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

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To all Presidents & Secretaries

We invite you all to send to 'The Listening Post' photographs and a short article on how their Sub-Branch/unit commemorated 'ANZAC Day' in their area.

Denis Connelly, Editor

Publishing of Listening Post

'The Listening Post' is published 6 times a year, printing 10,000 copies to members, subscribers and unit & Kindred associations.

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

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The end of summer has wreaked havoc across most of the Australian Continent with the element of fire and water devastating many communities. Individuals and families have been left homeless and in desperate situations. It is pleasing to see how Australians get behind their fellow countrymen and women and offer the support they are able to provide.

Sub Branches and the membership at large are thanked for their generosity.

Membership

We offer thanks to those members that have renewed their membership. We have been able to process renewals in a timely manner of both individual and capitation returns. The strategy of making payment to ANZAC House has streamlined the renewal process and has taken a great work load from Sub Branch Secretary/Treasurer. Next year, through increased sponsorship, we hope to issue renewal notices with Reply Paid Envelopes and currently we are investigating the possibility of having on-line payments via our website.

As at 25 February 2009 we present the following membership statistics:

- Service Members: 7202
- Life Members: 165
- Life Subscribers: 104
- Affiliates: 759
- Honorary Members: 7

TOTAL: 8257

We will be sending out reminder notices to individuals in the second week in May. Hopefully we will be able to send out many as this is a time consuming – and costly exercise.

State Congress

The Annual State Congress is to be held at the Mercure Hotel, Irwin St Perth on Saturday/Sunday 27-28 June 2009. A planning document is currently being prepared and will be issued to Sub Branches under separate cover. We remind members that Agenda items for Congress close on 30 April, 2009 as do nominations for Life Membership and Meritorious Medal. Congress motions submitted after the closing date can not be considered for inclusion on the Agenda.

Future State Congress

With the change of the financial reporting period to October, we will be looking at the Financial Year. Currently, as Congress is in June/July this is an impossibility. We therefore have a window of opportunity in mid-late October to hold a meeting to meet reporting requirements. The proposal that will be presented to 2009 Congress will be to hold Congress (AGM) in mid-late October to enable us to achieve statutory compliance.

Future Congress Motions

In the past State Congress has made specific requests for the transmission to National Congress for further debate and appropriate action. By moving Congress to October there could be a delay of many months before a WA motion was presented at a National Level. Clearly this would not be acceptable. In discussion with the National Membership and APH Affairs Committee and the National Executive agreement has been reached for motions from Sub Branches to be considered during Congress endorsement would be dealt with at National level on a quarterly basis. This would ensure a timely response to issues. The only matters that would reach National Congress would be Standing Policy variations and Constitutional amendments. The advantage to us would be a quick resolution to matters but, the disadvantage could be that some issues raised by Sub Branches may be ‘filtered’ by WA Veterans Affairs Committee or State Executive. I feel sure this possible disadvantage could be overcome once the system is in place.

Capitation Fees 2010

National Executive has agreed to raise member capitation fees. The current scale has been in place for well over a decade and costs can not continue to be absorbed. This is despite substantial donations from large State Branches and other income such as Annual Membership and system level grants. The proposal is to raise the capitation charge from $2.50 to $5.00 in 2010 with further increases for-shadowed. As WA State Branch pays this amount on your behalf it is proposed to ask Congress to revise the distribution formula to pay the National Capitation Fee first then divide the remainder in accordance with the established formula, namely 75% to State Branch and 25% to Sub Branch.

Radio Program

We have been invited to host a weekly radio program each Thursday from 12 noon to 1.00pm on Capital Radio 90.5FM. The program will be entitled ‘The Listening Post’ and will be used by RSL to promote its activities and disseminate information to the membership and wider community. We hope that there will be Sub Branch participation as well contributions from the Service and ex-service community. We hope to have our first broadcast just prior to ANZAC Day.

Incorporated Unit & Kindred Associations

There is a number of other Incorporated Groups Registered with RSL that are part of The Returned & Services Insurance Policy. If there are additional Incorporated Groups, that wish to participate then we can definitely assist as we have done in the past. We would, however need detailed information about their activities.

Voluntary Workers

With increased active participation of our senior members Ansvar, our insurers, have offered to increase the age limit from 80 to 90 years of age at no charge. This is great news, but can definitely not go any higher than this age. We are trying to see if another insurer would agree to insure the excess amount (i.e. 90-100 years) but this is not normal and may take some time as this would need to be referred by the underwriter. We will keep you informed of any progress in this matter.

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Workers’ Compensation

The purpose of Workers’ Compensation is to cover any workers’ losses that can be charged to a company’s (or Sub Branches) responsibility for injury. If the Sub-Branches are paying an employee a wage, salary or even cash, then they are liable for the injury to these people under the WA Workers’ Compensation Act. Each employer (or sub-branch) is registered with Worker WA. Sub Branch Executives need to be aware of the consequences of non-compliance with this requirement to cover their workers or others, including volunteers, paid for their services.

Victorian Bushfires & RSL Victorian Branch Relief Fund from RSL Victoria

In providing an update on the Victorian Bushfire Relief Fund, I firstly wish to thank all the State Branches and many Sub-Branches across the country that has made donations. It has been greatly appreciated by all Victorian members. As you know many fires are still burning and of course there is still the potential for further losses to life and property before the danger is past.

Currently our members and Sub-Branches continue to support the fire fighting and relief effort in some areas and our Sub-Branch network has been active and effective in bringing individual cases of need forward. We know of four RSL member families who have perished in the fires and one badly burnt Veteran who lost his wife and young children. Many other RSL members and other ex-service personnel have been affected and there are also RSL employees who have lost homes and other property. The Fund has been critical in providing direct relief to all these people and also off-setting some of the expenses incurred by those Sub-Branches directly involved in the front line fire fighting and relief effort. Our Healesville Sub-Branch, for example, has done tremendous work in this regard. The grants made from the Fund have ranged from $1500 for immediate relief, to $5000 for larger families or greater need. We have also made a substantial contribution to a trust fund already established for the Iraq Veteran who has lost his home, wife and young daughters and is badly burnt. We currently have sufficient funds to meet the demand but many people are probably yet to come forward or are still assessing their need. To date approximately twenty cases of need have been addressed with more coming forward each day. Let me assure all who have supported us that applicant’s bona fides are being checked and full records kept of grant details, but equally the assistance needed is assessed and given on a same day basis with a minimum of bureaucracy. To be truly effective, help must be timely and compassionate.

We believe we are meeting the short term need in the best traditions of the League but are committed to sustaining this help in the weeks and months ahead. We would be grateful to achieve as much to date without your generous support. Regular updates like this will be provided to inform you of our progress and challenges. When we believe that the Fund has fulfilled its purpose, donors of significant funds remaining will be consulted as to their wishes for the unexpected monies. These will be carried out to the extent that we are able.

Voluntary Workers

With increased active participation of our senior members

With thanks,
Kings Park 23rd January

The photos attached are those taken on 23rd Jan 2009.

I was contacted by Mr Bill Gaynor, President RSL (WA) with the request to contact a representative group of Veterans to attend a Remembrance Service at the State War Memorial on the 23rd January 2009.

This request apparently originated from Canberra, to allow the visiting South Korean Minister for Foreign Affairs to pay his respects.

Australian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Mr Stephen Smith accompanied the visiting Minister. The entire event was filmed by ABC cameramen but never went to air.

When the writer contacted Mr Kim Jordan he was informed that the entire filming was sent to Canberra, and not for broadcast as a news item.

Any further queries please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Take care,

Garry Burgoyne OAM
State President KASEAVA

Left (L-R) Kevin Ivey (Kapyong vet), Al Bacon, Bruce Horgan JP, Bill Mead, Minister S Smith (5th Korean Minister), Sunnyl Kim

Right (L-R) Sunnyl Kim, Al Bacon, Bruce Horgan JP, Bill Mead, Minister S Smith (5th Korean Minister), Kevin Ivey

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THE LISTENING POST April 2009 5
Military nurses have a long and varied history. In earlier centuries nurses were a varied group, usually of volunteers, with little or no training in the care of ill or wounded people. They were generally men and women belonging to Monastic orders, however in Post Reformation Europe the role of the nurse, with their close association with the dying and dead, was generally regarded as a low status occupation.

In 1836 a German Pastor Theodor Fliedner began formal training programmes for nurses at Kaisersweirth for the Orders of Protestant Deaconesses. Other religious orders had also started training formalised Nurses Courses; however Fliedner’s School remains most notable for training of Florence Nightingale of Crimean War fame. Nurse Nightingale went onto later establish a Nurse Training Programme at London’s St Thomas Hospital. This course and syllabus of training was based upon Florence Nightingale’s worst experience on the Battlefields of the Crimea. As a result of Nightingale’s course at St Thomas Hospital London, it transformed then status of ‘nurse’ from volunteer status to a more professional status, upon which the modern profession has been built. The Royal Australian Army Nursing Corp (RAANC) in 1958. Corp (RAANC) was formed from the Royal Army Nursing Corp (RANC) in 1958.
the end of World War II but a peace time service was formed in 1948 which continues to this day. It was during World War II, in July 1940, that Matron in Chief Lang was appointed by the District General Medical Services Air Vice Marshall Hurley. Matron Lang was a veteran of World War I and, prior to her appointment to Matron in Chief, had been in charge of the Victorian Police Hospital.

Matron Lang travelled every state personally selecting applicants for the newly created Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service. During the first year the number of nurses accepted by Matron Lang steadily grew to 120. By 1945 the number of RAAFNS members was 616, serving mostly in the South Pacific Theatre of War.

Even after hostilities had ceased nurses were still required to help with aerial evacuation with The Medical Air Evacuation Transport Unit (MAETU) brought home Prisoners of War from Singapore and other areas. This service was later abandoned.

In 1948 a peace time service was reformed with RAAFNS serving in Korea, Malayian Emergency, and Vietnam where they made a considerable and significant contribution in ferrying wounded and injured Australian Army personal back to Australia for urgent medical attention.

RAAFNS continue to serve in RAAF Hospitals around Australia and in areas of conflict where RAAF personnel have an involvement.

References:
1. Australian Women at War- Patsy Adam-Smith. Published by Thomas Nelson, Melbourne, Australia.
2. Australian War Memorial- Canberra, ACT
4. Vietnam Remembered- Editor Gregory Pemberton with Professor Kenneth Maddock. Published by Lansdown Press, Sydney, Australia.
5. The RAAF in Vietnam- Chris Coultland-Clark. Published by Allan and Unwin in Association with the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT.

Women’s Royal Australian Naval Nursing Services

The Women’s Royal Australian Naval Nursing Service (WRANNS) had a later start than the other Services, for it was not until October 1942 that they were formed. This was because it had been deemed undesirable for female nurses to serve on Australian Navel Vessels, as it was seen as necessary to have an all male sick-birth.

