THE Listening Post

The official journal of THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
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93rd ANNUAL
STATE CONGRESS
27-28 June, 2009

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for contributions to next edition
If possible, submissions should be typed and double-spaced. Preferred method of receiving submissions is via email. Photographs can be black and white or colour. This is your journal and contributions are welcome.
Address to: The Editor, The Listening Post
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Publishing of Listening Post
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We cannot accept Newspaper Clippings for publication without express approval from the Newspaper Editor as we can infringe on Copyright Laws. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Denis Connelly, Editor

To all Presidents & Secretaries
Can you provide 'The Listening Post' a short article and some photographs of your Vietnam Veterans’ Day commemoration for inclusion in the next edition.

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

Denis Connelly, Editor

To Korean Veterans
How did you and your mates commemorate the cessation of hostilities in Korea on 27 July? Send a short article and photographs to 'the Listening Post'.

We are not able to accept newspaper clippings or articles without express approval from the editor as we can infringe on copyright laws.

Denis Connelly, Editor

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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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She Bids Us “FAREWELL”

With a self-admitted sense of “déjà vu” the RSL Welfare Officer, Mrs Margot Harness, has (again!) retired from her “eligible service” at ANZAC House.

Mrs Harness, a former Senior Advocate, returned to RSL employment in mid-2007, after a short retirement which ended after popular, long-term Welfare Officer: Mrs Patricia Rowland, resigned. On 17th July - her last day – Margot said that although the challenges and stresses of her job had often been extremely demanding: “Dealing with so many veterans and ex-service personnel and their spouses and families has been immensely rewarding. Serving the RSL and having contact with many remarkable and gracious veterans has been a huge privilege that I wouldn’t have missed for the world”.

Despite three episodes of cancer in the past, her husband, Mike (20 years in the RAAF and a Vietnam veteran) has continued to do well. Professing that it is important to “smell the roses” in life whenever possible, the Harnesses are taking a well-earned holiday to England, a cruise to the Canary Islands and visiting Europe over the forthcoming weeks.

RSL State President: Mr Bill Gaynor, speaking at the retirement gathering for Mrs Harness said: “Margot has shown a very professional, caring and considered approach to a very difficult and demanding job …” and thanked her for her efforts over the last two years. He wished the couple a happy and fulfilling retirement. Both will continue to serve on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

The incoming Welfare Officer is Ms Rosalind Howat – originally from Glasgow. She brings considerable expertise to the job that was gained in previous employment with the Salvation Army and as Welfare Officer for the Federal Police in WA. Margot made of point of welcoming Rosalind Howat to the fold, and expressed the hope that she will enjoy her time with the ANZAC House team as much as she did.

Rosalind Howat – Welfare Officer

As a child Rosalind was always taking home waifs and strays, so it was no big surprise that she chose a career in Welfare.

Rosalind migrated to Australia from Scotland in 1982. Over the last 20 years she has worked in a variety of Community Service Organisations assisting clients to better cope in crisis situations. Rosalind has also spent four years as Welfare Officer in a Law Enforcement Agency, where she developed a sound understanding of the implications of overseas deployments on both the personnel and their families.

Rosalind is now looking forward to assisting Veterans and their families and feels privileged to have this opportunity. Rosalind is available at ANZAC House, Monday to Friday from 8.30am – 4.30pm. She can be contacted on 08 9287 3707 or 0412 009 191.

‘Back to the Bush’ Veterans’ Reunion

Spokesperson for the Bruce Rock Veterans’ Group Paul Hutton, who organised the annual reunion of veterans, donated a photograph of the ‘Peace Window’ at St Peters Anglican Church, Bruce Rock.

Mr Hutton, on behalf of the group, said that he was pleased to donate the piece of history to RSL WA. Margot made of point of welcoming Rosalind Howat to the fold, and expressed the hope that she will enjoy her time with the ANZAC House team as much as she did.

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Congress 2009
With Congress 2009 completed it is time to review the overall organisation of the activity. We have had the current traditional format for many years and it is time to investigate whether we are conducting Congress in the most appropriate way. In particular are we covering all the statutory requirements of an Annual General Meeting and are we communicating the League’s activities to the membership in a clear and concise manner. With a marked shift in emphasis from Congress Motions it is obvious we must look at making the best use of time and in doing so ensure the membership has an adequate time to debate issues that are of concern to them.

The quarterly cycling of Congress Motions to National Executive we expect to see few motions appear on the notice paper for our annual meeting therefore we can anticipate a significant void in the Congress program. For example, in 2001 we debated some 120 motions and this year we looked at eleven. This is a significant change in our dealing with issues. It is expected with the new format for dealing with issues a prompt consideration of matters will result with a more immediate outcome.

State Executive will be considering Congress 2010 format over the coming months and would welcome suggestions as to format and possible inclusion of features. By way of suggestion we could consider a Congress that commences on Friday evening with a Sunset Service at State War Memorial – with perhaps a ‘Beat the Retire’ ceremony followed by a hospitality session at ANZAC House. Saturday could be the Formal Opening followed by the business session. The day would conclude with the Congress Dinner. There would not be a Sunday Congress. In the program we would look at only having essential speakers! It is also planned to conduct Congress in late October in future years.

Raffle
It’s that time again. RSL will be conducting its Annual Welfare Raffle in the coming months. Raffle books will be posted to those who have indicated they are prepared to sell a book (s) and we ask that you make every endeavour to sell the book sent to you. For your convenience a reply paid envelope is provided for you to return the book and money – preferably NOT cash. Please support this raffle as with an unprecedented draw on our welfare reserves due to veterans falling on hard times and seeking RSL assistance we need every dollar we can get. The prizes are good and the cause is worthy – we seek your support.

Look for your Raffle Book – it will be in the mail shortly.

Welfare Officer
On 17 July 2009 we said good-bye to retiring Welfare Officer, Margot Harness. Margot had been with RSL since 1990 first as our Senior Advocate then more recently as Welfare Officer. In that time she has served the veteran community with distinction and with great compassion and professionalism. We wish her well in her retirement and now take the opportunity to welcome Mrs Rosalind Howat to our team. Mrs Howat will be available for contact Monday to Friday at ANZAC House. Mrs Howat will also service applications to The Aged Fund for veterans in need or necessitous circumstances.

Sub Branches
It is with regret we advise that we are about to lose a Sub Branch due to lack of service members. The Returned Sisters Sub Branch will return their Charter this month and remaining members will be transferred to another Sub Branch of their choice.

The group has served their members and the League well over the years.

The Brookton Sub Branch will now enjoy the status of a Post Box Sub Branch and those remaining in the town will enjoy the appropriate ceremonial for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day will take place.

In the near Eastern suburbs due process is taking place to amalgamate the Belmont and Rivervile/Carlisle Sub Branches into a new Sub Branch entitled ‘The City of Belmont Sub Branch’. Again members are aware of declining numbers and of the difficulty of obtaining office bearers and in this case, amalgamation was seen as the best option for all concerned.

Veterans’ Health Week 2009
As announced in last year’s Federal Budget, DVA is introducing Veterans’ Health Week. It will be held between Monday 24 August and Sunday 30 August 2009. The aim of the week is to raise awareness of, and encourage participation in, activities that promote and maintain the health and wellbeing of the veteran community, their families and carers. This year’s theme is physical activity.

The principle activities planned for WA are:
- Choose Health Be Active – Kwinana Recocative Centre – Tues 25 August
- Come & Try – Perth Town Hall – Thursday 27 August
- Join in Keep Active – Bunbury RSL – Friday 28 August

More information is available from Tracey Johnson 9366 8462 or Jumae Atkinson 9366 8355

Poppy Day
Planning is now well advanced for the 2009 Poppy Day Street Appeal. All Sub Branches have been made fully aware of the procedure and the conditions applicable to the conduct of the appeal. To have a successful day we need collectors. If you are able to assist your local sub branch for an hour or so on the day – Friday 6th November, 2009 please offer your services. If you wish to register your availability with ANZAC House we can direct you to a convenient collection point.

Remember – a successful appeal will assist veterans in need. Don’t let your mates down!

Remembrance Day 2009
The usual Remembrance Day Services will be held at State War Memorial on 11 November 2009 with observances in central city locations. It is also anticipated Services will be conducted throughout metropolitan and Country Western Australia with RSL Sub Branches hosting or organizing the Services.

Following the Service in Perth the traditional Remembrance Day Dinner will be held in ANZAC House. The dinner will commence at 12.30pm and will be limited to 120 tickets allocated on a first come – first served basis. The cost per person is $40 and tickets may be purchased from ANZAC House.

Cataract Surgery
Recently the Government announced that from mid 2009 it intends to reduce the Medicare Rebate on cataract surgery. There was a thought that this may flow through to the reimbursement levels provided by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to service providers providing cataract surgery for entitled veterans.

The RSL has written to the Secretary of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs expressing great concern if there is to be an impact, seeking clarification on this point, and arguing that veterans should not be disadvantaged in terms of their access to ophthalmological services by such a move.

As a consequence of this reduction RSL wrote to the Secretary of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs seeking an assurance that there would be no reduction in access by veterans to surgery for those who are entitled to it under the Department’s Repatriation Private Patient Scheme.

The Secretary has subsequently given an assurance that the Medicare Rebate Reduction does not result in an automatic reduction to fees paid by DVA for these procedures. The DVA fee schedule is independent of the Medicare Benefits Schedule. Further, any changes to the DVA fees for surgery would only be undertaken after close consultation with the Australian Medical Association.

Members are therefore assured that they should continue to expect the same level of service from ophthalmic surgeons in respect of any cataract surgery they may require.

For Your Information
We are pleased to invite you to visit our new upgraded website. It has taken on an entirely new format and now contains a wealth of information that will be of great interest to veterans. We have also installed an information screen in the foyer at ANZAC House and in ANZAC Club Restaurant. These screens will provide information on RSL activities and services as well as acknowledge our sponsors.

P.O. Box 1055, Perth, WA 6839
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The Listening Post August 2009
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In this edition of Australian Heroes we look at Edward Kenna VC, who passed away at his Geelong Nursing Home on 9th July 2009.

Edward Kenna VC was the last of the Victoria Cross (VC) recipients born before World War II.

Edward Kenna was born at Hamilton, Western Victoria on 6th July 1919, the son of Bryan Kenna. The young Edward attended St Mary’s Convent School at Hamilton. He was a keen sportsman, excelling at football and cycling. After completing his formal schooling, Edward worked as a plumber.

After a brief stint in the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) Edward Kenna joined the Australian Infantry Forces (AIF) on 9th August 1940.

On 3rd September Private Kenna was posted to the 2/4 Battalion, 19th Brigade, 6th Division. It was during this time that Kenna’s Battalion saw service in various parts of Victoria and later in the Darwin Area on security duties. In June 1943 the Unit was moved to Victoria and then to Selheim in Queensland where it was broken up to become reinforcements to other units including the 2/4 Battalion which embarked for New Guinea from Cairns on 28th October 1944.

The 2/4 landed at Atape in New Guinea on 2nd November 1944, to undertake its only campaign against the Japanese.

The Battalion advanced along the Coast, captured Wewak on 10th May 1945 and then swung inland to clear the foothills of the Prince Alexander Range. The prize was the Port and former Air Base Wewak and Kenna’s Battalion was chosen to seize it.

The attack on Wewak Point commenced on 10th May 1945, where Kenna’s Battalion met heavy resistance over several days. It was in the dangerous environment that ‘Ted’ Kenna was awarded his Victoria Cross (VC) on 15th May as the VC recipients form World War II.

