October 2011 vol. 34 no. 5

The official journal of The Returned & Services League of Australia
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Vietnam

Veterans' Day

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October 2011

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

Probate and Deceased Estates - David Miller
Conveyancing and Settlements - Emma Leys
Enduring Powers of Attorney - David Miller
Family Law - Tony Milne
Motor Vehicle Accidents and General Personal Injuries - Tony Milne

WILLS AT SPECIAL RATES
This Month in Australian Military History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25-26 October</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Private P E Gratwick, VC</td>
<td>Private P E Gratwick, 2/48th Battalion, originally from Katanning, Western Australia, wins the Victoria Cross at El Alamein, Egypt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 October</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Chinese enter the Korean War</td>
<td>The first Australian and New Zealand contingent sails from Albany, Western Australia, bound for Egypt. Only one in three of those who sailed in the first convoy would return physically unscathed at the end of the First World War.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 November</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>First AIF Sails</td>
<td>The Sub Branch forwarded it to ANZAC House to share with other RSL members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 November</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>No 77 Squadron supports 3RAR</td>
<td>No 77 Squadron, for the first time in the Korean War, flies in support of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in the Pakchon-Sinanju road area, Korea. Australian Mustang fighters strafed Chinese positions just before 3RAR commenced its assault at Pakchon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 November</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Warrant Officer K Wheatley, VC</td>
<td>Warrant Officer Class 2 Kevin &quot;Dasher&quot; Wheatley, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, is awarded the first Victoria Cross of the Vietnam War posthumously, in the Tra Bong Valley, Quang Ngai province.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 November</td>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Australian Government approves sending of Australian Women's Army Service members overseas</td>
<td>Australian Women's Army Service went to Loe, New Guinea, and served in the forward area for the first time. Members of the Australian Army Nursing Service and the Australian Army Medical Women's Service were already serving in New Guinea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 December</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Australia at war with Japan</td>
<td>Australia announces that it is at war with Japan. Some 17,000 Australians would die in the three-and-a-half-year war against Japan, 8,000 as prisoners of war.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kwinana RSL Sub Branch received the following letter from a thankful Grandmother. The Sub Branch forwarded it to ANZAC House and the editors requested permission to publish it in The Listening Post to share with other RSL members.

Denis Connelly
Editor

Letter from a Grieving Grandmother

My name is Tarja Walter. I am the Grandmother of wee Melissa Chuchouse Henson who died tragically in Kwinana on Sunday 3rd July 2011.

I am writing to you to on behalf of Brianna & Samuel Chuchouse Henson (Parents) and the rest of our whanau (family) to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the RSL Medina and Brian Corker. The RSL Medina and especially Brian Corker who were absolutely amazing and opened their arms to us in our time of need.

When Brian heard of our Tragedy and that we wanted to hold the Perth service for our Melissa in the Medina Town Hall - where Melissa and family had attended the Gunfire Breakfast on ANZAC Day. It was Melissa's first Dawn Service and she was entranced by the pageantry (and the food, as only a 2 year old can be). Both Brianna & Sam's Grandfathers were Kiwi Returned Servicemen who served in WW2, and attending ANZAC Day commemorations are a family tradition.

Brian was so helpful and supportive to me personally while I was organising the Service for Melissa. Brian & the RSL Medina undertook the hiring of the hall, organised a Florist to decorate the Hall which was filled with lovely fresh flowers and silk arrangements and looked beautiful, they provided fantastic refreshments after the Service and Brian also organised a large limo to transport our Whanau (family) to the service and back.

ALL at NO expense to us. I am so grateful for the compassion and kindness extended to my shattered family.

I will be returning to Perth to live in the next few months to support my devastated family. My own young daughter Sophie died in New Zealand under similar circumstance almost 20 years ago and I KNOW how long and hard the road ahead is for Melissa’s Mum & Dad. But with the loving support of family and friends we will move forward and continue to lead rich and rewarding lives.

When I return to Perth in Mid September, I would like to meet personally with the appropriate RSL office holder to arrange a suitable donation to the RSL. Thank you so much, the kindness of strangers will live in our hearts for ever.

Aroha to All.

Tarja Walter

Vietnam Veterans' Day Service 2011

City of Cockburn Sub Branch

Once again Cockburn was blessed with good weather which is always an advantage with an outdoor service.