When World War II broke out the RAN had 39 Sick Birth ratings. With the sudden expansion of the Navy it became crucial for the Navy to have a nursing service, so Miss A. I. Laidlow was appointed the First Matron. Matron Laidlow, an Army Nurse from the Navy to have a nursing service, so Miss A. I. Laidlow was appointed the First Matron. Matron Laidlow, an Army Nurse from the Navy to have a nursing service, so Miss A. I. Laidlow was appointed the First Matron. Matron Laidlow, an Army Nurse from the Navy to have a nursing service, so Miss A. I. Laidlow was appointed the First Matron. Matron Laidlow, an Army Nurse from the Navy to have a nursing service, so Miss A. I. Laidlow was appointed the First Matron.

The LiSTeNiNg POST April 2009

Teddy SHEEAN

While searching for Service Personal that could be of interest to Listening Post readers, the State Secretary/CEO, Mr Kevin Davidson MVO OAM, suggested “that I have a look at Edward (Teddy) Sheean”.

Edward (Teddy) Sheean was born on the 28th December 1923 at Lower Barrington, Northern Tasmania. The young ‘Teddy’ Sheean attended a Catholic School in the Latrobe near Launceston. After completing his formal education ‘Teddy’ Sheean, worked as a farm hand on farms in the area where he grew-up. On the 21st April 1941 he enlisted in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve (RANR) Regiment No H1617 to commence his initial training, February 1942, Ordinary Seaman (OD) Sheean Flinders Naval Depot at Westport, Victoria for further training in May 1942, was posted to Sydney to commence training as a OERLIKON. It was during this training period, OD Sheean was billeted on the former ferry ‘KUTTABUL’ which was sunk by midget submarines in an attack on Sydney Harbour on the 31st May 1942.

However ‘Teddy’ Sheean was on home leave at the time of attack. On the 11th June ‘Teddy’ Sheean returned to Sydney to prepare for commissioning of the new Corvette HMAS Armidale, which was ordered to carry out escort duties along the Eastern Australian Coast and New Guinea waters. Late in October, Lt Commander David Richards (HMAS Armidale) was ordered to sail for Darwin, arriving there early November.

In company with ‘HMAS Castlemaine’; ‘HMAS Armidale’ sailed for Japanese occupied Timor to relieve an exhausted Australian 2nd/2nd Independent Company, with 150 Portuguese civilians and some Dutch Troops and to send soldiers to re-enforce Dutch Guerrillas on the island. Arriving at Betano the Corvettes rendezvoused with the ‘HMAS KURU’, who was already embarking civilians, these civilians were the transferred to Castlemaine.

Castlemaine immediately sailed for Darwin, leaving ‘Armidale’ and ‘Kurru’ to carry out the remainder of the operation. From 1230hrs, ‘Armidale’ and ‘Kurru’ came under attack from Japanese Aircraft despite numerous requests for air cover, none was provided.

‘HMAS Armidale’ aborted the operation sailing for Darwin, where ‘Armidale’ was again ordered to return to Betano and attempt another landing as the risk was “to be accepted as ordinary routine secondary warfare”.

On the 1st December, during the second attempt to land the troops, ‘Armidale’ came under sustained Japanese Air Attacks, resulting in the death of 40 crew members and 60 Commando’s, with 36 crew members still alive. It was during this attack OD Sheean manned his OERLIKON Anti-Aircraft gun, although severely wounded OD Sheean kept up the attack on the Japanese Air Craft.

The now badly damaged ‘Armidale’ was sinking; OD Sheean had remained at his post, strapped to his gun, taking the fight up to the mauldering aircraft, shooting down one and severely damaging another two. Who now were strafing Sheean crew mates in the water, Sheean gave up his opportunity to escape the now sinking ship. Edward Teddy Sheean gave his life trying to save his mates. ‘Teddy’ Sheean was 19 years of age.

It had been suggested by some veterans that ‘Teddy’ Sheean should have been awarded a ‘Victoria Cross’ for his deeds and supreme sacrifice on 1st December 1942. Edward Teddy Sheean has been honoured for his bravery, by The Royal Australian Navy with the naming of a Collins Class Submarine HMAS Sheean (SSG 77) which was Commissioned 23rd February 2001, whose Motto is “FIGHT ON” which is most applicable to remember Ordinary Seaman ‘Teddy’ Sheean.

The ‘HMAS SHEEAN’ is the only RAN Vessel named after a general sailor, all other ‘Collins Class’ Submarines are name after officers.
RSL Mates Help Recover Service Medals

Lew Whiting joked that if they found any gold among the ruins, they could share it — but the treasure he sought was one money can’t buy. Armed with a metal detector and shovels, RSL members helped Mr Whiting, their president, sift through the ashes of his Bridgetown home for his service medals on Saturday.

He has applied for a replica set of the medals but his pleasure was evident when the group quickly recovered six of the seven originals, and the barrel of his .22 rifle, from beneath the broken masonry and bricks. The ashes were still hot underfoot a week after the fire, which authorities now say destroyed seven houses, up from the five initially reported. Mr Whiting escaped the January 16 blaze by minutes, running his old Subaru down South Western Highway to Greenbushes with only a briefcase of personal documents and his bitzer Jackie by his side. Fire Fighters had knocked on his door at about 5pm to say the fire was less than half an hour away, and later told him his decision not to stay and defend his house was a wise one.

“I’d only got down to the front gate, three or four hundred yards, and the fire was on the road,” Mr Whiting said. “They told me a fireball came over the top of the neighbour’s place and the whole place exploded. ‘If I’d stayed, Jackie would have been a hot dog and I’d be a barbecue man.” As well as his medals and his discharge book, Mr Whiting lost photographs and memories of the home he shared with his wife Patricia, who passed away in 1998. The outpouring of support from townspeople has eased the blow.

New Memorial to Honour National Servicemen

On Saturday morning 14 February, under a welcome grey sky, a contingent of about 30 veterans led by two mounted members of the ‘Light Horse Re-enactment Group’, town band and backed by members of the Local Bush Fire Brigade marched off from Brigade HQ to the Brookton War Memorial Park half a kilometre away where a new memorial in honor of National Servicemen was to be unveiled.

At 11.59 a flight of jets passed overhead returning a minute later to perform a perfect “bomb burst” directly above us. The memorial was then unveiled co-jointly by Federal Member for Wannon Ted Howitt and President of Brookton Shire, Barry Coote. The memorial was then dedicated by the Reverend Norman Apthorp, himself a veteran of WWII. Wreaths were then laid by National Party Leader Brendan Grylls, Local RSL President Jim White and President of the “Nasho’s League” Allen Doogan and three members of District Girl Guide Group. The local choir then sang “Abide With Me”. Everyone then followed the band with the National Anthem.

It was heart warming to see that the Catafalque Party and Brookton Cadets were armed with our trusted old 303s. After dismissal a substantial and enjoyable meal was partaken at the fire station.

The day was a credit to all concerned. The “Nasho’s League” was only formed in 2005/6, its main aim was to try and erect memorials in towns where young men had been conscripted from in the period 1951 to 1972. This was the League’s third effort. Previous memorials exist at Bruce Rock and Wagon Hills. Wilf Caporn of York, the founder of the League, with able colleagues is fulfilling his dreams.

Karen Hunt
Manjimup – Bridgetown Times

WRAAC Association (WA) members, friends and sister services gathered at the Brookton War Memorial, King’s Park on Sunday 15th February 2009 for the service of remembrance on the occasion of the 58th Anniversary of the Formation of the Women’s Royal Australian Army Corps. The parade was under direction of Mr Ken Barrington, State Warden, assisted Mr Phillip Skelton, Deputy State Warden and the Sub-Wardens from Highgate RSL Sub-Branch.

Maj Laurel Pearce (Salvation Army) - Hon Chaplain WRAAC Assn (WA) conducted the service. Mrs May Tomich, President WRAAC Assn (WA), Mr Bill Gaynor, State President RSL WA and LTCOL John Fisher, Cmdr Waur, laid wreaths. LCPL David Scott sounded the last post and reveille; Mrs Hazel Donald, Vice President WRAAC Assn (WA) recited the ode. Warden, assisted Mr Phillip Skelton, Deputy State Warden and three members of District Girl Guide Group. The local choir then sang “Abide With Me”. Everyone then followed the band with the National Anthem.

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Karen Hunt
Manjimup – Bridgetown Times

58th Anniversary

RSL president Lew Whiting with some of the medals recovered from the ashes of his home on Trott Road.

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Peter Hitchins,
Ex Nasho,
Belmont Sub-Branch.
The current stage of construction at the Menora Gardens site, takes direction from what modern day seniors are now looking for in their Independent Living and Ageing in Place Facilities throughout Australia.

Contemporary retirement is presently facing a period of change, in that it is no longer about minimalistic living to pass on maximum benefits to the kids and RSL Care WA is once again at the forefront and leading the way for other service providers, in an effort to offer their clients exactly what they are seeking.

This construction phase has seen the demolition of five of the six cluster houses that were on the north east area of the site, close to Alexander Drive. Originally developed in the mid 1980’s, the Cluster model of houses was conceived from an ideology of escaping from the traditional dormitory and informal style of facility which housed around 30-40 people. It was thought that cluster houses were more “home like” as they were serviced by their own kitchen, each had their own dining and lounge areas, while housing only 8-10 people.

The cluster houses were built on the Menora site in 1991, after RSL Care WA received a Federal Capital Grant of $1.215 million to assist with the cost of construction. In 1991, after RSL Care WA received a Federal Capital Grant of $1.215 million to assist with the cost of construction.

Each of the eight bedrooms has been gutted and now facing a major refurbishment in keeping with modern day standards. Each of the eight bedrooms has been gutted and now facing a major refurbishment in keeping with modern day standards. As a result of this expense, many facilities stopped developing the Cluster style of living and in the early 1990’s new configurations of 40, 60, 80 and 100 beds were trailed to assess for the most viable configuration.

Since then the major facilities now house around 100-120 beds, each room with a separate ensuite and lounge and dining areas for residents.

RSL Care WA’s Special Projects Manager Ken Hamilton said, “There has been a renewed interest in the advantages of Ageing in Place and Independent Living with the safety and enjoyment of the community atmosphere of a village such as Menora Gardens. “A new era is dawning for retirement living and many seniors are now driving the market up and are seeking a standard and level of fitout that was unheard of even five years ago, so it is important that we keep ahead of what people are seeking,” Mr Hamilton continued.

One of the six cluster houses was left standing as it is in very close proximity to the Howes Centre but is facing a major refurbishment in keeping with modern day standards. Each of the eight bedrooms has been gutted and now facing a major refurbishment in keeping with modern day standards.

The residents from the cluster houses moved into the new Aged Care Facility about six months ago. At first the residents were slightly apprehensive about the change but now all are happy in their new state of the art facility. The old site of the cluster houses has been set aside for the construction of a further 28 apartments. A plan has been developed by Architect firm Gary Batt and Associates for the consideration of the board.

The units will be very similar to those recently completed on the Menora Gardens site and will feature four on the top floor and six apartments to a floor on floors ground to three, underground parking, 2 and 3 bedroom units, generous balconies and will enjoy a north east aspect.