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1. DEATH CERTIFICATES FOR VETERANS

**MOTION:**
That the returned and services league of Australia (Western Australian branch) request RSL national to consult with relevant health bodies to ensure that death certificates for veterans when completed list all possible causes of death. **CARRIED**

2. DUNT REPORT

**MOTION:**
This congress of the Western Australian state branch calls on the federal government to implement the 21 recommendations of The Dunt Report without delay. **CARRIED**

3. WRIGHT v REPATRIATION COMMISSION

**MOTION:**
This congress of the Western Australian state branch calls on the department of veterans’ affairs to direct its delegates to discontinue to refer to the Wright v Repatriation Commission (2005) 144 FCR 302 (“Wright”) in rejecting claims to discontinue to refer to the Wright v Repatriation Commission (2005) 144 FCR 302 (“Wright”) in rejecting claims of The Dunt Report. **CARRIED**

4. PHARMACEUTICALS

**MOTION:**
That this congress of the Western Australian state branch calls on the Federal Government to keep separate the application of the repatriation pharmaceuticals benefits scheme (RPBS) from the pharmaceutical benefits scheme (PBS) so as to ensure a more equitable outcome for those eligible under the RBPS. **CARRIED**

5. MRCA – CHILDREN’S ALLOWANCES

**MOTION:**
That this congress of the Western Australian State Branch calls on the federal government to remove the anomaly incorporated in the military rehabilitation and compensation act (MRCA), where on the death of the veteran who is divorced, but still has dependant children with custody remaining with him/her, for him/her to continue to receive all allowances for all eligible children. **CARRIED**

6. ADVOCACY

**MOTION:**
That this congress of the Western Australian state branch seeks a commitment from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) and the department of defence, when providing advocacy services to serving and ex-service personnel, to do so in a manner that is transparent to the applicant. And does not jeopardise an applicant’s rights to appeal. **CARRIED**

7. APPROVAL FOR TRANSPORT

**MOTION:**
That this WA State Congress requests that the Department of Veterans’ Affairs apply a more rational approach to providing transport and accommodation for veterans requiring to travel to a capital city or regional centre for treatment or hospitalisation. **CARRIED**

8. CAPITATION FEES

**MOTION:**
That this Congress of the Western Australian State Branch approve the deduction of national capitation fees prior to the disbursement of the residual to state branch/sub-branch amounts in accordance with the agreed formula specified in state rule 21.3. **CARRIED**

9. ANNUAL FEES AND PER CAPITA RETURN

**MOTION:**
The members of Cambridge Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League of Western Australia move that the annual members subscription be increased by $10.00 to $50.00 and that the remaining $45.00 after capitation fees are meet be one third to sub-branches thereby providing an increase in revenue of $6.25 to cover our increased costs of hall hire and other running costs that are ever present in the running of a Sub-Branch. **LOST**

10. HMAS SYDNEY MEMORIAL

**MOTION:**
That this Congress support a motion to prevent the placing of a plaque, or similar item, bearing any living persons names, in either the memorial area or within any area where it can be viewed by visitors to the site, and not to include any mention of the HKS Kormoran that could confuse visitors into thinking it was a memorial to both vessels instead of the souls lost. This motion also seeks to ensure that any future plaques or similar to be placed are no larger or more ornate than existing plaques or similar items which are approved to be placed so as to draw attention away from any other acknowledgements already in place. **CARRIED**

11. ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

**MOTION:**
When ANZAC Day falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the Monday immediately following should remain a normal working day, and no additional holiday be granted in lieu. **LOST**

The Burswood Casino Complex has again made a donation of $5,000 towards RSL Welfare.

Margot Harness, retiring Welfare Officer, accepted the cheque on behalf of the RSL saying, “it gives me great pleasure, before my departure, to say a heart felt “thank you” to you all at Burswood Casino for your recent cheque for $5,000.00 to RSL Welfare. “It was the second such cheque that arrived during my tenure and I thought it incumbent upon me to let you know how much we at the RSL appreciate your help – especially in the Welfare “arm” of our organisation. I would like to reassure you that your generosity has helped many veterans, ex-servicemen and women, War Widows and dependants to help buy food and essentials to ease their financial hardship.

“Sincere “thanks” once again for your wonderful, kind gift.”

Denis Connelly

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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
We received this article from RSL member Mr Peter Finn, who as a Tele-Journalist spent considerable time in Asia. The editors consider this article as a timely warning to all overseas travellers.

Denis Connelly – Editor.

Travel and credit cards are synonymous. Memories of the journey you bring back home. The credit card imprint you leave behind, often with disastrous results.

Case in point – imprint for ‘incidental expenses’.

According to one major credit card organisation this is ‘almost universal’ and is permitted by that credit card company.

Example – the traveller has pre-paid accommodation at a hotel, presents his voucher for the service, but before he is given the key to the room is asked for an imprint of his credit card for so-called ‘incidental expenses’.

Basically, as most travel-weary people will know, this design to get you to use the mini-bar, or some other hotel facilities, that you can or cannot afford.

But if the room is already pre-paid and you have no intention of using any facilities of the five-star hotel or maybe four, three or even two star and you tell the hotel that they do not need a credit card imprint. But they say that they do that say.

In any case, most world – weary travellers always empty the mini-bar, buy the local drinks ie beer, wine, milk and juice and stock up in the ‘free’ refrigerator.

Try telling that to the hotel reception desk on arrival.

Despite the voucher (which incidentally they should have had the money for the past month) the imprint of your card is needed.

This is gospel according to no less an authority than our own “we still call Australia home” Qantas.

Look up any Qantas holidays brochure and on the introduction page you will find the following paragraph:

“ROOM DEPOSIT”: On check-in, guests will be required to establish credit for incidental charges. A refundable deposit or a major credit card imprint will be required”.

All this after you have already paid for the flight, extras and the hotel room. So much for Qantas.

So let’s have an example. A couple of Australian’s have pre-paid for one night in a Bangkok hotel at the end of an entirely pre-paid European-Asian holiday.

Voucher presented at the hotel. Reception desk asks for a credit card imprint. Male of the couple refuses saying that they will pay cash i.e. Baht for any hotel facilities and do not repeat do not intend to use the mini-bar.

Teetotters in fact.

Pretty PR girl alongside reception desk says please then give us your credit card number. No imprint. Gladly responds weary traveller.

No imprint. No record. No wrong.

Seven hours later at 5am the couple check out of the Bangkok hotel.

Nothing used in the mini-bar. No charge says the check out clerk. Wrong.

A week later the travellers check their local bank account and credit card statement.

From the Bangkok hotel the sum of 4000 Baht or AUD $139.11 is being held against the Perth bank account. No imprint. No paper, just that the amount that is no longer in the account.

Question the bank and the result is that if nothing is owed, then the account holder will have to sign a statutory declaration to release the ‘money’, otherwise that ‘money’ will not be available in the account for 30days.

Well let’s ask one of the major credit card organisations such as Visa.

Several months after asking the question the following reply was given by the director, Corporate Communications AU/NZ if Visa, Bruce Meagher:

“Visa International does not have direct relationships with either card holders or merchants (such as hotels).

Both of these groups are the customers of the bank which, in turn, have agreed to abide by the Visa International Operation Regulations, a set of rules governing the operations of the Visa system.

The practise of hotels taking an imprint for ‘incidental expenses’ is almost universal and is permitted by the VIOR.

The imprint helps protect a hotel against a customer using facilities that they do not declare. A common example is where a customer fails to declare that they have used the mini-bar the night before they checked out.

Given this purpose it would seem reasonable that an imprint be taken irrespective of whether the room is pre-paid or not.

It is important to understand that when this occurs no actual funds are transferred, so the ‘money’ does not go anywhere.”

This of course raises a number of questions involving the ‘money’.

First, who decides the amount of ‘incidental expenses’?

In Bangkok it is 4,000 Baht. In Sydney the amount is usually $50. Same delay on the credit on the bank account for 30days if nothing is credited to the card.

Who decides how long the ‘money’ is to be withheld from the account?

Does it take 30days to check a mini-bar?

If the money is not with the hotel or the bank where is it? In limbo. It cannot earn interest in limbo though the hotel can always say (remembering that the big Asian hotels can have up to 500 rooms) that the amount in total it is holding keeps its balance books looking healthy if only for 30 days.

And if it takes a statutory declaration to get the amount back into credit in the local Perth bank, why is this necessary when the ‘money’ is apparently nowhere?

If this is a ‘universal practice’ according to Visa, then imagine the amount of money that has been used via a credit card circulating around the world every day for at least 30 days until rightfully it gets back into the account of the person who did not give authority for it to be used in the first place.

On the face of it this ‘practice’ looks like hedging. The bank says it has not got ‘the money’ because it is being withheld from the account, but the hotel has authorised it to be held for 30days and the credit card organisation says that it is permissible. The credit card company does not have the money, but it still gets a commission on the authorisation.

So for 30days the ‘money’ is hiding somewhere.

We have gold hedging, silver hedging and as we all know only too well we have oil hedging because of petrol prices on the up and up.

Why not hotel credit card hedging?

It beats asking the banks to lend money when for 30days the hotel can have access to ‘money’ the credit card holder has not got in his local account.

If it is not in the credit card holder’s account, the bank cannot lend it and gain interest, and if the credit card organisation has not got it, then the hotels must be using it.

If this sounds complicated then it is.

The end result as one travel agent told me is to either deposit $10 cash for the mini-bar and use the mineral water, or reluctantly give an imprint and sign it for one dollar Australian only and take the copy, or thirdly give up using credit cards.

But that would take the thrill out of travelling wouldn’t it?

Peter Finn RSL Member No 052588
Congress a Success

The State President, Mr Bill Gaynor, said that he was ‘pleased with the success of the 93rd Annual State Congress’ which was held in Perth on the 27th and 28th of July 2009.

Mr Gaynor also stated that the reports he had received had been ‘very positive, with all participants working towards making Congress an enjoyable and rewarding experience.’

“With more comprehensive agenda items for discussion and debate, all delegates, endeavouring to keep the speeches and debate focused on the topic which was a credit to all concerned.”

The Congress program and social interaction also allowed time for Sub-Branch delegates, observers, and guests to network, thus allowing greater time and transferring of ideas from different areas of the State to the benefit of Sub-Branches, and, ultimately, members.

Mr Gaynor was pleased with the attendance of delegates from as far north as Broome, and as far south as Albany. There were a total of 121 delegates in attendance at this years Congress.

Mr Gaynor also said that Governor, Dr Ken Michael AC, the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and MP, as well as representatives from State Parliament “goes to prove how much importance Governments place on the RSL and its views of the future.”

Mr Gaynor said that he was considering the idea of making alterations to the Congress Program for 2010”, however nothing would be finalised until a review of the 2009 Congress had taken place.

Denis Connolly

Ex POW Annual Memorial Service

The Ex Prisoners of War Association of WA, in conjunction with students from Mt Lawley Senior High School, conducted their Annual Memorial Service at The Prisoner of War Memorial in Kings Park on Friday 26th June.

The school adopted the memorial in 1997 and every year since then it has organised and conducted a simple and impressive memorial service dedicated to all prisoners of war.

The service, attended by members of the Ex POW Association, representatives of numerous ex service organizations as well as general public, was enhanced by the confident conduct of the students, the enhancement of the school choir and the harmonious presentations of the school orchestra.

Wreaths were laid by representatives of the State RSL., The Dept of Veterans Affairs, The Ex POW Asen, The 2/4th MG Association, The War Widows Guild and Mt Lawley Senior High School.

Ceremonies of this standard demonstrate a spirit assuring the ex service generation that its past trials and tribulations will be remembered and the responsibility for the future of our country is being passed on to students who are aware of their commitment.

Arthur Leggett OAM
President Ex POW Association

MEDALHA SOLIDARIEDADE DE TIMOR-LESTE

Background

1. The Medalha Solidariedade de Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal) is a Statedecoration awarded to National and International Security forces for their contribution to stability and peace operations in Timor-Leste. This document outlines the considerations and criteria for the awarding of the Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal for National and International recipients of this award.

INTERNATIONAL FORCES – AWARDED CONSIDERATIONS

2. Criteria for Eligibility. International nominations will be considered for personnel who satisfy both Criteria A and B as follows:

Criteria A – Personnel Qualification:

a. Military or Police personnel who served on a mandated mission to assist with Peace keeping operations in Timor-Leste during the prescribed time period; or
b. Military or Police personnel, including unworn police personnel, who were posted to or assigned to any component of a mission to Timor-Leste such as Police / Defence Cooperation Programs and Defence staff within Embassies in Timor-Leste during the prescribed period.

Criteria B – Time Qualification:

a. Having served a minimum of 180 days continuous or accredited service in Timor-Leste from 1 May 2006; or
b. Nominations will be considered for personnel that have served a minimum of 120 days from 1 May 06; or

c. Nominations will be considered for personnel who served with a start date in May or June 2006 for a period at least 90 days; or
d. The President of the Republic will consider extra-ordinary cases outside the above time periods.

Applications for extra-ordinary cases must be approved and submitted through National missions to be considered and approved by the President of the Republic.

Notification of approved cases will be returned.

3. Posthumous awarding. Awards will be granted to individuals who have died since qualifying for this medal or individuals who died on duty in Timor-Leste during the qualifying period.

4. Nomination Submissions. Nominations are to be submitted to the Chief of Cabinet in the Office of the President, in the following manner:

a. A nomination matrix is to be attached to a submission cover letter including the following minimum details of each nominee as follows: Rank, Surname, Given Name (or Initials), Mission (SF/ UN/Defence or Police Cooperation etc). Dates of Service and Number of Days in Timor-Leste.

b. A nominee ‘exemption’ list is to be provided separately for all personnel who are nominated with less than 180 days service, in accordance with the categories outlined above.

c. Nominations lists will be accepted at any time in the future as further personnel qualify for the medal and additional nominations are submitted for previous service.