The service was held in the Memorial Rose Garden at the Sub Branch premises in the presence of thirty five attendees that included the Mayor of the City of Cockburn, Logan Howlett JP and the Member for Willagee Mr Peter Tinley AM MLA who presented a short but very sincere and thought provoking address.

The Sub Branch Chaplain, Reverend Chaplain Robert Graue, RANR officiated with the prayers and blessing.

A sausage sizzle and refreshments was enjoyed by all on completion of the service.

Digger Cleak OAM
President, City of Cockburn Sub Branch
New CEO Appointed

We are pleased to announce that CMDR Phil Orchard RAN (Retd) has been appointed CEO/State Secretary of the WA State Branch of the RSL. Commander Orchard was selected from a strong field of applicants and will take up the position on 7 November 2011.

We welcome him to the position and look forward to working with him as leader of the administration and operational team at ANZAC House. Many will know of our new CEO/State Secretary as he was a former Commander at HMAS STIRLING and more recently Head of Post at the British Consulate in Perth. He has had wide experience in operational and administration appointments in the Service and corporate world and we are confident he will serve the League and its members well.

We welcome him to the RSL and trust he will enjoy working with veterans and the veteran community.

Albany ANZAC

Several months of planning by the Albany Centenary of ANZAC Alliance was finally rewarded with the Commonwealth Government granting $250k for scoping work on the planned Visitor Centre on Mt Adelaide in Albany. The site overlooks King George Sound; the area where the fleet of ships carrying troops destined for the battlefields of the Great War formed-up and took on supplies for the sea journey to Egypt. This scoping work will be the first stage in the construction of a world class interpretative centre that will tell of the beginning of the ANZAC Legend. It is anticipated that the initial work will be completed early in the New Year then planning and construction should commence by mid 2012.

Concurrent with this activity, planning will continue for further upgrades to the site as well as seeking involvement by other nation’s contingents that were part of the initial convoy. While the departure from Albany was limited to Eastern States troops, the convoy met with the Western Australian contingent ex Blackboy Hill on embarkation from Fremantle for training prior to entering into battle in Turkey. The release of funds is the first step in an exciting project that will honour the First ANZACs.

League Membership

State Branch membership for the year ended December 2010 stood at 10 578. This was made up of 8832 Service members and 1746 Affiliates. No records are held at head office with respect to Social Members who have an association with the RSL at sub branch level. Consolidated membership statistics for 2010 show an annual decline of 525 members, however upon further analysis, year end statistic indicate 316 deaths of financial members which is offset by 337 new members. This statistic alone shows membership levels are being maintained with loss presumably being accounted for through non renewal of membership due to age.

State and Sub Branch activity focused on membership and membership renewals has seen membership levels being maintained but initiatives need to be set in place to encourage eligible persons to join the League. With the Centenary of the ANZAC’s landing at Gallipoli and the associated commemorative activities there is an expectation that veterans will look to be identified with Ex-Service Organization to honour those who served their country. This is an opportunity to promote the welfare role we play in looking after veterans and their families.

Indexation of Military Superannuation Payments

We continue to await a response from Government to the RSL submission of February 2010 seeking indexation which takes account of cost of living increases. As previously advised, the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs was provided with a copy of this document and its covering letter (originally sent in late February 2010 to former Prime Minister Rudd) when the League met with Mr Snowdon on 24 August 2011.

It was understood Minister Snowdon intended arranging for a reply to be sent - and we are disappointed at the continuing delay in receiving a response to our detailed submission about this important matter.

RSL raised the legitimate expectations of military superannuants that indexation of their payments should be aligned to cost of living adjustments. RSL accepted an invitation from the Prime Minister to a meeting at Parliament House on Thursday 15 September where we given a fair hearing – but the Government remains adamant that indexation of military superannuation payments will remain fixed to adjustments to the Consumer Price Index.

The RSL acknowledges and respects the actions by others in ex-service community in trying to persuade the Government to agree to a more equitable level of indexation. We have not joined these efforts because they include targeting specific politicians and this would put at risk the long standing RSL policy of remaining strictly apolitical. This policy has served the League well as it gives us ongoing access to the leadership of whatever government is in power federally. Such access is vital in our ongoing efforts to convince decision makers about all issues of importance to League members.

Given the current economic circumstances and the Government’s recent rejection of the Opposition’s Fair Indexation Bill there is virtually no prospect that the Gillard government will agree to indexing military superannuation payments to align them with cost of living increases. Despite this gloomy outlook RSL will continue to try to persuade the decision makers to do what is just and support our contention that military superannuation payments must be indexed to recompense for cost of living increases.