For further information regarding Menora Gardens Aged Care Facility, please contact Suzy Tiffin on 9436 2152. Rita Eva Kneebone

31st October 1916 – 12th February 2009
VALE : WFX1702 Mrs Rita Eva KNEEBONE (nee KNIGHT, formerly OTTEN) VAD AAMWS.
Rita sailed on the Queen Mary in November 1941 for the Middle East. She served with the 1st and then 2/6 AGH. She returned to Australia in 1943 serving with the 2/6 AGH for about 2 years on the Atherton Tablelands. She was sent to Labuan Island (arriving on the day the war ended) where she worked for 6 months nursing POWs from Changi before their repatriation to Australia. She said this was the saddest time of her life.

Rita was selected by the Repatriation Commission to go on a special tour to Borneo including Labuan in 2005.

Rita was a Foundation Member of The Returned Ex-Service Women’s Sub-Branch and was awarded Life Membership of the RSL in 1996. She always provided meals for the Band and Red Cross ladies at the Remembrance Day Lunch, and was responsible for our Sub-Branch afternoon teas. She also worked at Royal Perth Shenton Park Annex 3 evenings a week selling teas for about 20 years, raising thousands of dollars for their benefit. She received an Honour from the RPH ‘FRIENDS’ for her work there. Rita passed away at Hollywood at the age of 92 on the 12th February this year. She will be missed by her children and all of us who knew her. Rita had a simple and sincere Funeral Service, one of her Middle East friends was present and I had the honour of saying the ODE. Three of the Royal Perth Hospital “Friends” were also there to pay tribute to an amazing lady.

Cecile Hinton
Few of us in advancing years wouldn't dread the day we might be told: "I'm sorry, but you have Alzheimer's". Each of us knows what that means: a steady decline in our mental faculties and the disintegration of our brain's abilities to think logically, and acquire and retain short-term memories. I don't think there would be a person on this planet, who would welcome hearing those words!

But what if we do? Many of our older veteran and non-veteran fathers, husbands, brothers, sons have to cope with this disabling condition. Whilst modern medicine and better awareness of healthier lifestyles have extended the average life-span – especially over the last 30 years; more of us are reaching an age where we are susceptible to developing Alzheimer’s (or some other form of Dementia). The Australian statistics show no mercy: at the age of 80, a person’s chances of developing Alzheimer’s Disease are 1 in 10; By the age of 85, they are 1 in 5.

There are some illnesses that most people would rather not talk about – and Alzheimer’s is one of them. And yet we need to know what – and Alzheimer’s tends to be one of those – because many people would rather not talk about it. Onset of symptoms can range from being almost imperceptible – taking years to develop, to obvious signs and rapid manifestation of memory lapses and inability to express words clearly. Some sufferers are gentle and docile – others will demonstrate profound personality and behavioural changes – sometimes quite bizarre and out of character.

What's out there??

But thanks to the efforts of many wonderful people in all walks of life, there is far more support for affected individuals and families than there used to be. The Federal Government has gone behind many of the “self-help” associations – and there is now a range of community-based forums, workshops, film days, seminars and creative activities to support the couples, carers and families of people with Alzheimer’s, to help them cope. One of the most effective ways to stimulate a person with early-stage Alzheimer’s, for instance, is to engage them in talking about their past – as LONG-term memory is frequently quite good. Many have had interesting lives, and it is heart-warming if they respond. To see them talking happily, even if briefly, about past experiences in an animated way – gives a true glimpse of the person they used to be.

Perth is fortunate that an excellent Alzheimer’s Association facility has been in place for years now, at Shenton Park. Its existence was spear-headed in large part to a wonderful old WW2 ex-RAN Officer: Len Vickeridge (sadly, now-deceased), whose beloved wife fell victim to this disease. With his typical proactive drive and determination, Len was a major force in getting the place up and operating. Today, it is part of a comprehensive, coordinated effort to ease the effects of Alzheimers on sufferers and their families.

Alzheimer’s Australia WA can be contacted on 1800 100 500 (during office hours) or by visiting their website: www.alzheimers.asn.au

Not all activities are at Shenton Park (9 Bedbrook Place). Other venues are sometimes used: at Mundaring, (Hub of the Hills – 8 Craig St); Joondalup Library (Library – 102 Boas Ave) and Fremantle (245 South Tce). If you are interested in finding out more – give them a ring and they’ll send you out a brochure.

SoP for Alzheimer’s Disease:

Alzheimers can be claimed as a war-caused (or Defence-caused) condition, if a person has, due to their service, sustained a blow to the head that caused loss of consciousness for at least 15 minutes. That’s it folks – must wind this up.

Keep on keeping on.

Margot Harness
Former Senator

Funeral Expense Funding

Funeral Expense Funding is a unique funding plan that pays for the funeral expenses of someone who has passed away. It is designed to help ease the financial burden on families who are going through this difficult time. Fees are paid upfront, and the plan can be used to cover the cost of burial or cremation, as well as any other related expenses.

The Plan:

- Provides a cash lump sum to the family
- Can be used for funeral expenses
- Can be used for any related expenses
- Offers flexibility and choice

How it works:

1. The family selects a funeral service provider
2. The provider negotiates the funeral costs with the family
3. The funeral provider receives payment from the plan
4. The family pays for any remaining costs

Benefits:

- Peace of mind for families
- Financial relief during a difficult time
- No need to worry about the cost of a loved one's funeral
- Freedom to choose the funeral service that best suits the family's needs

Availability:

Funeral Expense Funding is available in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and the Australian Capital Territory.

Contact us for more information or to apply for Funeral Expense Funding.

Zonnebeke Diggers Archaeologist Visits

Zonnebeke, Belgium, Friday 30th November 2001

The man who excavated the remains of the World War I Diggers known as the Zonnebeke Five visited Bridgetown on Friday.

“My trip is like a pilgrim’s tour to walk in their footsteps,” said John Vandewalle, an amateur archaeologist who said his interest in the war began as a child when he collected shrapnel and other artefacts from the old battlefields surrounding his home in Belgium.

His Australian pilgrimage had already taken him to Queensland (where he met the family of John Hunter) and Melbourne, where he met George Calder’s relatives. He came to Bridgetown via Subiaco, where another of the five Diggers, George Storey, grew up.

Mr Vandewalle was called in when workers building a gas pipeline discovered the five bodies beneath a road in 2006. A carpenter by trade, he said the digouts the soldiers built to survive trench warfare, some as many as 13m deep, had always interested him and he had been excavating them since 1992. “I was fascinated by the stories of an old neighbour who survived the war. He brought a kind of magic to me,” he said.

The Storey brothers first met Mr Vandewalle in September, when they travelled to Butte Cemetery for a reedication ceremony at which a new headstone was unveiled bearing their uncle’s name and details. His remains were finally identified using a new DNA technique last year; however, two of the five resting near him remain unknown. Mr Vandewalle is hopeful that his visit may have unearthed a clue to the identity of one of the unknown men — he received a call with new information after stories about his trip were published in the eastern States. Mr Vandewalle aims to build a bronze sculpture near the site where the bodies were discovered as a tribute to the men.

Dannea Synott

Manjimup-Bridgetown Times

Story by David Storey, Lewis Whitting, Geoff Storey, Nathalia and Johan Vandewalle, Terry Line, councillors Brian Moore and Gerry Cartmel, and Glene Swett during Mr Vandewalle's visit to the region.
On the 25th of April every year Australians celebrate ANZAC day commemorates the landing of Australian and New Zealand troops at Gallipoli on the 25th of April 1915. The 25th of April was officially named ANZAC day in 1916.

ANZAC Day is probably Australia’s most important national occasion. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The soldiers in those forces quickly became known as ANZACs.

The landing at Gallipoli was seen as a story of courage and endurance amongst death and despair, in the face of poor leadership from London, and the overwhelming enemy strength. Amongst death and despair, in the face of great hardships. Over 8,000 Australian soldiers were killed. News of the landing at Gallipoli made a profound impact on Australians at home and 25 April quickly became the day on which Australians remembered the sacrifice of those who had died in war. The Dawn Service observed on ANZAC Day has its origins in an operational routine which is still observed by the Australian Army today.

During the battle, the half-light of dawn was one of the most favored times for an attack. Soldiers in defensive positions were, therefore, woken up in the dark, before dawn, so that the first light crept across the battlefield they were awake, alert, and maneuvering their weapons. This was, and still is, known as “stand-to”. It was also repeated at sunset.

After the First World War, returned soldiers sought the comradeship they felt in those quiet, peaceful moments before dawn. With symbolic links to the dawn landing at Gallipoli, a dawn stand-to or ceremony became a common form of ANZAC Day remembrance during the 1920s; the first official dawn service was held at the Sydney Cenotaph in 1927. Dawn services were originally very simple and followed the operational ritual. In many cases they were restricted to veterans only and the daytime ceremony was for families and other well-wishers. Before dawn the gathered veterans would be ordered to “stand to” and two minutes’ silence would follow. At the end of this time a lone bugler would play the Last Post and then concluded the service with Reveille.

ANZAC Day is a national day of remembrance for all those who served in the Australian and New Zealand armed forces. It is also a day of reflection and commemoration for the sacrifices made during the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and other conflicts.

The tradition of lowering flags to half-mast as a sign of remembrance is believed to have its origins in the late 19th century. In the evening, a bugler would play the Last Post, a signal of the end of a soldier’s day. The Last Post is one of a number of bugle calls used in military tradition to mark the passing of the day. It is a quiet, solemn moment of reflection and remembrance.

Flowers have traditionally been laid on graves and memorials in memory of the dead. Rosemary, symbolizing remembrance, is popular on ANZAC Day. Laurel is also a popular commemorative symbol; woven into a wreath, it was used by the ancient Romans to crown victors and the brave as a mark of honor. In recent years, the poppy, strongly associated with Remembrance Day in the UK, has also become popular in wreaths on ANZAC Day.

The Last Post is one of a number of bugle calls in military tradition that mark the passing of the day. While Reveille signaled the start of a soldier’s day, the Last Post signaled its end. The call is believed originally to have been part of a more elaborate routine, known in the British Army as “tattoo” that had its origins in the 18th century. In the evening, a duty officer had to do the rounds of his unit’s position, checking that the sentry posts were manned and rounding up the off-duty soldiers and packing them off to their beds or billets. This would be accompanied by one or more musicians. The first post was sounded when the duty officer started his rounds and, as the party proceeded from post to post, a drum was played. The drum beats told off-duty soldiers it was time to rest; if the soldiers were billeted in a town, the beats told them it was time to quit the pubs. “Tattoo” is a derivation of doe den tap toe, Dutch for “turn off the taps”, a signal used in the Netherlands to stop drinking. In a town, the beats would tell off-duty soldiers it was time to rest; if the soldiers were billeted in a town, the beats told them it was time to quit the pubs. “Tattoo” is a derivation of doe den tap toe, Dutch for “turn off the taps”, a signal used in the Netherlands to stop drinking.

Two-minute silence was first observed in Australia on the first anniversary of the armistice and continues to be observed on Remembrance Day. The two-minute silence has over the years been incorporated into ANZAC Day and other commemorative ceremonies.

By Amy Mooney
What are archives, why are they important?

The creation and maintenance of records has occurred since prehistoric times. The earliest known records were created as early as 15000 BC in the Lascaux cave’s in France.