5. Home country approval. Governments of supporting countries have been requested to approve the wearing of the Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal with nationally appointed medals.

6. Presentation of Medals. Formal awarding ceremonies will be held in Timor-Leste for International service personnel who are working in country at the time of distribution. It is likely the earliest medal parade in Timor-Leste will be 20 May 2009.

7. Medals will be presented to Heads of Mission in Timor-Leste for onward distribution to the qualified recipients that have returned to their country.

8. Medal sets to be awarded. Awards are presented in a presentation case consisting of a medal, a miniature medal and a ribbon bar. Additional ribbon is provided in each boxed set for the purpose of mounting medals.

9. Point of Contact. All correspondence should be directed to the Chief of Cabinet in the Office of the President.

10. Contact details for the Chief of Cabinet are as follows:

Ms. Michelle Carrascálo, Chief of Cabinet, Office of the President of the Republic, Farol, Timor-Leste.

Email: chief_of_cabinet.prl@prl.gov.tl

Telephone: +670 333 9999

Arthur and Sons in their element

Makaila Corrie

Kim Dong and Lana Murphy

From the Archives with Naomi Jones

Minimising the Risk

Thank you to all the sub-branches that have completed the questionnaire I sent out, your timely responses in this regard are greatly appreciated.

The questionnaire is aimed at gathering some preliminary information about record keeping practices and archives before coming out to visit and will enable any requirements of the sub-branch to be identified.

At the State Branch, we are currently working at processing the collection housed in ANZAC House. Some of the records and archives that are within ANZAC House are in conditions that are not conducive to their long term survival. The work in re-housing the collection into appropriate storage is a big task and one that does require some assistance.

If anyone is interested in the collection, then this presents a great opportunity to contribute to the preservation of a significant collection. Should you have any queries in relation to working with the collection, I am available to be contacted at ANZAC House.

In processing the collection housed within ANZAC House, we are also looking at how we can minimise any risk to the collection. It may all sound a bit like ‘doom and gloom’, but being prepared both in identifying what the risks are and what to do in the case of disaster may be the difference between saving the collection, and the collection being lost forever.

Damage to the collection can be through natural disasters such as flood and fire, through vandalism or theft or through insects or pests. The resources allocated to protecting against these eventualities should be measured against their likelihood. For example, the ground floor will be at more of risk from flood than the first floor, and if your archives are stored on the first floor the risk is lower. While identifying what the risks are, it is also possible to develop strategies to minimise the risk. For example, if your archives are at risk of theft, securing and locking away the collection will reduce the risk. This is not to say that these things will never happen only that the likelihood is reduced and the risk managed.

As well as identifying and managing the risk, it is important to prepare for its occurrence and the preparation of a disaster recovery bin is one such method of doing this. The Women’s Auxiliary has very kindly donated funds for the purchase of a disaster recovery bin, which is a wheelie bin that is filled with materials that will aid in the clean-up operation should the collection be damaged in any way. The bin will also contain an action plan that will contain details of who to contact in case of emergency and what are the steps that need to be undertaken in protecting the collection.

Disaster Recovery Bins are an effective way of ensuring the organisation is prepared and equipped for managing a disaster.

Managing the risk to the collection is important and is something that should be considered in caring for your own sub-branch collections. Identifying what the risks are will allow you to develop strategies to minimise the risk which may be as simple as locking minute books away. Having details on hand of who to contact such as conservationists and volunteers and an action plan will mean that you are able to respond quickly and effectively to any damage minimising the potential impact. There are some fantastic resources available in developing a risk management strategy for your collection including templates and advice. For any assistance in accessing these resources or developing your risk management strategy please contact me at ANZAC House.

The Listening Post August 2009 9
The revised Definition of this lists the significant anxiety spectrum disorder”. IHD if a veteran has had a "clinically diagnosed disorder for at least five years” – but veterans need to be aware that their depression had to have been clinically diagnosed (that is: formally diagnosed by a GP or qualified practitioner). Nowadays too, the SoP Factors allows IHD claims for anyone who has been on nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for a continuous period of at least seven days – if taken within the week before the clinical onset of IHD. Anyone who wishes to read for the Victoria Cross Library at ANZAC Historic Aircraft Collection of the Australian War Memorial’ by Laura Back and Laura Webster all you have to do is be the first correct answer drawn form the barrel.

**Quiz**

To win a copy of the Australian War Memorial book ‘Moments in Time: Dioramas at the Australian War Memorial’ by Laura Back & Laura Webster all you have to do is be the first correct answer drawn from the barrel.

**Q:** Name the two rare German Fighter Planes that are featured in the Australian War Memorial

**A:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>HOSPITALS VISITED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr John Rankin</td>
<td>0438 264 371</td>
<td>Fremantle Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Noreen Nagle and Mr John Nagle</td>
<td>9583 3842</td>
<td>Peel Hospital</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs June Young (War Widows)</td>
<td>TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS Only; 93349 9762</td>
<td>Hollywood Private Hospital</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Clif Tamblyn - 28th Bn</td>
<td>9285 0951 or 9342 4484</td>
<td>Hollywood Private Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Harry Penn - AIF Assn</td>
<td>9293 1076 or 041 909 1708</td>
<td>Armadale Hospital</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Priscilla Sowden</td>
<td>9401 5815 or 0413 780 278</td>
<td>Joondalup Hospital</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Remah Glencorser</td>
<td>0447 007 522 (for both)</td>
<td>Perth Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Bernardine De Beaux</td>
<td>0447 007 522 (for both)</td>
<td>Perth Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Mr Mike Harness</td>
<td>9293 1076 or 041 909 1708</td>
<td>Kalamunda Hospital</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr John Collier</td>
<td>0415 838 845</td>
<td>Bentley Hospital</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Keith Zele or RSL Welfare Officer</td>
<td>0404 274 766</td>
<td>Royal Perth Hospital</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Bill Adamson</td>
<td>9295 3534</td>
<td>Mercy Hospital Mt Lawley</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Bernadine De Beaux</td>
<td>9287 3713</td>
<td>Swan Districts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Noreen Nagle</td>
<td>9583 3842</td>
<td>Swan Seniors Mental Health facility Midland</td>
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<td>Mr John Rankin</td>
<td>0438 264 371</td>
<td>Fremantle Hospital</td>
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| Mr Mike Harness | 9293 1076 or 041 909 1708 | Roya

**CONGRATULATIONS**

MR REG TUGWELL, from Joondalup who won a copy of Moments in Time, Dioramas at The Australian War Memorial by Laura Back and Laura Webster with his correct answer of 'CHARLES BEAN'.
FARMER GETS HIS LIFE BACK

Lindsay Olman is a farmer from Mullewa, and until his hearing deteriorated, was a community leader. His hearing worsened significantly through a lightning strike 13 years ago.

He has worn hearing aids unsuccessfully for five years, with competing background noise preventing him from hearing in social situations, at meetings, in the street, watching TV, the radio, in fact anywhere.

“At meetings, I couldn’t understand a word anyone was saying,” he said. “In social situations, the noise sounded like ‘chooks’ speak’, and I felt very isolated. I had to give it all away.

“When my youngest grandchild came to stay on the farm and I was left in charge for a day, I couldn’t understand a word she said. “I was aware this could have been dangerous.”

Lindsay said he was continually in trouble with his family for his hearing status. Then the catalyst for change came: His younger brother became angry with him because he had to repeat every sentence, even though they were sitting right next to each other. Lindsay said he knew he had to try to find a solution.

He has now been fitted with mind440 benchmark hearing aids. He wrote last week to say he had listened to the radio in his car all the way back to Mullewa, 450km from Perth. He felt a miracle had been performed with his hearing because he could now understand every word.

“These mind440 hearing aids are so fantastic, they are very close to natural hearing, and I would like to see them promoted so that everyone benefits as much as I have,” Lindsay said. “I can easily identify sounds around me, including hearing the person in front of me, even in noisy social situations. “Also, wind is no longer a problem. They are so comfortable to wear and they are out of sight.”

The community work he enjoyed so much is back on the agenda, he has attended meetings and understood every word. Needless to say, Lindsay has already recommended two of his friends for fittings of these hearing aids.

“The best part is, I feel as though I’ve been dead for the past three years, but now I am well and truly back on track word she said. “I was aware this could have been dangerous.”

If you, like Lindsay, experience hearing problems, you may want to come and see the professional staff at Sonic Hearing for a trial of the latest and greatest in hearing aids, the mind440 hearing aid.

For a limited time our audiologists are also available for hearing aid fittings on Saturday mornings, as well as the usual Monday to Friday consultations.
It is my pleasure to present the 93rd Annual Report of the Western Australian State Branch of The Returned & Services League of Australia. This year marked the beginning of the new triennium with a new executive team elected into office to build on the great advances made in League operations in previous years by the previous administration. The year under review has been an interesting and challenging one with significant administrative and operational issues impacting in almost all areas of our operations. These changes however have been necessary to ensure we remain relevant and effective in dealing with veteran and social issues in an ever-changing social, economic and political environment.

While our organisational structure proved to be a model for the way it was designed in that past it was becoming very clear that with our unprecedented growth, particularly in the Aged Care Industry we were at risk and we needed to be more proactive in defining how we operated to remain a positive contributor in the corporate environment in which we now operate. These changes will enable us to continue to provide the benefits of support from the business community and at the same time preserve our traditional role of serving the veteran community. The RSL WA Branch Corporate Plan continued to be our guide and it was from this document that the need for a restructure became obvious. The plan remains a living document and encourages us to regularly review our performance. It provided direction and goals and continues to be the guide by which we measure our performance against desired outcomes.

The League in Western Australia is administered on behalf of its members by the State Executive who are elected for a three-year term. The present office bearers will be elected for a further term at the end of the Annual General Meeting in 2011. The elected and appointed members are committed to the operation of the League for the benefit of members and the veteran community and are assisted by a network of volunteers and sub committees that strive to achieve positive results in their areas of expertise. All officers work in a voluntary capacity and give freely of their time and knowledge to achieve outcomes that are consistent with our Corporate Plan and the Charter of the League.

All of our volunteers and their committees work in strict conformity to the values of the League and compliance with the State Branch’s Code of Conduct. This has resulted in a focussed teamwork approach and improved performance of the League in Western Australia.

Members of the State Executive together with sub branch office bearers demonstrate strong leadership in the veteran community and continue to publicise to public debate on many social and community issues. Without hesitation, challenges to decisions that could impact on veterans are regularly made and at all times we demonstrate that we steadfastly support those traditional values that are essential in our society. The League continues to maintain a strong political position and as such we enjoy the ongoing support from both sides of parliament at Commonwealth and State level. Through our sub branch structure we also enjoy an extensive and effective relationship with the many local authorities throughout Western Australia.

Our responsible comments, coupled with regular consultation to address the many issues, places us in high esteem with the media and the general public. This has led to League office bearers at all levels being regularly consulted on issues with the invitation to make public comment on social, commemorative, defence, home land security and veterans’ affairs matters. It is pleasing to note that, without exception, all comments and representations are made with a high degree of professionalism. We zealously guard our public image by encouraging all members to present RSL as a caring organisation that takes the welfare of veterans and the future security and development of our country seriously. I am convinced we do this well.

Welfare

The welfare of the veteran and his family was one of the founding principles of the League’s existence and today it is still the prime cause for our existence. The recent review of welfare operations at State Branch resulted in significant changes to the manner in which Headquarters co-ordinates and distributes welfare assistance to veterans. The changes have also impacted on sub branch operations and generally have provided an enhanced method of applying to the needs of those seeking assistance.

Funding sources for veterans’ welfare is generated by grants from Lotterywest, Surfboard, Caimans, bequests and donations from supportive donors and from the Returned Sailors, Soldiers & Airmen’s Imperial League of Australia Trust Fund. All of these sources enable the League to service the operations and fund veterans accordingly.

In the past year we have provided assistance and support to veterans and their families in excess of $150,000 and that is from State Branch Welfare operations only. Sub branch distributions would swell that amount to well over $200,000. We have observed that in the present economic climate demands on welfare funds is on the increase.

We have been fortunate to have Mrs Margot Garnett as our State Welfare Officer but sadly she will retire from that position in a few weeks time. She has been most effective in attending to the welfare needs of veterans and she will be missed.

We are currently arranging for a replacement for Margot.

Advocacy

Our Advocates continue to provide a first class service to veterans who seek their assistance. A highly trained small group of volunteers are rostered to provide a daily service that is used extensively. This has resulted in an increase in the amount of Advocacy work being undertaken by the Senior Advocate and volunteers operating out of ANZAC House. It appears this increase is occurring through the collective endeavours of many ESOS, there are other issues that need to be dealt with and again, our input to the National Veterans’ Affairs Committee will receive consideration as priorities are re-ordered for future budgets.