Superannuation for Reserve Forces

The RSL draft submission about this difficult topic is being considered by stakeholders. The RSL approach was discussed at length with the President of the Defence Reserve Association Major General Jim Barry on Tuesday 6 September. We await input from other stakeholders. We have not set a time line for advancing this issue – and have given an assurance to all that our aim is to work cooperatively towards an optimum outcome.

Veterans’ Entitlements Amendments Bill 2011

Although Schedule 2 was included in the Bill passed by the Senate (despite our advice that it should be deleted), RSL concern about the potential for “double dipping” in offsetting of allowances was ameliorated by new wording in the Explanatory Memoranda to the Bill. It was not the outcome we sought but was much better than what was originally proposed.

The RSL focus on the future

The 2011 National Congress emphasised the RSL focus on the future. Building bridges of understanding between those who have fought in defence of the nation in earlier generations and those who now stand on guard to protect our freedoms in places like Afghanistan remains a significant challenge. So too is the need to attract and retain the involvement of the serviceman and servicewoman of today and tomorrow – for without them the future for the League cannot be assured.

The contemporary experience of conflict/war is vastly different from that experienced by earlier generations. The all too oft quoted line “It would never have happened in my day!” exemplifies this gap in understanding or acceptance of the differences between the past and the present.

We made a start in building understanding between the past and the present at our 2011 National Congress. Our future depends on how successful we are at strengthening and developing this link.
It was the pinnacle of his life. King George V travelled to the battlefield to knight him on 12 August – the first time a king had knighted a commander on the field in 200 years.

John Monash was born on 27 June 1865 in Melbourne. He was the eldest of three children, with two younger sisters.

Although John Monash’s parents were of the Jewish faith they did not adhere strictly to the Jewish doctrine. Monash kept his Jewish beliefs throughout his life, attending services whenever possible.

As a child Monash attended St Stephen’s Church of England School in Richmond, Melbourne. After some financial problems his father moved the family to Jerilderie, New South Wales where John attended a local public school. Even at this early stage of his life the academic abilities of Monash became apparent to his teachers.

In 1878 Monash and his mother returned to Melbourne with his two sisters and he was enrolled in Scotch College, Melbourne. Here his academic ability came to the fore with him being proclaimed Dux in Mathematics and Modern Languages and equal Dux of the school in his final year.

John enrolled in the prestigious Melbourne University, completing a Bachelor of Civil Engineering in 1891, a Masters of Civil Engineering in 1893, a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws in 1895.

During his time at University John began to truly embrace the academic culture. Amongst a large variety of social activities he got involved in debating and politics, took part in the creation of Melbourne University Union and, because of his interest for theatre, concerts and opera he participated in ‘The Melbourne University Review’.

During these years John Monash was short of money, this necessitated him to seek employment. This included tutoring other students and engineer for various projects including The Princess Bridge of the Yarra in Melbourne.

It was also at this time that Monash became interested in the Army, joining the Melbourne University Company of the 4th Battalion as a Private. A year later he was commissioned in the Garrison Artillery.

In 1897 John Monash was promoted to Major in the North Melbourne Battery. In March 1908, he was given the Command of the newly formed Australian Intelligence Corp with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

On 21 June 1913 Lt Col Monash was promoted to Colonel and given the command of the 4th Brigade. On 15 September 1914 he was appointed Commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade. The 4th Infantry Brigade departed Melbourne on the HMAT Ulysses ship number 38 with the 2nd Expeditionary Force Convoy on 22 December 1914.

He served in Gallipoli from the initial landing on 25 April 1915 until evacuation on 19 December 1915. After the evacuation from the Gallipoli Peninsula Colonel Monash served in the Suez Canal Defence Zone before taking his 4th Brigade to France. February 1916 saw him being appointed Commander of 3rd Division. Monash however, remained with the 4th Brigade whilst the 3rd Division was travelling from Australia to training areas in the United Kingdom.

In July 1914 Monash was promoted to Major General and given the command of 3rd Australian Division which fought at Messines and Passchendaele.

31 May 1918 brought on another promotion, this time to Lieutenant General. He was given command of the Australian Corps. It was at this time the organisational skills of Lt General Monash became noticed. Monash prepared his Corps Orders for the Battle of 8 August 1918 at Villers – Bretonneux – Caulnoise.

