections of his time at Leeuwin and re-emphasised what a thrilling time it was to be employed at HMAS LEEUWIN during these early times.

The fittest JR today is obviously Anthony ‘Dusty’ Miller who, mellow age of 56, years of age is still serving his country as a Captain in NORFORCE, patrolling Australia’s northern coast line He is also the second cousin of Commander Michele Miller, the CO of HMAS PERTH III. Of note it was Michele’s father that took Dusty to the JRTE forty years ago, so the ship tour was a ‘payback’?

The Reunion Planning Committee would like to thank the CO HMAS STIRLING, Officer Commanding LEEUWIN BARRACKS and CO HMAS PERTH for their support in making the reunion a memorable event for the 80 plus members of the 22nd JRTE who attended.

Dawn Service & Gunfire Breakfast at Dawesville

We arrived at the foreshore at 0530 to find that parking areas were at a premium. This was our second Dawn Service so we were not too sure whether we would again have a crowd of about 500, exceed that number or have less. When we were eventually in a position to view the masses we were staggered. There were many more than the previous year and considerably more than we expected. Expert crowd estimators put the figure at close to one thousand or double that of last year. One felt very proud to be conducting the service in front of such a gathering but also extremely privileged, humble and nervous.

The format was similar to that at King’s Park, without the preamble. The Falcon Scout Group provided the catafalque party prior to the sounding of the ‘Still’ followed by the wreath-laying. ‘Last Post’, one

minutes silence, ‘Rouse’, ‘Ode’ and the ANZAC Requiem. Wreaths were laid by Bob Russell on behalf of the President and members of the Sub-Branch, Her Worship Mayor Paddy Grevey and G Bruce Blay on behalf of the citizens of the City of Mandurah, Aaran Dekker and Hayden Spence on behalf of the Falcon Scout Group and numerous members of the public.

After the service the public were invited to watch the sun rise over the estuary behind the memorial, a truly moving sight, then join the members at the Port Bouvard Recreation & Sporting Club at 0700 for a Gunfire Breakfast consisting of; Gallipoli Fruit Juice Ceylon Tea & Arabic Coffee. Ken Mitchell and his crew started preparing at 0500 ready to cater for the herd. It was very hard to estimate the crowd but by about 0800 the cupboard was bare accounting for about 300—400 meals.

During the breakfast the President of the Port Bouvard Recreation & Sporting Club, Peter Therbove, opened the new meeting room heavily financed by the Dawesville Sub-Branch and Lotteries West. This will become the meeting home of the Sub-Branch who will provide some of the furniture and be responsible for the decoration of the room. By arrangement with the Club, Sub-Branch members have the use of the bar facilities during Sub-Branch meetings and functions, an arrangement that is proving beneficial to both parties. As it happens, about 70% of our members are also Club members.

The attached photos show: (a) the sun rising behind the memorial and (b) Part of the crowd. (Photo courtesy of Bob Russell)

John M Bates Hon. Sec.
The Battle of Fromelles was the first major action by Australian and British diggers captured. The tune of 6,559 men killed, wounded, and missing, including were inexperienced formations, went over the parapet and met troops on the Western front during World War One and by all accounts the attack was an unmitigated disaster. Fifth Division Recovering and identifying their remains? Then make the contact. Look forward to seeing those of you who will be in attendance in Brisbane for ANZAC Day. And for those of you who will be participating at other venues have a great day.

Regards
Gary Olsen Secretary Treasurer
2 Squadron (RAAF) Association

Launch of Fromelles Discussion Group

The Battle of Fromelles was the first major action by Australian troops on the Western Front during World War One and by all accounts the attack was an unmitigated disaster. Fifth Division soldiers, together with the British 61st Division, both of whom were inexperienced formations, went over the parapet and met withering artillery and machine gun fire decorating their ranks to the tune of 6,559 men killed, wounded, and missing, including 490 Diggers captured. Interested in the Missing Australian and British soldiers buried in forgotten graves at Pheasant Wood in Northern France and concerned about the delay in recording and identifying their remains? Then make the contact. Look forward to seeing those of you who will be in attendance in Brisbane for ANZAC Day. And for those of you who will be participating at other venues have a great day.