Archives can be created by anyone, from individuals to organisations, and can document anything of value to the creator. Archives are records which can be in any format and are of enduring value. For a record to be identified as of enduring value it must be significant to the organisation either in a technical, social, cultural, historical, or aesthetic way. As the Archives and Records Officer for the WA Branch of the RSL, my responsibility is in identifying significant records for treatment as archives and developing proper strategies to ensure access and preservation.

In attempting to define the importance of archives, I believe looking at the nature of archives and the use of archives might go part way towards describing their importance.

Archives in their nature are unique they are original to the organisation or individual. For example, family pictures could be considered part of your family’s archive they are unique and significant to your family in a historical and social way. The RSL contains many records that are archival in their nature an example includes the minute books which have been maintained since inception in 1919. In the example of minute books, what makes them archives is their significance to the RSL as a documented history of the organisation and in their nature are unique and original to the organisation.

If archives are destroyed, they are unable to be replicated due to the difficulty in forming identity of an individual without a past imagine the difficulty in forming identity without a history. Archives are memory, utilised by historians, researchers and family to interpret and form histories. There is no definitive answer that can give you to encapsulate the importance of archives, I can leave you with a thought to ponder though, imagine an album.

The value of archives is realised through providing access to those looking to research, and for the creating organisation or individual to interpret and form histories. There is no definitive answer that can give you to encapsulate the importance of archives, I can leave you with a thought to ponder though, imagine an album.

The church service was the 60th such service, remembering the events surrounding the sinking of HMAS Perth and USS Houston on 28 February 1942 and subsequent return of many of their survivors.

The President of the HMAS Perth Association WA Branch is Mr Peter Jarvis - who can be contacted on 9593 3552 if you have any queries regarding who may be in most of the above photos.

Michael Munjak President, North American Veterans’ Unit
Tel: 9330 7997(H) or 0405 236 266

RSL (WA) Code of Ethics regarding Advertising in “The Listening Post”

1 If the Editor questions the appropriateness of an advertisement or article then the material is referred to ‘The Editorial Committee’ for final adjudication.
2 The publication of commercial advertising in ‘The Listening Post’ will be subject to approval of ‘The Editorial Committee.’
3 Any advertisement or article that does not compliement the ethos of RSL principals will not be published.

Denis Connolly (Editor)
RSL Volunteers Recognised

On Tuesday 17th February the volunteers were saluted by the RSL (WA) for their contribution to the operations of the RSL and provision of member services.

State President Mr Bill Gaynor welcomed over fifty guests, said that, “without volunteers the RSL would not function to the efficient degree that it currently does in providing the many services that we have come to expect”.

Not only do the volunteers assist with administrative tasks such as preparing raffle tickets, processing membership renewals and library duties they also undertake professional duties that include the preparation and processing of pension and disability claims. In fact, they assist RSL management through various committees including State Executive, and ultimately the National body of the RSL.

In particular, volunteers were acknowledged for their time, energy and commitment to RSL and appreciation was shown for the volunteers who were prepared to give something back to the organisation, and indeed, the community.

Mr Gaynor then spoke of some of the exciting proposals that are in the pipeline for the RSL in the near future. He said that shortly, “we expect RSL to sign a new sponsorship agreement with a national company that will inject considerable funding into our welfare operations.”

On Aged Care he outlined proposals for expansion of our operations and revision of the administrative structure to make the operation more efficient in the current economic climate. The League has, for the past 93 years relied heavily on its membership base to provide volunteer support and, like many other community organisations has prospered through the commitment of those often quiet achievers to “keep the show on the road.”

By Denis Connelly

Fond Farewell to RSL Stalwart

The Manjimup RSL said goodbye on Monday night to its fond and highly respected friend Robbie Allen who has been part of the branch for more than 40 years with his wife Clouda.

Mr and Mrs Allen, who have been married for 64 years, and who have five children and 15 grandchildren, are moving to Perth next week to be closer to family members. Mr Allen, who has lived in the town for 48 years, said it had been a pleasure to be a part of the community. “It’s one of the most social towns,” he said.

“Thank you for your kindness and appreciation. “I assure you we will be back. Don’t think you will get rid of us and not see us again.”

RSL Manjimup president Rex Brown said he had known Mr Allen nearly all his life. “He will be pretty much missed in the RSL Manjimup and the community.”

Mr Brown said. “We’re losing our good old mate. We don’t want to see you go.” Mr Allen said while he was sad to leave the group of people in Manjimup, his neighbours at Riverside Gardens in Perth were just waiting for them to get there.

Do not miss next week’s Manjimup-Bridgetown Times for social photos of Mr Allen’s farewell function.

Robbie Allen joined the Air Force in 1941 and went to Papua New Guinea and was discharged in 1945.

By Georgina Laney

Manjimup/Bridgetown Times
ANZAC Day Service (11.00am)
The Parade will enter Esplanade Reserve off William Street and form up on the Esplanade facing north. The service will commence at 11.00am.

Public Facilities
Seating for aged and disabled is available at the front of the stage and in the large covered areas on the reserve. Toilet facilities will be available on both sides of the Reserve.

CBD Parking
All City of Perth open air carparks will be open on ANZAC Day. Fees will not apply at the following carparks between 6am-1pm:

Terrace Road, Point Fraser, Plain Street, Queens Gardens and Fire Station. Thereafter standard carpark fees will apply.

Public Transport on ANZAC Day
Veterans, serving and returned service personnel wearing service uniforms, campaign ribbons or medals can travel FREE on ANZAC Day.

Transperth InfoLine (bus, train & ferry) 13 62 13 or www.transperth.wa.gov.au TTY (for hearing impaired) 9428 1999

City Road Closures

Kings Park Road Closures/VIP Access
ANZAC Day Provisional Order of March - Saturday, 25 April 2009

1. Mounted Police
2. Defence Reps

DEFENCE FORCES CONTINGENT
3. 1st Wing - WA Detachment
4. Royal Australian Navy
5. Australian Army Pipes & Drums Perth
6. Australian Army Pipe Band
7. Coastal Scottish Pipe Band WA Inc.
8. Royal Australian Air Force
9. WA Police Pipe Band
10. WA Police
11. WA Fire & Rescue Service

Australiana

12. Australia Navy Cadet Drums Corps
13. Australian Navy Cadets
14. Australian Army Cadets
15. 7 Wing Australia Air Force Cadets Drum Corps
16. 7 Wing Australia Air Force Cadet

EX-SERVICE CONTINGENT
17. Town of Victoria Park Brass Band
18. State Presidents’ of RSL, Naval Assoc & RAAF Assoc of WA
19. WWW Banners & Victoria Cross Recipient Banners

Escorted by West Aust Great Living History Assoc

20. Legacy Wards
21. Jeep
22. Hospital Cars

NAVAL SECTION
23. Perth Fortress Salvation Army Band
24. Naval Assoc of Aust (WA) Section State Executive
25. NAVY LEADER 2009
26. HMAS Shephard
27. Naval Assoc (City of Perth Sub-Section)
28. Fleet Air Arm Assoc of Aust WA Division
29. HMAS Perh National Assoc
30. HMAS Sydney Assoc
31. HMAS Hobart Assoc
32. RAN WWII Heavy Cruisers
(HMAS Canberra, HMAS Australia)
33. Combined Districts Concert Band
34. HMAS Woollastor Assoc
35. Ex-Wirars Assoc
36. RAN Communications Branch Assoc
37. “N” Class Destroyers
38. Tribal Class Destroyers
(HMAS Arunta, HMAS Warramunga, HMAS Bataan)
39. RAN Corvette Assoc
40. Churchlands Senior High School Marching Band
41. RAN Clearance Divers
42. 1st East Strategic Reserve (Naval) Assoc
43. Vietnamese Logistics Support Veterans Assoc
44. HMAS Brisbane Assoc
45. Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships

ARMY SECTION
46. WA Brass Band
47. 6th Aust Division Cavalry Regiment Assoc (WA)
48. Combined Commandos Squadron
49. 4th Special Unit Assoc of WA
50. 2nd Special Unit (Aust) Inc. International
51. Royal Australian Army Assoc of WA
52. 2/9th Field Regiment Artillery Assoc
53. 2/7th Field Regiment Artillery Assoc
54. Floreat Park Salvation Army Band
55. Heavy Anti-Aircraft Assoc
56. 2/3rd Aust Composite AA Regiment Assoc
57. RA & Ex-Servicemen’s Assoc (Engineer Units)
58. Water Transport Assoc
59. Royal Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
60. Royal Australian Survey Corps Assoc
61. City of Perth Brass Band
62. Royal Australian Signals Assoc (inc. 11 Division Signals Assoc)
63. 7/9th Australian Infantry Battalion
64. 2/11th AIF Battalion Assoc
65. 2/10th Battalion Assoc
66. 2/20th Battalion Assoc
67. 31 AIF Swan Regiment Drum Corps
68. 2/29th Battalion Assoc & 24th Anti Tank Gun
69. 2/3rd Battalion Assoc
70. 4/4th Battalion Assoc
71. 4/4th & 2/4th Battalion
72. Perth Concert Band
73. 2/9th Machine Gun Battalion
74. 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion
75. 2/5th Machine Gun Regiment Assoc
76. 13th Brigade AIF Group (11th, 16th Cameron Highlanders, 28th, 44th Battalions)
77. Presbyterian Ladies College Pipes & Drums
78. RAR Association
79. 1 RAR
80. 5 RAR
81. 7 RAR
82. 8 RAR
83. Australian SAS Association
84. City of Cockburn Pipes & Drums
85. Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV)
86. HG 1ATF
87. 102 Field Battery
88. RWAR Assoc
89. Australian Intelligence Corps Assoc (WA)
90. Trinity College Pipes & Drums
91. Royal Australian Army Service Corps
92. Royal Australian Army Grd Corps
93. 1st Field Hospital
94. 2/7th Field Ambulance
95. 21st Field Ambulance
96. Australian Army Pipes & Drums
97. VAD & Australian Army Medical Women’s Service
98. Australian Women’s Army Service (AWAS)
99. Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps Assoc
100. Women’s Royal Australian Army Corps
101. Red Cross Aides

AIR FORCE SECTION
102. WA Police Band
103. Royal Australian Air Force Assoc
104. WAAAF Branch
105. WRAAF Branch
106. RAAF Nursing Service
107. Fighter Squadron Association & 3 Squadron Assoc
108. Catalina Club of WA
109. Town of Victoria Park Brass Band
110. Bomber Command Veterans
111. (468 Squadron Assoc, 467-463 Squadron Assoc, Royal Air Forces, POW Association, Pathfinder Force Assoc)
112. 25 Squadron
113. RAAF Police Assoc
114. No. 3 Telecommunications Unit Association
115. Australian Air Force Cadet Branch
116. 3 Wing Aust. Air Force Cadets Drum Corps
117. Ulton Group
118. RAAF Vietnam Veterans Assoc
119. BCOF Assoc
120. Korea & South Korea Army Forces Assoc
121. Malaysia & Borneo Veterans
122. Combined Districts Concert Band
123. Royal Australian Armoured Corps Assoc (WA Branch)
124. Vietnam Veterans Assoc
125. Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans Assoc
126. Gulf War/Peacekeepers
127. Defence Reserve Assoc & (WA University Reg Assoc) & Officer Cadet Training Unit
128. National Servicemen’s Association