Monash planned and commanded the highly successful Battle of Hamel on 7 July 1918, with a succession of victories. The good run ended with the breaking of the “Hindenburg Line”.

One of Australia’s most distinguished soldiers during the First World War. During his Army career General Monash was Colonel Commanding the 13th Infantry Brigade of the Citizen Forces, Commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade AIF at Gallipoli, Commissioner of the 3rd Australian Division AIF in France 1916-1918 and Commander of the Australian Corps AIF from 31 May 1918 until after the Armistice.

Melbourne University from 1923 and was very active in the advancement of science in schools and universities.

John was very prominent in veteran related activities and led ANZAC Day marches in Melbourne for several years.

From 1927 Monash suffered from high blood pressure, leading to his death on 9 October 1931. Sir John Sir John Monash GCMG, KCB, was given a State Funeral. An estimated 250,000 people attended to show their respect.

This testified to the fact that he was widely revered by all Australians.

Honours and Awards
1907, Colonial Auxiliary Forces, Officer’s Decoration, (VD)
1915, Companion of the Order of Bath
1918, Knight Commander of the Bath
1918, Grand Officer of the Order of the Crown, (Belgium)
1918, Grand Officer Legion d’Honour
1918, Croix de Guerre (Belgium)
1919, Croix de Guerre avec Palme (France)
1919, Knight Grand Cross of St Michael & St George
1919, Distinguished Service Medal (United States of America)
1929, Peter Nicoll Russell Memorial Medal
1931, Kernet Memorial Medal

Mention in Dispatches
5 August 1915
28 January 1916
Mention in London Gazette
No 303022, 20 December 1917
No 30448, 28 December 1917
No 30706, 28 May 1918
No 31007, 20 December 1918

“General Sir John Monash was the best General on the Western Front in Europe” as quoted by Field Marshall Lord Montgomery in July 1947

References
1. Australian War Memorial (AWM) Canberra
2. The Australian Victorians in France in 1918 by Lieutenant General Sir John Monash GCMG, KCB, VD, DCL, LL.D. Published in Australia by Gordon & Gotch
3. The Great War by Les Carlyon. Published by Pan McMillan, Australia, 2006
4. “Monash – The outsider who won a war” by Roland Perry. Published by Random House Australia Pty Ltd, NSW, 2004

Portrait of Major General Sir John Monash KCB, VD. One of Australia’s most distinguished soldiers during the First World War. During his Army career General Monash was Colonel Commanding the 13th Infantry Brigade of the Citizen Forces, Commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade AIF at Gallipoli, Commissioner of the 3rd Australian Division AIF in France 1916-1918 and Commander of the Australian Corps AIF from 31 May 1918 until after the Armistice.

His Majesty King George V congratulating Lieutenant General Sir John Monash KCB VD, General Officer Commanding, Australian Corps, after his investiture as a KCB, the ribbon of which can be seen round General Monash’s neck. On the steps of Bertangles Chateau, which was the Headquarters of Australian Corps, the ornament shown in the background is captured material brought back from the vicinity of Warfusee-Abancourt; it was captured on 8 August by Australian troops. When General Monash took leave of His Majesty, Major General M W O’Keeffe KCMG CB, Fourth Army, who is standing on the right showing three rows of ribbons, was invested with the KCMB. Second from the right is Brigadier General R A Cotterill CMG, Deputy Assistant and Quartermaster General, Australian Corps.

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14 Australian WWI Soldiers Honoured in France

The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowdon, honoured 14 Australian World War One soldiers at a headstone dedication ceremony in Fromelles, France.

Mr Snowdon marked the 95th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles and joined relatives of the men as named headstones were unveiled at the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery.

“These men died during the bloodiest 24 hours in Australia’s military history—and almost a century on, we can finally give them, and their families, the dignity of a known grave,” Mr Snowdon said.

“I am heartened to be able to share this moment with family members of Australian soldiers—it is proof that no matter how many years have passed, Australians do not forget those who have sacrificed their lives in times of war,” he said.

The 14 Australian soldiers from across New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria and South Australia were identified by name in April this year.

When added to the 96 Australians identified in 2010 this brings the total named soldiers to 110, all of them Australian, and a further 100 soldiers have been identified as serving with the Australian forces.

