Rick Hart - Proudly supporting your local RSL

BELMONT  9373 4400
BUNBURY SUPERSTORE  9722 6200
CITY MEGASTORE  9227 4100
CLAREMONT  9284 3699
JOONDALUP SUPERSTORE  9301 4833
MANDURAH SUPERSTORE  9586 4700
MIDLAND SUPERSTORE  9267 9700
O’CONNOR SUPERSTORE  9337 7822
OSBORNE PARK SUPERSTORE  9445 5000
VIC PARK - PARK DISCOUNT SUPERSTORE  9470 4949

COUNTRY STORES
ALBANY - KITCHEN & LAUNDRY ONLY  9842 1855
BROOME  9192 3299
BUNBURY SUPERSTORE  9722 6200
KATANING  9821 1577
COUNTRY CALLERS FREECALL  1800 634 599

RSL Members receive special pricing.
Just show your membership card!

“We won’t be beaten on price. I put my name on it.”

Minister Unveils Hmas Sydney Commemorative Coin Page 27

WA Cadets Do Australia Proud Page 9

Remembrance Day Ceremonies Pages 12-13
**MAKING A MOVE ON**

**THE ALL NEW MICRA 5 DOOR**
- In 10 vibrant colours
- Make sure you wash separately

**$15,290 DRIVEAWAY**

**IT’S A GREAT MOVE**

**TIIDA ST**
- ABS brakes
- Dual front airbags
- 6 speed manual

**$15,576 DRIVEAWAY**

**NAVARA TURBO DIESEL**

**NAVARA ST-X 4X2**
- 160kW/403Nm torque
- 3000kg towing capacity
- Dual SRS airbags
- ABS brakes

**$38,909 DRIVEAWAY**

**PATROL ST TURBO DIESEL**
- 3.0lt turbo diesel • 3200kg towing capacity
- 7 seater • Dual airbags • ABS
- Alloy wheels • Cruise control

**$43,888 DRIVEAWAY**

**NEW PATHFINDER**

**PATHFINDER ST-L**
- 2.5lt turbo diesel
- Side steps
- Alloy wheels
- Dual airbags
- ABS brakes

**$44,265 DRIVEAWAY**

**CLEARANCE ON 2007 MODELS AND DEMO MODELS**

**TIIDA-MICRA-DUALIS-NAVARA STR-MAXIMA-MURANO**

**COME IN AND MAKE AN OFFER!**

Delivering over 300 new & quality used vehicles online at

**www.northsidennissan.com.au**

Your one stop shop!

- FREE BULL BAR, TOW BAR AND SPOTLIGHTS

**1300 303 314**

Part of Australia’s Largest Motoring Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICRA</td>
<td>5 DOOR</td>
<td>$15,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIIDA ST</td>
<td></td>
<td>$15,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAVARA ST-X 4X2</td>
<td></td>
<td>$38,909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATROL ST TURBO DIESEL</td>
<td></td>
<td>$43,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATHFINDER ST-L</td>
<td></td>
<td>$44,265</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1300 303 314 Prices applicable until November 30, 2008. Prices not valid with any other offer. Above prices include GST but exclude govt statutory charges.

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

Opinions expressed by contributors in articles and reproduced articles are the individual opinions of such contributors or the authors of such reproduced articles and are not necessarily those of the RSL.

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.

The President and State Executive wish all Members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Kott Gunning LAWYERS

We are proud of our long association with the RSL and are pleased to provide members with the following services

Probate and Deceased Estates
David Miller

Conveyancing and Settlements
Emma Leys

Enduring Powers of Attorney
David Miller

Family Law
Tony Milne

Motor Vehicle Accidents and General Personal Injuries
Tony Milne

WILLS AT SPECIAL RATES

Telephone: (08) 9321 3755
Facsimile: (08) 9321 3465

Level 8, AMP Building, 140 St Georges Terrace, Perth 6000
Website: www.kottgunn.com.au
Email: partners@kottgunn.com.au

The Listening Post and Sub-Branch Signal

Att: Presidents and Secretaries

As we are endeavouring to update our records on our oldest Sub-Branch, could you please forward the ‘Date of Issue’ of your ‘Charter of Membership’ to Assistant Secretary Denis Connelly at ANZAC House?

State President, Mr W Gaynor

Secretaries and Contributors are reminded that ‘cut off’ dates for inclusion in the Listening Post are to be strictly adhered to, as articles are being refused for publication due to being late arrivals, or lack of room.

Denis Connelly, Assistant Editor

To all Social Secretaries

Could you please forward some photos and a short article on how your unit/sub-branch celebrated any activities over Christmas 2008 which would be suitable for publication in February’s edition of The Listening Post.

Denis Connelly

Contact Directory

Departments at ANZAC House
Membership:
Kathy Clerk 8.00am-3.30pm Mon-Thurs
9287 3705

Welfare:
Margaret Harnes 9.00am-3.30pm Mon-Thurs
9287 3707 0412 009 191

Senior Advocate:
Jim Befland 8.00am-4.00pm Mon-Fri
9287 3708

Restaurant/Bar:
Nigel Von Berghuis
9287 3714

Finance Service Officer:
9.00am-3:00pm Mon-Wed
9287 3703

The Listening Post Editorial Information

Executive Editor: Nola Keen
Asst Editor: Denis Connelly (08) 9287 3716
Admin/Asst: Caitlin Harnwell
Advertising: RSL Advertising (08) 9381 7999

Graphic Design: Type Express
Printer: Rural Press

Publisher

returned & Services League
Wa Branch incorporated
ANZAC House
28 St Georges Tce PERTH WA 6000
Telephone: (08) 9287 3716
PO Box 3023, Perth Adelaide Tce, WA 6832
Facsimile: (08) 9287 3732
WA Country Callers: 1800 259 799

Email: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au
Website: www.rslwahq.org.au

Email: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au
Website: www.rslwahq.org.au

The Listening Post

December 2008, VOL. 31 No.6

THE LISTENING POST

Mr William Gaynor OAM RFD
STATE PRESIDENT
Mr Graeme Sherriff
STATE VICE PRESIDENT
Mr Graeme Sherriff
STATE TREASURER
Mr Paul Rengel
STATE EXECUTIVE
2008-2011

Mr Peter Aspinall
Mr Dilwyn “Digger” Cleak, OAM
Mr Campbell Cornish
Mr Ross Davies
Mr Damian Dixon
Mr Ray Galliott
Mr Charles Lammers
Mr Oliver Lovelle
Mr David Messer
Mr Ken Parish
Mrs Donna Prytulak
Mr Arthur Rae
Mr Ray Ward

Mr Don Blair RFD ED
Mr John Cox OAM JP
Mr Wayne Tarr RFD ED
Mr Kevin Treint, RFD

Mr Kevin Davidson MVO, OAM
CEO/State Secretary

Mr Denis Connelly

ASSISTANT STATE SECRETARY

Mr Denis Connelly

ASSISTANT STATE SECRETARY

Mr Gary Sutherland OAM
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Nola Keen

The Listening Post

December 2008

VOL. 31 No.6
 Returned from Active Service Badge: Post- Australian Service Medal for Korea

Defense Support has announced the eligibility criteria for the Renumeration of Active Service Medal for Korea. The RASM will be issued to those former Defence Force personnel who completed 30 days in South Korea during the post-Armistice period of 1953 to 1956. As of April 1956 and would be linked to the criteria for the proposed Australian General Service Medal for Korea.

The 30-day eligibility criterion for the AGSM is consistent with the recommendations of the Post-Armistice Korean Service Review Report, which was released in December 2005. The linking of the RASM to the AGSM is also consistent with the linking of eligibility for the badge to specific service medals for other operational service during that era.

Although the AGSM needs yet to be formally established, a process that could take at least 12 months, the RASM is ready to issue to former Defence Force personnel. Once eligibility for the RASM has been established for eligible personnel, the AGSM will be issued automatically after it has been formally announced.

Applications to Directorate of Honours and Awards, T-1-49, Department of Defence, can include a letter in support for those in need or distressed circumstances. Offers of assistance were received from around the world and will be considered as they supplemented the efforts of DVA, PA and DO. The Australian War Memorial Fund was also able to financially support those in need, and to assist Sub Branches in their endeavours. Sub Branch President Reg Cream was most grateful to his neighbours. Sub Branches - in particular Mr Lawley-Inglesdow and North Beach for their offers of assistance.

The support from country areas, particularly in the Manjimup area, was also valued.

Membership Renewals

To date we have had a fantastic response to membership renewals. For those renewing at ANZAC House the response time for the issue of 2009 Cards is less than a week. Please consider the offices listed in the Membership Booklet issued with your 2009 Membership Card as it contains information about our Open days andeligibility for you significant discounts on a wide range of services and products. We ask that you take support those who support the League.

War Memorials

Recent media reports on the provision of a Memorial to the HSK Kormoran at Shark Bay and Carnarvon tend to suggest the project has community and RSL support. While the erection of any memorial is the decision of the local community and the responsible local authority the RSL does not advocate memorials in Australia to mark the activities of our former enemies. This position has been clearly communicated to those who have floated this proposal. I have discussed this policy with other major ESO's and they are supportive of our position. Sadly, this issue had given some prominence at a time when commemorative services were being held throughout Australia for those who paid the supreme sacrifice on HMS SYDNEY.

Offer of Leopard Tanks Available for Disposal

The previous Government had offered for any organisation or individual a Leopard tank in the Australian Army inventory when they were being decommissioned. Several Sub Branches had put in bids for a tank, and were expecting delivery some time this year. The incoming Government has decided that it will now endeavor to sell all of the tanks as a lot for an overseas purchaser. They have therefore walked away from the commitment of the previous Government to make these available to recognised organisations. The RSL had not been informed that there had been a change of plan. However, we make the point that this agreement from the previous Government was not contractually binding in any way and the offer involved no purchase arrangement. Therefore, the incoming government could reasonably be seen to be at liberty to change that arrangement if so wished. They have clearly done so with the prospect of some economic return.

While the offer of Sub Branches that were expecting to receive a tank can be rejected, we believe there was no point in making an issue of this, as there are more important matters to focus upon. The RSL is confident that few of our Sub Branches were involved as in the acquisition of a tank for Sub branch purposes is a little too speculative to bring many would be willing to look into.

Land at Fremellos for Grave Site

In early October it became known that French authorities had allocated a suitable area near Fremellos for the re-interment of those soldiers whose remains had been found recently in a mass grave at Fremellos. The League was particularly pleased, and indeed grateful, that such an agreement could be reached and look forward to this project now involving in the Australian and British Governments had agreed.

Gallipoli Peninsula

It appears that work on the Second Ridge Road at Gallipoli may have uncorked human remains. As has been the practice in the past, this appears to be the case of great anger and people want Government action taken. It needs to be borne in mind that the Gallipoli Peninsula still belongs to Turkey and the road works are being conducted by Turkish workers. There is an agreement between Australia and Turkey that covenants must work undertaken on the Gallipoli Peninsula must respect human remains rights.

The Second Ridge Road needs to be refurbished because it is a narrow road that sustains a significant volume of traffic. It had began to break up. It was always going to be a difficult task because there was a high prospect of remains in unmarked graves adjacent to the road. The protocol, when remains are found, is that they be scattered in a suitable location nearby, with due respect. I feel sure that would apply in this case. It appears that an Australian now resident of the Peninsula will find a critical road works on the Peninsula. On this occasion he criticised the Turkish authorities for not understanding history. The RSL finds that criticism unacceptable. The Gallipoli Peninsula is one of the vital parts of modern Turkish history and we do not think it is appropriate for any Australian to be criticising Turkish lack of appreciation of their history.

Many of these achievements would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of our staff and volunteers. Thank you all, I pay tribute and offer them our appreciation.

In light of a commentary about the discovery of human remains during road works on the Gallipoli Peninsula, the Turkish Ambassador suggested that there may need to be a limit placed on the number of visitors to Gallipoli for the Centenary Commemorations in 2015, or even in 2016.

The RSL takes the view that we would not want to see restrictions applied. However, while we have an excellent working relationship with the Turkish authorities on the management of Australian attendance at Gallipoli services, we must respect their decisions in relation to the numbers that they can accommodate. We would hope that, through a number of creative measures such as the development of video links between the major commemorative sites, a substantially increased number of people can be effectively accommodated without placing a drain on the infrastructure. This was an issue explored by the Department of Veterans Affairs some two years ago and we hope it can be effectively by 2015. Should there be too many people to attend each of the major commemorative sites, then satellite locations in the immediate vicinity could also be used to accommodate the overflow. In any event we continue to support the Turkish service and work right to determine the appropriate access that we may continue to enjoy.

Mr Keating on Gallipoli

Mr Keating, at a book launch in Sydney in late October, made some rather unfortunate comments concerning Australian perceived obsession with Gallipoli. These comments were falsely correct, his broad assertion that Australians have too much of an attachment with Gallipoli is simply not sustained in the community. We believe this reflects the historical achievement and interpretation of our military history and the impact that this has had on Australia's national ethos. While we avoid directly criticising Mr Keating, we believe that many in the Australian public would find some difficulty with Mr Keating's remarks.

Benefit Service

There has been an ongoing concern about the apparent inability to recognise Reserve Service by payment of the Superannuation Guarantee Charge. There is a legal limit on the amount of income an Australian可以从the tax free nature of Reserve Pay. It was reported that the Minister for Roads and Transport right to the Superannuation debate was highly valued. Reserve Service is seen as the only way for civilians in Australia which does not currently attract a superannuation entitlement. In an environment where employers need to be competitive and attractive, this was seen as a significant superannuation. The mobility of the workforce also demanded recognition of Reserve Service. Reserve Service is seen as one of the top four issues impacting on an individual's willingness to remain within the Superannuation system or remain within the Reserves. There is certainly a hostility to reintroducing a tax regime for Reserve pay in spite of this being one obvious option to allow for payment of superannuation. Perhaps it was seen that minor changes to the Superannuation Guarantee Charge did not warrant a broader approach to be paid to Reservists but this requires considerable further work.