In recent times RSL has been named as the highest priority items are addressed. However, being mindful of the achievable budget costs saving through the collective endeavours of many ESOS, there are other issues that need to be dealt with and again, our input to the National Veterans’ Affairs Committee will receive consideration as priorities are re-ordered for future budgets.

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Due to the changed financial reporting period we are again not in a position to present the Audited Annual Financial Report to you for consideration. This obligatory requirement will be met at a later date in the manner prescribed by law. It is planned to hold a Special General Meeting to consider, if appropriate pass the Audited Statements in mid October 2008.

To overcome this problem, State Executive have approached the Federal State Congress will be held in October each year.
The League’s financial position is sound and considering the current economic climate that is a great achievement. The Finance and Audit Committee are in a position to state that the League’s financial position has shown a marked improvement in both country and metropolitan locations. The Geraldon Home Care packages operate from the Geraldton Village and the newly established Eastern Hills Operations is centred on League owned premises in Kalamunda. With government Aged Care policy moving in that direction we are keen to see if we are looking after our aged veterans in their homes wherever we can.

I believe we are more than fulfilling our role in caring for our elderly veterans.

ANZAC Club

Operations at ANZAC Club continue to improve with increased patronage both from members and the corporate world. Positive comments on the quality of service provided and the enhanced environment are a regular feature of feedback received. The increased use of internet will be a major feature of our operations as it is 100% on available resources but through negotiation we have generally been able to satisfy all clients, members and association groups.

Our operations on ANZAC Day this year did provide some challenges as we attempted to comply with Legislation as well as ensure customer satisfaction. Future strategies should be made for better management for this special day.

Staffing ANZAC Club has proved a challenge with staff in the hospitality industry in constant movement. Staffing ANZAC Club has proved a challenge with staff in the hospitality industry in constant movement. It has been a hard task but ANZAC Club’s financial position has shown a marked improvement with operational profits moving in line with the expanding areas it still has some way to go but we are getting there.

The Library facility is now available to members and is open on Thursdays for research and retrieval of the collection, however in the interests of preserving our collection it is a Reference Library - not a lending library.

Finance

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Membership

State Branch membership is stable at around 12,000 members including affiliates. There is a steady stream of new members that more than compensate for losses through death of our aged Second World Veterans. We have well resourced and aggressive membership schemes and the return on investment from supporting our veterans and branches in country regions.

The concept of ‘Post Box Sub Branches’ has prevented the closure of smaller sub branches due to declining numbers and this format will keep us in operation in remote rural areas. A further refinement of this operation has emerged with larger nearby sub branch organisations providing attractive support to their neighbouring struggling sub branch.

Of prime concern is the fact that we are interested in knowing if there are veterans in need in the area so that we can be serviced through RSL LIfe, RSL Welfare. No veteran should ever have to have any option available to attend to the welfare needs of veterans living in country locations and that our resources are used in a way that is best for the veterans of those areas.

Future strategies should be made for better management for this special day.

The LiSTeNiNg POST August 2009 13
The Returned & Services League of Australia

The heart of our organisation is our one hundred and thirty-four (134) sub branches. They all do a magnificent job in serving the needs of the veteran. They are, in turn supported by interest groups that have undertaken RSL’s commeration role in small rural communities where there were once sub branches. These groups are taking on the important role of remembering the sacrifices made by veterans in the defence of our country.

We regularly receive contacts from members about establishing new sub branches or reforming ones that have closed or in recess. Currently we are working with veterans in Walpole and Halls Creek to assist them in their endeavours. RSL caters for all veterans of all conflicts and our Charter requires us to service veterans whether they are members or not. On that basis our work is truly humanitarian. Our sub branches are the public face of the RSL and I am proud of the manner in which our organisation presents itself in the community.

Many sub branches have promoted the support of Affiliates to boost their numbers. This is a positive step in securing the future of the League as these persons can bring administrative expertise to the sub branch and take a share of the workload in running the sub branch. As the number hand over to President – Elect, Affiliates in sub branches continues to grow we need to give them due recognition for the contribution they make to the RSL. They play a major role in the operation of small sub branches and this needs to be encouraged, and furthermore recognised.

Unfortunately, sub branches with licensed clubs have engaged Affiliates into the sub branch environment where they should be social members of the club. This has added to confusion with respect to sub branch governance. Affiliates are part of the sub branch and are there to support the sub branch. If they wish to be part of the licensed club then that is a separate issue.

Working in association with sub branches for the ladies of the Women’s Auxiliary. Although diminishing in numbers they still hold a vital role in our organisation. At many sub branches they have significant influence in attending to social and welfare needs of members and as well as visiting our elderly and sick veterans.

They regularly contribute financially to RSL operations and their work is valued and very much appreciated.

The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited is our parent body and is based in Canberra. The National Executive meets quarterly and is the policy making group of the organisation. Through its various committees it is active in attending to veteran affairs matters with government. Its professional approach to issues is its strength and in this manner it invariably produces outcomes that are beneficial to veterans.

As mentioned last year National Executive has reviewed its operations in the National Capital. The replacement of the outdated existing facilities, built in the 1960’s is about to become a reality. Plans for the new headquarters have been prepared and we expect building to commence before the end of this year. The purpose built modern facility, when completed should be ready for occupation in 2011.

I do wish to acknowledge the leadership shown by our National President Maj-Gen Bill Crews AO. It has been consistent and strong and through his endeavours good outcomes have been achieved for veterans.

Our out-going National President has done an enormous amount of work for the League and the veteran community. He has been the cornerstone of the negotiations that led to upgrades to many of the entitlements and benefits of veterans. We all enjoy being an active participant on many committees and review groups that have examined the health and wellbeing of all of veterans. All of which have served to enhance the quality of life for veterans.

Maj-Gen Crews will complete his term as National President in September and will take up his duties as Rear Admiral Kent Doolan AO (RAN Ret’d). On behalf of the State Branch and the veteran community in Western Australia we thank you for your leadership and achievements during your term of office. We also wish you a long and happy retirement.

RADM Doolan will join us later today and will be invited to address Congress.

The appointment of Mr Kevin Davidson MVO OAM as Chief Executive Officer/ State Secretary together with the restructure of our accounting services to separate RSL Operations and RACA Financial and Corporate Services signifies a major change in our organisation. This has enabled each section to focus on core business. We are extremely happy with the expertise of the staff profile, this new approach will reduce the time response to member queries and improve the quality of advice given on specific matters.

The future will present us with many challenges however we must at all times remain focussed on our core business. We have identified some areas for concern and I hope to address them as we move into the future. Your State Branch is in a healthy state. It is well placed for the challenges ahead.

Conclusion

Your State Branch is in a healthy state. It is progressive, well administered, financially secure and enjoys the commitment of a dedicated group of willing workers. We have still challenges ahead but with the determination of elected representatives and the support of the sub branches there is a bright future for the League.
Sidney Nolan: the Gallipoli series is now on display at the Australian War Memorial. Sidney Nolan (1917–1992) was one of Australia’s most complex, innovative, and prolific artists. In 1978 Nolan presented the Gallipoli series to the Australian War Memorial. These 252 drawings and paintings, completed over a 20-year period, were donated in memory of his brother Raymond, a soldier who died in a tragic accident just before the end of the Second World War. Gallipoli was a theme to which Nolan constantly returned throughout his artistic career.

Sidney Nolan: the Gallipoli series showcases a selection of these works, which constitute both a personal and public lament, commemorating not just the death of Nolan’s brother but a campaign that had cost so many Australian lives. The series was inspired not only by the Gallipoli campaign but also the myths and legends of the Trojan Wars and how Australian history and identity are perceived. The exhibition offers a rare opportunity for visitors to experience these striking and iconic works.

With the passing of World War I veteran William (Evan) Allan on 17 October 2005, the entitlement to the replacement of World War I medals ended. Mr Allan was the last remaining.

Australian to have seen active service during World War I (WWI). One Australian with service in WWI is still living – Mr Jack Ross. However, as Mr Ross’s service was entirely in Australia he is not entitled to a WWI medal. (He recently turned 109!) Even so, if a WWI medal has never been issued, it may be possible for descendants to claim the medal. A check of a person’s record will show their medal entitlements and whether the medals have been issued.

These records are available from the WWI personal records section of the National Archives of Australia website – www.naa.gov.au

Most WWI service records show three stamps which represent the three medals issued to Australians who served in the conflict.

- If the stamps have numbers written in them, then the medals have been issued.
- If the stamps are otherwise blank, then the medals have not been issued.
- If the stamp has been marked ‘NE’, this signifies that the person named in the record has no entitlement to that particular medal.

93rd ANNUAL
STATE CONGRESS

27-28 June,
2009

MERITORIOUS MEDALS
2009
ROBERT ‘BOB’ BANDY
Northampton Sub-Branch
Bob has been a member of the RSL since 1989. He spent 20 years at the Geraldton City Sub-Branch, serving on their committee. Bob has been an avid fundraiser and was the caretaker of the memorabilia at Birdwood House.

DONALD ‘DON’ BURNS
Kwinana Sub-Branch
Don has been a member of the RSL for 46 years. He has held numerous positions during this time including President for both the Bicton-Palmyra and Kwinana Sub-Branches. Don is currently the Welfare Officer at Kwinana Sub-Branch.

DILWYN ‘DIGGER’ CLEAK
City of Cockburn Sub-Branch
Digger has been a member of the RSL since 1988. He has held many positions during his time at the Albany Sub-Branch including the position of President, which he held for 10 years.

NEVILLE McWILLIAMS
Bunbury Sub-Branch
Neville has performed many administrative roles during his time with the Bunbury Sub-Branch including that of Sub-Branch Secretary. He is active in the repatriation benefits field and an avid fundraiser.

LESLEY ‘LES’ PRATT
City of Cockburn Sub-Branch
Les has been a member of the City of Cockburn Sub-Branch for over 15 years. He has held a number of positions during this time including President and Vice-President, a position he still holds today.

GARY SUTHERLAND OAM
Bellevue Sub-Branch
Gary has been a member of the RSL since 1982, now residing with the Bellevue Sub-Branch. He has assisted both his Sub-Branch and the State Branch with numerous tasks, including developing new RACA and State Constitutions.

ALAN BENTLEY City of Rockingham Sub-Branch
Alan has been a member of the City of Rockingham Sub-Branch since 1995. He has held a number of Administrative roles during this time and is also piecing together the history of the City of Rockingham Sub-Branch.

JAMES ‘MICK’ GIGGINS City of Rockingham Sub-Branch
Mick has been a member of the RSL for 58 years. He has been Treasurer since 1997 and has implemented a book keeping system and auditing process for his Sub-Branch.

GRANT ROBERT GILMOUR
Mr Robert Gilmour transferred to the Western Australian RSL in 1994 from New South Wales, joining the City of Rockingham Sub-Branch. He was awarded Life Membership in prior to his relocation. Robert has been both Senior Vice President and Sub Branch President during his time with the City of Rockingham Sub Branch and is still the Coordinator of the Sub-Branch Sponsored Day Club.

Mr John Lynch
Mr John Lynch has been a member of the Cambridge Sub-Branch for 62 years. In this time he has been a dedicated member of both his Sub-Branch and local community. John received Life Membership in 2001 for his tireless contributions to the Welfare Sector of his Sub-Branch.
Personal details of soldier killed in Afghanistan

Private Benjamin Ranaudo was killed by an anti-personnel explosive device in Afghanistan on Saturday 18 July 2009.

Private Ranaudo was a member of the Townsville based 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment. He was a member of the Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force in Afghanistan and was killed while on operations north of Tarin Kowt early Saturday morning, Afghanistan time.

Private Ranaudo was 22 years old and leaves behind a loving family who are currently receiving support from Defence representatives.

The family has requested their privacy be respected during this difficult time. They will not be conducting any media interviews.

Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, earlier today extended his deepest condolences to the family and friends of Private Ranaudo.

“Our hearts go out to Benjamin’s family during this very sad time. We will do everything we can to support them as they deal with their terrible loss.”

“Private Benjamin Ranaudo was a professional soldier who served enthusiastically and with distinction. His career record speaks to a young soldier who served enthusiastically and with dedication to his career as a soldier and clearly dedicated to his profession of arms. He died committing to the profession of arms. He died.

“Private Ranaudo died while serving his nation and his sacrifice will never be forgotten. This loss is felt heavily by the wider Defence Community, and particularly by members of the Australian Army,” said Lieutenant General Gillespie.

Media Note:
The family has requested their privacy be respected. They will not be conducting any media interviews.