Regards
Gary Olsen Secretary Treasurer
2 Squadron (RAAF) Association

Poetry

For Valour

ANZAC day.

The old diggers march heads high, slouch hatted, proud, their ruined faces Tobruk and El Alamein where pants and memories skirmish, and there is no relief or sight as their shoes beat out an arthritic tattoo.

The day parades past in hand claps, RSLs, two up schools, schooners, and in the bright faces of the medals pinned to lapels, they see themselves young and brown and strong, and for a short time the slight portraits on piano and mantelpiece come alive, names once more.

With evening’s advance, the flag flies over empty bars and glasses. The old diggers, Diggers, and veterans go on, the memories are of things, saw the war end unscathed. After the war she operated in a survey role until being paid off in 1963. She and Swan were scrapped in Sydney during 1965-66.

Alongside, the fatal casualties suffered by the sloops during WW2 amounted to some 16% of the total losses suffered by the RAN during that period, or, if one is to exclude the total loss of the 645 men aboard Sydney, the figure becomes 26%, a totally disproportionate figure, indicative of the gallant service and sacrifices of these brave men in their little ships.

I now call on Mr. Jack Le Cacras, President of NAA WA and Perth North Sub Section, to officially open our service.

Put your hands up, you all love a good story.

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Notice

HMAS Heros

HMAS Heros was a requisitioned hospital type folding bed. It was purchased for $250.00 and was used at ANZAC House during the war. The bed was used to house patients who required further medical attention.

I am inquiring if any of her crew are still alive, please.

Contact:
Peter Weston, mobile 0403 166 089, home 9312 6220 or email erldenmile@hotmail.com.

First Aid at ANZAC House

Mr Jim Boland (Safety and First Aid Officer) has recently announced the upgrade of First Aid facilities at ANZAC House.

Mr Boland said the “this upgrade is in line with current legislation for public facilities. What we have at ANZAC House is the most recent available for public facilities with the latest in resuscitation, health and wellbeing; as a recent upgrade and refurbishment of ANZAC House allows us to offer a room dedicated to people who have breathing or sudden health problems, with a bed for urgent situations.”

Mr Boland also said that “we now have a program of safety and health ‘in-service courses’ being made to all office, restaurant, casual, and volunteer staff to update their skills in emergency care.” Funds for the purchase of the “Hospital type folding bed” were donated by Bedford-Morley Sub-Branch. It will be situated in the new first aid room.

Denis Connelly

DVA RegisTed Podiatrist

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The new rededicated plaque

NAA Sloops Ceremony

The newly rededicated plaque...
Dear Mr Connelly,

You will remember that I visited ANZAC House with Jack Edwards one day last month, and you asked me to send some information and photos of the various ceremonies we held here in Norway.

I don’t know whether the material I’m enclosing is what you require, but just disregard it if it is not useful.

“There are 27 Australian Servicemen lying in War Graves on the anniversaries of their deaths, and on their birthdays where known. I place flowers on the graves and check the graves are well kept, and if the headstones need cleaning etc. Actually, the responsibility of the upkeep of the graves is with the local council. They are always well kept with the planting of flowers etc in the various seasons.

The families of these fallen Airmen at some time or other have visited the graves. Many have stayed with the Holsts and had минуты experiences for them.

I visit all graves mentioned above on the anniversaries of their deaths, and on their birthdays where known. I place flowers on the graves and check the graves are well kept, and if the headstones need cleaning etc. Actually, the responsibility of the upkeep of the graves is with the local council. They are always well kept with the planting of flowers etc in the various seasons.

The families of these fallen Airmen at some time or other have visited the graves. Many have stayed with the Holsts and had минуты experiences for them.

There are also Canadian and British pilots lying in the War Graves at the places aforementioned. I also include them in my “pilgrimages” on anniversaries etc. They have also been visited by members of their families when I have then arranged simple ceremonies of remembrance. All these families I have kept, and still keep in touch with by letter, and send photos, programmes of ceremonies, and any mentions in the local newspapers.”

I have dozens of photos, but when one is looking for special ones, then they are not to be found! Anyway, I hope that some of the enclosed can be of some interest.