Memorials

We are pleased to welcome two new staff members to our Administration and Advocacy team. Andrew Endrey is our new Reserve Forces Liaison Officer in association with Senior Advocate Jim Boz. With the increased workload in this area of our operations we expect a more specialised approach that will benefit those who seek our services in pensions and advocacy work.

We also welcome Emily Lovett to our reception staff. Emily will working with our St John's Centre and look forward to the challenges ahead of us in 2009 we can reflect on a very successful year. In the light of the different veteran issues are many great benefit to the members of the veteran community. Many of these achievements would not be possible without the hard work and commitment of our staff and volunteers. To all, I pay tribute and offer them our sincere thanks.

A more specialised approach that will benefit those who seek our services in pensions and advocacy work.

On a personal note I would like to thank those who supported the League and offered encouragement to the leadership team with this year of challenges. We had meetings and on social occasions are valued and form a vital communication link with those who represent you. And finally to all - A Merry Christmas and Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year.

William F. (Bill) Gayero OAM RFD STATE PRESIDENT

Raffle Results

We are pleased to announce the winners of the recently-conducted RSL Welfare Raffle.

1st Prize: $20000 Ticket 17798
2nd Prize $5000 Ticket 39003
3rd Prize $5000 Ticket 37965
4th Prize $5000 Ticket 24349
5th Prize $5000 Ticket 27666
6th Prize $5000 Ticket 27666
7th Prize $5000 Ticket 1075
8th Prize $5000 Ticket 567
9th Prize: $5000 Ticket 27566
10th Prize: $5000 Ticket 27566

The profit from the Raffle was $29272.72 which has been lodged with the RSL Welfare Fund.

Special thanks go to all members who assisted in the sale of tickets.

From the President's Pen

2008 & Beyond

We a...
Kevin has successfully held many diverse and challenging appointments during his career, requiring him to live and travel extensively overseas and throughout Australia. It is this unique senior executive experiences and strong personal attributes that he brings to The Returned and Services League of Australia.

In June 1999, following a 22 year career with the Royal Australian Navy, Kevin was appointed Senior Advisor and Executive Branch Head to Governor-General, Sir William Deane, AC, KBE, and remained in the role serving Governor-General Dr Peter Hollisworth AC, OBE, and Major General Michael Jeffery AC, CVO, MC until May 2004.

Subsequently, Kevin was appointed Chief of Staff to the Executive Chairman, Westfield Group Limited, Mr Frank Lowy AC. The Westfield Group is the largest retail property group in the world by equity market capitalization. It has investment interests in 118 shopping centres in four countries, with a total value in excess of A$63 billion.

In September 2007 Kevin was appointed Chief Operating Officer with an Australian based financial services and on-line payments solutions company with operations in China and Australia and was a participant in the World Bank’s 2008 High Level Roundtable on remittance fees in the Pacific Island region following the World Bank’s Labour Mobility Report.

From October 2004 until August 2008 Kevin was Executive Chairman of a boutique recruitment firm specialising in providing professional staff for high net worth individuals and their families and is also an Advisory Board member for a Melbourne based not for profit business consulting organisation specialising in corporate social responsibility initiatives and solutions.

Kevin has been awarded numerous awards and commendations for outstanding logistic and administrative service delivery in a range of high level and complex environments. These awards include an MVO (Member of the Royal Victorian Order) presented personally by Her Majesty The Queen, and an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia) presented personally by former Governor-General, Sir William Deane, a letter of appreciation from current United States President, George W. Bush, and several other national commendations.

We welcome Kevin to our team.

**ANZAC:**

Enshrining an iconic Australian word.

There has been some debate about the current nature of the iconic acronym ANZAC. Many West Australians felt that this acronym was being degraded as it was passing into everyday use that saw it being written with a capital “A” and the other letters being written in lower case.

A motion put by the Ellenbrook Branch at this year’s RSL state conference pointed out the need to protect this sacred word in a way that recognised our New Zealand comrades as equals. The background notes published in Listening Post also made the point that some words are already recognised as special: God is always capitalised; and in Australia, Aborigine and the even the adjective form, Aboriginal, are capitalised. It was argued that ANZAC, too, needed to be acknowledged as special.

While Ellenbrook's motion was lost at this year's conference, the Morwell Branch of the RSL successfully had a similar motion passed in Victoria. The Morwell branch's rationale stated:

> At last year’s State Conference, the Morwell RSL submitted this remit, which was endorsed for Ministerial action through the National Congress and then to the respective Minister for action. To date there has been no action at all to bring this about and give our New Zealand partners respect in this proud and famous name.

> We have seen letters of reply from the previous Minister for Veterans’ Affairs to the Royal Returned Service’s Association Headquarters giving no support to their request to have this matter addressed. Surely as the acronym ANZAC is covered under letters patent, the Federal Government can have this done quite easily and make it a fineable offence for any media outlet that does not use the correct form in capital.

> The present usage, even by some RSL’s and others in spelling ANZAC with New Zealand in the lower case, is a disgrace and an injustice to our partners across the Taiman. The United States of America is shown as the USA and Great Britain GB, so why not respect our true mates who have fought along side us since 1915.

The Victorian RSL then put this motion to the national RSL congress this year:

> “That the acronym ANZAC enshrined in legislation to ensure that in all documentation, and particularly when used in the written media, that capital letters only are used”.

The motion was passed successfully, and it is expected that some action will now take place in Canberra to make certain that ANZAC is seen as a special, culturally significant word.

We all need to support this move because it will strengthen the position the RSL and its membership, now, and into the future. At the state and local level we all need to ensure that we use ANZAC correctly, and we need to develop support materials for the teachers in our schools, which will make certain that whenever students write ANZAC they reinforce that we use ANZAC correctly, and we need to develop support materials for the teachers in our schools, which will make certain that whenever students write ANZAC they reinforce the special place that the word has in our culture.

Dr Neil MacNeill
Leonard Opie MID, DCM, BAR

In this article we profile two members of The Team (Australian Army Training Team Vietnam [AATTV]). The Team served in Vietnam from July 1962 with a strength of 30 members, to December 1972, with over 200 members.

The membership of this elite group came from all ranks of the Australian Army from Corporals to Commissioned Officers. The first Commanding Officer, Colonel F. P. Seving, arrived in Saigon on the 31st of July 1962, with the main body of 29 personnel arriving at Saigon (Thiennon Mau) airport on the 3rd of August to establish the unit in the Northern provinces.

“The Team” was accredited with many acts of heroism and sacrifice with 9 Victoria Crosses and many other awards. This Group was the most decorated in The Australian Army.

In this article we profile but 2 members of this elite group, Warrant Officer (now Major) Leonard Murray Opie, DCM, RFD, EFT (Retd), and Warrant Officer Edward John (Jack) Morrison, MID, DCM and Bar.

Leonard Murray Opie was born in Snowtown, South Australia on 16th of September 1923, Regiment No 4055500 (4400006). He served in the Pacific Region during World War II, and in Korea where he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for service with 3RAR as a Warrant Officer 2.

Leonard Murray Opie, now a Captain in the RNAF, arrived in Vietnam during May 1966. His first role was with the CSID (Combined Studies Division a department of the CIA, Central Intelligence Agency). After 8 months with the CSID, Captain Opie was then moved to the Central Highlands to assist in the operation of Trial Watch Mountain Patrol.

Owing to close relations between the Montagnard and The Vietnam Special Forces deployment of Captain Opie teams had to move to Dak To where they could be deployed with the 375th Airborne Brigade.

During June, July, and August 1967, trial watch also included watching for possible North Vietnamese Army movement across rivers. The Montagnard were very adept at obtaining movements during heavy rain.

Captain Opie’s duties varied over the next 18 months from reconnaissance in the Highlands to training and operations in the Yen Tan and the Ruang Sat.

Captain Opie returned to Australia for other duties in October 1968 as well as some well deserved peace.

Captain Opie returned to Vietnam mid April 1970 for duties with the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam, the South Vietnamese Regular Army) at Quang Tri province. In June Captain Opie was serving with MAAT 3 (Mobile Assistance Advisory Australian Forces), and in March-April 1971 Opie saw service at Phu Tu Secret Airfield.

As well as being awarded his Distinguished Service Medal (DCM) for service in Korea, Major Opie was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor with a V Device from the US Forces. He also received a Cross of Gallantry (with Silver Star). Captain Opie returned to Australia and, ever the professional soldier, spent in other trouble-shooted locations for the Australian Government

Major Leonard Murray Opie, DCM, RFD, ED (Retd) passed away on the 22nd of September 2008 at his South Australian home "At Peace".

References:
1. Australian War Memorial
2. AATTV Website
3. Interview with Mr Gary Sutherland Acting CEO/State Secretary

Ministerial Statement in South Australian Parliament
Major Leonard Murray Opie DCM RFD ED (RL)

Len Opie AATTV passed away on the 22nd September 2008. The following Ministerial Statement was read out in the South Australian Parliament on the 16th October 2008 and is worthy of inclusion on our site.

Ministerial Statement

Major Leonard Murray Opie DCM RFD ED (RL)
Mr Speaker, I rise to bring to the notice of the House the passing of one of this state's most famous military sons.

On Monday 22 September we lost Major Leonard Murray Opie, DCM, MID, dcm, Bar

With the artificial heroics of modern entertainment and the sometimes loose interpretation of the word ‘hero’ in the sporting arena, it can come as a real surprise to interpret the word ‘hero’ in the context of the military. Such was the mettle of the man.

Len was exactly that - but he was more - he was the epitome of the Australian infantryman. That special breed of soldier that is typified by a man who is prepared to face the discomfort and the danger of his life, close to him and to kill or capture him.

To many who met Len in his later years he was a quiet, unassuming, even humble man. To many who knew Len in his earlier years he was a true warrior of the like we may never see again.

Len was his entire career, as distinguished as it was, rendered as a South Australian citizen soldier. He was at age 18 in 1942 and saw service in World War 2 in Papua New Guinea.

A short period out of uniform he returned to service in Korea. He served with 3 RAR, and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Len recounted the incident which led to that award.

He said “I was having a cup of cocoa in the mess room when the platoon commander said come on, we're having a go at this hill.”

The colonel added “I want you to nudge up the section up the heavily fortified Hill 614 and try to eliminate the enemy posts one-by-one."

Len laughed at the order realising that the colonel was trying to get them to instill a fighting psyche. Len was at age 18 and, during an attack on Hill 614 in February 1965, he eliminated the enemy posts one-by-one, and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal which at the time was the highest award available to the soldier. Such was the mettle of the man.

Len went on to fight with 3 RAR in the Battle of Kapyong, the defining battle of that conflict.

With Korea and subsequent service in Japan over Len was discharged, but it was not long before he re-enlisted in the C.M.F. and in 1965 he commenced full time duty with the C.S.I.D.

Australia’s Commitment to the Vietnam War was just beginning and Len was to serve three years and five months in that theatre. He served with the Australian Army Training Team — our nation’s most decorated military unit.

I haven't checked but I think that Len probably spent more time in Vietnam than any other member of the Australian Army.

We note that in the recent history of the Australian Army Training Team in Vietnam Len Opie’s task were described as varied. From Province Reconnaissance Unit operations to training and operations in Vung Tau.

At the authors themselves said Len Opie's exploits deserve a book of their own.

During the Vietnam War the Australian government policy was that no soldier could spend any more that two consecutive tours of twelve months in Vietnam, without a break outside the country. Len was a professional soldier like Len this presented a - problem - his life was professional soldiering and he wanted to live it at the "sharp end". Brilliantly Len left Vietnam after two years but managed to have himself posted to the Kashmir/Pakistan border on what was at time euphemistically called “peace keeping duties.” Len served as a “peacekeeper” for twelve months. He then returned to Australia briefly before being re-posted to Vietnam where he rejoined the Training Team for another twelve months of duty.

Len Left Vietnam in April 1971 only a few months before Australia ceased operations in that war.

Len was promoted to the rank of Major in 1974 and was placed on the retired list on 23 December 1975.

Len’s military career was remarkable. He fought in three wars. He was decorated by three countries. Under our award system he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal which at the time was the highest award available to the soldier, second only to the Victoria Cross in order of precedence.

He received honours and Awards from the United States of America including the, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation the Bronze Star, and the Air Medal.

He received the Cross of Gallantry with palm from the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and the Cross of Gallantry (Divisional Level) from the Republic of Vietnam.

In over thirty years service Len saw active front line service facing the enemy for a full eight and a half years.

I doubt that few, if any Australian soldiers have ever equaled that level of service or sacrifice.

Len was true warrior - a man of courage and tenacity in the mould of the original ANZACs.

He was a true warrior of the like we may never see again.

In retirement Len retained his interest in the military, being flown to Darwin only a few weeks ago to farewell the young men of 7 R.A.R. before they departed for Afghanistan. They were privileged and Len felt likewise. I understand he even tried to convince them to take him with them!

But for all that Len was a gentle man. In his latter years fond of model railways, endless cups of milky tea, his voluntary work at the Army Museum and his little dog Sally. It is difficult to sum up a man such as Len Opie, but I was impressed with one sentence that seemed to say so much about him.

When asked why he went to war he said “It was the right thing to do”

The amazing creed of an amazing man.

In conclusion I wish to announce that the Government has donated $10,000 in honour of Len Opie to the Army Museum at Keswick Barracks.

The funds will be used to establish a Korean War exhibit as a tribute to Len.

His friends tell me he would have liked that.