ALLIED FORCES SECTION
129. WA Brass Band
130. New Zealand Forces Assoc
131. British Ex-Services Assoc & Royal Military Police
132. Royal Naval Assoc
133. Submariners Assoc of Aust
134. Royal Marines Assoc
135. Guards Assoc
136. Royal Green Jackets Assoc
137. Australian Forces Assoc of WA
138. Normandy Veterans Assoc
139. North American Veterans Unit
140. Sikh Band
141. Sikh Community
142. Rhodesian Assoc (Inc. British South Africa Police Regiment)
143. South African Military Veterans Organisation of Aust
144. Greek Australian Ex-ServiceMen’s Assoc
145. Netherlands Ex-ServiceMen’s Assoc
146. Korean Ex-Servicemen
147. Turkish Ex-Servicemen
148. Vietnamese Ex-Servicemen
149. Churchlands Senior High School Marching Band
150. Partners of Veterans
151. Relatives of Deceased Veterans
152. Thinytners’ Assoc / Families & Friends of Polish Vets
153. Bommo POW Relatives
154. Honouring Indigenous War Graves Inc.
155. Police Rangers
156. St John Ambulance Cadets
157. Scouts
158. Girl Guides
Next Stop South Vietnam

By Sapper Neil Innes

Heading North
On 18 May 1966 Col. Ian Cameron, Chief Engineer at Headquarters Eastern Command, inspects the troops on a farewell parade at the School of Military Engineering, Casula, for 1 Field Squadron, RAEE which was due to arrive in Vietnam two weeks later, on 1st April 1966. With Col. Cameron on the inspection is Major Warren Lemon, Officer Commanding the squadron. Judging by the hat badges above, it looks like some RAEME lads have snuck into our ranks.

“Someone was going to have to enter the minefield”
This story covers Sapper Neil Innes and the incident at The Horseshoe which led to be awarded the Military Medal (M.M.).

The incident in which Neil Innes won his Military Medal took place on May 2nd 1967 during Operation Leeton – which was the laying of the barrier minefield - but it wasn’t mine laying which triggered the incident; it was two men who mistakenly walked into a part of the minefield which had already been laid.

Those two men were American servicemen, serving with A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 35th Artillery Group, a unit supporting the Australians in Phuc Tuy Province, based both at Nui Dat and at the Horseshoe Fire Support Base with their massive 155mm guns.

The two men, Sergeant Danny Hayes (who would be killed in the incident) and Private Pardo (who survived but lost a leg) were temporarily at the Horseshoe and were helping their comrades set up camp.

Sapper Neil Innes was at the Horseshoe because his Troop (1 troop) was based there while it was engaged in laying the minefield, and A Coy 6 Battalion RAR was tasked with defending the location.

On this operation there were no Mini Teams or Splinter Teams, as the entire troop was involved, with members switching on a revolving basis between the various tasks necessary in laying a minefield.

“The troop had been having problems with faulty detonators for the mines that were going to be laid in the minefield,” recalls Neil. “As a method of relieving the stress from working in the minefield, a small number of Sappers (usually two to four) would remain at the Horseshoe each day. You would spend the day checking and testing the detonators to identify any faulty ones.

“At about 11:30 in the morning a truck from the American Artillery Battery stationed at the Horseshoe, passed by our Troop location, heading towards the entrance to the Horseshoe. A short time later there was an explosion coming from the direction of the entrance - and the next thing an American soldier came running from the direction of the explosion yelling out: ‘contact, contact’. Myself and two other sappers in the Troop location (Ron Forsyth and Al’ Happy’ Hammond) grabbed our weapons and ran towards the source of the explosion. I don’t know what we expected to find or do once we reached the ‘contact’, but when we reached the location of the explosion, what we found was not a ‘contact’ but two wounded American Gunners, one lying on the edge of the minefield, the other lying in the minefield.”

“When the three of us reached the minefield, we observed one American Gunner was lying on his back in a depression in the ground next to the minefield fence, the other Gunner was in the minefield writhing about and screaming in what was obviously a great deal of pain.

“It didn’t take a genius to understand that someone was going to have to enter the minefield to help the wounded guy as there was no way he was going to be able to leave the minefield by his own efforts.”

Of the three sappers on the scene, Ron Forsyth and Al ‘Happy’ Hammond were, in one case married with kids and the other engaged. As Neil was single and unattached, he was volunteered by a process of elimination to enter the minefield.

“The Gunner, who we now know was Private Pardo had gone about 20 meters into the minefield,” recalls Neil. “I entered the minefield and worked my way towards him. As I didn’t have a bayonet with me, I cleared my way forward by running my hands over the ground to feel for the mine prongs. As I found each mine, I marked it with scraps of hessian from sandbags.

“When the medic, David Buckwalter from A Coy 6RAR and I reached Private Pardo we found he was lying between two mines - one was near his head, the other near his waist. He was moaning and thrashing his arms about and I had visions of him setting off the mine near his waist so we stuck his hands down his pants and tightened his belt up to restrict his movements.

“The medic (who was awarded an MID for this action) hit him with an injection while I proceeded to mark a clear lane into the minefield to allow further medical aid to come forward and extract Private Pardo. ‘I learnt later that the Gunner who was on the edge of the minefield (who we now know}
was Sergeant Danny Hayes), tragically died from his wounds as he was being placed on the dust-off helicopter.

“I don’t recall having any particular feeling at the time, I just knew that someone had to get the Gunner out of the minefield, we couldn’t leave him there, I didn’t think anything special had happened, I’d only done what I had been trained to do.

“If there was any effect on me at the time, it was a compelling need for a smoke and a brew - I was an extremely heavy coffee drinker and smoker back then.

“One image that sticks in my mind, is how the rest of 1 Troop had arrived back at the Horseshoe while the rescue was taking place, and how they, along with the guys from A Coy 6 RAR and the American Artillery Battery stood outside the minefield like a footy crowd watching the incident unfold.

“The first I knew about the Military Medal was in Feb 1968, I had completed my National Service and was out of the Army, and one day I came home from work to be confronted by my parents demanding to know what the hell I had been up to in Vietnam as they had been receiving phone calls all afternoon from newspaper reporters and radio and television stations wanting an interview with me.

“The Government had announced to the media that I had won the Military Medal.

“My initial reaction at the time was that as no one had raised the matter prior to my discharge in Sept 1967, that it was probably some mates from 1 Troop having a practical joke at my expense. But the phone calls continued and I started to realize that the calls were genuine.

“I had several interviews with newspapers and television and radio reporters, and the Government finally advised me by telegram late that day.

“I only found out in March last year that Lt. Joe Casey, the 1 Troop Officer of 1 Troop at the time had prepared the submission for the award, on the strong recommendation of Major O’Brien, the then OC of A Coy 6 RAR.

“Today, I’m proud of the award, not for my sake but for the legacy it leaves for my wife and children. My attitude to the award has changed since the Welcome Home Parade in 1987. Because of public attitude to the war in Vietnam and constant disparaging remarks (“you don’t deserve the award it wasn’t won in a real war” etc) made at my local RSL by old WWII diggers, I finished up throwing the medal in a drawer and forgot all about it for 20 years. I never attended any reunions or kept in contact with the guys I had served with. In that 20 years, I married, divorced and remarried and had 3 children. I just tried to wipe the whole Vietnam experience from my memory.

“When the parade was mentioned my wife convinced me I should, for my children’s sake be proud of the award and should take part in the parade.

I did just that and met up with some of my mates and we have been getting together on a regular basis ever since.

The written citation accompanying the Military Medal awarded to Sapper Neil Innes reads:

“No the 2nd May, 1967 during Operation LEETON, Sapper Innes was in the 1 Troop forward operational base, at a feature known as the Horseshoe. At approximately 1150 hours Sapper Innes heard an explosion in the vicinity of a minefield approximately 70 metres to the south of his own location. He immediately ran to the edge of the minefield where he saw two American Gunners lying wounded on the ground. One soldier was unconscious just outside the minefield, the other was lying in the minefield and was writhing on the ground approximately six inches from another mine.

Sapper Innes entered the minefield, held the wounded soldier firmly to prevent his movement and quietly reassured him to lie still. He then marked a clear lane into medical aid to come forward.

Sapper Innes, by his immediate and courageous action, prevented the detonation of a second mine and his swift marking of a safe lane made possible the quick evacuation of the wounded. His complete disregard for his own safety displayed a high standard of bravery that reflects great credit upon himself and his Squadron.”

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.

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Not valid in conjunction with any other offer
Offer valid until 30th June 2009
RSL membership proof required upon check-in

The LiSTeNiNg POST April 2009 17
Digger makes contact, 42 years on

At Nui Dat Hill during artillery fire practice with the infantry

My home in Vietnam – 5RAR.

Me Many Years Later

Dear Soldier,

Yes, what a surprise – a phone call from someone known to you.

Well this is how it all came about. I finally have got around to writing to you – and wrote to "Dear Soldier" in April 1976.

I was the lucky soldier that got your letter.

At Christmas 1966 I was at the 1st Battalion Observation Post, from 103 B Battery, 6th Regiment, Australian Light Horse Artillery to 5RAR (Infantry). Our role was the infantry regarded it as a tough 6 months of my time in Vietnam with 5RAR and 6th Regiment.

I was in Vietnam from May 67 and "was only 19" when I went there. I did 20 years in the Regular Army retiring as a WO2 in 1985. I have been home, in Western Aust, ever since.

I married Shirley on 24.4.88. We have 2 children (Sharon 88, and Emma 92) and three grand children – Reuben, J, and Skye. We live in Belgrave South (Shepparton way)

Sorry it has taken so long to write. We hope your lovely aviation brother is happy in heaven and that you have a happy Christmas, Christmas – Reuben, J, and Skye. (and Dad & Mom)

With best wishes for the future. Don McNeilly

Peter Manoeus

The Legis Deputy for the electorate in the world, won by the John Howman, at Dandenong North. My family are football, fishing and scrumping. I live fishing on the Lockwater of the Murray River.

In Russia is a famous bridge with three pictureque archings. Beat Wishes for the future. Don McNeilly

The hills of happiness.

It's Christmas time once more.

May all your most exciting things come true to your door.

Fynny Christmas from Unix.
It would appear that the author of the article “ANZAC-iconic?” in the December 2008, issue of the Listening Post is gloating in that, although the motion was soundly defeated at the WA Congress 2008, the Morwell Sub-Branch in Victoria was successful in having it passed at Victoria’s Congress, and the motion then was submitted at the National Congress and was passed.

Those that support the move to have the word Anzac always capitalised obviously have not done their research or background work to ascertain why it shouldn’t be capitalised.

At the present the capitalised version is still used by authors and researchers when referring to the Army Corps, that is, Australia and New Zealand Army Corps, ANZAC. Not surprisingly the word was soon applied to the men of the Corps who became ‘Anzacs’ or ‘the Anzacs’, the cove where the landing occurred, Anzac Cove, and the day of Remembrance, Anzac Day (since 1916). There is substantial contemporaneous documentary evidence such as diaries and letters from those soldiers showing that they used the term in upper and lower case.