Media contact: Defence Media Liaison: 02 6265 3343 or 0408 498 664

DEFENCE MEDIA RELEASE
Issued by Ministerial Support and Public Affairs, Department of Defence, Canberra, ACT
Phone: 02 6265 3343, Fax: 02 62656946

The annual RSL WA Branch Presidents Golf Tournament has become a much anticipated date on the social and sporting calendar with places filling up quickly prior to the event - at least twenty players had to be turned away as the course load was at maximum capacity with 144 players.

But on a more serious note, it is a fund raising event and the money raised is used to help support the RSL WA Branch Welfare Fund, which is forwarded on to lend a hand to our much appreciated returned veterans.

The day started off with a sausage sizzle for lunch and a briefing about the days events from the Course Manager.

The format was a four ball Ambrose with a 12.30pm shot gun start to the game for the 144 players on the unique and picturesque Meadow Springs course.

This year Paul Avery from Margaret River’s Killerby Vineyard held a complimentary wine tasting on the 9th hole.

A sizzling barbeque of succulent fillet steak and marinated prawns went perfectly at this special pit stop as competitors could sample wines, enjoy the scenery and take some time to catch up on the game so far.

The golf concluded at 5.30pm and was followed by drinks and nibbles in the clubs restaurant and then presentations began and once again so did the rain.

Prizes were awarded to teams one through to twelve, with six novelty prizes donated by Killerby Wines and the “NAGA” trophy being awarded to SEME Electrical.

The winning team of the day was Macquarie Telecom’s Len Ladlams, Gavin Biffin, David Clearwater and David Renfrey with a net score of 50.62, they each received a microwave oven which was kindly donated by Joondalup Retravision.

The second team was Quinns Rocks Sub Branch with 51.37 and each member of the team won a golf bag.

“This year we are happy to report that the day raised $12,000 and are so grateful to all our supporters, including sponsors and sub branches. It’s a great day so I encourage everyone to get in quick next year to secure a spot,” said Mr Hamilton during the presentations, which was followed by a “Three cheers for Ken” from the happy crowd.

The day started off with a sausage sizzle for lunch and a briefing about the days event.

Sponsors of the day included the ever faithful BGC Construction - who is the sponsor and Port Kennedy members Les Crowe and Geoff Trevor-Hunt OAM along with their wives Moira and Philomena caught up with the former Minister for Veterans Affairs Bruce Scott as he joined the tournament in Roma Queensland while they were visiting the town.

Bruce Scott Visit

RSL WA Branch Presidents Golf Tournament 2009

The LiSTeNiNg POST August 2009

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THE LISTENING POST August 2009

Port Kennedy members Les Crowe and Geoff Trevor-Hunt OAM along with their wives Moira and Philomena caught up with the former Minister for Veterans Affairs Bruce Scott as he joined the tournament in Roma Queensland while they were visiting the town.

They had a long chat with him and he was telling them that he still keeps an eye on what is going on among the veteran community.

Cheers Philomena Trevor-Hunt

0419 355 471.

ANZAC DAY Tour to Vietnam April 2010

“A very special place to be on ANZAC day is Long Tan in Vietnam where a solemn service takes place in the rubber plantation that has become an important part of the Australian Army history in battle.

Integrated Tourism Services have organised their second tour to visit South Vietnam including Anzac Day and have ensured the tour content covers many places of interest for those wanting to retrace the significant points that featured in our tenure in Vietnam.

The escorted 10 Day tour departing on 20th April 2010 staying at three star Hotels visits Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Cu Chi Tunnels (with a guide who was formerly a Viet Cong), Vungtau, Nui Dat, Baria, and the Long Hais with the ANZAC service at Long Tan on 25th April 2010.

Information or bookings can be made on 93819644."
DAY 1 THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER B L D

At Leigh Creek - Mine tour, Maree, Oodnadatta Track, “TALC ALF” - This morning, we will fly from Quorn to Leigh Creek. After breakfast at the motel, we depart for a full day tour through the beautiful Clare Valley, arriving back at the Adelaide airport in time for your late afternoon flight. The trip will take in the magnificent Flinders Ranges. Some years the displays of wildflowers can be breathtaking, carpeting the whole region with masses of reds, pinks, yellows, purples and white. Arriving at Wilpena, we will have free time to enjoy our picnic lunch, or perhaps to walk into the Pound for stunning views of the Settlers Cottage and St Mary’s Peak. It is a good idea to take your camera, as there is abundant wildlife - kangaroos, emus, possums, the endangered yellow-footed rock wallabies and wedge tailed eagles. After departing Wilpena, our route takes us to Lyndhurst, a town of some interest, containing the Great Wall of China to Blinman. We will make a refreshment stop at the historic Olmann Hotel, later continuing our journey through the beautiful Parachilna Gorge. We make a stop at the rest area in the Gorge and enjoy afternoon tea whilst taking in the magnificent scenery.

DAY 2 MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER B L D

At Leigh Creek - KINE PARK SPRING GARDEN DAY TOUR

A tour designed for the history lovers who enjoy the countryside and its wealth of historical buildings, beautiful scenery and the wonderful Ye Olde Pub. Includes all morning teas, lunches and dinners. Tour Cost: Twin Share per person Senior $644 Adult $871, Single Room Supplement $150.

DAY 3 TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER B L D

LEIGH CREEK/CLARE VALLEY/ADelaide

Once more we take you to Clare for its famous Floriade, visit gardens in the Blue Mountains and conclude the tour with a visit to the Hunter Valley Garden Festival. Tour Cost: Twin Share per person Senior $4514 Adult $4589, Single Room Supplement $886.

DAY 4 SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER B L D

GOLDEN WILDFLOWER TOUR

This tour combines Western Australia’s goldfield heritage in Kalgoorlie with the scenic southern coast and some of the best wildflowers in the south west. Plus, tour the regions of Esperance, Albany, the Treetop Walk at Walpole and Margaret River wineries. Tour Cost: $1980 per person Twin Share $467 Single Supplement.

DAY 5 MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER B L D

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51 Brant Road, Kelmscott WA 6111
Phone: (08) 9399 2469 Fax: (08) 9497 1988
Toll Free: 1800 625 177
Email: classicv@iinet.net.au
Website: www.classicholidays.com.au
Travel Agent Licence No: 9TA 1086

ALL EXTENDED TOURS INCLUDE HOME PICKUP AND RETURN

Itineraries are to be used as a guide only and are subject to change
Nashos WA had their second get together on the 20th June at the Gosnells hotel.

We had around thirty Ex National Serviceman attend the venue, and some had come from areas such as Wongan Hills, Geraldton, York, Mt Barker, Burekup and Collie.

There were seven Nashos from 13 Platoon C Company who first met at the Puckapunyal Army base in 1971 and had got back in contact last year after newspapers around WA had put in notices to help locate them, eleven were found. Also in attendance were some Nashos that were from the 13th intake of 1968 some travelling from country areas.

There were also Nashos from the 1950s where they were among some of the first National Servicemen to be called up for duty in Australia, all groups mixed in well and partners of the Nashos were also welcome to join in and everyone enjoyed themselves.

The Nashos WA and the other groups had said that they should get together more often, and are talking about another get together in the first week in December.

These Nashos are still looking for their other mates so they can also join in the get together. In order to do this we’ve created a website where you can send in photos with your name and contact number so you can be reunited with fellow Nashos.

So we are asking if you could inform your Ex Nashos that are members with you that we would like to have these photos – photos can be emailed to bomac51@optusnet.com.au phone is 08 94979879 anyone wishing to visit our web site its http://www.wanashos.wikidot.com/

Thank you
Bob McGuire 08-94979879

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

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

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

There are many benefits to a PrePaid Funeral Plan:

- The peace of mind of knowing your family will not have to make burdensome decisions at difficult time.
- The opportunity to design the funeral service as you wish and not as others would like it.
- Our price inflation guarantee. By taking out a PrePaid Funeral Plan you effectively freeze the price of your funeral costs in the future.
- A PrePaid Funeral Plan does not become a part of your estate and is not subject to any administration.
- You will lessen the anguish that family may feel regarding whether they did the right thing.
- We will arrange an obligation free appointment to discuss your personal needs.
- Your PrePaid Funeral Plan can be paid in instalments.

Special extras for RSL members:

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL JOHN RANGER AT BOWRA & O’DEA ON (08) 9231 5100

Bowra & O’Dea. Simply a matter of trust.
The Army Museum of WA is appealing for help to raise $2.5 million to commemorate the role of Western Australians who served their country in conflicts from the Boer War to Afghanistan.

The appeal has the full support of Bill Gaynor, the State President of the RSL. Mr Gaynor said that a successful appeal would result in a series of modern walk-through galleries - the Post-1945 Gallery, the World War II Gallery, the World War I Gallery and a section called the Colonial and Boer War Experience.

Tom Goode, the president of the Army Museum of WA Foundation (AMWAF), wants thousands of former servicemen to support the multi-million dollar campaign because “it forever will preserve the spirit, sacrifice and story of people who forgave the freedoms that today’s Australians enjoy.”

“This appeal is for everybody,” Mr Goode said. “I urge all members to donate, even if the amount is just $5 because that $5 will be just as important and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted,” he said.

The Army Museum of WA is the repository of the State’s Army history and has an important role in preserving and passing on information on our involvement in times of conflict and peacekeeping operations.

Scores of volunteers, many with former or current service records, enable the museum to operate what is already a significant collection relating to the history of Western Australians in the Australian Army.

“We have developed three tiers of donations for the work – Benefactor, Corporate and Supporter level,” Mr Goode said.

The AMWAF hopes to introduce each gallery progressively.

“Our first priority is the fit-out of the Post-1945 Gallery at a cost of about $540,000,” Mr Goode said.

Poppy Day Luncheon

Wednesday 11th November 2009

ANZAC House

Menu

Noisette of Lamb with Red Wine Jus
Vegetables in season

Apple Strudel & Cream

Tea/Coffee with after dinner mints

Wine & Soft Drink included

Cost - $40.00

RSVP: Essential by Monday 26th October 2009

Only 120 places available – tickets issued on a first come basis.

Therefore, the amount is just $5 because that $5 will be as important as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation. For the cost of a cup of coffee people will be able to proudly say they assisted, and significant as any other donation.
Servicemen and women have been remembered by schools and communities throughout the Wheatbelt during ANZAC Day celebrations.

Students at Merredin Senior High School, in a service conducted on April 9, acknowledged the contribution made by Aboriginal servicemen and women in the various conflicts in which Australia has engaged during the past century. The Year 10 students researched the lives and service of Aboriginal servicemen and women prevalent in Australia during each of the conflicts. They also prepared a report on their soldier’s war service and these were used to form the backdrop for the service. One of the soldiers researched was the late Victor Nelson who lived in the Merredin community for many years.

Members of the official party included chairperson of the Merredin Aboriginal Project Michael Hayden Snr, former WA Young Person of the Year and National NAIDOC Youth of the Year Michael Hayden Jnr, Heather Garlett, Eddie Johnston, Merredin Returned Services League sub branch president Peter O’Brien and former servicewoman Dianne O’Brien. Mr Hayden Snr presented students with information about his relative, Victor Nelson’s, war service and during the service students Amy Starcevich, Teghan Pascoe and Sharhmeen Kent read extracts from their soldier reports.

The poem Black ANZAC by Cecil Fisher was read by Jarrad Phoebe and Amy Starcevich, and Teghan Horne gave the ANZAC address, highlighting the importance of the contribution made by indigenous soldiers. Michael Hayden Jnr played the didgeridoo as a tribute to those Aboriginal soldiers who gave their lives for their country and Victor Hayden and Aubrey Nelson led the wreath laying ceremony before the observance of the Last Post and a minute’s silence.

At Kellerberrin District High School, students conducted their ANZAC Day ceremony on April 9 at the Kellerberrin Memorial Hospital ANZAC site. Three members of the Nollamara RSL sub branch attended with Kellerberrin RSL member Robert Hayes-Thompson. Students thanked their guests, parents and community members for attending the ceremony.

During the Trayning ANZAC Day service on April 25, the town’s war memorial was officially opened after new plaques and seating had been installed with funds from a State Government grant.

Organisers said the event was well attended by returned service personnel, shire and community members. After the 11am service, attendees gathered for bangers and mash.

The Wyalkatchem community began its ANZAC Day celebrations with a dawn service followed by a gunfire breakfast. Organisers said the morning service was well attended with more than 60 people and 50 at the breakfast. The 11am service was also well attended, with about 130 people paying their respects.