On behalf of Len’s army mates I would like to conclude this statement by reciting the Ode to the Royal Australian Regiment in honour of Len Opie.

Rest ye, oh warrior,

With honour and pride

Your duty was done,

In the horrors of war.

With honour and pride

Weary, barricade no more

No longer to live the horrors of war.

Your duty was done.

With honour and pride

Farewell! Oh brother,

Until we march by your side.

Len we forget

Edward Morrison

DCM, BAR

The second AATTV member in this series is Warrant Officer Class 1 Edward John (Jack) Morrison, Distinguished Conduct Medal and Bar (DCM).

Edward John Morrison was born at Korang Vale, Victoria on the 2nd of April, 1923.

Morrison, Regimental No 31967, also saw service in Korea, where, as a Sergeant with 3 RAR, he was Mentioned in Dispatches (MID). It was also in Korea he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM).

September 1964 saw Morrison in Vietnam serving with ARVN 1st Division Quang Ngai.

It was on the 8/9th of December a large enemy force attacked hill 159 to the west of Tam K although wounded Warrant Officer Jack Morrison advisor with the 3/3 ARVN Battalion fought with and co-ordinated the ARVN force, eventually being forced off the hill.

Jack Morrison and a US Lieutenant Skinner reconnoitred the position the next day, during which Lieutenant Skinner was killed, and Morrison was again wounded. A relief force retook Hill 159 with severe losses to the Viet Cong. It was during this action that Warrant Officer Morrison was awarded his second DCM for Bravery, Leadership, and Devotion to Duty.

Warrant Officer Jack Morrison returned to Vietnam for his second tour on the 17th of December 1968, seeing service at Quang Lin and Dauangar, and from February to May of 1969 at Quang Ngai and Tam Ky. As authors Bruce Davies and Gary McKay record in The Men Who Preserved (Page 145):

"Further south, in the 2nd ARVN Division’s tactical area, 1/6 ARVN Battalion with Warrant Officer Tom Dolan, had a successful encounter near Binh Son, Quang Ngai Province, on the 17th of May. In Quang Tin Province, on 20 May, Warrant Officer Jack Morrison with 1/5 ARVN Battalion and Captain Russell Smith killed at least 20 Viet Cong and captured a crew-served weapon. Smith recorded a memory of an earlier incident that would have had all those who knew Jack Morrison nodding in agreement:

"The first time I came under enemy fire I stood on the edge of a paddy checking our positions when I suddenly felt very alone. On looking around I noted everyone had gone to ground and had no idea why. Jack Morrison ‘whispered’ in a controlled roar, ‘Sir! The sounds you are hearing are you being shot at and while you are standing there you are attracting attention in Mrs Morrison’s much loved husband’s direction; get the fuck out of it or otherwise she may take to you. Sir!’ This was one of the times he rolled his eyes heavenwardI hadn’t heard a thing!”

Warrant Officer Jack Morrison returned to Australia on the 10th of July 1969.

As Mr Sutherland said recently, “Jack Morrison was a truly professional Infantry soldier who served the nation well in peace and in war over many years.”

Warrant Officer Jack Morrison continued to serve as a Warrant Officer Instructor at Canungra Jungle Training facility in Queensland and as a Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) in various CMF Battalions.

Edward John (Jack) Morrison passed away on the 19th of September 1999 at Melbourne Victoria.

Reference:
1. Australian War Memorial
2. AATTV Website
3. Interview with Mr Gary Sutherland Acting CEO/State Secretary

BLACKBOY HILL

'Blackboy Hill' is one of Western Australia's most significant military sites. It was where approximately 32,000 Australian army personnel trained the first A.I.F., before embarking Australian shores for battle fields of Europe.

'Blackboy Hill' was so named for the proliferation of Western Australian so called 'Grass trees' or more commonly known 'Black Boys'. ‘Blackboy Hill’ was part of a Land Grant of 6,860 acres, that was given to Captain James Stirling in 1829.

When Australia became involved in 'The Great War', as Australia was part of 'The British Empire' in 1914, the government moved quickly to set up military training camps around Australia. This is when 'Blackboy Hill' became Western Australia’s main training establishment.

The site for the training was cleared by Captain A.N. Martin and Lieut. F.A. Beale of The Royal Australian Engineers (RAE). After clearing was completed, enough for a tent compound, large bell shaped tents were erected in Avenues of newly planted trees. As a result of a severe storm in 1915 it was decided to erect a more permanent training camp, with timber framed huts and concrete foundations, along with a YMCA social centre, built by volunteers and 'Busy Bees' with workers from Midland Function Railway Workshops.

The camp, now fully functional as a result of the war in Europe, was officially opened on the 16th October 1915, by Sir John Forrest, GC, MC, PC, who is elected mayor of Swan included the Army training camp at 'Blackboy Hill'.

The Blackboy Hill Camp trained 32,000 servicemen during World War I, which is quite astounding for a state whose total population, at that time was less than 300,000.

After the hostilities of World War I had ceased the Blackboy Hill Camp was in turn, a hospital for people suffering the 1919 outbreak of Pneumonic Influenza and later fell into disuse, until the camp was again put to use as a refuge for men who were dispatched as a result of 'The Great Depression'.

"The Blackboy Hill' fell into desape and again nature reclaimed the site, with the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 the buildings were transferred to other training facilities to continue housing servicemen, for training in World War 2.

"The Blackboy Hill' site was allocated to Bellevue RSL in 1957, with the strong advocacy of Chaplain General Bishop John Riley who was dedicated the site, and with Governor Sir Charles Gardner GBE, KCKG, KCVO, CB, turning the first sod in November 1958, stand construction of the new Bellevue RSL facility.

After design and funding problems were resolved, construction was finally commenced in 1962.

Reference: 1. Pamphlet: Mundaring Shire “Blackboy Hill Commemoration Site”
3. Interview with Mr Gary Sutherland Acting CEO/State Secretary

Ambulance

Britain introduced compulsory military training of youths for youths between the ages of 12 and 18
January 1900 saw Doctor Howse commissioned as a Lieutenant in the New South Wales Medical Corps and he sailed for South Africa. On the 22nd of February 1900, Lieutenant Howse was promoted to Captain.

Captain Howse was serving with a Mounted Infantry Brigade at Vrededorp where, on the 24th of July 1900, he saw a trumpeter fall wounded in the front line. Enemy fire was constant and extremely heavy. Howse galloped his horse out to rescue the severely wounded man, until his mount was fatally hit, forcing him to dismount. Howse reached the casualty, who had been shot through the bladder and was losing considerable amounts of blood. He dismounted the wounds before loading the wounded trooper onto his back and returning to a safer location.

Captain Howse's citation reads: “24th July 1900, at Vrededorp, Orange Free State Citation: During the Action at Vrededorp, on the 24th July, 1900, Captain Howse went out under a very heavy cross-fire and picked up a wounded man and carried him to a place of shelter. (London Gazette: 4th June 1901)”

His capable hands eased many a patient, while his cheery voice and bearing brought comfort and consolation. April 25th 1915 was a black day on the beach, but it produced many heroes. Could they now be asked to name the greatest, the palm would go to Neville Howse.”

Howse himself described the arrangement for dealing with wounded at the landing as inadequate to almost the point of “criminal negligence” on the part of Imperial Command Authorities.

Sir Neville Howse, VC, sailed for England to London he undertook several tours of duty to the European Theatre in connection with his duties as Australian Army Medical Corps (AAMC). Howse returned to Australia in 1918, but in early 1919 he was back in London working under General Monash repatriating service men and women to Australia. It was at this time Dr Neville Reginald House, VC Military Awards are quite remarkable as he has the following:

**Citation:** During the Action at Vrededorp, on the 24th July, 1900, Captain Howse went out under a very heavy cross-fire and picked up a wounded man and carried him to a place of shelter.

**Date:** 24th July 1900

**Place:** Vrededorp, Orange Free State

**Description:** During the Action at Vrededorp, on the 24th July, 1900, Captain Howse went out under a very heavy cross-fire and picked up a wounded man and carried him to a place of shelter.

**Commanding Officer:** Howse was serving with a Mounted Infantry Brigade at Vrededorp where, on the 24th of July 1900, he saw a trumpeter fall wounded in the front line. Enemy fire was constant and extremely heavy. Howse galloped his horse out to rescue the severely wounded man, until his mount was fatally hit, forcing him to dismount. Howse reached the casualty, who had been shot through the bladder and was losing considerable amounts of blood. He dismounted the wounds before loading the wounded trooper onto his back and returning to a safer location.
Menora Gardens Aged Care Facility Site is up and Running

The finishing touches have been completed, the residents have moved in, the staff have been employed and now a new Care Services Manager, has taken the reins of the Aged Care Facility at RSL Care WA Menora Gardens.

Originally from Belfast, Ireland, Suzy Tilton was coerced into moving to Perth by her English husband, following a beautiful family holiday with the couple’s three children, four years ago, staying around the Scarborough Beach area.

“It was a wonderful holiday, with no expense spared and at Easter time which is such a gorgeous time of year here - my husband was pulling out all the stops,” laughed Suzy.

Heading back to the UK, where Suzy worked as a Nurse Practitioner, the family went about their lives while waiting for their visa application to be approved. They applied in July and were approved that December and went on to ring goodbye to their extended families for a new adventure Down Under.

Since arriving in Perth two years ago, Suzy has held a variety of positions with both Divisions-General Practice and Silverchain and while she embraced both jobs and enjoyed them for different reasons, she struggled to find her feet in a job that was both well rounded and challenging for her.

“The legislation here is quite different to the UK, so after a career spanning 20 years in nursing I had to really sit down and think hard about what I really wanted my career to head,” Suzy explained.

“In America, you are much more valued, whereas here in the UK, we are still so under appreciated,” Suzy said.

Eventually, she decided that the right time was now for a change and from New York she had a phone call from the WA Army Cadet Force to see if she was interested in taking on a role as a Care Services Manager.

“I love a challenge and have worked throughout bringing up my three children, who are now 12, 13 and 14 – so juggling life and a career are something that I really thrive on.”

When the opportunity came up at RSL Care WA, Suzy jumped at the chance of a whole new start in more ways than one – a chance to develop some new skills with a great organization that thrives within a community environment.

“I really enjoy being amongst a community type environment – one in which people are not just numbers. There is always the potential risk of institutionalization in these sorts of facilities, but Menora Gardens has a real sense of community spirit,” explained Suzy.

The three storey, 118 bed facility, which caters for both low and high care residents, currently has just over 20 vacant beds.

The interior design of the complex is contemporary and very light and contains a high tech communication system, which is used for both nurse and emergency calls.

Secure underground parking contributes to the feeling of safety for residents, while the balconies on each floor look out over a beautiful landscaped area, which is equipped with barbecues, a playground, a small bowling green and plays host to twilight concerts throughout the warmer months.

The 38 top floor units of the complex have a little extra than the units on the floors below – they are finished to a higher quality, have panoramic views of parklands and come equipped with a plasma television, personal fridge and extra cupboard space.

Although it is lovely to have the aesthetic quality, to Suzy it is also important that standards are met professionally, not only to protect the residents but the staff as well.

“Being a care is a really demanding job. Often staff are undervalued and under resourced and face huge demands on them both physically and mentally, so it is really important to me to make sure that the staff here feel really appreciated,” Suzy explained.

For Suzy is exciting to be in a position that has such a multi disciplinary approach, which is also very hands on with the residents. One on one consultation with clients and their families is an important aspect, so that people are aware of their options whilst in the facility.

Suzy finished by saying, “It is so important to treat and promote all people as individuals and to try and make very day as special as possible.”

The final stage of construction of the Aged Care Facility - scheduled for the next six months - will see extra services added to the complex to include a doctor’s surgery, podiatrist, dentist and a treatment room.

For further information regarding Menora Gardens Aged Care Facility, please contact Suzy Tilton on 9386 2152.

A Contingent of Seventeen Army cadets from units around WA recently returned to Perth after the adventure of a lifetime - a highly successful exchange visit with the Surrey Army Cadet Force in the United Kingdom.

This year’s exchange - “Exercise Southern Cross 2008” - is the latest in a series of visits between the WA Australian Army Cadet Brigade and the Surrey Army Cadet Force - which have been occurring since 2004. In the “odd” years a contingent of cadets from WA travels to Surrey whilst in the “odd” years the favour is returned and cadets from the Surrey Army Cadet Force visit Perth.

The cadets had to pass fitness, theory and military knowledge tests to attend the Exercise and prior to departing for the UK, the cadets attended Camp Leeuwin Barracks before departure.

Contingent Commander Major (AAC) Michael Jenkin noted that the WA Army cadets had done well underway for the return visit of the Surrey Army Cadet Force contingent in September 2009.

“Suzy and I had high expectations when the WA Army Cadets arrived back in Perth and the WA Army Cadets were outstanding - a real credit to the WA Army Cadets,” Jenkin noted that the WA Army Cadets had done well underway for the return visit of the Surrey Army Cadet Force contingent in September 2009.

“Suzy and I had high expectations when the WA Army Cadets arrived back in Perth and the WA Army Cadets were outstanding - a real credit to the WA Army Cadets,” said Michael Jenkin.

“On the personal side, it was a fantastic experience for the cadets to be able to travel to the UK and enjoy a variety of activities, which included familiarisation flights in Chinook and Gazelle helicopters. The cadets also underwent adventure training with kayaking, canoeing, clay pigeon shooting, archery and abseiling all on the menu.”

The exchange program also included some cultural visits including, the Imperial War Museum, the Tower of London, a “kip on a ship” aboard HMS Belfast, a tour of London and the Thames aboard an historic WWII amphibious landing vehicle and a visit to Portsmouth’s Historic Dockyards.