The word was invented in 1915 and did not replace an existing word; therefore there was no chance of confusion with a word already in common use or background work to ascertain why it shouldn’t be capitalised.

The diggers themselves, whilst still on the peninsula in 1915, published the “Anzac Book”: in their own writings and illustrations the word was written in upper and lower case. Through the decades all historians, authors and researchers use this form, reporting as such. In 1959 the word ‘Anzac’ Regulation, answers the query “Should the word ‘Anzac’ always be capitalised”. The article argues for the historically correct ‘Anzac’ over the baseless assertion that ‘Anzac’ should always be written fully capitalised.

Nobody, as far as I know, from any group pushing to have the word ‘Anzac’ always fully capitalised, has ever been able to give a convincing argument as to why they claim that this should be done.

The proposition that it offers our New Zealand neighbours across the Tasman Sea is baseless. This country is justly devoted to the Anzac service on Anzac Day as we here in Australia, should any one have doubts in this regard, check the www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/anzacday site.

H. Chattillon, Narrogin.
Reader's Survey

Q1. Do you like the page ‘layout’?  □ YES  □ NO

Q2. Is there any articles/topics that you would like to be included?  Please list below:
   a. 
   b. 
   c. 

Q3. Do you have any other comments that would make the ‘LP’ more readable?

Your Name and Membership No: (Optional)

Please return this cut out to: The Editor, PO Box 3023, Perth, Adelaide Terrace, WA, 6832
The organising committee has activities. This event is held and participate in the weekends Monday 5 – 8 June 2009. Fremantle Area from Friday to is hosting SUBCON 2009 in the marines Association of Australia. The WA branch of the Sub-knew of Winston "Blow" Ide. I am seeking any stories, information, photos or interviews with anyone who knew of Winston "Blow" Ide. Thank you Bernie Ryan Director bernie@cybercityfilms.com

SUBMARINE REUNION (SUBCON 2009)
The WA branch of the Submarines Association of Australia is hosting SUBCON 2009 in the Freemantle Area from Friday to Monday 5 – 8 June 2009. All past, retired and serving Submariners are invited to attend and participate in the weekend activities. This event is held annually around Australia and this year is being held in WA. The organising committee has arranged functions at the Maritime Museum, HMAS Ovens, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle Navy Club, Fremantle Gaol and the Swan Yacht Club. This year is also the 40th anniversary of the commissioning of HMAS OVENS and one of the functions will include a reunion for ex serving HMAS Ovens personnel. For registration, pricing and further details please visit the SAA Website www.submarinesaustralia.com

- The Contact for the HMAS Ovens Reunion is Ted Curr
  Telephone: (08) 9592 2892
  Mob. 0404 827 409 or E-Mail tcurr@iinet.net.au
- The contacts for the other functions are
  John Rana
  (08) 9594 1913
  Mob. 040 214 3211 and
  Sid Czaborat
  (08) 95274675
  Mob. 0437 804 250 or E-Mail subcon2009@submarinesaustralia.com
- Regards,
  LCDR Zdzislaw (known as Sid) Czaborat RAN Rtd
  Chairperson SUBCON 2009
  Committee
  19 Bermuda Rd
  Safety Bay WA 669
  Phone No. (08) 9527 4675

RAAF PHOTOGRAPHIC AND MUSTERED RE UNION
Caloundra, Sunshine Coast Queensland
14th to 21st October 2009
Celebrating over 50 years of Photography all ex and serving RAAF Photographers, Air Photo Plotters, Cartographic Tracers, Photo Interpreters are invited to spend a week of renewing old friendships.
Main events Official Luncheon Sat & Sun 17-18/10/2009
Reply to Barry Dichburn
photos@live.com.au
Mick Bobin
Mick.Bobin@landpartners.com.au
or visit our website www.raaf-intellophots.org

JOHN MINTYRE RAE MC MM
I am preparing an article on World War I Officer, Lieutenant John McIntyre Rae, Military Cross Medal. He was Intelligence Officer with 15th Battalion AIF and died in Western Australia 22 July 1966 at Repatriation General Hospital, Hollywood. He resided at Welshpool Road, Queen’s Park and is buried Karrakatta cemetery.
I am trying to locate a WW1 photograph of him to include in this article and I hope that you might have records of any relatives, descendants or organization that might be able to assist in finding a photograph, should it exist.
I do know he had two children Frank and Shirley, who if they are still living would be in their late seventies.
I realize it is a shot in the dark but like most things, if you don’t ask you will never find out. Thanking you

JOHN A. McNAMARA 13/16 Grace Court - Kew
Gardeurs, Melbourne, Victoria, 3101, Australia
Telephone: + 61 3 9853 8510
Mobile: 0414 651 486
Web: www.mcnamarafamily.id.au

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or visit our website www.raaf-intellophots.org

BOER WAR
The October 2008 edition of The Listening Post on Page 8 had an article about the War in South Africa (1899-1902).
May I advise you that a relative of mine served in the Boer War and you might be interested in the details:
Major James Rose (8th August 1862 ‘Parkfield’ Australind WA - 30th August 1943 Subiaco Buried in Karrakatta Cemetery) He was appointed to lead the WA Contingent of the Imperial Bushman’s Corps (4th Western Australian Mounted Infantry) and became the first Western Australian officer to lead Australian troops into battle in the Boer War.
Just thought that you might be interested in this piece of Western Australian history and that you might like to use it in the The Listening Post.
On another matter, I am pleased to see that they are still trying to get ANZAC registered as capital letters. This has been a pet subject of mine for many years and City of Mandurah Sub-Branch put up the Motion a number of years ago to have this gazetted as a accepted acronym. Yours sincerely,
Kevin Fowler
PO Box 314, Mandurah WA 6210
Email: kfowler@lasara.net.au
55225 Sgt K. L. Fowler
Service Vietnam 1967/68

School 1967 vs School 2007
Scenario: Johnny and Mark get into a fight after school.
2007 - Police are called, SWAT team arrives and arrests Johnny and Mark. Mobiles with video of fight confiscated as evidence. They are charged with assault, AVOs are taken out and both are suspended even though Johnny started it. Diversionary conferences and parent meetings conducted. Video shown on 6 internet sites.
Scenario: Jeffrey won’t sit still in class, disrupts other students.
1967 - Jeffrey is sent to the principal’s office and given a good paddling. Returns to class, sits still and does not disrupt class again.
2007 - Jeffrey is given huge doses of Ritalin. Counselling to death. Becomes a zombie. Tested for ADD. School gets extra funding because Jeffrey has a disability. Drops out of school.
Scenario: Billy breaks a window in his neighbour’s car and his Dad gives him a whipping with his belt.
1967 - Billy is more careful next time, grows up normal, goes to college, and becomes a successful businessman.
2007 - Billy’s dad is arrested for child abuse. Billy is removed to foster care and joins a gang. Psychologist tells Billy’s sister that she remembers being abused herself and their dad goes to prison. Billy’s mum has an affair with the psychologist. Psychologist gets a promotion.
Scenario: Mark, a college student, brings cigarettes to school.
1967 - Mark shares a smoke with the school principal out on the smoking area.
2007 - Police are called and Mark is expelled from School for drug possession. His car is searched for drugs and weapons.
Scenario: Vinh fails high school English.
1967 - Vinh goes to Remedial English, passes and goes to college.
2007 - Vinh’s cause is taken up by local human rights group. Newspaper articles appear nationally explaining that making English a requirement for graduation is racist. Civil Liberties Association files class action lawsuit against state school system and his English teacher. English is banned from core curriculum. Vinh is given his Y10 anyway but ends up mowing lawns for a living because he cannot speak English.
Scenario: Johnny takes apart leftover fireworks, puts them in a model plane paint bottle and blows up an aerial.
1967 - Ants die.
2007 - Security and ASIO are called and Johnny is charged with domestic terrorism. Teams investigate parents, siblings are removed from the home, computers are confiscated, and Johnny’s dad goes on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly again.
Scenario: Jeffrey falls during recess and scrapes his knee. His
1967 - Jeffrey won’t sit still in class, disrupts other students.
2007 - Psychologist gets a promotion.

Ontario

The LiSTeNiNg POST April 2009
Spirit of the ANZAC Quiz

How well do you know your Country? Traditions? Test yourself, with this quiz.

Time allowed 30 mins

1. What is the significance of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month?
2. What does the acronym ANZAC stand for? In what conflict did they first come to being?
3. Who was Australia’s World War I Prime Minister? Also known as ‘The Little Digger.’
4. Who was Australia’s World War II Prime Minister who later died in Office, just months before World War II ended?
5. August 18th is recognised as the day Australians pay respect for those who served in what conflict?
6. What does the acronym RSL stand for?
7. Where is the tomb for Australia’s Unknown Soldier? From what month?
8. On what island was Western Australia’s first Government House?
9. An Irish Engineer made a considerable contribution to Western Australia’s development, what was his role in Colonial Government?
10. Septimus Roe made considerable contributions to Western Australia’s development, what was his role in Colonial Government?
11. Western Australia has two AFL teams now competing, what was the name of the first team to play in the AFL?
12. Where was Australia’s first federal parliament held? (Capital City)
13. Andrew Barton ‘Banjo’ Paterson wrote a well-known Australian poem, what is the name of this poem?
14. Foxes and rabbits were introduced into Australia for what reason?
15. ‘Parkes’ in NSW is famous for what facility?
16. ‘The Nullarbor Plain’ is famous for what reason?
17. What does the initial GST stand for?
18. Who was Australia’s first Prime Minister?
19. Who was Australia’s first female member of Federal Parliament?
20. Who was Australia’s first peer, WA’s first Premier and now who’s statue (memorial) is in Kings Park WA.

ACROSS
1 Aggressive feelings
2 Move up and down
3 Flat-bottomed boat
4 Government agency
5 Twilled cloth
6 Rush in
7 Escape
8 Idiot
9 Peak
10 Shellfish
11 Twisted cloth
12 Dewy
13 Affirmative
14 Sick
15 Always
16 Ridiculing remark
17 Matured
18 Executive director
19 Stiffen
20 Sticky stuff
21 Alloat (2 wds.)
22 Build
23 Affirmative
24 Sick
25 Always
26 Down
27 Curdling remark
28 Matured
29 Executive director
30 Stiffen
31 Sticky stuff
32 Alloat
33 Build
34 Pepper plant
35 Dress
36 Radiation dose
37 Honey abr.
38 Bird players
39 Group of eight
40 Teased
41 Stitch
42 Sailor
43 Giant
44 Picnic pest
45 Displayer of emotions
46 Verbal
47 Zingy
48 Tack
49 Baker’s dozen
50 Pen stuff
51 Megahertz
52 IBM Competitor
53 Connected
54 Aching
55 Ache
56 Frost
57 Baby sheep sound
58 Baby sheep sound
59 Ache
60 Verbal
61 Picnic pest
62 Tack
63 Tack
64 Picnic pest
65 Ache
66 Picnic pest

DOWN
1 Treed (2 wds.)
2 Mercies
3 Switzerland
4 Storm
5 Poem of praise
6 Transparent gem
7 Sonata
8 Teased
9 Stitch
10 Sailors
11 Giant
12 Cried
13 Pain
14 Love
15 Infection
16 Thrust
17 By
18 Respect
19 Officers
20 Margarine
21 Malicious
22 Belief
23 Sovereign’s substitute
24 Refrigerator
25 Kernel
26 Compass point
27 Liters (abbr. for dekaliter)
28 Supreme Being
29 Gone by
30 Black substance
31 Langa
32 Royal palace
33 Beer
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Poem

An Australian Love Poem
(Who said Australians weren’t romantic?)