Two soldiers have been identified as serving with the British forces and 38 soldiers remain ‘known unto God’.

The project to recover, reinter, identify and commemorate 250 soldiers discovered in France in 2009 continues until 2014 and relatives of soldiers who died in the battle are encouraged to contact Army, in efforts to identify the remaining 140 men.

Fromelles Project - List of 14 Australian Soldiers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service #</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Given Names</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Enlisted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4811</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Percy</td>
<td>Geason</td>
<td>55th Battalion</td>
<td>Merewether, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1390</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Herbert James</td>
<td>Haslam</td>
<td>29th Battalion</td>
<td>North Carlton, VIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4744</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Albert Clive</td>
<td>Bromley</td>
<td>53rd Battalion</td>
<td>Brewarrina, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2801</td>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>Thomas Francis</td>
<td>Sheridan</td>
<td>29th Battalion</td>
<td>Prahan, VIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4420</td>
<td>Lance Corporal</td>
<td>William Andrew</td>
<td>Craigie</td>
<td>54th Battalion</td>
<td>Nyngan, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1590</td>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>Charles William</td>
<td>Murray</td>
<td>30th Battalion</td>
<td>Auburn, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3310</td>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>Frederick</td>
<td>Fletcher</td>
<td>55th Battalion</td>
<td>Oakley Bay, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3256</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Maurice Leslie</td>
<td>Reid</td>
<td>32nd Battalion</td>
<td>Woods, SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4299</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Arthur</td>
<td>Russell</td>
<td>54th Battalion</td>
<td>Kellyville, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3327</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>George</td>
<td>Hungerford</td>
<td>53rd Battalion</td>
<td>Toowoomba, QLD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1168</td>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>David Frederick</td>
<td>Livingston</td>
<td>29th Battalion</td>
<td>East Melbourne, VIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2056</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Matthew</td>
<td>Hepple</td>
<td>30th Battalion</td>
<td>Cessnock, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>743</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Daniel Bernard</td>
<td>Ryan</td>
<td>30th Battalion</td>
<td>Goulburn, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>311</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Leslie Gordon</td>
<td>Walsh</td>
<td>31st Battalion</td>
<td>Casino, NSW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photos of soldiers: A small number of images are available at: http://images.defence.gov.au/fotoweb/Grid.fwx?archiveId=5003&search=20112231

Contacting relatives - Media wishing to contact the relatives of the soldiers should contact Defence Media Operations on contacts below.

For more information, visit www.army.gov.au/fromelles or call 1800 019 090.

Smaller Transition for Defence Personnel

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowdon, announced that from October 2011, dedicated staff from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs will operate at more than 25 military bases around Australia to provide advice and support on injury, physical and mental health and compensation issues.

The staff will assist personnel in their transition to civilian life.

“This new initiative – part of the Support to Wounded, Injured or Ill Program (SWIP) – will support ADF members to deal with injury, physical and mental health issues, accessing information on their entitlements and ultimately improving their transition to civilian life. From October, staff will visit more than 25 Australian Defence Force bases regularly and routinely as part of the SWIP project.

They will provide expert advice and facilitate early notification of compensable injuries including those tackling physical and mental health issues. The on-base visiting model will provide advice and support relating to the provision of DVA services and benefits for all ADF personnel,” Mr Snowdon said.

Once implemented SWIP will provide a ‘whole of life’ medical, rehabilitation, compensation and transition framework for Defence. It will include the early identification of health and income support requirements post discharge; participation in transition management seminars, and pre and post deployment briefings.

“SWIP will make the recipient the central focus of support and ensure both Departments are focussed on outcomes, not process. It will reduce complexity involved in accessing support and ensure better integration.

“We have created SWIP as a specialised, all encompassing program and the vehicle for realising a fundamental cultural shift for all areas within Defence and DVA that have responsibility for a transitioning member,” Mr Snowdon said.

Directorate of Social Activities

To all Sub Branch Presidents, Secretaries and Social Secretaries, I am requesting a copy of your Sub Branch Social Calendar to publish in The Listening Post.

We propose to advertise your events in The Listening Post. These events may include ‘Bingo Nights’, ‘Dining-In Nights’ and ‘Day Trips’ where Sub Branch members can attend and share camaraderie and good will of your Sub Branch.