Finally, on a humorous note, it should be noted that the WA Contingent made a last minute entry into the keenly contested Surrey Army Cadet Force Inter-Company drill competition held at Camp. To the obvious dismay of the Surrey teams, the WA Contingent won the competition by 0.5 of a mark! Retiring Surrey Army Cadet Force RSM, WO1 Jo Breddinborough, was so appalled by the victory that she presented the WA team with a glass urn containing the ashes of what was said to be the remains of her pace stick! There is no doubt that the “Ashes” will be keenly fought over when the Surrey contingent makes its return visit to WA in 2009.

Contact Major (AAC) Michael Jenkin.

Patrick Mackenzie, Daniel Iver and Peter Goodburn lay a wreath at the Menin Gate, Ypres during the Last Post ceremony.

Wreath laying ceremony at the Australian Memorial, Villers-Bretonnais, France.

The Contingent undergo field training near Farncombe in Surrey, UK.

Familiarisation flight on a British Army Gazelle.

The Contingent at Leeuwin Barracks before departure.

WA ARMY CADETS DO AUSTRALIA PROUD

Patrick Mackenzie, Daniel Iver and Peter Goodburn lay a wreath at the Menin Gate, Ypres during the Last Post ceremony.

Wreath laying ceremony at the Australian Memorial, Villers-Bretonnais, France.

The Contingent undergo field training near Farncombe in Surrey, UK.

Familiarisation flight on a British Army Gazelle.

The Contingent at Leeuwin Barracks before departure.
It had been a very long, day. Dusk descended as the coast was first approached by the helicopter landing at Nui Dat. We terminated in the hover and taxied over to the fuelling area to “gas up”, preparatory to returning to our base at Vung Tau, about a half-hour flight to the south. A delay on our final approach for the day had been incurred, so all the other squadron aircraft had returned to Base.

I was riding left seat. This is normally the co-pilot’s position in the Huey. Because I was the Squadron Training Officer, I often occupied this seat while the young pilot I was checking flew from the command, right hand seat.

As the crewman was completing his hot refuel, a call came from the Command and Control Centre, to which I answered, “Albatross zero two, go ahead.”

The controller responded. “A platoon has come under heavy fire; twenty minutes from your position. One soldier is seriously injured. Require immediate dustoff. Both Medical Corps units (US Army) are presently deployed and cannot respond. Are you able to accept this task?”

I answered, “Albatross zero two, affirmative, go ahead with location and details.”

The other pilot called to the crewman, “Dustoff?” and told the door gunner to grab the spare stokes litter (stretcher) that was located near the fuelling point for just such an exigency. I copied down the details, which were in code: the location grid reference, to which I answered, “The territory” one might say.

In terms of whether the problems warrant being formally described as “a disability”, or considering whether or not to submit a claim to the DVA however, it is necessary to first examine how serious symptoms have to be to seek a doctor’s diagnosis. Generally the person is alerted to a depleted “stream” whilst urinating.

REMEMBER – EARLY DETECTION is the KEY. BETTER TO FACE WHATEVER THE REASON MIGHT BE AND ACT. THE TWILLINGS GO UNTIL NOTHING CAN BE DONE.

Your HEALTH is the important thing to consider – irrespective of WHY you have a problem, you have a problem. If you are experiencing symptoms however, hear in mind that claims to the DVA for prosthetic problems usually fall into one of TWO diagnoses:

Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia”, which is signified by an enlargement of the prostate gland arising from proliferation of both glandular and stromal elements. If you are having problems of this nature, the doctor would assess it as being a normal, age-related enlargement of the prostate gland. If caught early, it can be cured surgically if confined within the prostate gland.

From the age of 50, men need to ask their doctor (GP) to carry out a PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) test, at least once a year. A reading of 4 or less indicates a healthy, normal level. If it is 5 or greater, this indicates a problem that needs to be further investigated. A doctor’s digital rectal examination (very quick!) is another test to determine the presence of cancer.

Cancer of the Prostate? “Malignant neoplasm of the Prostate”:

This is a far more serious health problem, being a primary malignant neoplasm arising from the cells of the prostate gland. If caught early, it can be cured surgically. Unfortunately if within the prostate gland.

In terms of a claim to the DVA however, the “risk factors” named in the relevant Statement of Principles (SoP) – integral to any potential claim – are basically limited (unless one is a Vietnam veteran). The only chance for a WW2 or Korean War veteran is increasing annual fat consumption by at least 40% and to at least 560g/day, and maintaining these levels for at least five years within the twenty-five years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the prostate.

It is very difficult to establish a 40% increase in animal fats between a pre-war and post-war diet. Also, there has to be a war-related reason provided, to explain WHY the increase in fat consumption had occurred – in other words it cannot be simply based on a person’s choice to eat more, and consume more fatty foods. (The only cases I know of that succeeded both had to do with the A17. His successful argument. In both cases, the men had suffered very traumatic events and had to put together a convincing case for acceptance.
The Pemberton sub branch hosted the South West region celebrations for Vietnam Veterans Day on 16 August. A crowd of approx 250 veterans and family from sub branches around the south west, travelling as far away as Bunbury, Collie and places in between including Manjimup, Donnybrook, Nannup, Margaret River, Bridgetown, Augusta-Karridale. Also many tourists from all over the area helped make the event a memorable one.

The West Australian Detachment Royal Navy Band headed our march and also joined the choir of combined schools to sing The National Anthem and We are Australian. The weather Gods were kind to us and a large crowd of spectators joined in with the choir with many children participating.

After the service, everyone collected at the Pemberton Sports Club for a donation based lunch and a period of fellowship. There were items for purchase including commemorative caps, stubbie holders and local wine. There was also a tuffe of donated goods including a coffee table, quilt and matching cushion, bottles of local wine and some vegetables kindly offered by local farmers.

The Pemberton Sports Club is a fantastic venue and all who attended were very impressed and said they would visit again.

As is the custom, the presidents of all the sub branches attending meet to discuss next years event. The 2009 Vietnam Veterans Day was offered to Donnybrook sub branch.

For more information please contact
Warren South - coordinator at warbev@westnet.net.au


Commencement of march - led by Western Australian Detachment Royal Australian Navy Band

Wreath being laid by Arthur Edgar - Deputy Commissioner WA Department of Veteran Affairs. V.V.D. 16 August 2008 Pemberton RSL

Raul Ondoades, Bob Hammond - President, Ron Thompson - Past President, Steve Wilburn, Phillip Stan - Bishop

Combined school choir and Navy Band setting up

Our attention will put you at ease.

On APT's Gallipoli tours, we take care of every detail, from staying overnight at Anzac Cove to bringing our own historians. They're just a couple of ways we go beyond the call of duty to make your trip memorable.

GALLIPOLI ANZAC DAWN SERVICE 2009

Price includes: Istanbul sightseeing tour, attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at ANZAC Cove, 21 nights aboard the APT Exclusive River Ship, the ms Amaryla – New in 2009, glide over the 4 great European rivers – the Danube, Man, Rhine and Moselle, explore over 35 cities, towns and villages with a local guide, Freedom of Choice options in Vienna, Linz and Nuremberg, 3 nights in a luxurious Paris hotel, 77 meals, tipping and airport transfers on first and last day.

Departing 22 April 2009.

CALL 1300 656 985 for a brochure or see your travel agent

APT Peace of Mind Guarantee

✔ $10 Million Protection Plan ✔ APT Cancellation Cover ✔ 98% Customer Satisfaction ✔ Reduced Deposits ✔ 81 Years in the Industry ✔ Price Guarantee

*Conditions apply. Price based on Car D cabin aboard ms Amaryla. Prices are guaranteed once deposit has been paid. APT Cancellation Cover cost is $55 per person and is non-refundable and must be paid at the time of deposit. Add $385 per person port charges. Prices are guaranteed once deposit has been paid. Deposit reduced to $1,000 per person when deposit paid on day of booking. Deposit is refundable within 7 days of bookings. Normal cancellation fees apply after 7 days of bookings. Australian Pacific Touring Pty Ltd ABN 30 117 127 6318

APT A departure from the ordinary www.apttouring.com.au
Yarloop Remembers

Each year, on the 11th November 2008, we remember those who suffered and perished in all wars but particularly those from WWI, the War-to-end-all-Wars that ended on this day 90 years ago. Never has Australia lost so many of its healthy young men and women to conflict and, we hope, it will never happen again.

This year, I decided to see how other communities remembered our fallen comrades and chose the tiny town of Yarloop, a town about 120 kms south of Perth that was once the largest timber centre in Western Australia and now fighting for its own very existence. They have a simple but traditional War Memorial situated between the roadway and railway line inscribed with the names of those who fought in that shocking conflict. Yarloop hasn't an ESO in the district so members of the local Volunteer Fire Brigade fill the gap to ensure that due homage is paid to those who served in all conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

At 1100 hours the gathering of some 25 – 30 men and women was called to attention by the local Volunteer Fire Brigade filling the traditional role of reflection for Bill Christie, a stalwart of the Sub-Branch with our assistance.

I would like thank Bevan and Jan Delaney for their hospitality and Val and Geoff Fortune for ensuring that I was well fed. I also wish to congratulate the citizens of Yarloop for making the effort to commemorate Remembrance Day as it shows, not only a respect for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, but the fighting spirit of those dedicated people endeavouring to save their own delightful town.

(Story by John M Bates, Hon. Secretary, Dwellingup Sub-Branch)

Dwellingup Sub-Branch

For Remembrance Day 2008 our branch asked the Dwellingup Primary School if they would like to coordinate the Service on behalf of the Sub-Branch with our assistance. The children did a display of written thoughts on their own behalf which were placed on a display board on the verandah of the hall for all to see. The service was very moving because it was done with respect, pride and from the heart.

Allen - President

Shanaya, Carrie and Jaynee Gliddon.

REMEmBRANCE DAY
BRIDGETOWN

This year’s Remembrance Day was dedicated to the Indigenous soldiers. The Bridgetown RSL checked through our records and discovered that the Farmer brothers who were killed in WWII were Indigenous. We located the nephew (Bill Hayward) who is living in Perth and invited him down with another relative (Glen Stasiuk) to take part of the service. The school children presented certificates we had made up showing details of the brothers and where they lay in rest. The Brothers were Cpl Augustus Pegg Farmer MM and Pte Larry Farmer.

Terry Linz
Welfare Officer
Bridgetown RSL

Quairading in 2007.

Gallipoli Veterans honoured a special plaque that was unveiled on 2008 Remembrance Day by Sub Branch President Mr Tom Richards, to honour all who served on the Peninsula. A living memorial of a Lone Pine Descendent grows along side the plaque that reads:

“This pine tree is a direct descendant through propagation of the Lone Pine that was a landmark on the Gallipoli Peninsular. It is dedicated to those who died and served there from our shire. The one year old seedling was planted on the 7th August 2007.”

On Behalf of Gene Stone
Secretary of the Quairading RSL Sub Branch

Dear Denis,

I would like to comment on the attendance at the above, recently held. The attendance each year is getting bigger.

It was good to see school children in attendance there. Australian history needs to be upgraded and taught in all schools.

Our national pride and heritage is not to be taken for granted but respected at all costs. Those who gave their lives for it need to be remembered likewise.

To all newcomers to Western Australia from overseas countries - days of cultural significance and remembrance such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day mean a lot to us, therefore try to attend and take part in whatever way your can.

Once again thanks to all who took part in any way.

Robert Cowley
RSL Member 537837
The Nedlands sub-branch held its Remembrance Day Ceremony at the unique and most appropriate War Graves Cemetery, Smyth Road, Nedlands. The City of Nedlands joined the sub-branch in the running of the Service and strong support was provided by the staff of the War Graves Commission.

A mock memorial consisting of a 303 rifle with bayonet and tin hat, a WW2 air force flying helmet and a navy beret was provided for the laying of wreaths which were laid by dignitaries and students from the three local primary schools.

Hollywood primary school band provided music before and after the Service and the Last Post/Reveille was played by Ben Moody, a student of Hale school.

The address was given by Mr. Duncan Warren, AM, a trustee of the RSL.

Rev Peter Smith led the gathering in prayer and students from each of the schools recited a Remembrance Day poem.

The Nedlands Council had a marquee erected for the comfort of the good crowd and hosted light refreshments afterwards at the Hollywood-Subiaco Bowling Club.

As for the past 2 years, the Aero Club had a tight formation of vintage aircraft flyover on the dot of 11.00 am.

Photos show the aircraft in the flyover and a student reading a poem with Doug Arrowsmith, DFC, AOM; Secretary, Duncan Warren, AM; Ms. Nicola Hurley, Deputy Mayor of City of Nedlands; Ms. Deene Hartley, representing the Deputy Commissioner of Veteran Affairs; Alan Penaluna, President and Peter Smith.

Message from Doug Arrowsmith, Secretary, 56 Oceanic Drive Floreat, 6014 (9387 4317)

The three Sub-Branches within the City of South Perth, Como, Manning and the City of South Perth Sub-Branch combined to arrange the Remembrance Day Service to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice to end the Great War. The Service was held at the Memorial in the Memorial Gardens in South Perth.

The Service, attended by members of each Sub-Branch, the Mayor and Councillors of the City, the State Parliamentarian Mr John McGrath, representing the District and members of the public. They along with members of the Land Warfare Centre WA, joined to pay their respects to the twenty men of the District who gave their lives for their King and Country in the Great War. Their names were read out during the Service by the Marshall, Alan Stringer, and Vice President of the City of South Perth Sub-Branch.

During the service Campbell Williamson read “In Flanders Fields” by Colonel John McRae and Alastair Macpherson read the 23rd Psalm.

Sam Williams and Sam Sweetman of Wesley College played the Last Post and Rouse. Wreathes were laid by Campbell Williamson of Como Sub-Branch, Alastair Macpherson of the Manning Sub-Branch and Keith Birch of the City of South Perth Sub-Branch.