My husband died last year, so maybe his photo is not required.

I have also enclosed maps and marked where the war graves are situated.

Sincerely,

Mollie Holst
Evolution of the Australian Army

For many years after the establishment of the colonies in Australia, there was no military training of the general body of citizens, nor even of a selection for the special body, as is the case today. Military needs up to 1870. For fifteen years after the grant of responsible government, there was little thought of, or action taken upon fortification under the Commonwealth, since the aim of Australia was to make the continent self-contained in the matter of defence.

Until the year 1870 the main defence of Australia consisted of the garrisons of British troops quartered in the leading cities. In the convict days the Imperial military was maintained principally as a convict guard, and for policing the penal settlements. In 1801 a corps of volunteers, designated the “Loyal Association”, was formed, in response to an invasion from the Governor, from among the settlers and civil officials, to meet any French attack upon the colonies, the possibility of which was suggested by the frequent rumours of war between France and England. The members of the association were generally victualled at the public cost.

Western Australia

The first ‘volunteer’ force in Western Australia was raised in 1861, under Local Ordinance No 3. By the Volunteer Force Regulation Act 1883, the local forces were placed under the military law of Great Britain in time of war, but with certain reservations. In 1889 the ‘volunteer’ force numbered 603 of all ranks. In 1890 an increase in establishment to 712 was made. It consisted of eight corps, of which two were field artillery and six were infantry. Attached to two of the infantry corps were 60 mounted infantrymen. For each efficient volunteer, a capital grant of £1.10s per annum was made. To attain efficiency, a volunteer had to attend 12 parades a year, and complete a musketry course.

Other ‘volunteer’ corps were formed under the provisions of an Act of 1894, and a small unit of permanent artillery was added. The “patrially paid” system was introduced in 1896-7. Cadet corps were formed at Perth and Fremantle and the establishment of the Perth and Fremantle batteries were subsequently increased.

Shortly before federation, a ‘volunteer’ reserve force was formed of persons who had served in the imperial army, navy or auxiliary force, or in the military forces of a colony. Six drills a year were required for each number and an annual allowance of 10s was made. Membership was restricted to persons under 60 years of age.

The strength of the Western Australian forces on the 31st December 1890 was 135 officers and 2561 other ranks.

Establishment and Strength of Military Forces of States-31st December 1900

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<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>Establishment Officers</th>
<th>Other Ranks</th>
<th>Strength Officers</th>
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Defence Works and Fortifications:

Fortifications have been erected for the defence of the principle coast cities of the States, and, in the case particularly in Sydney and Melbourne, heavy armaments have been erected at the port entrances and other points of vantage. It is difficult to determine the total cost of defence works. Large sums have been spent out of loans in each state except Western Australia, but from 1872 to 1899 Victoria did not expend lost of money on defence construction.

Fortification of Strategic Points:

For some time prior to 1890 the necessity of fortifying certain points on the Australian coast, at the joint expense of the colonies was considered. Important water routes were commanded by Albany, on King George’s Sound in Western Australia, and by Thursday Island, in Torres Strait. Hobart and Port Darwin were also regarded as strategic ports which should be fortified. As a result of a military commission, appointed by the Imperial Government, the different Australian Governments, which visited the places named, defences were erected at King George’s Sound, one fourth of the coast being borne by Western Australia, the remaining three fourths by New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia on a population basis. Equipment was supplied by the Imperial Government, and Western Australia provided the garrison and exercised general superintendence. Fortifications at Thursday Island were also erected. New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia contributed to the cost of maintenance according to their respective populations. Owing to the formation of a harbour at Fremantle, the Imperial Authorities now consider it should be the only fortified port in Western Australia. The whole question of fortification and rearmament was being considered by the Commonwealth Government.

Summary:

The earliest settlements in Australia were made by British officers in charge of transported convicts, in the oversight of whom they were assisted by detachments of Imperial troops. The forces who were sent from the centre of Government to maintain order and discipline in the outlying parts of the Empire were either specially raised and enlisted for the purpose, as in the case of the New South Wales Corps, or were sent to their colonial destinations in the ordinary routine of their military service.