The benefits of sharing social events between Sub Branches and members are many:

1. Event costs shared
2. Allows meeting of fellow veterans and wives/partners
3. Provides social intercourse amongst people with similar service history

Sub Branches interested in participating in “The Listening Post Social Activities” should contact the Editor of The Listening Post for deadlines as we need to have your events in The Listening Post well before it goes to print.

Forward your social calendar to listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au

Denis Connelly
Editor

Vietnam Veterans Day 18th August 2011 Broome RSL

After a week’s promotion on notice boards, community announcements on the ABC and local FM radio, Spirit, and, even a live broadcast on ABC on the morning of 18 August, Broome was as ready as it was going to be for 2011 Vietnam Veterans Day.

On sunny Thursday 18 August, over 150 visitors, ship’s company from HMAS LAUNCESTON, residents and Vietnam Veterans attended the 2011 ceremony at Bedford Park Broome. Lucky enough to have the CO, XO and 10 of the HMAS LAUNCESTON crew to bolster the numbers and give the military touch, the ceremony started at 11am with Chief Petty Officer, John Travis at the fly pole ready for the raise and dip when required, with Capt (AAC) John Dayman, Vice President Broome RSL, as MC for the ceremony.

As the Broome RSL’s President was away on deployment overseas, Vice President, John Dayman had the opportunity to say something about his mates the Vietnam veterans, that he had never been able to tell the public, and here was the time and place.

The speech took the stance to apologise to all those Vietnamese Veterans for the way they were treated by the Australian public of the day, both when they were in Vietnam and when they returned. Following Mr Dayman’s speech, the Red Gum Classic, “I would only 19” rang out the tones of what the Vietnam war meant to many young soldiers.

This year wreaths were laid by the Broome RSL, Manjimup RSL, Shire of Broome and Broome Primary School.

Mr Rod Hill OAM, Secretary of Broome RSL, then read the Veteran’s prayer, whilst the sound tech swapped CDs for a rousing Last Post followed by the Rouse.

After the conclusion of the ceremony, Mr Dayman invited all attendees back to the unique Broome RSL for a quiet one or two and complimentary food. About 100 went back to the RSL and stayed most of the day enjoying reminiscing about those days back in Vietnam, particularly the R & R stories.

Everyone had a great day and as usual the weather was stunning. The Broome RSL on Robinson Street offers visitors and Veterans a unique open air Broome experience with the lowest cost grog in town and great Friday night BBQs.

Any queries to the author: Capt (AAC) John Dayman - Vice President Broome RSL - Mobile 0457 761 580

RSL - Mobile 0457 761 580 - Vice President Broome

Directorate of Social Activities

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Denis Connelly
Editor
Increase to Veteran Pension Rates

Some 320,000 veterans, partners and war widows and widowers will now receive increased pensions and income support payments from 20 September 2011, Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Warren Snowdon announced.

Mr Snowdon said the increase was part of the bi-annual pension indexation process and will help to support veterans and provide extra assistance to those who need it most.

“The indexation reforms introduced by this Government have delivered a fairer pension system for our veteran community and will help them to meet the increasing costs of living,” he said. This increase will affect all DVA pensions, including the Service Pension, War Widow Pension and Disability Pension.

The first full payments under the new rates will take place on 6 October 2011.

Assistance With Utility & Other Household Accounts

With the warmer spring weather, the need to use expensive heaters should ease hopefully taking some financial pressure off veterans on a fixed, limited income. If you are having difficulties paying high utility or other accounts please contact the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House. Some assistance may be available to eligible veterans and their dependants experiencing financial hardship.

The WA Sailors Soldiers & Airmen’s Relief Fund Trust

Have you had a look at the Trust Fund’s Web page? To access this page go to the home page of the Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch and follow the link in PAWS. This will take you to information about the Trust Fund and an online application for assistance form. When completed, this form can be lodged directly to the Fund Administrator. For Veterans without access to the internet an application form is still available from the Fund Administrator, Ms Rosalind Howat at ANZAC House.