The three Sub-Branches have resolved to conduct a service each year from now on.

Kevin Trent
President
City of South Perth
Sub-Branch
Phone 9367 7794 (h)

Community stops to reflect

YOUNG and old attended the Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial on Tuesday to commemorate the sacrifices made by men and women during war and conflict. At 11am on November 11, 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years as it was the moment when hostilities ceased. More than 200 people attended the service.

Remembrance Day Bunbury

Items from the Bunbury Herald newspaper showing RSL Sub-Branch Bunbury on Remembrance Day 2008. We would like to thank the Bunbury Herald for making these available for the Listening Post.

Regards
Trevor Kenny
President

Jeff Smith was a flag bearer for the city’s Remembrance Day service. PICTURES: NORMAN BAILEY

The parade forms up for the Remembrance Day service.
The Inspection Bunbury RSL

WE can’t get away from it can we! When in uniform and some brass or egg and bacon were coming to visit the Battalion, Unit, or Squadron, and of course a fleet, then everything had to be cleaned and spiced up, to make an impression on the visiting officers or VIPs as the case may have been.

Nearly everyone irrespective of rank had to play their bit in tidying the place ready for that inspection and or parade, but what about when you are out of the services and member of a RSL Club?

What happens when an inspection of some sort is going to happen?

You call on RSL members to volunteer for the day. Instead of nominating, you, you, and you, come with me! It’s a case of ringing up members and seeing whether they are free or not to assist in cleaning the place ready for that inevitable inspection.

On Friday 17th October 2008, Bunbury RSL called on a group of volunteers to help clean the RSL hall, the bar, and outside perimeter ready for that inevitable inspection.

Yeah, the annual Liquor and Gaming Squad inspection was looming, and Trevor Kenny (President) and Norbert Van Heerwaarden (Secretary) organized the volunteers.

Trevor Kearing the Bar Manager at Bunbury RSL said, “everyone got stuck into the jobs that had to be done, and the place was ready for that inevitable inspection, and a white glove inspection would have remained white.”

Trevor Kenny said that without the volunteers helping to clean up around the hall, the jobs that needed doing would not have been completed, and he wished to thank the many volunteers that assisted in the clean up here at the Bunbury RSL hall.

The inspection passed with flying colours.

By: Brian Hastie

Norbert Van Heerwaarden, (Secretary Bunbury RSL) supervising.

Eric Prince and Chris Hark, taking a break after clearing the pavement.

For the Dawn Service on Anzac Day

Then at Bullecourt for other Anzac Services.

3 nights/4 days in the Somme, dep. 24 April. $1,180 p.p. twin share.

Visit most important Australian battlefield sites in the Somme, including Pozieres, Adpicel Cemetary, Mouquet Farm, Lochnagar Crater, & Bullecourt, with our expert battlefield guide.

MADE EASY Tours

Free call 1800 673 337

Lt TAG STCD CATO EMFA www.madeeasytours.com.au

EASE THE PAIN OF YOUR FAMILY’S LOSS

WITH A PRE-PAID FUNERAL FROM BOWRA & O’DEA.

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

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

There are many benefits to a PrePaid Funeral Plan:

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

Special extras for RSL members:

• Free extra limousine
• No administration fee for immediate payment in full
• 5% discount on selected coffins

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL JOHN RANGER AT BOWRA & O’DEA

ON (08) 9231 5100

Bowra & O’Dea. Simply a matter of trust.

From the Australian War Memorial

“Over the front” has landed

Featuring the latest in multimedia technology, the Australian War Memorial's new permanent exhibition Over the front: the Great War in the air highlights the role of the young airmen of the Australian Flying Corps.

The exhibition showcases three Allied aircraft (SE5a fighter, Airco DH9 bomber, and Avro 504K trainer) and two German fighter planes (Albatros D.Va. and Pfalz D.XII) that were brought to Australia in 1919 as war trophies. A stunning audio visual display created by acclaimed film maker Peter Jackson, Weta Digital brings the aircraft and the war in the air to life.

It has taken conservationist and curatorial staff more than a year to painstakingly prepare three of the aircraft for display. The SE5a has required repairs and cleaning, and has been re-finished to depict an aircraft flown by 2 Squadron AFC in 1918. The Albatros and Pfalz have been through major project work, and can be seen for the first time since 1918 in accurate markings and camouflage. This has involved much careful detective work, including the analysis of paint layers and samples from the original fabric covering. New fabric, printed with the striking ‘lozenge’ camouflage pattern, has been applied using the original techniques.

Limited conservation work was required for the other two aircraft. The DH9 is displayed in the markings it wore when it competed in the first England-Australia air race. It was one of two aircraft to finish, completing the epic flight in 1920. The Avro, which arrived in Australia in 1919, is displayed in its RAAF markings. The Pfalz D.XII and SE5a are displayed in an elevated position. To ensure their long term preservation and reduce the load on the 90-year old structures, the engines of both have been removed and replaced with light-weight fibreglass replicas. The original engines will remain in the Memorial’s collection for greater conservation. For more information on the conservation work, visit http://blog.awm.gov.au

A number of other major objects are also on display including an original balloon basket shot down near Ypres in 1917 and a German observation post disguised as a fake tree. Uniforms, medals and personal items will also be on display. These precious items recall the service of airmen, among the airmen’s possessions display are some good luck charms. They demonstrate that these young flyers, in the face of death, were often superstitious. One charm is a ‘fumsup’, an example of the strange small dolls given to soldiers for good luck during the war.

Entry is free to the exhibition and the Memorial, and it is open from 10 am – 5pm every day except Christmas day.

By Leigh Harris

Remembrance Day - City of Cockburn

The service was attended by about 150 - 200 people with Hamilton Senior High School band, Cadets, SES youth volunteers, Hamilton Senior High School band, Cadets, SES youth volunteers. It was followed by a free sausage sizzle for all back at the Sub Branch hall. Many comments have been received regarding the high standard of the Service & the dedication & pride shown by the Cadets & SES youth who are always an integral part of our commemoration services.

Sub Branch President Vic Boreham addressing attendees

AUSTRALIAN NAVY CADETS RECRUITING
Western Australian Area

The Australian Navy Cadets is one of the Premier Youth Organisations of Australia. The WA area is currently recruiting for 2008/2009.

OFFICERS & INSTRUCTORS
(Part-time Commitment)

Do you have an interest in Australia’s youth, the Navy, meeting new friends and working as a team?

If you are:
- Over 21
- Australian Citizen
- Medically fit
- Ability to work as a team member dealing with youth
- Of a military or teaching background (an advantage but not a pre-requisite)

Then apply to become an Officer or Instructor in the Australian Navy Cadets

On successful appointment you will be attached to a training unit, receive a uniform, pro-rata pay and conditions of service. You will be required to attend one night a week, some weekends and an annual 7 day camp.

For more information
Visit: www.cadetnet.gov.au
Contact: Lieutenant Commander Carl Markovic (ANC) carl.markovic@cadetnet.gov.au

"over the front" has landed

The service was attended by about 150 - 200 people with Hamilton Senior High School band, Cadets, & SES youth volunteers. It was followed by a free sausage sizzle for all back at the Sub Branch hall. Many comments have been received regarding the high standard of the Service & the dedication & pride shown by the Cadets & SES youth who are always an integral part of our commemoration services.

Sub Branch President Vic Boreham addressing attendees

Leigh Harris
Media Relations
(02) 6243 4575 or 0409 600 038 media@awm.gov.au

Leigh Harris
Media Relations
(02) 6243 4575 or 0409 600 038 media@awm.gov.au
Infections occur when the balance between a combination of having a protective barrier vigilant to protect itself, and it does this through given the right circumstances, can cause life-threatening micro-organisms. They are everywhere - in the soil, in the air, in the water, in the food we eat. We live in a world full of bacteria and viruses.

Over recent years we have seen the emergence of infection after surgery. A number of patients continue to develop infection even after considered to be clean surgery. What happens to the instruments? To keep the wound clean and dry to assist with healing, surgical wounds have sealed themselves off with cover and protect the wound. The body has sent in to hospital for surgery we ask that they be stable and well controlled prior to any surgery. If you are a higher risk patient, make sure your surgeon knows your full medical history. It is very important that your diabetes is under control, and there is contact with invasive micro-organisms.

How do we minimise the risks? We know that most infections relating to surgery are caused by bacteria from the patient's own skin, and so it is crucial to ensure the skin is as clean as possible before undertaking any surgery. When patients are coming in for surgery we ask that they shower prior to their admission with a special antibacterial solution which we supply you. You can never completely sterilise the skin, but washing dramatically decreases the numbers of bacteria living on the skin and in skin folds. When the patient is taken to the operating room their skin is painted with a very powerful antiseptic solution in the region of the operation. This is covered all over with sterile drapes, and a layer of sterile sheets is placed over the operating area. The operating area is contacted only by sterile equipment and staff, and the patient has been sterilised and protected themselves off and put on sterile theatre gowns and gloves. Patients who are undergoing high risk surgery are given intravenous antibiotics with their anaesthetic. Some patients may need ongoing antibiotics. Following surgery, a dressing is applied to cover and protect the wound. The body has a wonderful capacity to heal and repair itself, and within a very short period of time most surgical wounds have healed themselves off with a combination of body fluids rich in protective proteins and immune cells and so it is important to keep the wound clean and dry to assist with rapid healing. What happens to the instruments?

What is cross-infection? Cross-infection is the spread of bacteria from one patient to another. The crucial factors to prevent cross infection are good hand hygiene by the staff (ie hand washing, wearing gloves etc), and by isolating patients who have infections or who are colonised. We also isolate patients who might be at higher risk of infections, for example if their immunity has been altered by medications or illness. We have a comprehensive program to screen patients for infections or MRO's, when they are admitted. Most of the times we find no simple colonisation, which means that the bacteria simply live on the skin surface, in the bowel or up the nose without causing any problems. If we find MROs on our screening swabs, we place the colonised patient in a single room in order to prevent cross-infection to other patients. We make recommendations to decrease the bacterial load in these patients such as antibiotic wash or cream for the nose.

What to do if you think you have an infection? You should contact your doctor straight away. Most infections can be treated easily with a course of antibiotics, but if you are unsure or you think you might have an infection, you should contact your doctor. They will be able to give you a comparison between facilities. Our infection rate is amongst the best in the country. As always I am more than happy to be of assistance and you can be contacted on 9346 6249.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Cecile Hinton

Australia has demonstrated great gratitude for our Defence personnel who served their nation in times of war. The nation issues medals to our Defence personnel to commemorate wars, to reward periods of service and to recognise fears of courage over and above the call of duty. Australia has NOT demonstrated gratitude for our Defence canines which have served their nation in times of war or peace. Australia can't! We are prohibited by the Defence Act of 1903. The Australian Defence Force is not permitted to issue medals to animals. However, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) is a registered charity and the Australian Defence Force Welfare Association (ADFDTWA) has been given the green light to give honours to Defence dogs by designing and issuing ADFDTWA medals for dogs, and ADFDTWA is a registered charity. The ADFDTWA has designed two medals for dogs. One is the War Dog Operational Medal. This will be issued to dogs which have served in a war zone for a period of more than eighty eight days. It includes a clasp for the Area of Operations eg. Afghanistan. The other medal is the Canine Service Medal which will be issued to dogs which have served for a minimum aggregated period of five years. An impression of these medals is attached. These medals will be available to all dogs employed on government duty, and on Federal and State levels. The ADFDTWA medals for dogs will be launched on 25 October 2008, at the Baldivis Airforce Base. The ceremony will be a part of a ceremony where a number of service dogs from the Australian Army, the Royal Australian Air Force, Western Australian Corrective Services and other government dog agencies will receive their medals. For further information please contact George Hulce (President of ADFDTWA) on 0412 361 363, or Bob Jennings OAM (vice president) on 0419 641 962, or Bob Bennert (secretary) on 0418 889 141.

George Hulce
President ADFDTWA

1982 was the Year of the Tree and the Sub-Branch. We Force members decided to plant a Tree in Kings Park and we arranged it with the then Director and a little Flowering gum was planted jointly by Mrs Sylvia Perry MBE and Colonel Cecily Smith in the Memorial area, with a group of members attending the Ceremony. Later, in 1986, when the tree had grown and was well established a stone with a plaque bearing the words “To honour all women who served in the armed forces during wartime” was unveiled by Mrs Lanu (Tuck) Fealy our President. This year marks our 60th Anniversary and Mrs Barbara Clinton our President. The plaque was too difficult to read after all these years of bone, water and weather so with the permission of the CEO of Kings Park she organised a new plaque with the addition of the words “Lest we forget”.

A Ceremony of Rededication was held on the 30th October 2008. The new plaque was unveiled by Mrs Clinton in the presence of Mr & Mrs Gaynor and a group of members which included Colonel Cecily Smith and Mrs Dowson who as far as we know are the only two who were at the original tree planting.

Mrs Clinton gave an account of the history of the Sub-Branch, Miss Judith Dowson our latest Affiliate Member gave an account of her mother Joan’s Rev Gaynor. Manolas blessed the stone and plaque, pouring water as a symbol of life and placing a spig of Rosemary as a token of remembrance by the stone. Mrs Clinton laid a pretty wreath of wild orchids and other native flowers made by our member Sherry Dowson. It was then said the ODE. A young service woman gave a beautiful rendition of the LAST POST and the National Anthem followed. Then said the Lords Prayer the National Anthem brought the Service to a close.

Judy and Gaynor provided a wonderful repast which was enjoyed by us all including our guests amongst whom were Mrs Vicki Ludwig the new Acting President of Veterans Affairs and Mrs Eve Morehead with The CEO of Kings Park Botanical Gardens.