References:

1. Military Traditions and Customs School of Infantry Australian Army
2. Interview with Gary Sutherland OAM Acting CEO/State Secretary RSL (WA).

Denis Connolly

Crossword

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Poetry

ANZAC Poetry

They fought in line—'tis fought apart
And Tyr's and Tywin was torn from
Their homes so near and homes so far.
These fine young men and women are
The soul of Aussies in their breast.
That came to seek a favour's nest
Of love they gave their lives to rest.
Because we called on them to test
What once was life in country tall
Or street or barrack be their stall
Until they rallied to call
And Anzac came their victory roll
These sons and daughters of the best
Knew need of fear—just brand new zest
To bring a freedom to the rest.
Came it said God speed—be blessed
And lives were lost on both sides then
When fighting tears held back by men
Who shed their shine so bravely
And sons and daughters do them wave
In this parade of valor true
Where passion flies amongst the hue
So bless your souls, your memories too
This Anzac and each day anew
They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them. Lest we forget.

So people who this day do watch
Them march by each a total match
To keep in step as one would ride
Up into heaven, so to glide
For we all know where they do lie
Beyond the rainbow in the sky.
In that place home to soldiers by
The lake of plenty—there on high
And for its not in vain they gave so much
That we our beirs will keep their trust
And bring this day through sun and rain.
A glorious sense of pride regain
An Anzac was the title then
Of slaves of terror—diggers yen
But now it rings of pride—true blue
Come on we cry, well show them who
Believe in what you did and why
Your valiant purpose shall not die
We hail you from our hearts with pride
That we should walk along beside
The men and women, knowing who
Become Our Anzacs through and through.
So bless your souls, your memories too.
This Anzac and each day anew.

We Don't Know, But We Remember

We can no longer call it war
It is now a memory of the past
Where the memories fade and dim
And the world moves on
So let us remember those who gave
Their lives for our freedom and our peace
And let us honor them in our hearts
By loving and respecting them each

We Don't Know, But We Remember

I saw this sun这 morning
Behind the spire on the hill
And it burnt with all the fire of the day
The young men of our nation
Gave their royal blood to spill
On a hill so many miles and years away
Young men like I, they came here
With a vision to the future
A future they, so sadly, wouldn't know
These sons became our fathers
And in the soil and blood grew roots
Roots from which all things love have grown
And so I know nothing but peace
And can but think upon the war
to stand and watch the world
And so our youth will come here
To see the sap remove the hill
And never will forget why this is so.

We Don't Know, But We Remember

I saw the sun this morning
Behind the spire on the hill
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40th Anniversary of Battle of FSB Coral and Balmoral

There is now a 45 minute CD on the FSB Coral and Balmoral.

For further info contact Colin Bermingham
"The Grunt" Mob 0419 116 825

LAST POS

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, We will remember them. Lest We Forget.

The deaths of the following RSL Members (WA Branch) were recorded at ANZAC House.

Navy

28952 Adams, Alexander; East Victoria Park
P/JX172254 Gray, Vivian; Armadale
37930 Hayes, Ronald; City of Mandurah
37930 Pickup, Catherine; Bunbury

Army

WX 3463 Anderson, Clinton; Nedlands
WX28128 Bignell, G.C; Kojonup
WX36275 Blake, G.D; Nedlands
WX38897 Windsor, Leslie; Bellevue

Airforce

WX13327 Adams, Andrew; Collie-Cardiff
WX41425 McCaskill, Frank; Port Kennedy

PH 9012 7008

A5578 Marshall, John; Applecross
82878 Barrett, Howard; Geraldton City

For further info contact Colin Bermingham
"The Grunt" Mob 0419 116 825

40th Anniversary of Battle of FSB Coral and Balmoral

There is now a 45 minute CD on the FSB Coral and Balmoral.