Of course I love ya darling
You’re a bloody top notch bird
And when I say you’re gorgeous
I mean every single word

So ya burn is on the big side
I don’t mind a bit of flab
It means that when I’m ready
There’s something there to grab

So your belly isn’t flat no more
I tell ya, I don’t care
So long as when I cuddle ya
I can get my arms round there

No sheila who is your age
Has nice round perky breasts
They just gave in to gravity
But I know ya did ya best

I’m tellin ya the truth now
I never tell ya lies
I think it’s very sexy
That you’ve got dimples on ya thighs

I swear on me nanna’s grave now
The moment that we met
I thought u was as good as
I was ever gonna get

No matter what u look like
I’ll always love ya dear
Now shut up while the footy’s on
And fetch another beer.

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Alan Griffin, asked Australians to take a moment today to acknowledge the 45th anniversary of our nation’s greatest peacetime military tragedy, the HMAS Voyager disaster.

Mr Griffin said 82 lives were lost when the Voyager and HMAS Melbourne collided off the south-east coast of Australia in 1964.

“At 8.56 pm, while manoeuvring under minimal operational lighting, the Voyager tragically crossed the bows of the Melbourne, colliding in the darkness. The Voyager was sliced in two by the impact and the bow section sank within minutes.”

Fourteen officers, 67 sailors and one civilian dockyard employee lost their lives. There were 232 survivors.

“I ask that we all remember those Australians who have lost their lives in peacetime activities, humanitarian assistance or training, including the Voyager disaster,” Mr Griffin said.

Last year all but one of the remaining claims arising from the tragedy were resolved by the Rudd Government. Efforts to resolve the single outstanding claim are ongoing.

Media inquiries: Laura Ryan 02 6277 7820 or 0437 863 109

HMAS Voyager Remembered
45 years on
Bombing of Darwin

At 09:58am, 19 February 1942, 188 Japanese aircraft armed to the teeth and led by Flight Commander Fuchida, dropped 115 tonnes of bombs on Darwin in one hour. More bombs were dropped on Darwin than Pearl Harbour, by the same Japanese planes, just 10 weeks earlier.

Officially 252 people died that day, but documented eye witness accounts put the figure anywhere up to 1500. Our undemanding defence put up a brave fight against the incoming Japanese, namely the Anti-Aircraft sites and machinegun outposts. Especially brave was HMAS Katoomba, which was stuck in dry dock in the middle of Darwin Harbour. Every man available went to their posts and her guns put up such a ferocious fight, the Japanese Dive Bombers were pulling up before they could hit their mark. There is a magnificent painting depicting Katoomba's efforts in the Darwin state library.

The destroyer USS Peary was one of the primary targets of the Japanese, but she went down with all guns blazing. 91 lives were lost on the Peary that morning, including Captain John Bermingham. She is now a US war grave.

Eight ships now rest at the bottom of Darwin harbour as a result of the bombings in 1942. Darwin was left exposed to the Japanese that day, and this was the first of 64 air raids over 21 months. Darwin was under attack and Australia was now faced with the real danger of being invaded by another country. The Australian public were generally unaware of how real that danger was. And still is.

There are many visible reminders and relics of the Bombing Of Darwin today. Among them the Catalina Flying Boat base, bullet holes from Zero fighters, the worlds longest Anti-Submarine Boom Net, Anti-Aircraft site with command post and the ammunition bunkers at Charles Darwin national park. Then there is the East Point Military Museum housed in the original main command post.

Bombing Of Darwin WWII Heritage Tours show and tells how it really was.

By Garry Gallagher
Owner/operator of Bombing of Darwin WWII Heritage Tours

Remembering The Bombing Of Darwin

On the 67th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin, Minister for Veterans’ Affairs Alan Griffin and the Member for Solomon, Damian Hale, encouraged Australians to take the time to reflect on a moment in history when Australia faced its gravest threat.

Attending a commemorative service in Darwin marking the 67th anniversary, Minister Griffin said the bombing of Darwin had a huge impact on the psyche of the nation at the time, but hasn’t had the recognition it deserves in recent years.

“As Australia mourns the loss of 201 people in the devastating Victorian bushfires, it is important to remember the immense losses sustained when the war came to our shores,” Mr Griffin said.

“More than 250 were killed, and hundreds more were injured.

“Twenty military aircraft were destroyed, eight ships sunk and many more buildings destroyed, leaving Darwin in ruins.

“The impact of these attacks on a young country should not be forgotten.

“For all Australians at the time, the bombings brought home their vulnerability and the realisation that the war was having a very real impact at home.

“As we see the country pulling together now, that same spirit was evident after the Japanese attacks, when the entire Australian economy was directed towards the war effort.”

Damian Hale said that the bombings of Darwin were not unexpected.

“The Japanese, from their first landings in Malay on 6 December 1941, quickly swept through large parts of south-east Asia and captured Singapore. Just four days later, the bombs began to fall on Darwin and many held real fears for the safety of the nation,” Mr Hale said.

“Darwin came under attack twice on 19 February 1942 by 54 land-based bombers and approximately 188 attack aircraft launched from Japanese aircraft carriers in the Timor Sea.

“Between 19 February 1942 and 12 November 1943 the last Japanese attack was launched, Darwin and other North Australian sites endured some 70 air raids.”

The bombing of Darwin is one of the many wartime events which are also commemorated on Battle for Australia Day on the first Wednesday in September every year.

Media inquiries: Darren Loasby (Alan Griffin) 0419 004 876
Sheena Dunne (Damian Hale) 0406 696 680

Darwin’s WWII Bombing

5 day package from $937*

This is where it happened - WWII reached Australia’s doorstep in 1942. Enjoy a selection of tours around Darwin and its surrounds - seeing historic buildings and architecture, monuments from past pioneers and World War II and enjoy a spectacular Territory sunset harbour cruise.

Wildlife, wilderness, outback skies, Aboriginal art & culture. We know what goes with the Territory.

Bookings & enquiries call 1300 36 55 92

INCLUDES:
• 4 Nights accommodation Darwin
• Darwin Harbour Sunset Pearl Lugger Cruise
• Bombing of Darwin WWII Heritage Tour
• Tiwi Islands Aboriginal Culture Day Tour
BOOKING CODE: TD18BD2

*Conditions Apply: *Price per person twin share, includes of GST and is Land Only. Prices are subject to change without notice and limited availability. Valid for sale until 25/06/10. Valid for Travel 3/Apr/09-31/Mar/10. RSL members receive 5% discount on all land arrangements booked with TD. Selected departure dates apply. A Business Division of Tourism NT. ABN 43 978 766 299. CR1125

Territory Discoveries.com
Undertaking voluntary work of this kind has physical, psychological and social benefits. Many thousands of people volunteer to assist community or welfare groups. DV A encourages veterans and their families to volunteer to assist community or welfare groups. However, in policy terms, voluntary work in any of these Acts is not of itself imply that someone is able to undertake paid work. The conditions of engagement in voluntary work with a community or welfare group is most often beneficial to a person’s wellbeing. References in SRCA and MRCA legislation to “capacity for rehabilitation” or “capacity for work” do not automatically translate to a person who is undertaking voluntary work has a capacity to do paid work.

Prior to me leaving Bridgetown for Bunbury, Aussie gave me a set of his “Black Pyjamas” that he wore while in Vietnam attached to AATTV. Although he never really alluded to his deeds I know that this uniform was worn on a regular basis and seen many patrol hours. Since our military collection has been formed I thought selfish to have this uniform at home and it has now been mounted, framed and it is on public display at our collection building at the Dardanup Heritage Park.

It was an honour to know Aussie and to have a quiet beer with him. Aussie’s uniform has his original name tag and AATTV badge attached along with ribbon bars showing his awards. At the bottom of the frame is listed his military history and text of his citation for the MM. All the Vietnam Veterans who come to the park and to see our collection are taken back at the length of his service and when I conduct school visits the uniform is always mentioned.

To the best of my knowledge there is a set of “Black Pyjamas” at Canberra and we have the only other set on public display.

For your Information and possible inclusion in the next Listening Post.


www.dardanupheritagepark.com.au

In August 2008 Warrant Officer Class 2 (Aussie) Osborn of South Perth, WA, shown a Witnessinge how to lay a溃疡性 ulcer ‘skill’. ‘W2’ Osborn is an adviser with the Revolutionary Development Cadre at the ‘hand in hand’ protest.

I’m member of the Bunbury RSL Sub Branch and Curator of the Bunbury RSL & Army Reserve Military Collection.

When I was in Bridgetown I used to meet “Aussie” Osborn on a regular basis at his home in Greenbushes.

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved father and old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: Knowing when to come in out of the rain; Why the early bird gets the worm; Life isn’t always fair; and maybe it was my fault. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don’t spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; years suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do of disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an Aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion. Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn’t defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason. He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame, I’m A Victim. Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

If you still remember him, pass this on: If not, join the majority and do nothing.

SPirit of the anzAC quiz - Answers

1. Armistace Day (cessation of hostilities in Europe)
2. Australian New Zealand Army Corp
3. William Morris ‘Billy’ Hughes (1862-1952)
4. John Curtin (1855-1945)
5. Vietnam War (1962-1972)
6. Returned & Services League
7. Canberra War Memorial (1914-1918 War)
8. Garden Island
9. Charles Yelverton O’Connor (1843-1902)
10. Surveyor General For The Colony of WA
11. West Coast Eagles
12. Melbourne, Victoria
13. ‘The Man From Snowy River’
14. Sport and to remind the ‘new’ settlers of England
15. Space Telescope
16. The longest length of straight railway line in the world and Nullabor meaning tree less in Latin (either answer)
17. Goods and Services Taxation
18. Sir Edmund Barton (1849-1920)
19. Edith Cowan
20. John Forest – Forest of Bunbury

18. Sir Edmund Barton (1849-1920)
19. Edith Cowan
20. John Forest – Forest of Bunbury

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19. Edith Cowan
20. John Forest – Forest of Bunbury

5. Vietnam War (1962-1972)
6. Returned & Services League
7. Canberra War Memorial (1914-1918 War)
8. Garden Island
9. Charles Yelverton O’Connor (1843-1902)

Voluntary Work

DVA has issued the following statement in connection with DVA Pension recipients undertaking voluntary work. It should clearly the position relative to concerns expressed by members undertaking certain voluntary duties at Sub Branches. DVA regards voluntary work in the same way for all three Acts it administers, the VEA, the SRCA and the MRCA.