We had the opportunity for several members to meet our new CEO Mr Kevin Davidson and we were very grateful for the microphone and flags which were organised by Colonel Skelton and his team.
W.A. Venturer Remembrance Day Service 11 November 2008

As you probably are aware, the Scout Association of Western Australia is extensively involved in the RSL’s ANZAC Day Commemorative Service, particularly through the Rover Section of our movement. Also many of you would have attended or participated in local ANZAC Day Services as part of your own Groups’ commitment. However, up until 2003 there was little or no Scouting involvement in Remembrance Day, but through the work of concerned Venturers and Leaders and the Returned & Services League of WA this particular service was initiated and we can continue to carry out this tradition each year.

Remembrance Day provides a time for reflection of the efforts of Australian soldiers and service personnel in World War One & Two, the Korean and Vietnam Wars and more recent conflicts; be they Australian or not. After this contemplation we hope that we can follow the great examples of self-sacrifice and service there displayed, as Venturer Scouts and Australians.

The ANZAC Day commemoration is always a Dawn Service… and yet part of the Ode that we recite on that day says that “At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.” So because we can stand here, watching the sun set over our free and lucky country, we should give our thanks and remember those who have made this possible.

Dear Editor,

With tomorrow being Remembrance Day, I would like to send the attached scan of an original work by myself to offer my personal heartfelt thanks to all our servicemen, past and present that have endeavoured to keep this great nation safe.

My grandfathers, god rest their souls, served in WWII for the Royal Australian Air Force and for the British Navy respectively, my step grandfather served in both WWI and WWII.

As a nation, if we never feel the gravity of the sacrifices made, the constant vigilance is necessary, and for the British Navy respectively, my step grandfather served in both WWI and WWII.

The ANZAC Day commemoration is always a Dawn Service… and yet part of the Ode that we recite on that day says that “At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.” So because we can stand here, watching the sun set over our free and lucky country, we should give our thanks and remember those who have made this possible.

Kind regards,

William Croft

(Merely one soul in our great nation’s future, that understands he owes so much to our nation’s past.)

AUSTRALIAN ARMY IN GERMANY FOR EXERCISE CO-OPERATIVE SPIRIT 2008

The Australian Army’s 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR) has deployed to Germany to participate in Exercise Co-operative Spirit 08 (CS08), a multinational exercise intended to test interoperability among the American, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Armies (ABCA).

CS08 is being conducted by the United States at the Joint Multinational Readiness Centre, located in Hohenfels, Germany and aims to develop skills common to ABCA armies and increase interoperability for combined operations.

During the month long exercise, the 180-strong 1RAR contingent will combine with a company from the 2nd/1st Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment to create the ‘ANZAC Battle Group’. Together they will conduct operations in the field, under stressful battlefield conditions, complete with a sophisticated opposing force and realistic training scenarios in a world-class training facility.

“Co-operative Spirit 08 provides an excellent opportunity for the Australian Army to engage in realistic training and to test interoperability with our US, UK, Canadian and NZ counterparts in a scenario based on operations in Afghanistan,” said Commanding Officer of 1RAR, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Connolly.

“Coordinator of the operation across Australia and New Zealand, CS08 is being conducted by the United States at the joint Multinational Readiness Centre, located in Hohenfels, Germany and aims to develop skills common to ABCA armies and increase interoperability for combined operations.

“Whilst in Germany we will focus on making use of the valuable training experience to learn how to operate better with our coalition partners through building strong working relationships,” Lieutenant Colonel Connolly said.

Many of the ABCA units participating in CS08 are expected to deploy to Afghanistan over the coming year. The Australian Army is proud to take part in CS08 and the exercise reaffirms the strong ties between the Australian Army and ABCA Army partners, whilst further developing skills and preparedness for operations in Afghanistan.

Issued by Ministerial Support and Public Affairs, Department of Defence, Canberra, ACT
Phone: 02 6265 3343, Fax: 02 6265 0946

December 2008
**2 RAR History**

I am writing to you in reference to our Battalion Book being reprinted in the original hard cover and using the same paper used in 1971 when it was first printed. This original book was a limited edition, which is the reason for having an original book printed, as there were a lot of soldiers who have either, lost, destroyed or didn’t receive a copy at the time.

This book would be available to any member of the past and current services. At this stage, I expect the cost would be around the $90.00 mark, plus postage.

The target to get the book printed is 100 orders.

Keith Carter
2 RAR tour of South Vietnam, (1970-71)
For further information contact:
Keith Carter
40 Raylee Avenue, Nambour Queensland
Email: cuddlescarterv@yahoo.com.au
Tel: (07) 5441 2835

**RAF 59 SQUADRON RESEARCH – SECOND WORLD WAR**

I am currently undertaking research into RAF 59 Squadron during the Second World War and those that served. My aim is to put together a service honour roll and put it online, including personnel histories if and where possible. I am writing to you in regards to RAF Personnel who served with 59. I have records from the CWGC that indicate 17 Australian airmen lost their lives but I have only been able to source a handful of those that survived the war. My grandfather F/L HR Longmuir was one of them. I have sourced 416 names of which only 27 are RAAF, 39 RAF, 7 RNZAF the remaining 343 are registered as RAF and RAFVR.

I was hoping that you may have access to a database of your members that may shed some light on those that made it home. It is very difficult to find details on these men. Any help you may be able to offer will be greatly appreciated. I hope this letter finds you in good health and thank you for your time.

Lorenzo del Mann
aussie-59@live.com

**The survivors of HMAS VOYAGER are holding a reunion to mark the 45th anniversary of the sinking on the weekend of 6th-8th February 2009 at Huskisson NSW. ALL WELCOME**

For further information contact
Brenda Hannay
phone: 02 9649 5477
or email: brenjohn@tpg.com.au

**RAF 59 SQUADRON RESEARCH – SECOND WORLD WAR**

I was hoping that you may have access to a database of your members that may shed some light on those that made it home. It is very difficult to find details on these men. Any help you may be able to offer will be greatly appreciated. I hope this letter finds you in good health and thank you for your time.

Lorenzo del Mann
aussie-59@live.com

**Looking for Vietnam Veterans - Memorial Wall at St Helens Memorial Park Tasmania**

In St Helens we are erecting a new Memorial Wall at the St Helens Memorial Park. This Wall will have plaques of both honour and nominal rolls of all soldiers from the Boer War to present day.

I am after names of any Vietnamese Veteran who was living in the Break O Day area (or Portland municipality as it would have been called then) when they served in Vietnam or veteran who served and are residing here now.

I also need to get permission to put their name on the plaque and, if deceased, permission from their next of kin.

Cut off date will be December to get the plaques cast.

Details required are:
Name, Number, Rank, Years served, Unit
Contact Details:
Address, Phone number, Email Address
Please reply to: Seoul
VVA East Coast (Tas) Sub-Branch
46 Powers Rd
Pyengana TAS 7316
Phone (03) 6373 6132
Email fender110@bigpond.com

**NATIONAL SERVICE MEMORIAL**

The Nasho League of W.A. Inc (Wheatbelt Division), in conjunction with the Brunton Branch of the RSL, will be unveiling and dedicating a commemorative National Service Memorial in Brookton on Saturday, 14th February, 2009, which is in fact Nasho Day.

A parade of veterans will be forming up at the local Fire Station at 10.45am before stepping off at 10.45 for a short march to the memorial site.

The formal service will commence at 11 am and will be followed by a BBQ lunch at approx midday. Any person or group interested in attending should contact Mr Jim White at the Brookton RSL.-

Phone Home: 9641 2372
Mobile: 0417 919 481
Email address: jimcorw@bigpond.com

**INVITATION TO ATTEND THE GREAT DEBATE. The Military Historical Society of Western Australia Presents**

A debate on the pros and cons of one of the most controversial actions of the Second World War, the Fire Bombing Raid on Dresden, Germany in February 1945. The ramifications of that raid will be explored. Dr Michael Critchley will play the role of Air Marshall ‘Bomber’ Harris and Mr Peter Illidge will take on the role of the Gauleiter of Dresden.

This will be presented at the RAAF Club Theatre, RAAF Estate Retirement Village, Bull Creek Dv., Bull Creek on, Tuesday 16th December 2008 at 8.00 pm. An excellent finger supper will be served and is included. The Club Bar will be open at Club Bar prices.

Price: $15 per head

Your help in publicising this function is much appreciated. Sincerely, ‘Midge’ Carter

Peter Morrey

**Monaco Entertainment Spectacular**

**SPECIAL VIETNAM VETERANS CONCERTS & WORKSHOPS**

At Harry Dickson’s Country Music Centre Boyup Brook, Western Australia. Situated 5km out of Boyup Brook on the Boyup Brook/Archer River Road.

**The Listening Post December 2008**
SAFETY TIPS FOR PILOTS

• Every takeoff is optional. Every landing is mandatory. If you push the stick forward, the houses get bigger. If you pull the stick back, they get smaller. That is, unless you keep pulling the stick all the way back, when then they get bigger again.

• Flying is dangerous. Crashing is what's dangerous.

• The only time you have too much fuel is when you are on fire.

• The throttle is just a big gas at the front of the aircraft to keep the pilot cool. When you stop it or apply the set the pilot starts sweating.

A good landing is one from which you can walk away. A “good” landing is one after which they can use the plane again.

• You know you have landed with the wheels up if it takes full power to taxi to the shop.

Stay out of clouds. The silver lining everyone talks about might be another aircraft going in the opposite direction. Reliable sources also report that mountains have been known to hide in clouds.

• Always try to keep the number of landings you make equal to the number of liftoffs.

It is always a good idea to keep the pointy end going forward as much as possible.

• In the ongoing battle between objects made of aluminium going at hundreds of miles per hour, and the ground going zero miles per hour, the ground has yet to lose.

It is much better to be done here wishing you were up there than up there wishing you were done here.

• A fighter pilot was heard to ask for landing priority because he was a “bit short of fuel”. It was denied. He again asked for priority, and he was advised that a B52 was one ahead of him as he had shut down an engine. “Ah” the fighter pilot responded, “the dreaded seven engine approach”.

BEAUFORT RESTORATION GROUP
Giving History a Future

2008 Appeal

Please support the restoration of this historic Australian WW2 aircraft.

It is easy to lose sight of the importance of the past and to lose the significance of such things as mateship, courage and honour. Our project stands as a reminder of the past, of the importance of duty and determination. We owe a great debt not only to the 505 Australians who lost their lives serving in Beauforts, but also to future generations to stand as witness to their lives and to the endeavour. There can be no more appropriate memorial to those who flew, serviced and built Beauforts than the only flying example of this aircraft type anywhere in the world.

Following distinguished service with the RAAF Australian build Beaufort A9-141 was substantially damaged in a crash at Tocumwal on the 14th January, 1944 and is currently being restored to flying condition by the Beaufort Restoration Group. The Beaufort is acknowledged as one of the most important aircraft employed in the defence of Australia during World War II and holds impressive records in many areas of wartime endeavour. Beaufort carried our convoy and anti-submarine duties in support of merchant and naval vessels and aided in close support of the AIF in New Guinea. Beauforts were to carry out the last sortie of the war for the RAAF in the South West Pacific Area.

Now, more than ever before, this historically important project needs your support, and we seek your donation to the reconstruction appeal. All donations are acknowledged and donations of $500 or more are recorded on the RSL Donor Board in our workshop. Whatever the size of your donation, it will make an important contribution to this project.

We invite you and your members to visit our workshop and museum at Caboolture to review progress of the restoration of A9-141, and we can be contacted on 07 5495 4951 or 0417 731 585 to make arrangements for a suitable time to review this project.

Ralph Casack
Project Coordinator

“SHE SHALL HAVE MUSIC”

Life hasn’t been easy for the Clarke family of Bullsbrook since the premature death of their ex-soldier father, due to cancer, four years ago. His widow and three teenage children have struggled along. When musically talented middle child Emily, needed to acquire her own instrument however, the purchase price was off-putting, and her musical ambitions in jeopardy.

However, on her mother approaching her late husband’s local RSL, help was at hand. Learning of the need for this youngster to continue with her musical career, the Trustees of the WA Aged Sailors’, Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Relief Trust Fund stepped in and helped 17 year-old Emily Clarke to buy a Tenor Saxophone - her preferred instrument.

In and helped 17 year-old Emily Clarke to buy a Tenor Saxophone - her preferred instrument.

The donation of this saxophone has enabled Emily to participate in her school band, and has encouraged her to join a local music academy. The Clarke family are very grateful for this generous donation, and it has given Emily a new sense of hope and purpose.

Go to www.rslsales.com.au to purchase a saxophone or other music instrument for a deserving child.

New Veterans’ Council Holds first meeting at Parliament House

The fourteen members of the newly established Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Ex-Service Matters have met for the first time.

During the meeting, conducted on October 9 and 10 in Canberra, the Council have confirmed its terms of reference, investigated some of the current consultative arrangements for the veterans community and began considering some of the major issues facing the portfolio.

The Council also met with the Prime Minister, who said that the establishment of the advisory body was an important achievement for the Government and that he looked forward to receiving its advice.

The Chair of the Council, Dr Allan Hawke, said he was pleased by the progress of the first meeting.

“With the funding of the Prime Minister to join our first meeting and hear his views on the importance of the Council,” said Dr Hawke.