The Trustees meet on the second Tuesday of each month to consider applications for assistance. The Trustees will evaluate all reasonable requests for assistance. Financial grants are restricted to those that are genuinely in need and unable to pay for some item or purpose required to preserve quality of life. For further information please contact the Fund Administrator on 9287 3707 or mobile 0412 009 191. RSL volunteers regularly visit Veterans in Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Prisons in the metropolitan area. If you would like to arrange a visitor for yourself or a loved one please refer to the Hospital Visitors List or for Prison visits please contact Mr Terry O’Neill of RSL Legal Support Group on 9440 6233. To arrange a Nursing Home visit please contact the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House on 9287 3707 or 0412 009 191. Take care until next time

HOSPITAL VISITORS LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteer</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
<th>Hospitals Visited</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Renah Glenmore &amp; Ms Bernadine De Beaux</td>
<td>As Above</td>
<td>Hollywood Private Hospital St John of God Sir Charles Gardner Hospital Shenton Park Rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr John Duffy</td>
<td>9401 5815 or 0413780278</td>
<td>Joondalup Hospital Glengarry Hospital Osborne Park Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Mike Hamness</td>
<td>9293 1076 or 0419 091 708</td>
<td>Kalamunda Hospital Armadale Hospital Bentley Hospital</td>
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<td>Mr Jim Ferguson</td>
<td>9341 5303</td>
<td>Hollywood Private Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Bill Adamson</td>
<td>9295 5354</td>
<td>Mercy Hospital Swan Districts Hospital Swan Seniors Mental Health Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSL welfare Officer</td>
<td>9287 3707 or 0412 009 191</td>
<td>Royal Perth Hospital Others as required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Noreen</td>
<td>9583 38425</td>
<td>Peel Hospital RSL Care, Mandurah</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; Mr John Nagle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr John Rankin</td>
<td>0438 264 371</td>
<td>Fremantle Hospital Alma Street Hospital</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Toodle-loo to toilet paper! Just fits to your existing toilet

- Warm water wash
- Filtered water
- Warm air dry
- Moving wash
- Installs in minutes
- Twin nozzles
- No plumber required
- Heated seat

The BIDET SHOP® is in the enviable position of having 100% of customers delighted by their products. Stephen Bingham from The BIDET SHOP® knows this first-hand because he hears client’s success stories daily. He says people are constantly calling him to let him know how happy they are. “People can’t wait to tell me what a difference the bidet toilet seat has made in their lives”, he says. They are just so excited about all aspects of the bidet and are keen to share all the positives.

One lady, who installed a bidet in her home, described it as a ‘life-changing’ event. She called me to tell us “Couldn’t believe a toilet seat would make such a difference to her life”, he says. Mr Bingham added, the lady had discovered The BIDET SHOP® by accident when she saw an advertisement 3 years ago in the local newspaper. She told us she had always wanted a bidet in her bathroom but had neither the room nor the money to install one. So when she read that a bidet seat just replaced her existing toilet seat and could be installed in minutes she felt it was “one of the things in life that was meant to be”, he said. "Her husband also suffers with incontinence and arthritis, and they found that the bidet had made it a lot easier for him to use the bathroom”.

Mr Bingham says that the full range of bidets can be viewed and trialled at outlets throughout Australia. For anyone who wants to purchase a bidet, they can either order direct from The BIDET SHOP® helpdesk or purchase from a reseller in their area. Installations can be organised at the same time if necessary for a small charge.

“We are the only company in Australia to supply the Hyunday and Comfort range of bidets,” he says. “And, they are backed by one of the world’s largest companies and offer seven-day service if the customer has any problems”.

Special discount this month only for the first 50 callers – mention code: RW10 and phone 08 6102 5610 (local) or 1800 243 387 (national).

Salt can lead to Mental Disorders

A diet high in salt, coupled with a sedentary lifestyle, can lead to cognitive decline in older adults, a new study shows.

Researchers at Baycrest, an affiliate of the University of Toronto, followed the salt consumption of 1,262 healthy adults between 67 to 84 years of age living in Quebec over three years. They found those who consumed salt-laden foods and led inactive, sedentary lifestyles performed poorly on cognitive tests, compared to those who led active lifestyles and consumed moderate amounts of salt.

The study’s findings, published this week in the journal Neurobiology of Ageing, were particularly important to the researchers. “This data is especially relevant as we know that munching on high-salt processed snacks when engaged in sedentary activities, such as watching TV or playing in front of the computer, is a frequent pastime for many adults,” senior author, Dr Carol Greenwood, said. “This study addresses an additional risk associated with lifestyles that are highly apparent in North American populations.” According to Dr Greenwood, educating people about lifestyle changes that can delay or prevent age-related cognitive decline can be a powerful tool in public health.

The study also showed cognitive decline stopped once participants adopted low-sodium diets.