Wyalkatchem Shire chief executive officer Sean Fletcher said community members and visitors spent time inspecting the memorial rose garden and reading the plaques dedicated to fallen soldiers from the district. He said further works to the memorial garden will be started soon by the Kellerberrin prisoner of war camp personal and an amphitheatre will be added to the complex in the future.

Lighting has been erected in the area using funds from the Office of Crime Prevention.

To watch the story, click here.

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At Highgate lunch on Monday 15 June 2009 His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC, Governor of Western Australia, presented medallions to retired Sub-Wardens.

Recipients were Keith Howard, John Morris and Peter Salmon. Les Stewart was unable to attend and was presented his medallion by President Ian at Les’ home.

Recipients are members who have retired from Sub-Warden duty and who had attended most of the wreath-laying services at the State War Memorial each year for at least ten years, or were forced by circumstances to retire prematurely.

It is quite a remarkable offering of their time and effort particularly as there are typically more than 30 wreath laying services each year.

The Sub-Wardens perform an important duty that is greatly appreciated by the many different organisations, that each year conduct a wreath-laying service on a day close to the anniversary of a day with special meaning for them. The silent dignity with which the Sub-Wardens carry out their duty adds significantly to creating the atmosphere of quiet reflection and remembrance essential to each service.

The silent service of the Sub-Wardens also gives the clear message to members of the public looking on, especially young people, that if those men consider it so important to turn out in the way they do, then there really must be something important on which to reflect and remember.

Participation by the Sub-Wardens contributes to passing the message on to the next generations; the message that the sacrifice by those before them has made possible the wonderful open, free, democratic way of life we enjoy today and that we must remain eternally vigilant to keep it that way.

Highgate Sub-Branch was formed in 1947. Very soon afterwards the State Branch invited the Highgate Sub-Branch to provide an honour guard at the State War Memorial. This we have proudly done ever since. Typically there are between 8 and 16 Sub-Wardens at each service.

People giving such service should not be allowed to just fade away when they are no longer able to participate. So your Highgate Committee agreed to make a presentation of lasting value to each Sub-Warden that had attended most services each year for at least 10 years. Our research was a challenge as no written records had been kept, however we were fairly confident in the list of 16 recipients in 2006, the first year of the presentation.

In 2007 there were 3 and none in 2008. The presentation item is a pewter medallion that can be displayed in their home. The medallion depicts the State War Memorial with the flags at half-mast.

Funding for the awards by donations from:
- Defence Service Homes Insurance - $1000
- Buckingham Pewter donated the expensive parts of the manufacturing process: the artwork and making the mould, and also engraving of names on the medallions

Mr Griffin

The Australian War Memorial Council comprises ten part-time members, and the Chief of Army, the Chief of Navy, the Chief of Air Force as ex-officio members.

As part of the continuing legacy of commemorating Australia’s wartime service, the Council is responsible for the strategic direction of the Australian War Memorial.

Media inquiries: Sasha Nimmo 0437 863 109
Australian Defence Force - MilitaryDiocese

As we come to the end of the financial year, we think of where we can make a tax-deductible donation which will benefit the recipients.

In my view, a worthy recipient would be the Australian Defence Force Military Diocese which needs funds to train religious personnel to administer the sacraments and look after the welfare, including health of Australian service men and women at home and abroad. I well remember my own personal encounters with Catholic and Anglican and OPD members during my service.

If you can see your way clear to make such a donation, of any amount, please contact:

Chairman, Diocesan Finance Council MAJGEN (ret) Peter Phillips
PO Box 63, Campbell
ACT 2612
P: 61 2 6248 0511     Fax: +61 2 6247 0898
Email: secretary@milaircatholic.org.au

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**Notices**

I especially recommend the website and thank you for your consideration.

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**Betreff: RSLAU:**

Australian WW II Veterans on SS SEBASTIANO VENIER (JASON), Dec 1941

To The Listing Post

Currently we are working on a TV-documentary project about the fate of the Italian vessel SS JASON (SEBASTIANO VENIER), carrying 2000 British and Commonwealth prisoners of war, including Australians, all captured by the Germans in North Africa during Field Marshal Rommel’s campaign in 1941. On December 9th, 1941, five miles south of Navarino on the Greek Peloponnesus, the ship was attacked by the British submarine HMS PURSUIT. Most of the panic-stricken crew jumped overboard in the ship taking all the lives. A total of 320 were lost. The ship did not sink but reached the shore at Point Domi near Ploce in Greece. In the end over 1500 POWs survived. Please, maybe you can help us finding veterans as eye witnesses we would like to record their stories.

Thank you.

**Carlo Werner von Savigny**

MFR Film and Fernseh Produktion GmbH
Dr. Carlo Werner von Savigny-Platz 75
D-81675 München Germany
Ph. +49-89-45554-0
Fax +49-89-45554-55

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Borneo Memorial Dedication Information Pack

Introduction

1. On Wednesday 23rd Sept 2009 a Memorial Service and Dedication Plaque will be held at Steele Barracks (SME) to Commemorate the service of RAE Units from 1946-1966 in the Malaysian State of Sabah during the Indonesian Confrontation and listing the four Sappers who lost their lives whilst on active service.

The activity will include a Mixed Formal Luncheon at the RAE Sergeants Mess.

2. The activity is being undertaken by the Committee of the RAE Vietnam Memorial Inc. While the Committee is not obliged to undertake this activity, if it never gets underway, it’s the less believes it should accept the responsibility to facilitate a suitable memorial and D e d i c a t i o n Ceremony. The Plaque will be similar to those existing in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial to commemorate the service of various Units and Formations in this past conflict.

For further information please contact Secretary RAE Vietnam Memorial Inc.

John Pendergast: john.pendergast@jason.com.au
--- 0405 504 724

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**BTB**

To all Vietnam Vets and Vets from other Conflicts. We would like to suggest that you are thinking of having a Coop Reunion in the future. Why not make it coincide with The Back to Bush Veterans’ Reunion in Bruce Rock.

We’ve devoted the cover and six pages to serving Sappers in Afghanistan.

Enjoy the read.

Best Regards

Jim Marett
President – Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association

0403 041 962 or 03-9690 7888

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**ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY 2010**

My name is Hannah Dunne and I am a Poo in Tapping in the northern suburbs of Sydney. The first year I was here I didn’t have a clue what on earth ANZAC was – I took my holiday and tended my lawn. The second year however I knew better, by the third I was trying to explain to my family back home what it was all about. By the fourth I was talking to my 3 year old (who is actually Aussie and need to learn about what that means) about bravery, commitment and honour and looking out for, and showing respect to the people who had looked out for her (she was a little lady!)

Then came my fifth year - it became apparent to me last week that the extra public holiday for ANZAC day is by itself odd, whilst I certainly enjoyed and extra days leisure with my family it doesn’t really seem to be the point of it at all. The thing became a bit of a party, a we even had people over for tea.

It lead me to wonder what I really should have been doing with the day and also drew me to check next year’s public holidays and I see that next year, in WA, we will once more be out there alone in an extra day off. So I thought I would like to plan for it next year and I wondered about people in my local community ‘Donating their Day to a Digger’. I figure it might be a little hard to organise, I’m not even sure if people would be interested, but surely these must be Veterans out there who would be happy to clean up unpainted walls, shopping that needs doing or dogs that need walking. Maybe they are people who can’t actually get to do it themselves. Maybe they could snowball and be a bit of a ‘thing’ or maybe it’s a fad waiting to happen who knows.

I thought you would be a good starting point – I don’t know any Diggers myself – so that’s a bit of a wank speck. Maybe it’s essentially a bad idea and I’m not spotting the key flaw – but I’d like to give it a go and I would certainly like to know if you can point me in the right direction or any feedback much appreciated.

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**Take a Healthy Step Forward this August**

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Alan Griffin, today delivered on an election commitment to reinstate Australia’s World War II veteran and widows, almost half (49 per cent) said they tried to make at least one change to improve their health and fitness in the past 12 months,” Mr Griffin said.

“Veterans’ Health Week is an opportunity to take a positive step to improve health and fitness, which can have significant long term benefits.

“Department of Veterans’ Affairs and its local Veterans’ Affairs Network and VVCS – Veteran and Veterans Families Counselling Service offices are partner- ing with ex-service organisations and community groups to develop events at a local level and organise local events.”

Mr Griffin said the theme of this year’s Veterans’ Health Week was physical activity – encouraging members of the veteran community to think about their health and fitness in the context of exercise to live a stronger, healthier and happier life.

“Veterans’ Health Week highlights the importance of physical activities as part of a regular routine, regardless of age or fitness level,” Mr Griffin said.

“During the Week, the veteran community can participate in walking groups, dance classes, laughter workshops, team sports and concerts as well as gain access to information on safety and health issues.

“Veterans’ Health Week is only a few weeks away so I encourage veterans, war widows and wid- owers, their families and carers, to mark the Week in their calendars and look out for activities in their area.”

For more information on activities visit www.vva.gov.au or contact your local office. Here’s a link to the latest issue of Holdfast Magazine.\n
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**50th Reunion**

101 Field Battery, RAA
Malaya 1959 to 1961 Tour
18th to 20th Sept 2009.
Coffs Harbour
Contact David Troedel
36 Murphys Creek Road
Toowoomba.Qld.4350
Phone: (07) 4630 8777
Email: davidpatt@bigpond.net.au

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**Hi All,**

Here’s a link to the latest issue of “Holdfast” magazine of the Australian Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association.


Just click the link and it will take you to the newsletter as it sits on our new website.

Just click the link and it will take you to the newsletter as it sits on

our new website.

Bill was born in Pingelly, W. A. where he stayed with his parents until 1939 when, because of the hard times caused by the depression and the outbreak of WW II, the family shifted to Perth where Bill’s father, a WW I veteran, joined the AIF, first training recruits at Northam before transferring to the Naval Dockyard Police at Fremantle.

During this time Bill was progressing through his schooling, first at Mt Lawley State School, then, in 1941, Guildford Grammar School. He admits to being a lousy academic but reasonable sportsman culminating in the Guildford 8, with Bill as the cox, winning the 1948 Public Schools’ Head-of-the-River.

When he left school Bill secured an apprenticeship as Fitter and Turner with Cresco Fertilisers. In Bill’s own words, “National Service reared its wonderful head and I spent some of the best 6 months of my life at Pearce as an Engineer fitter.” In 1955 he married Carol Hunter and they had two children, Dennis in 1957 and Tracy in 1961.

Bill worked in his trade until 1965 then he worked his way up from Sales Engineer to Sales Manager with the good old company, William Adams Pty Ltd. After taking on the State Manager-ship for the National Company and gaining a million dollars worth of business for the new plant at Alcoa, Wagerup, the Head Office decided to dispense with the Perth Branch and closed it down.

By 1983 Bill had divorced his first wife, Carol, and, with his new partner, Diana Mary Griffin, travelled Australia with a 4WD and caravan. They had such a wonderful trip they decided to join the National Parks Authority. In 1985 they were married by the local policeman in Wittenoom and, in all, spent 13 years of a wonderful lifestyle until retiring in 1997.

Bill and Diana moved to Boxend, south of Mundarah where of course, a fair sized home workshop was a necessity for hobby work and was well equipped with metal lathe, large drill, grinder, mitre, saw etc., and had great fun making things.

For an active person like Bill, retirement was a joke so he joined the Mundarah Muscateers, a non profit group refurbishing computer kits for the young to hand on to needy people – ie; anyone with a concession card or deserving cause. Bill’s endeavours and enthusiasm for this group cannot be overstated.

Shortly before his death, Bill and Diana moved to a new home at Lakelands, a new sub-division just north of Mundarah. Bill was well liked and respected not only by the members of the Dawesville Sub-Branch but also the wider community and will be sorely missed.

Rest Well Forgotten.

(Compiled by John M Bates, Hon Secretary, Dawesville Sub-Branch from information supplied by the Family of the Late William Arthur Badcock.)
Wilkins, Sir George Hubert (1888 - 1958)

Sir George Hubert Wilkins (1888 - 1958), by unknown photographer, c1922, courtesy of Australian War Memorial. P03171.002, with the permission of Ohio State University.

WILKINS, Sir GEORGE HUBERT (1888-1958), war correspondent and photographer, polar explorer, naturalist, geographer, climatologist and aviator, was born on 31 October 1888 at Mount Bryan East, South Australia, thirteenth child of Henry Wilkins, farmer, and his wife Louisa, née Smith. As a child, George experienced the devastation caused by drought and developed an interest in climatic phenomena. Reared as a Methodist, he studied engineering part time at the South Australian School of Mines and Industries, then as a Methodist, he studied engineering part time at the State University. Despite his solitary nature, he was a good mixer and companion. Tall and athletic, he had physical drive and courage to match his mental endurance, and he held deep religious convictions.