Members of Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Ex-Service Matters

Dr Allan Hawke - Chair, ACT
Ms Frank Benfield, Queensland
Group Captain Dr Robert Black AM RFD, South Australia
Hon Graham Edwards, Western Australia
Ms Jane Healy OAM, ACT
Commodore Nick Hiley MBE RAN, NSW
Warrant Officer Peter Hind OAM, Queensland
Mr Kenneth Kipping AM, ACT
Mrs Gail MacDonnell, NSW
Mr Sam Fahl, Victoria
Ms Phil Pyke, Tasmania
Ms Donna Reggett, Queensland
Brigadier Keith V Rossi (Retd) (Adm OBE RFD ED), Victoria
Brigadier Neil Wickers (Retd) AM MC, Queensland

Terms of Reference - Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Ex-Service Matters

The Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Ex-Service Matters is a body established to consider and advise the Prime Minister and Government on strategic and complex matters. Its aim is to:

• provide advice on major issues affecting the ex-service and defence communities with a view to facilitating a better future for members of these communities;
• review proposed legislation and its impact on the ex-service and defence communities;
• advise on ex-service matters which impact directly on the responsibilities of other government departments; and
• consider and assist the prioritising of issues raised or referred by the Prime Minister and/or the Minister.

Media inquiries: Phil Pyke 0439 445 831

3rd Australian Tunnelling Company, 1st AIF

I am an amateur historian researching the 3rd Australian Tunnelling Company, 1st AIF that served on the Western Front from 1916-1919.

I am seeking information from any descendants or relatives of men who served with this unit. I am particularly interested in any personal recollections/stories, war diaries, photographs or any other information that may assist in putting together a unit history together.

My contact details are,

Mr Chris Donnelly
Phone: (08) 9310 7589
email: chrisdonnelly@iinet.net.au

Media inquiries:  Phil Pyke  0439 445 831

Media inquiries:  Phil Pyke  0439 445 831

Sailors

Huiskisson RSL Sub Branch pension officers are trying to compile a list of all heavy objects that sailors have lifted in the course of their Naval Career.

We have some weights eg engineering tiffy’s, some submarine gear but we would like to compile a complete list. This includes all ships since about 1940

We would appreciate if you could forward this email out to all of your readers

Alex Paton
If you are able to assist with the following request please contact Alex Paton direct at E-mail: patonplace@southernphone.com.au

3rd Australian Tunnelling Company, 1st AIF that served on the Western Front from 1916-1919.

I am seeking information from any descendants or relatives of men who served with this unit. I am particularly interested in any personal recollections/stories, war diaries, photographs or any other information that may assist in putting together a unit history together.

My contact details are,

Mr Chris Donnelly
Phone: (08) 9310 7589
email: chrisdonnelly@iinet.net.au

Media inquiries:  Phil Pyke  0439 445 831
After a conversation with Gary Sutherland on Badges of Rank, the discussion turned to the recently retired Governor-General Michael Jeffery, AC, CVO, MC (Retd) Badge of Rank.

It was soon discovered that the insignia for Governor-General was found wanting on charts that had ‘Badges of Rank’ for Australian Defence Force, as there was very little knowledge around, even within military and ex-service personal.

After contacting several sources I was put in touch with Mr Phil Sumner, Area Manager of Defence Force Recruiting, Perth, who managed to obtain a copy of the Governor-Generals Badge, (Fig. 1) which are worn on his/her Dress Uniform (Fig. 2). The epaulettes are the insignia that are worn on the normal uniform. These rules apply whether the Governor-General is of military or civilian background.

If a Governor-General is from a civilian background and wishes to visit a battlefield as part of their duties, he/she can wear a military uniform (provides less of a target) as ‘Commander in Chief of Australian Forces’.

The Governor-General as Commander in Chief

Section 68 of the Australian Constitution, which has been emulated since 1901 reads “The Command in Chief of the Naval and Military Forces of the Commonwealth is vested in the Governor-General as the Queen’s representative”. There is no mention of Chiefs of Staff, or of Minister for Defence, of Cabinet or of Prime Minister.

The role of the Governor-General as Commander in Chief of Australian Defence Forces gains several mentioned in Federal Hansard. For example, on the 30th of March 1976 we read of the Governor-Generals position as Commander in Chief as being “a very responsible position” which is “very dangerous for an appointed person to hold”.

Then in 1978, again in Hansard, we read of the enormous powers of the Governor-General support reference to the fact that “he is Commander in Chief of the Armed Services”.

Under section 68 of the Constitution, the Governor-General as the Commander in Chief of the Australian Defence Force, although in practice he or she acts only on the advice of Ministers of the Government. The Minister for Defence is responsible for Australia’s defence policy.

The day-to-day administration and operation of the services are under the command of the Chief of the Defence Force and his officers. Through the Executive Council, the Governor-General:

Appoints the Chief of the Defence Force and the Chiefs of the three Armed Services; and

Commissions officers in the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army, and the Royal Australian Air Force.

As Commander in Chief, the Governor-General has an important ceremonial role to play. His or her role includes, but is not limited to, attending military parades and special occasions such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, and presenting Colours and other insignia to units of the Australian Defence Force.

In 1983, in one of the series of ‘Canberra Papers on Strategy and Defence’ (Defence Force Journal (1979)) one finds a distinction drawn between control and command and it is suggested that in relation to command the Governor-General’s responsibility is that of “ensuring that the armed service do not become a political tool of the government”.

Surveying the situation in 1894, Alpheus Todd could say of the Home Government that “it is in the highest degree unwarrantable to assume that any exception exists to the operation of the constitutional rule that requires that the Ministers of the Crown should be held responsible for the performance, by the Sovereign, of all acts of state”. He went on to say that the prerogatives of the Crown in relation to the army and navy were at first practically excluded from ministerial control but gradually became subject to the supervision of Ministers, it being now, that is, in the 1890’s, “obvious that any attempt on the part of the Sovereign to retain power, in respect to military administration or diplomacy, would be... inconsistent with constitutional usage”.

And as the colonies acquired responsible government so it became clear that governors, whatever their titles might be, would, like the Sovereign in Britain, have to forego all independent command of colonial armed forces and act exclusively upon the advice of Ministers. Thus it was that, writing in 1928 and describing the situation of armed forces in the colonies during the second half of the 19th century, Sir Bentidale Keith could say that those armed forces were “regulated entirely by local Acts and directed on principles of ministerial responsibility. The Governor indeed held the position of Commander in Chief under his commission—the title in England was dropped in 1973, but has lingered on abroad—but this gave him no authority whatever of a military character”.

With Assistance from:

a. Mr Gary J. Sutherland, OAM
b. Mr Phil Sumner, Area Manager of Defence Force Recruiting, Perth, WA
Denis Connelly

Raymond Robinson Memorial Museum

The museum showcases various war memorabilia from the Crimean War (1854-56) to present-day conflicts. Some of the exhibits include: photos, uniforms, weapons, badges, Krupp Howitzer gun, 1943 Willys Jeep and a mock-up of a fighter aircraft, similar to a Boomerang fighter designed and built in Australia during the Second World War.

The museum was dedicated in honour of Warrant Officer Raymond Robinson who passed away last year. Raymond was heavily involved in establishing the museum and the York Peninsula Veterans’ and Community Centre.

Raymond served in Korea and the Malaysian Emergency. He was also a member of the first Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATT) to serve in Vietnam in 1962-63. Raymond did three tours in Vietnam. His second tour was as the Company Sergeant Major (CSM) for the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (7RAR) in 1967-68 and, in 1968-69 his third tour was again with AATT.

Fig 1.

Fig 2.

STILL WAITING AGES FOR MEDALS TO BE MOUNTED?
NOT HERE! PRECISION MOUNTING, QUALITY REPRODUCTION MEDALS, MILITARY ART AND MORE...

Perth’s expert, medals, mounting and framing shops ...

Precision, acid-free, NO superglue, sewn-on clasps, no-cardboard medal mounting and dress ribbon bars.

Australian and British Commonwealth issue reproduction and replacement medal replicas and ribbons.

Creative framing of all your family service memorabilia for future generations to appreciate. Plus full-sized fully framed defence and police replica weapons; Owens, SRs, M60s, M16s, M16/M203s, F88s, F89s, Browning 9mm, Glock, and Ruger .38 pistols, these framed weapons look great on your walls!

Card-carrying ADF and ESO members receive special discounts on all medal mounting services and get priority level service. Personalised attention and lots of easy on-site parking... come on over!

Heritage Medals dealers in Western Australia:
Heritage Medals/Military Framers: Shop 9, 7 Delage Street Joondalup Phone 9300 3318
Medals Mounting & Framing: 298a Railway Parade Cannington; Phone 9358 5058
Email service@heritagemedals.com.au or shop online! 24 x 7 x 365 @ http://www.heritagemedals.com.au

We’re open 10:00am to 5:00pm weekdays, and Saturdays 10:00am to 2:00pm and other times by appointment

The Governor-General: the Sovereign as Commander in Chief

The day-to-day administration and operation of the services are under the command of the Chief of the Defence Force and his officers. Through the Executive Council, the Governor-General:

Appoints the Chief of the Defence Force and the Chiefs of the three Armed Services; and

Commissions officers in the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army, and the Royal Australian Air Force.

As Commander in Chief, the Governor-General has an important ceremonial role to play. His or her role includes, but is not limited to, attending military parades and special occasions such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, and presenting Colours and other insignia to units of the Australian Defence Force.

In 1983, in one of the series of ‘Canberra Papers on Strategy and Defence’ (Defence Force Journal (1979)) one finds a distinction drawn between control and command and it is suggested that in relation to command the Governor-General’s responsibility is that of “ensuring that the armed service do not become a political tool of the government”.

Surveying the situation in 1894, Alpheus Todd could say of the Home Government that “it is in the highest degree unwarrantable to assume that any exception exists to the operation of the constitutional rule that requires that the Ministers of the Crown should be held responsible for the performance, by the Sovereign, of all acts of state”. He went on to say that the prerogatives of the Crown in relation to the army and navy were at first practically excluded from ministerial control but gradually became subject to the supervision of Ministers, it being now, that is, in the 1890’s, “obvious that any attempt on the part of the Sovereign to retain power, in respect to military administration or diplomacy, would be... inconsistent with constitutional usage”.

And as the colonies acquired responsible government so it became clear that governors, whatever their titles might be, would, like the Sovereign in Britain, have to forego all independent command of colonial armed forces and act exclusively upon the advice of Ministers. Thus it was that, writing in 1928 and describing the situation of armed forces in the colonies during the second half of the 19th century, Sir Bentidale Keith could say that those armed forces were “regulated entirely by local Acts and directed on principles of ministerial responsibility. The Governor indeed held the position of Commander in Chief under his commission—the title in England was dropped in 1973, but has lingered on abroad—but this gave him no authority whatever of a military character”.

With Assistance from:

a. Mr Gary J. Sutherland, OAM
b. Mr Phil Sumner, Area Manager of Defence Force Recruiting, Perth, WA
Denis Connelly
Walter Nelthorpe Easton 1905-1990

Wally Easton was born in 1905 in Rotherham, Yorkshire, England. As a young boy he enjoyed the freedom of roaming far and wide across the Yorkshire Moors.

After leaving school Wally was apprenticed to a law firm as a clerk, but soon rebelled against being indoors and a desk all day.

By attending the Sheffield Technical College at night, he was able to train and qualify as a stone mason.

A requirement of this five year course was the making of all the tools of the trade, including hammers of various weights, a wooden maul and the range of chisels required for cutting letters in headstones, to dressing a large block of marble for a plinth. The course also included the understanding and drawing of the human anatomy, calligraphy and technical drawing.

A sense of adventure saw Wally reply to an advertisement seeking stone masons to work on the new University of Western Australia building that was under construction at Crawley. He arrived in Perth and worked both on the University, including Winthrop Hall and St Georges College.

He also worked on St Georges Cathedral, designed the ‘relief-mural’ on the facade of Bible House. His work can also be found in other churches and buildings around Perth.

Wally married Ola Mina McCrae in 1936 and fathered a family of three daughters.

During the Second World War, Wally enlisted in the RAAF and served in both Australia and New Guinea, holding the rank of Corporal in an airfield construction squadron.

Following the First World War a large war memorial was constructed in Kings Park. Wally worked both on its construction and the actual lettering for the panels naming the men who did not return.

After the war and discharge from the RAAF he ran a poultry farm in Gosnells and also worked in ceiling manufacturing on the production of plaster moulds for cornices, ceilings, roses and the like.

Due to one of his daughter’s love of horses he was also involved in the local Agricultural Shows and Gymkhana in the building and erecting of the show jumping courses.

In his later years Wally also found great enjoyment from woodcarving using the skills learnt in his earlier years as a stone mason.

Following a long, happy and fruitful life Wally passed away in November 1990.

---

War Memorials: Canberra and Sydney:

On a recent trip to Canberra I visited the Servicewomen's Memorial again. It is a flat, shaded granite square with a channel running diagonally across it depicting a stream separating the war and peacetime services. Canberra is in the grip of a drought and so there was no water and the white Vincas planted around it were struggling bravely. (White Vincas because Kangaroos don’t eat white flowers the lady from the AWM told me once.) At least now there is a separate plaque near it, also flat on the ground, but clearly readable giving the meaning of the Memorial, so our protests have at last borne some result.

This time I was determined to find the Helicopter in the Vietnam Exhibition and the Guide at the entrance warned us it was very noisy. At last we heard the noise of an approaching Helicopter and suddenly it was before us with its door open and two soldiers with guns blazing (if it was real) and the noise was incredible with the helicopter and the guns. My friend who had been through the London Blitz as a child took off and I followed around the corner was a wonderful painting of the identical scene we had just seen of the helicopter and soldiers. I wonder which came first, the painting or the models. It was a pleasant surprise to run into Ray Ward while at the Memorial and we had a brief chat.

Sadly the Nurses’ Memorial which consists of glass panels bearing inscriptions was vandalised yet again.