There is no legislated definition of voluntary work in any of these Acts. However, in policy terms, voluntary work is defined as unpaid work for a not-for-profit community or welfare organization.

DVA encourages veterans and members of the ex-service community to volunteer to assist community or welfare groups. Many thousands of veterans provide immeasurable support to ex-service organizations and other charities. Studies have also shown that volunteering has physical, psychological and social benefits. Undertaking voluntary work of this nature does not trigger a reassessment of incapacity payments under either the SRCA or the MRCA. It is accepted that the conditions of engagement in volunteering cannot necessarily be equated to remunerative work given the person generally works at their own pace and time and is not subject to the conditions normally applied to paid employment.

Recipients of incapacity payments should be aware of how some other unpaid work may affect their benefits. Unpaid work for family, friends or a business enterprise formed for the purposes of making a profit is not classified as voluntary work.

For example, a recipient of incapacity payments and/or certain disability pensions who works several hours in a job that aims to make a profit may find to be able to undertake paid work, and therefore ineligible for the current rate of payment. The same person volunteering as an advocate, pension or welfare officer would not be deemed capable of paid work purely on the basis of that voluntary work alone. Under the MRCA and the SRCA, incapacity payments are regularly reviewed. The review assesses a person’s ability to earn during the period and is based on rehabilitation and specialist medical assessments. The assessments take into account physical and mental capacities, skills and training, work history, age and so on. Voluntary work is not a trigger for the review and does not of itself imply that someone is able to undertake remunerative work. In fact, voluntary work with a community or social group is most often beneficial to a person’s wellbeing. References in SRCA and MRCA legislation to “capacity for rehabilitation” or “capacity for work” do not automatically translate to a person who is undertaking voluntary work has a capacity to do paid work.

If a person is concerned about their voluntary work, or their plans to undertake voluntary work, they can contact DVA for advice on 133 254.
Reveille and Rouse

Whilst not being any sort of an authority on the Australian Army but with some small association with The Black Watch in the British Army, I would like to put my oar in regarding the article in Listening Post February edition regarding the article on Rouse and Reveille.

Presuming that Australia traditionally follows the British procedure, I would offer that Rouse and Reveille are two different bugle calls.

In the British Army, Rouse is sounded at five forty five am to gently rouse the soldier from his slumber, followed at six am by Reveille which is a longer and more strident call and a signal to get one’s feet on the deck; “Hands off yer *#@!*, pull on yer socks”. The parody for Rouse was “Get outa bed yer lazy bastards”.

The Australia Memorial Internet site tends to bear this out and I reprint their article.

Today, the Rouse is associated with the last duty; the call has also been adopted to conclude funeral services and remembrance services.

The Reveille was a bright, cheerful call to rouse soldiers from their slumber, ready for duty; the call has also been adopted to conclude funeral services and remembrance services.

It symbolises an awakening in a better world for the dead and “rouses” the living, their respects paid to the memory of their comrades, back to duty.

The Rouse is a shorter bugle call, which, as its name suggests, was also used to call soldiers to their duties. Due to its much shorter length, the Rouse is most commonly used in conjunction with the Last Post at remembrance services. The exception is the Dawn Service, when the Reveille is played.

Words to Reveille

Get up at once, get up at once, the bugle’s sounding,
Like a soldier at his post, a soldier at his post,
So be up when he comes, be up when he comes,
The bright signs of the break of day, so get up,
And throw off the blankets and take a good peek at all,
The guard is shining.

Rev-eil-lee! Rev-eil-lee is sounding
The bugle calls you from your sleep; it is the break of day.
You’ve got to do your duty or you will get no pay.
Come, wake yourself, rouse yourself out of your sleep
And throw off the blankets and take a good peek at all
The bright signs of the break of day, so get up and do not delay.
Get Up!
Or-der-ly officer is on his round!
And if you’re still a-bed he will send you to the guard
And then you’ll get a drill and that will be a bitter pill:
So he up when he comes, be up when he comes,
Like a soldier at his post, a soldier at his post, all ser-ene.
Words to Rouse

Get up at once, get up at once, the bugle’s sounding,
The day is here and never fear, old Sol is shining.
The Orderly Officer’s on his rounds.
- The Australian Army

REVILLE OR ROUSE DEFINITION

Due to the amount of correspondence that ‘The Listening Post’ received from readers regarding ‘Reveille’ & ‘Rouse’, we received the following statement from Vicki Ludwig Deputy Commissioner DVA (Perth Office) Denis Connelly Editor.

“Reveille” originated in medieval times, possibly around 1600, to wake the soldiers at dawn; “Rouse” was the signal for the soldier to arise. Rouse is the bugle call more commonly used in conjunction with the Last Post at remembrance services. The exception is the Dawn Service, when the Reveille is played.

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We're open 10:00am to 5:00pm weekdays, and Saturdays 10:00am to 2:00pm and other times by appointment
Recent requests for some volunteers to “step-up-to-the-crease” to represent the RSL as Hospital Visitors have borne fruit. A group of terrific people has undertaken to carry out this important task on our behalf – and, as Welfare Officer, I say a heartfelt “Thank You” to them all.

In this era of “Privacy Law” that prohibits the hospitals from contacting the RSL to advise of In-Patients who would like a visitor – we’re ‘turning the tables’. IF YOU, OR A LOVED ONE, KNOW YOU WILL BE GOING INTO A HOSPITAL AND WOULD LIKE A VISITOR – you are invited to contact one of the people below.

So keep this list handy “just-in-case”? (Stick it on the fridge!) I would love to hear from ANYBODY prepared to visit: Fremantle Hospital Peel Hospital

YOU WOULD BE A MOST WELCOME ADDITION TO THE TEAM!

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

Air Force
- 46658; Anderson, Maurice- Bunbury
- 441749; Ireland, Ruxton- Central
- 436689; Lindsay, NF- Greenbushes
- 46706; McKay, JH- City of Mandurah
- 436439; McRae, David- City of Perth
- 38260; Stephenson, EH- Karridale-Augusta

Army
- WX13569; Buller, RJ- Karridale-Augusta
- WX33700; Cressie, RAYMOND- Bicton-Palmyra
- WX37283; Goodall, Ronald- City of Rockingham
- 99491; Hardey, Maisie- Serpentine-Jarrahdale
- WX788; Johnson, HC- City of South Perth
- WX36854; Lughton, Archibald- Busselton
- WX40993; Lynch, Ronald- Albany
- WX15999; Lynch, Ronald- Albany
- WX25146; Meeks, John- Claremont
- WX30019; Mellor, Leonard- City of South Perth
- WX5343; Paget, Francis- Harvey
- NX162919; Prebble, Henry- Central
- 31472; Sherman, J- Dumbleyung
- 99941; Whiting, Joyce- Returned Ex-Service Women

Navy
- F5256; Daly, James- Rivervale-Carlisle
- FX102211; Streets, DH- Bunbury
- H2 00228; Welch, TJ- Highgate
- CH/X4588; Agate, William- Nollamara
- X5439; Crisford, J- Central
- 357735; Graef, Werner- Gosnells
- 537783; McCullough, Murray- Quinns Rocks
- WX25146; Meeks, John- Claremont
- WX30019; Mellor, Leonard- City of South Perth
- WX5343; Paget, Francis- Harvey
- NX162919; Prebble, Henry- Central
- 31472; Sherman, J- Dumbleyung
- 99941; Whiting, Joyce- Returned Ex-Service Women
- 54315; Graef, Werner- Gosnells

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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Caught Between Cultures
By Ken Ishii

Ken Ishii was born in 1924 to a Japanese father and English mother. He attended school in England before his mother reluctantly returned to Tokyo for good. She did not speak Japanese so she and Ken often spent time with mixing with the English speaking community at clubs. Ken’s father ran one of the most popular restaurants in the Ginza District before WW2, which served roast beef and Yorkshire pudding to patrons who were suitably attired.

In the early 1940s, as a teenager with strong roots in two cultures, Ken found that war forces awkward choices. Before being called up, and thanks to his impeccable English, Ken broadcast to Allied troops in the Pacific with Iva Toguri – popularly known as “Tokyo Rose” – and smuggled daily necessities with her to Allied prisoners in Tokyo’s Bunka camp.

Drafted into the Japanese army at twenty, he was trained to blow himself up in front of a tank and to fire at planes with antiquated rifles. Surprisingly however, (to both himself as an army private and to his father), Ken was ordered to prepare western cuisine for officers of the Imperial Army headquarters although he knew nothing about cooking. Ken feared for his head, but miraculously the lucky private got away with it and was even awarded for his efforts.

After the war Ken was thrown, still young and immature, into the jaws of the American justice system at Iva’s trial for treason. Caught between Cultures is not a customary war memoir. It is touching, frank and at times hilarious. But most of all, the book provides an unusual and fascinating slice of history from someone who was literally caught between cultures.

ISBN 978 0 6464 9365 7, Published 2008, RRP $19.95, Publisher: Ken Ishii

Copies of the book can be ordered from
Phone: 0422 747 974 (Mobile), Email: info@wordstory.com

Reviewed by Anna Kassulke

- Echoes of War

Some eight years ago Ryoko Adachi formed a strong conviction: that in her native Japan conservative elements were hell-bent on burying the history of WWII in the Asia-Pacific. And that this had to be countered.

It led to a bigger enterprise than imagined. It involved capturing the heartfelt feelings of some 180 Australians affected by that war — fighting men and women, POWs and their families to name a few. Some of these voices were published in Shadows of War, co-authored with Andrew McKay, to coincide with the 60th anniversary of peace in the Pacific. (It was never intended as a commercial venture— and just as well, their accountant dourly remarked).

The book could not contain all the collected voices. But the authors were convinced they must be heard. Thus they have now published the comprehensive Echoes of War. It is a unique archive of raw and frank Australian feelings and opinions about the Japanese as a result of the Australia-Japan conflict of 1942-45.

Melbourne University’s Senior Lecturer in Japanese History Dr J Charles Schencking, in his introduction writes, ‘Echoes of War makes an important contribution to our understanding of the Asia-Pacific conflict with Japan and its lasting impact...This book relates many fascinating stories and provides individual accounts of what is arguably one of the most awful and dislocating events of the modern era. ‘I hope, and do believe, that this book will help foster further exchanges and that it will help others embark on voyages of reflection, perhaps reconciliation, and hopefully forgiveness.’

Echoes of War is available now and any possible circulation of the attached is greatly appreciated.

With best wishes,
Ryoko Adachi radachi@netspace.net.au
Andrew McKay amckay@netspace.net.au

Book Review

Caught Between Cultures
By Ken Ishii

“Amy experience as a POW definitely changed my outlook on life. It made me aware of how precious life is, and how easily lost. I survived the cholera outbreaks in Burma where you might say goodnight to the man lying next to you and find him dead beside you in the morning. I have valued each day since coming home. I know how lucky I am to have made it.” Jack Thorpe, Java, 1942

Echoces of War

Veterans & members of the public are invited to share the ANZAC Spirit at our community Gunfire Breakfast Stirling Gardens
Cnr St Georges Tce & Barrack St, Perth.
Hollywood has been serving our Veterans for over 60 years.