Yet, his curiosity drew him irresistibly to new ideas and projects. In 1955 he was granted an honorary D.Sc. by the University of Alaska. Despite his solitary nature, he was a good mixer and companion. Tall and athletic, he had physical drive and courage to match his mental endurance, and he held deep religious convictions.

Wilkins lived to learn in August 1958 of the under-ice transits of the Arctic Sea by the submarines U.S.S. Nautilus and U.S.S. Nautilus. He died suddenly in his hotel room at Framingham, Massachusetts, on 30 November 1958 and was cremated; four months later his ashes were scattered from the Skate at the North Pole. Lady Wilkins survived him and wrote affectionately of a husband whose only contact with her for extended periods had been through his letters. Her portraits of Wilkins, and those by Vuk Vuchinich, Roland Hinton Perry and James Peter Quinn, were in her possession at the time of his death. Another by Reynolds Mason hangs at the entrance of the Wilkins Endurance Centre, Natick, Massachusetts.

Select Bibliography

C. E. W. Bean, The A.I.F. in France, 1917-18 (Syd, 1933, 1937, 1942); C. E. W. Bean, Gallipoli Mission (Canb, 1948); US Dept of the Navy, Antarctic Bibliography (Washington, DC, 1951); Dictionary of National Biography, 1951-60; J. Grierson, Sir Hubert Wilkins (Melb, 1960); R. A. Swan, ‘Wilkins, Sir George Hubert’ (1888 - 1958), Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 12,

Submitted by: Commodore Bob Trotter OAM RAN (Ret’d) FIAust
The engineers showed no compassion, on the contrary, continually increasing the working hours. Despite the enormous pressure many prisoners walked out of their work without any result the rail link was completed. They received wonderful support from the Doctors, medical orderlies and camp staff who supported them admirably. All of these people deserve to be acknowledged for playing their part in a triumph over adversity. Upon completion of the rail the war was till twenty-two months from finishing and the POWs were moved around a great deal. Some men were retained on the railway doing maintenance work and cutting wood for locomotive fuel whilst others were spread around the country working on roads, railways, and bridges damaged by Allied bombing and monsoon rains.

The men of “F” Force, whose introduc- tion to Thailand was a 260-kilometer march to the disease-ridden camps and around Somkurai were eventually returned to Singapore, missing over a thou- sand of their number who had perished.

The fittest of the Prisoners of War sur- vivors were sent to other areas of Asia as forced labour. A large number of the Australians went to Japan to work in coalmines and other industrial areas. They sailed in decr upted unmarked ships and unfortunately some of the ships in the convoys were sunk by Allied submarines resulting in a further heavy loss of life. The inhumane treatment meted to the Prisoners of War had reduced a third of the “railway” survivors to a state where they were incapable of further manual la- bour. They were transferred to (so called) hospital camps in Tunasar and Changkhai. They were later consolidated in a vast hospital camp at Nakon Pathom. After the Japanese surrender, much to the relief of the Prisoners of War who were well into their fourth year of captivity, thousands of them were repatriated to Australia to be nurtured back to health by their loved ones. Many, of course, were beyond complete recovery. After a period of convalescence and retraining, those who had recovered sufficiently were returned to society and assisted in rebuilding a country that had been on a full wartime footing for over six years. Notwithstanding the dreadful conditions in Thailand and Burma, the subsequent ordeals in “hell-ships” and coalmines and the inhumane treatment, many of the Australian POWs displayed a resilience, a fortitude and a will to survive which allowed them to re-establish themselves after the war. Many moving accounts of the fortitude displayed by the Austra- lian prisoners in enduring great adversity have emerged. I would like to refer to just one which gives some idea of this magnificent trait.

Basil Clark was a member of A Force in Burma and had his right leg amputated at the mid section of his thigh in September 1943. The amputation was carried out at the 55 Kilo Hospital Camp by the renowned surgeon, Lieut. Colonel Albert Coates, whose skill and expertise surely assisted Basil Clark’s recovery.

In due course Basil was transferred to the Base Hospital at Nakon Pathom in Thailand and repatriated after the war to Perth, Western Australia, where he very quickly resumed civilian life. In June 1949, Basil married the young lady he was courting when he enlisted. They were blessed with a son in 1947 and a daughter in 1948. Basil was fitted with an artifi- cial leg that had an articulated knee and a rigid ankle. The leg was supported by a waisband and strapping which enabled comparative freedom of movement.

The Department of Postwar Reconstruc- tion interviewed Basil and suzeounced that because of his handicap he should take up a sedentary occupation. Basil rejected this proposal out of hand and stated he was returning to his pre war occupation of farming the property and his daughter Lois qualified as a nurse in which capaci- ty she accompanied the Quiet Lion Pil- grimage in 2007. This is the story of a survivor who triumphed over countless difficulties as a Prisoner of War and on return to Australia distinguished himself as a family man and in farming and community affairs. The type of person who inspires a nation.

Basil was representative of a host of Australian ex Prisoners of War who displayed those great traits of resilience, for- titude and an enduring will to survive. He was the true ambassador of the spirit of the Australian POWs. To today’s youth, he is a truly representative of their predecessors who collectively led to the coining of the description “ANZAC” and the perpetua- tion of ANZAC Day.

We, those who are left, salute those who are no longer with us. God bless them and God bless you all.

A Message to National Servicemen

May I congratulate each of you for producing this fine publication. As a certain magazine does, you have been a magnificent souvenir to take back home. Something to look at in the years to come as a reminder of one of the happiest and most progressive periods in your careers.

I am sure you will all agree that National Service has done much to improve your physical standards and has lived up to the planned ideals of furthering your mental development and moral outlook. It has given you a comradeship and an insight into the virtues of the Commonwealth in the establishment and maintenance of an adequate Defence organization. You have learned that to acquire the skill at arms called for by a modern army it takes time, perseverance, patience and good leadership.

During your stay at Swanbourne, you have learnt more than the basic arts of soldiering. You have become conscious of your importance as an Australian. You have learnt how to live in harmony with other young men from every walk of life. You have learnt the value of cooperation and teamwork and that in unity lies strength. You have acquired a sense of responsibility.

The truth of these observations is evident from the success of the scheme. The testing period of the National Training is over and thoughtful Australians have acclaimed its outstanding achievements. National Servicemen who have completed their 98 days courses training have become an asset to Australia. The youth of the nation is to-day better prepared to meet a national emergency than was that of the two earlier generations who faced the threat of aggression in 1914 and again in 1939.

Extend my thanks to each of you young men for your enthusiastic acceptance of your responsibilities, and to the Commanding Officer and his staff for their untiring work.

Jos. FRANCIS
Minister for the Army
Our thanks to Keith Brodahl (President, Nollamara RSL) for providing ‘The Listening Post’ with this message.

Dennis Connally, Editor

The Listening Post August 2009

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3RAR marked the 58th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong with a parade which provided many of the young soldiers with a unique opportunity to meet veterans of the battle.

More than 250 past and present members of 3RAR attended the ceremonial battalion parade at Holsworthy Barracks on the eve of ANZAC Day to mark the Battle of Kapyong. It was held with the battalion’s customary grandeur with a traditional parade.

Land Commander Maj-Gen David Morrison said the veterans of Kapyong had set the standard for all battalions in the Army to follow. He said at Kapyong, 3RAR established a legacy for courage and initiative in adversity. “What Kapyong had established has been realised again every time this great battalion has deployed over the past 10 years,” Maj-Gen Morrison said. “Old Faithful it remains, despite the passage of time and the thousands of soldiers who have served in the ranks of 3RAR in the interim.”

This year’s parade featured four veterans from the Battle of Kapyong including Lt-Col Ben O’Dowd (retd) who chatted with some of the soldiers about the brave diggers who were killed stopping the Chinese advance which threatened to smash through the UN defence line. He said 32 Australians were killed and 53 were wounded for their part in stalling the Chinese advance and preventing Seoul from falling into enemy hands, with their discipline and training enabling them to turn defeat into victory.

“It was a savage battle and at one stage I thought we were going to get knocked off because the Chinese just kept coming no matter how much fire we poured into them,” he said. Lt-Col O’Dowd said none of the soldiers realised that in fighting so hard to save themselves that they were writing a glorious new chapter in the “fighting spirit of ANZAC”.

“Kapyong was an awful slaughter where every digger fought like mad to save himself and his mates from being overrun by the Chinese.”

Kapyong Parade

Commemoration: 3RAR solders on parade at Holsworthy Barracks. Photo by Bill Connors

Greg Combet, Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science, and Alan Griffin, Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, today corrected the public record in response to media reporting regarding the Fromelles Project archaeological excavation.

“The Government wants to ensure that the recovery of these remains is conducted in a professional and sensitive manner and that the appropriate respect and reverence is paid to these men in all steps of the exhumation and reinterment process,” said Mr Combet.

“The choice to engage Oxford Archaeology to undertake the excavation was an international decision, reached using an open and transparent tender process that was aligned with Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines.”

“Oxford Archaeology’s services represented the best value for money to the Australian and United Kingdom Governments. The Government is advised that the recovery operation is being conducted with the utmost professionalism and reverence for the soldiers buried at Pheasant Wood.”

As one of the largest independent archaeology and heritage practices in Europe, Oxford Archaeology has nearly 400 specialist staff. It also has up to 30 highly experienced specialists including anthropologists and archaeologists on site at all times, and has the capacity to surge additional specialists from within its extensive team to assist the recovery operation at Pheasant Wood as is necessary.

“Oxford Archaeology is also very experienced with post war and post warlike archaeology, having conducted recovery operations from a WWII site in France, as well as from other sites in Iraq, Kosovo, Bosnia and Guatemala,” Mr Combet said.

“A minor delay with the project was caused by very heavy rain in late May this year. However, the project remains on the agreed schedule.”

The Fromelles Management Board has advised the Government that no remains or artefacts were compromised by the weather event and that Oxford Archaeology has strategies and options to mitigate against ground water and toxic waste.

“All possible care is being taken to ensure that the maximum number of individual remains are able to return a positive DNA reading and allow matching with living relatives,” said Mr Combet.

Also contrary to media reports, Oxford Archaeology has recovered over 60 individual remains from Pheasant Wood. These remains are currently in the on-site temporary mortuary, and only three have not had artefacts found on them that directly associated them with the Army they fought for, either the Australian or British.

Further contrary to the media reporting there was no “crisis meeting” held at the site. The meeting referred to in the reports was held on 29 June and is a regular monthly meeting of the Fromelles Management Board to discuss project matters and provide guidance to the project managers, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Minister Griffin said that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission are also overseeing construction of the cemetery which will be the final resting place for those soldiers recovered from Pheasant Wood.

“Construction of the Fromelles (Pheasant Woody) Military Cemetery commenced in May, and I am advised that it is on schedule to receive the soldiers’ remains in early 2010.”

“I have recently seen aerial photographs which show the cemetery is taking shape. The classic, simple hexagonal design and grave rows radiating out from the centre are now clearly visible.”

“It is important these soldiers are given a proper burial place and that relatives, and visiting Australians, have somewhere to pay their respects and honour the sacrifice of these men.”

The Fromelles Project is of great importance and remains a priority to Defence and the Australian Government. The Australian Government will continue to closely monitor the progress of this project and will keep the Australian community advised of developments.

The official Fromelles Project website can be found at the official Defence website, www.army.gov.au/fromelles, and contains regular updates.

Know the signs of stroke and act FAST

Would you know what to do if the side of your face drooped or you were unable to move your arm?

According to the National Stroke Foundation you could be experiencing the signs of stroke. Strokes are (Australia’s) second biggest killer and the leading cause of disability, with one occurring every 10 minutes.

Stroke symptoms occur in a variety of ways. There may be just one warning sign or a combination. FAST is an easy way to recognise the signs of stroke and take immediate action.

The FAST test involves asking three simple questions:

- Face - Can they smile?
- Arm - Can they lift both arms?
- Speech - Is their speech slurred? Do they understand you?

Three - Time is critical. If you see any of these signs, call 000 now!

Calling 000 immediately at the first signs of stroke can mean the difference between death or severe disability and making a good recovery from stroke.

Deaths are preventable and treatable. The National Stroke Foundation says this controlling these risk factors can help you to reduce your risk of stroke:

- Keep your blood pressure and cholesterol low
- Exercise and enjoy a healthy balanced diet
- Don’t smoke
- Limit alcohol consumption

National Stroke Week is 14-20 September 2009

In 2009 National Stroke Week activities will promote the FAST test to raise awareness of the signs of stroke. This year the campaign has been updated to introduce a new visual element. Find out how you can get involved at www.strokefoundation.com.au

For information and advice on stroke prevention, treatment, recovery, call StrokeLine 1800 787 653

The classic, simple hexagonal design and grave rows radiating out from the centre are now clearly visible.