Kate Quan (ex-WAAAF) had told me about the Memorial in Sydney to the Australian Chinese personnel who served during the war so I was also determined to find that Memorial. She said it was behind the Monorail in Chinatown. I got off at the Chinatown station and a security guard helped me find my way out of the station (which is a maze) and I turned left and saw it and walked towards it. The kind security guard ran after me to tell me I was going the wrong way, Chinatown was to my right! So I assured him that there was the Memorial! I cannot do justice in trying to describe it. There is a tall post with fine arms going out in a spiral, about the most beautiful war memorial I have ever seen, and a semi-circular low wall with the names of all the Australian Chinese who served. Kate says it looks beautiful at night when it is illuminated. To my delight I found names of a family I knew and also two Kathleens so I took photos of both names to run into Ray Ward while at the Memorial and we had a brief chat.

Kate Quan (ex-WAAAF) had told me about the Memorial in Sydney to the Australian Chinese personnel who served during the war so I was also determined to find that Memorial. She said it was behind the Monorail in Chinatown. I got off at the Chinatown station and a security guard helped me find my way out of the station (which is a maze) and I turned left and saw it and walked towards it. The kind security guard ran after me to tell me I was going the wrong way, Chinatown was to my right! So I assured him that there was the Memorial! I cannot do justice in trying to describe it. There is a tall post with fine arms going out in a spiral, about the most beautiful war memorial I have ever seen, and a semi-circular low wall with the names of all the Australian Chinese who served. Kate says it looks beautiful at night when it is illuminated. To my delight I found names of a family I knew and also two Kathleens so I took photos of both names till I could find out from Kate which was her maiden name. I was very pleased with my success in locating what I had set out to see and delighted with the results.

Cecile Hinton

---

2CARU (RAAF) Reunion

A 50th Anniversary reunion to celebrate the formation of 2 Control and Reporting Unit, RAAF Lee Point will be held in Darwin from 18 to 26 September 2009.

Details on: www.angelfire.com.au; or email: 2carauare@gmail.com; or phone 08 89451547

Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Gail Snell
Reunion Committee
Men of the Trenches

We were defined by our colours,
You saw them before any face,
The trenches were wet and filled with cannonades,
Who had fallen and been eaten by rats.
We try and fail to justify the killing and dying that we see,
With belief, hope, ideas for the future and fear for our families.

How can we describe it to those born after us?
What should we say to defend our actions?
To earn back their love and their trust?
They have never wanted for anything,
And will never know the struggles.
The hardships that our generation went through.
We fought for what we believe in,
Through sunshine, mud and rain we pressed on,
The trenches were wet and filled with comrades,
And blood spattering our hands,
With water splashing our faces,
We were defined by our colours.

Once it had finished we were praised and renown,
We try and fail to justify the killing and dying that we see,
Of dead men in our heads.
We fall asleep at night, with images of dead men in our heads.
And wake everyone when I cry out in my sleep.
Knowing we might never see our homes again.
How can we describe it to those born after us?
We fought for what we believe in.
We fought for our countries fate.

As per copy of Charter
I thank our members for their support throughout.
I would invite all our members to visit the WYOLA CLUB to celebrate.

Yours sincerely
J K Paton
President.

Ray Walton
Party’s election commitment to recognise the “Today’s declaration delivers on the Labor Territory to be recognised for their national significance. Afghan prisoners of war. A fund was set up in 1946 with soldiers from the 8th Division and others from Malaysia subscribing directly to the fund. The Australian Red Cross also provided a significant contribution.

The Government is providing $160,000 over four years to maintain the memorial. Further information on the Scholarship, including ways in which the Ex-Service community can assist, is available from Mrs Vivienne Gorman, at Australian Red Cross, on (03) 9345 1810. AIF AID TO SINGAPOREAN AND MALAYSIAN NURSES CELEBRATED

Terrorists incarcerated in Ballarat have today been officially declared a national memorial. Today’s declaration ends a long process for the people of Ballarat and the POW community in Ballarat who have lobbied for national recognition for their memorial commemorating the suffering of Australian prisoners of war. Ms Catherine King, Federal Member for Ballarat, said today’s declaration would not have occurred, “This has been a genuine community campaign for recognition and I applaud their efforts.”

Life Story 22-04-2008

The Ballarat ex-POW memorial recognises the deprivations experienced by the 35,000 Australians held prisoner of war during the Boer War, the two World Wars, and the Korean War. “There are only around 1600 ex-POWs alive today and if it were not for the efforts of the Ballarat RSL, the Ex-Prisoners of War Association, the Ballarat community and their Member of Parliament, Catherine King, today’s declaration would not have occurred,” Mr Griffin said. "This national status reflects a strong desire of the Australian people to appropriately honour our POWs.”

Today’s declaration is a significant milestone for all veterans and their families, said the people of Ballarat, “Today is a great day for all veterans and their families – indeed for everyone who believes the suffering endured by our Prisoners of War deserves national recognition,” Ms King said.

The Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial in Ballarat has today been officially declared a national memorial by the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Alan Griffin. “Today’s declaration ends a long process for the people of Ballarat and the POW community who have lobbied for national recognition for their memorial commemorating the suffering of Australian prisoners of war,” Mr Griffin said.

It is the first national memorial declared under new legislation introduced by the Australian Government to allow military memorials outside the Australian Capital Territory to be recognised for their national significance. “Today’s declaration delivers on the Labor Party’s election commitment to recognise the

Further information and this release available from Mr Kevin Poynton, Board Member – Australian Red Cross (WA Division) mob 0421 380 451. NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOR POWS

The Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial in Ballarat has today been officially declared a national memorial by the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Alan Griffin.

“It is the first national memorial declared under new legislation introduced by the Australian Government to allow military memorials outside the Australian Capital Territory to be recognised for their national significance. “Today’s declaration delivers on the Labor Party’s election commitment to recognise the ex-Prisoners of War Memorial as a national memorial.

“The former Government claimed that it was not possible to nationally recognise the Memorial. In contrast, the Government committed to national recognition before the election, introduced legislation in March, which passed in June and attained royal assent in July. Mr Griffin said. "Today’s declaration delivers on the Labor Party’s election commitment to recognise the ex-Prisoners of War Memorial as a national memorial.

The Ballarat ex-POW memorial recognises the deprivations experienced by the 35,000 Australians held prisoner of war during the Boer War, the two World Wars, and the Korean War. “There are only around 1600 ex-POWs alive today and if it were not for the efforts of the Ballarat RSL, the Ex-Prisoners of War Association, the Ballarat community and their Member of Parliament, Catherine King, today’s declaration would not have occurred,” Mr Griffin said. "This has been a genuine community campaign for recognition and I applaud their efforts.”

Catherine King, Federal Member for Ballarat, said the people of the Ballarat electorate, supported by people from across Australia, have long believed this memorial is nationally significant. "Today is a great day for all veterans and their families – indeed for everyone who believes the suffering endured by our Prisoners of War deserves national recognition,” Ms King said.

The AIF Malayan Nursing Scholarship is the official War Memorial of the 8th Australian Division and the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) Malaya. "This unique "living" memorial pays on-going tribute to the men of the AIF who served and perished in Malaya and Singapore and, in a tangible and permanent form, it shows how greatly the men of the AIF Malaya appreciated the help and friendship of the people of Malaya and Singapore who, at great risk to themselves, performed so many acts of kindness for the people of Malaya and Singapore who, at great risk to themselves, performed so many acts of kindness for the people of Malaya and Singapore.

The Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial in Ballarat has today been officially declared a national memorial by the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Alan Griffin. “Today’s declaration ends a long process for the people of Ballarat and the POW community who have lobbied for national recognition for their memorial commemorating the suffering of Australian prisoners of war,” Mr Griffin said.

“It is the first national memorial declared under new legislation introduced by the Australian Government to allow military memorials outside the Australian Capital Territory to be recognised for their national significance. “Today’s declaration delivers on the Labor Party’s election commitment to recognise the

Further information on the Scholarship, including ways in which the Ex-Service community can assist, is available from Mrs Vivienne Gorman, at Australian Red Cross, on (03) 9345 1810. MEDIA RELEASE

Further information on the Scholarship, including ways in which the Ex-Service community can assist, is available from Mrs Vivienne Gorman, at Australian Red Cross, on (03) 9345 1810. MEDIA RELEASE

Further information on the Scholarship, including ways in which the Ex-Service community can assist, is available from Mrs Vivienne Gorman, at Australian Red Cross, on (03) 9345 1810.
A SAPPER

The term ‘sapper’ originated from the French ‘sappeur’ and was used to describe “a soldier employed in working in saps” whilst in the act of besieging; for to get close enough to the walls of a fortress to lay mines or breach them, zig zagging trenches had to be dug. These trenches or ‘saps’ were dug progressively deeper as they drew closer to the walls. The whole process was known as ‘sapping’ and the persons working in saps” whilst in the act of besieging; for to get close enough to the walls of a fortress to lay mines or breach them, zig zagging trenches had to be dug. These trenches or ‘saps’ were dug progressively deeper as they drew closer to the walls. The whole process was known as ‘sapping’ and the persons working in saps

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


The Goodearth Hotel Perth is a 3.5 star, full service, apartment style hotel, conveniently located in Adelaide Terrace offering quality accommodation combined with warm friendly service.

RSL Special
Book an RSL Package and receive complimentary full buffet breakfast for 2 adults for the duration of your stay!

Accommodation Options Include:
• Studio Apartment: (sleeps 2) $125 per night
• Executive Apartment: (sleeps 2) $145 per night
• One Bedroom Apartment: (sleeps 4) $180 per night

Please quote “RSL Package” when making your booking
Freecall: 1800 098 863
Phone: (08) 9492 7777
Email: stay@goodearthhotel.com.au
Website: www.goodearthhotel.com.au

Offer subject to availability
Not valid in conjunction with any other offer
Offer valid until 31st January 2009
RSL membership proof required upon check-in

Goodearth Hotel Perth
195 Adelaide Terrace, Perth, WA. 6004

DVA REGISTERED PODIATRIST

• All foot problems addressed including nails, corns and callouses
• Orthotic shoe supports
• Medical grade footwear assessment and prescription
• All DVA Gold Card and TPI Card holders welcome.

Ph: 9344 8399
MINISTER UNVEILS HMAS SYDNEY COMMEMORATIVE COIN

Senator Nick Sherry, Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law, has today launched a commemorative coin issued by The Perth Mint which marks the discovery of HMAS Sydney II after a mystifying 67-year wait.

“IT is a solemn privilege to be involved in the commemoration of fallen defence force personnel, but in this instance there is something to be celebrated. At the very least, the recent discovery of the Sydney II has provided some relief for the families of those whose final resting places were unknown for decades.

“The enormous historical and cultural significance of HMAS Sydney II meant the discovery warranted a special tribute in the form of a commemorative coin.

“The Government and The Perth Mint hope the coin will be welcomed by serving and past members of the Royal Australian Navy and families who lost loved ones aboard HMAS Sydney II in 1941,” Minister Sherry said.

“This is a project that The Perth Mint has been exceptionally proud to undertake.”

Disappearing in November 1941 following a deadly engagement with the German raider Kormoran, the disguised naval memorial portrayed by HSK Kormoran, the disguised German raider that engaged HMAS Sydney II, the superb tribute coin is struck with 1 oz.

The coin’s reverse portrays HMAS Sydney II, which served Australia with distinction in the Mediterranean during the early part of World War II. The design includes two significant dates — 19 November 1941 and 16 March 2008 - representing the frustrating length of time she lay undiscovered on the floor of the Indian Ocean.

Destined to be a rare collectable, just 7,500 coins will be struck by the Mint. Of these, 5,000 coins will be released in individual presentation packaging accompanied by a numbered Certificate of Authenticity. The remaining 2,500 coins are reserved for a premium HMAS Sydney II Coin, Medallion and Badge Set.

The set includes a loz silver proof medallion and two fascinating pieces of naval memorabilia. The medallion portrays HSK Kormoran, the disguised German raider that engaged HMAS Sydney II with such devastating consequences for both ships.

Lying some 12 nautical miles from her adversary, the wreck of the Kormoran was discovered by the Finding Sydney Foundation on 12 March 2008.

The medallion’s obverse depicts a fascinating diagrammatic representation of the ships’ courses during their fatal engagement and the coordinates of their final resting places.

The silver coin and medallion are accompanied by two replica badges. Inspired by haunting seabed images of HMAS Sydney II’s lifeboats still displaying their ship’s badge, The Perth Mint has created a blue enamelled and gold-plated version of the ship’s famous badge. It is paired with a gold and silver-plated replica of the Kriegsmarine’s (German Navy’s) Auxiliary Cruiser Badge.

“The limited coin and set will be highly sought after by Australian collectors,” Minister Sherry said.

Available from The Perth Mint Shop, located at 310 Hay Street, East Perth, or on FREECALL 1800 098 817, the individual coin and set retail for $82.50 and $179.00 respectively.

Alternatively, collectors can order online at www.perthmint.com.au or check availability with their local Australia Post outlet and coin dealer.

PERTH Mint in East Perth, to an audience of Royal

Law, unveiled the coin at the historic Perth

Minister for Superannuation and Corporate

Senator The Honourable Nick Sherry,

Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law, unveiled the coin at the historic Perth Mint in East Perth, to an audience of Royal Australian Navy personnel, representatives from the Finding Sydney Foundation, dignitaries and original crew members.

This remarkable tribute is struck in honour of the crew of HMAS Sydney II whose lives were lost on 19 November 1941 and the discovery of their final resting place on 16 March 2008.
AMAZING
FRIENDSHIPS

Wishing our veterans and their families
a Merry Christmas & safe New Year.

AMAZING
amazing

W E S T E R N
C O N S U L T I N G

HOLLYWOOD
PRIVATE HOSPITAL
Monash Avenue, Nedlands  Telephone 08 9346 6000
www.hollywood.ramsayhealth.com.au