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We Don't Know, But We Remember

As I was unable to attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service this year, I decided that I would make up for it by writing a poem to express my feelings, as a young man of 22, on this year, I decided that I would make up for it by writing a poem to express my feelings, as a young man of 22, on this year, I decided that I would make up for it by writing a poem to express my feelings, as a young man of 22, on

We Don't Know, But We Remember

As I was unable to attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service this year, I decided that I would make up for it by writing a poem to express my feelings, as a young man of 22, on ANZAC Day and the growing number of young people that are attending the service. I know that the growing number of youth attending the service has been mentioned positively by diggers interviewed on the news and I was trying to capture the reasons why. If you like it then I would love to see it go into newsletter or something, as I wrote for the soldiers and it's not much good just sitting on my computer.

Regard,
Nicholas Fisher
2008 marks the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of a Combat Support Unit and it is now RMAF Base Butterworth in Malaysia. Base Squadron Butterworth (BSBUT) was formed at RAF Kemble on 15 Jan 1958 and stood up at the then Air Base Butterworth on 01 May 1958. In 1988, and following the withdrawal of the last permanent fighter squadron from Butterworth, BSBU was disbanded and replaced by RAF Support Unit Butterworth which was in turn disbanded and replaced by 324 Combat Support Squadron (324CSS) in 1999.

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary, a series of events is being planned over the period 23-25 May 2008 inclusive. Information related to these events is outlined below and an invitation extends to the Base Air Force and Base civilian personnel to join in the celebrations.

As requested, herewith the link to RAF Butterworth website:

Regards
David Lee JP
WA Coordinator
Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker
Veterans’ Association Inc.
PO. Box 148
RIVERTON
WA 6148
Phone: +61 8 9282 3299
Fax: +61 8 9282 3299
Mobile: 0407 476 612
Email: wacoord@peacekeepers.asn.au
Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
A SUPPORT UNIT

MISSING SOLDIERS OF
FROMELLES, 1916

LAUNCH OF FROMELLES DISCUSSION GROUP

Recently ABC Music signed songwriting legend John Schumann in a multi-album deal. John Schumann is one of the very few songwriters who have changed the way a nation thinks. Accordingly, he found a distinguished place in the Australian music industry.

John recently released Lawson, a highly acclaimed album of songs drawn from the poetic works of Henry Lawson as well as Gelignite Jack, a compilation of classic John Schumann songs from his Red Hill to Rum territory. Gelignite Jack, in particular, portrays the outstanding craftsmanship of one of Australia’s most recognised singer/songwriters.

This April a special recording by John Schumann and The Vagabond Crew of the iconic Australian folk song Waltzing Matilda was accompanied by a video featuring poignant images from the Australian War Memorial and other notable memorials. This is the first single previewing the forthcoming new album Behind the Lines.

"It’s a new and quite different arrangement of Waltzing Matilda in that I've taken a few liberties with the melody. I really hope people approve of this fresh look at our iconic national song.

And putting the song to footage and photographs from the Australian War Memorial's Collection for Anzac Day shows us just how extraordinarily wide-ranging and flamboyant the Collection is. We're really grateful to the Australian War Memorial and the staff for their enthusiasm and generosity. I really hope everyone gets a chance to see the clipping," John Schumann said.

Waltzing Matilda at radio now. Behind the Lines available on ABC Music in August.

Kind regards
Sara Caffrey

John Schumann pays tribute to an Australian national song.
On the 2nd of April 2008, the Returned Ex-Service women's Sub-Branch 60th Anniversary Celebration was held at Hollywood Private Hospital. The event was attended by the State President and Mrs Gaynor and our members among whom we were delighted to have five of our Foundation members and several early days members present.

The room looked very festive thanks to Nigel, Rhonda and staff and we had an exhibition of Memorabilia and photographs. The attractive programmes and name cards were made by Judy Bland who also made andiced the beautiful cake which was cut jointly by Foundation Member Hazel Peers and President Barbara. Teresa Korbosky gave a short history of Branch 13 times. Newdegate Cup for being the Most Efficient Sub-Branch was presented to Barbara. Teresa Korbosky gave a short history of the Gallipoli Room at which 77 members and guests including two bottles of wine by Nigel the Club Manager and we are very grateful for everything. It was a great day of fellowship, reminiscences and the enjoyment of a good, well served meal.

Cecile Hinton (Secretary)
AMAZING STORIES

Our Veterans secured our future
Hollywood looks after theirs

COMMEMORATING THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN - AUGUST 18TH 1966