“Kapyong was an awful slaughter where every digger fought like mad to save himself and his mates from being overrun by the Chinese.”
Applications open on 18 August 2009. To apply you must be:
a. Within the means test. That is eligible on assets and income grounds for Youth Allowance benefits for full-time education.
b. Enrolled, or planning to enrol in a full-time course of tertiary education in Australia by attendance at a university, TAFE or college. The course must be of one or more academic years length and at undergraduate level.
c. The child or grandchild of a person who has operational service with the Australian Army or Air Force, or if not has three or more year’s continuous full-time service as a member of the Australian Defence Force.
d. Under the age of 25 when applying, unless exceptional circumstances related to veteran’s service exist.

The largest scheme is the Long Tan Bursary funded by the Australian Government. There are 50 new bursaries each year. They are valued at $9,000 each which paid extra costs of transition to tertiary studies. For this scheme there is no upper age limit nor a need to be related to a veteran. In addition to the above there is one grant per year to assist an handicapped eligible veteran’s child or grandchild with special extra costs of transition to tertiary studies or employment

To receive an application form register interest on 1800 620 361. Children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans should do so now, as should any others who believe that they are eligible. If not sure, ask;

Applications close on 31 October each year.

Scholarships for Children of Veterans intending Tertiary Studies in 2010

In 2010 the Australian Veterans’ Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) are expecting to give financial assistance for up to 65 students under many different scholarship schemes. All schemes help the selected children in need of the Australian veteran community with the costs of tertiary education. Applicants are considered for all schemes for which they are eligible.

There are also regional scholarships. In NSW, there are three from Brisbane Water Legacy covering Gosford/Wyong NSW and one from the NSW TPI Association. Some private donors offer two scholarships to resident NSW applicants. In SA, the VVAA also offers a scholarship. Schemes vary between $3,000 and $5,000 per year each. Some are restricted to location of residence or studies. Most require veteran service in Vietnam but others are broader. Most schemes continue payments for later years of study. All scholarship schemes but one pays monthly instalments. That scheme helps with tuition costs for courses in commerce, economics and accountancy. One scheme is for indigenous students doing substance abuse or related studies. For this scheme there is no upper age limit but others are broader.

There is one grant per year to assist an handicapped eligible veteran’s child or grandchild with special extra costs of transition to tertiary studies or employment.

To receive an application form register interest on 1800 620 361. Children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans should do so now, as should any others who believe that they are eligible. If not sure, ask;

Applications close on 31 October each year.

AVCAT PO Box K978,
Haymarket, NSW 1240
FAX: 02 9281 9164,
Email: vvt@accsoft.com.au
Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust Limited
ACN 008 609 032
ABN 50 008 609 032

Letter to God

There was a man who worked for the Post Office whose job was to process all the mail that had illegible addresses.

One day, a letter came addressed in a shaky handwriting to God with no actual address. He thought he should open it to see what it was about. The letter read:

Dear God,

I am an 83 year old widow, living on a very small pension.

Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had $100 in it, which was all the money I had until my next pension payment. Next Sunday is Christmas, and I had invited two of my friends over for dinner. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with, have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope. Can you please help me?

Sincerely, Edna
B-17 Flying Fortress

Look carefully at the B-17 and note how shot up it is - one engine dead, tail, horizontal stabilizer and nose shot up. It was ready to fall out of the sky. (This is a painting done by an artist from the description of both pilots many years later.) Then realize that there is a German ME-109 fighter flying next to it. Now read the story below. I think you’ll be surprised......

Charlie Brown was a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot with the 397th Bomber Group at Kimbolton, England. His B-17 was called ‘Ye Old Pub’ and was in a terrible state, having been hit by flak and fighters. The compass was damaged and they were flying deeper over enemy territory instead of heading home to Kimbolton.

After flying the B-17 over an enemy airfield, a German pilot named Franz Steigler was ordered to take off and shoot down the B-17. When he got near the B-17, he could not believe his eyes. In his words, he ‘had never seen a plane in such a bad state.’ The tail and rear section were severely damaged, and the tail gunner wounded. The top gunner was all over the top of the fuselage. The nose was smashed and there were holes everywhere.

Despite having ammunition, Franz flew to the side of the B-17 and looked at Charlie Brown, the pilot. Brown was scared and struggling to control his damaged and bloodstained plane.

Aware that they had no idea where they were going, Franz waved at Charlie to turn 180 degrees. Franz escorted and guided the stricken plane to, and slightly over, the North Sea towards England. He then saluted Charlie Brown and turned away, back to Europe. When Franz landed he told the CO that the plane had been shot down over the sea, and never told the truth to anybody. Charlie Brown and the remains of his crew told all at their briefing, but were ordered never to talk about it.

More than 40 years later, Charlie Brown wanted to find the Luftwaffe pilot who saved the crew. After years of research, Franz was found. He had never talked about the incident, not even at post-war reunions.

They met in the USA at a 379th Bomber Group reunion, together with 25 people who are alive now - all because Franz never fired his guns that day.

When asked why he didn’t shoot them down, Stigler said, “I didn’t have the heart to finish those brave men. I flew beside them for a long time. They were trying desperately to get home and I was going to let them do that. I could not have shot at them. It would have been the same as shooting at a man in a parachute.”

Both men died in 2008.

LAST POST

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.

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

Air Force

29420; Lane, George – Mt Lawley-Inglewood
46996; Summertield, G.M. – Scarborough
57810; Wooley, Roy – City of Mandurah

Army

WX29751; Agar, Walter – Applecross
44995; Bins, R.R. – Albany
537857; Cowley, Robert – Highgate
N211890; Dunford, Leslie – Serpentine-Jarrallale
WX35889; Edwards, Thomas – City of Cockburn
1417174; Evans, Vivian – Shenton Park
WX11982; Harrison, James – Osborne Park
WX33446; Herdes, Dougall – City of Mandurah
WS8505; Jarman, Charles – Osborne Park
56149; Mundine, Frederick – Eastern Regional
WX29936; McLean, Donald – Collingwood
WX31159; Proudlove, Alick – Albany
16210; Riderout, Kevin – Mandurah
SX11773; Roberts, J.W. – Central
12746; Sage, Edward – Riverton
WX41344; Segal, Reuben – Mt Lawley-Inglewood
WX12464; Strongman, G.M. – Scarborough
WX12574; Wells, B.E. – Bunbury

Navy

40107; Baxter, George – Armadale
4498; Clarke, Jeffrey – City of Cockburn
F4982; Coghlan, Ronald – Upper Swan
3374; Finlay, Keith – City of Mandurah
F10893; Hawthorne, Donald – City of Perth
FS177; Hewitt, Kevin – City of Perth
F2004; Noyer, Ernest – City of Cockburn
1200184; Shean, Maxwell – Highgate

Big Things On Display

The Australian War Memorial once again opened the conservation and storage annex for Big Things in Store on Sunday 24 May.

A crowd of 3600 came to view the impressive collection of large technology items, including a De Haviland Tiger Moth, 25 Pounder field guns and the First World War Leyland truck; the Second World War DaP Beaufort bomber, V2 rocket on its original trailer, and Dingo Scout car; two Centurion tanks from Vietnam; and East Timor’s Bushmaster Infantry Mobility Vehicle.

This year was a special opportunity, because for the first time since the First World War visitors were able to see inside the only Mk IV Female Tank in Australia, because the sponsor was removed for conservation and research.

Also on display for the first time since a program of significant restoration work was a Number 9 Gun Tractor and Ford 15 cwt General Service Truck.

Big Things in Store is a unique way to see the Memorial’s collection, and even regular visitors to the Memoral experience something new.

The next Big Things in Store is on Father’s Day (Sunday 6 September 2009) from 12pm – 4pm. Entry by donation. Closed flat footwear is required. No large bags, triped or monopods. Barbecue lunch and refreshments available.

Australian War Memorial Conservation and Storage Annex Callan Street Mitchell ACT

From the War Memorial by Leigh Harris

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

SLAM MSB ASP ELM ADDS WHERE TOW BUT SUE DURER FIVES NNE UMP TNT HEAVY TIRE HANDSET AEBARED PEA FREE BOWS KEELE BERN LATE POINT CLUB GRILLS BOYFRIEND SPLASH MOBIL CUE TSP AID TULSA TECH TRAP SWAB YAK ALL SYNC ACNE FLY TOTAL CPU ACTS CWA TEN RAN OAK AWE SORRY APPEAL PRIDE PRO FRO SWAB CERR CAN WEN ANT SE PAN AGES SNAHG SEED AT EIEL MUD CTA APE UNDER PARAL SERVOIR GRIMM YG COKES FEST TITE FICU CARR SPECT USA MACMERE CORRIES BAH MARG ARENIC SW ORK INK SAVOR TAP PAN CEG EAMY GAGGY SKY NIX TRY ERRS
The LiSTeNiNg POST August 2009 31

In February 2009, Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon announced that the RAAF’s 13 remaining DHC-4 Caribou transport aircraft would be retired from service in December.

For 45 years the Caribous have supported Australian military operations, throughout the south-west Pacific and in south-east Asia, including active service in Vietnam, humanitarian relief in Kashmir, Cambodia and Papua New Guinea, and also in support of peacekeeping operations in the Solomon Islands and East Timor.

The RAAF took delivery of its first Caribou in April 1964 and a flight of three aircraft established the RAAF’s presence in South Vietnam in August of that year. The commitment lasted seven years. With its distinctive “gull wing” and high, broad tailplane, the Caribou was the “workhorse” of No. 35 Squadron in Vietnam. Its short take-off and landing (STOL) capability, and rugged construction, enabled the Caribou to ferry supplies and troops into small airstrips at remote bases.

Most Australian soldiers who served in Vietnam travelled in a Caribou at some time during their tour. The No. 35 Squadron aircraft were nicknamed “Wallaby Airlines”, after the red kangaroo outline painted on their RAAF roundels and the transport flight’s radio call sign of “Wallaby”. To sit near the raised rear cargo door of a Caribou during a flight over the Vietnamese landscape was an unforgettable experience for many.

The Australian War Memorial is hoping to acquire a Caribou (or at least parts of one aircraft) with authentic Vietnam provenance for the national collection.

From The Australian War Memorial Magazine ‘WARTIME’ Issue 46

ANZAC Visit an Honour for Digger's Great-Grandson

ANZAC visit an honour for digger's great-grandson Separated by nearly a century: Capt Shane Lacey and his great-grandfather Joe Clark in the trenches of Lone Pine.

By LCpl Dan Hodgson

STEPPING into his great grandfather’s footsteps at Gallipoli this year instilled a feeling of national pride for Australia’s Federation Guard contingent commander Capt Shane Lacey.

Capt Lacey said to attend the dawn service on official duty was a privilege as was being able to honour the ANZACs at the very site where they had their baptism of fire. “I’ve always wanted to go to Gallipoli, it’s one of those special places that is important to me both in a personal sense, having a strong Army history, and as an ADF member,” Capt Lacey said. It has been 94 years since one of Capt Lacey’s relatives stepped ashore at Gallipoli and stood in the trenches of Lone Pine.

His great grandfather, Pte Joe Clark, was an 18-year-old bootmaker from Maldon, Victoria, when he lied about his age to enlist in the Army with his older brother, Robert, on April 23, 1915.

The Clarks enlisted into 7 Bn and were both wounded on the same day at Lone Pine and returned to Australia in May 1916.

Capt Lacey said ceremonial events added to the haunting feeling of being there. He tried to imagine what it must have been like for the soldiers coming ashore wondering what was awaiting them on the thin strip of ground at the foot of cliffs covered by machine guns. “At the dawn service, there were spotlights pointing out to sea. It was a still, cold morning with fog on the ocean, and it was very eerie. The interpretive events and ceremony were planned and conducted very well.”

Some of the Australian trenches are still at Lone Pine and allowed Capt Lacey to get a feeling for what it must have been like for his relatives. “Ninety-four years ago my great grandfather could very well have been standing in exactly the same spot.”

About 10,000 Australian and Kiwi nationals attended the dawn service pilgrimage to honour all ANZACs. “I hope the ANZACs are still remembered 94 years from now, as it is important to remember our past and those who have gone before us.”

Fewster’s Humour

A man in Illinois, where it was snowing, went on a trip to Florida for the weekend. His wife, who was working, arranged to join him the next day. When he arrived in Florida, he decided to trust his memory, but unhappily omitted one character. The email arrived at the home of a Vicar’s widow. The Vicar had only passed away the day before. When the widow read the email, she fainted. The message read

“arrived safely, expecting you tomorrow – it isn’t half hot here!”

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