The maximum daily recommended salt intake for people aged 14 years and older in Canada is 2,300 mg. In the study, some participants reported consuming nearly quadruple that number, at 8,098 mg a day.

To cut back on salt intake, the Mayo Clinic advises eating fresh fruits and vegetables, avoiding processed foods, opting for low sodium foods and using fresh herbs to flavour meals.

From Aged Care DPS Guide
The Bittersweet Benefits of Grapefruits

It may be slightly bitter-tasting and has been known to cause some adverse side-effects when taken with certain medications, but nevertheless - grapefruit has some surprising health benefits.

The bioactive compounds in grapefruit are being studied by scientists, who say this fruit is slowly becoming known for its “functionality” in promoting good health and banishing diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

Although the effects of grapefruit, combined with medication, have been known for nearly a decade, experts say little has been done to address the dangers patients often expose themselves to while taking grapefruit with prescribed medications for conditions such as hypertension (calcium channel blockers), heart problems and high blood cholesterol levels (statins) treatments.

Medicines for heart and blood vessel problems allegedly constitute for more than 50% of the 40 or more drugs so far known to interact with grapefruit.

Experts say an adverse reaction as a result of combining some medications with grapefruit can occur just a few hours after eating the fruit.

Researchers have found the chemical substances in grapefruit, which has been part of many diets since 1930, vary in regard to its location, time of harvesting and the method of processing the fruit.

Experts say some people, including the elderly are particularly vulnerable to grapefruit-induced drug interactions as they often take multiple medications.

However, it is not all doom and gloom for older adults as grapefruit-drug interactions can also benefit people by regulating blood glucose levels.

Another recent study reports eating whole grapefruits or drinking grapefruit juice helps people to lose weight while improving insulin resistance in patients with metabolic syndrome; which is a group of conditions including high blood pressure, high blood sugar and blood cholesterol.

From the Aged Care DPS Guide

Esperance RSL Vietnam Day (Long Tan) Memorial Service

Sunday 21 August 2011 brought on the ceremony celebrating Vietnam Day at the war memorial in Esperance.

The service, conducted by Kevin O’Dwyer, was attended by six of our Vietnam Veterans and approximately 60 members and the public, followed by a BBQ lunch.

Apologies were received from our Sub Branch President Mr George Starcivich, who was in Borneo for the “Sandakan Independence Day” where, with his sister Iris (from Norseman) laid a wreath on behalf of the Australian, British and people of Borneo who died during “The Death March” of 1942-1945.

Ray Gray

Publicity – Esperance Sub-Branch

Sugar May Not Be So Sweet After All

Do you lick your lips at the thought of a sugar-coated treat? This article may make you think twice as experts have revealed consuming too much refined sugar can speed up the ageing process just as rapidly as sun exposure.

But the discovery is not new as nutritionists and dermatologists have, in recent years, warned about the link between refined sugar and the effect of the skin.

White basking in the sun’s rays is known to cause premature ageing, little is known about the effect of diet on our skin.

When contacted by DPS eNews, a spokesperson at Dietitians Association of Australia said sugars – which may be naturally occurring or added - are found in carbohydrate foods and are the main source of energy for your brain and muscles.

Refined sugars can come from plants such as sugar cane and can then be added to food or drink such as cakes, biscuits and soft drinks.

The spokesperson said excessive sugar consumption could be detrimental to health as it contributed to the energy content of food and had been associated with tooth decay.

Research has suggested consuming too much refined sugar causes harmful molecules, called advanced glycation end products (AGEs), to form in the body, which are said to damage collagen and elastin.

Supporting this research is South Australian personal trainer, Sasha Patsakis, who tells DPS eNews, refined sugar is a “poison to the human body to say the least”.

“It places a lot of stress on the digestive system and when it comes to ageing, an excess consumption of sugar can damage the collagen and elastin protein fibres in your skin causing it to become brittle and dry,” she said.

Antioxidants, which can help keep the skin looking healthy, are also reduced by too much refined sugar in the diet. Experts have suggested “hidden” sugars in white bread, breakfast cereal, museli bars, sports drinks and flavoured yogurts, are concerning factors.

Reducing sugar intake can make a significant difference to the appearance of the skin, but it will not “magically reduce wrinkles”, experts claim.

“You’re not going to change your skin by diet alone. I’m afraid it’s not going to have a big impact. It probably helps the body as a unit but you can’t eat yourself to better skin,” Sydney dermatologist, Dr Phillip Artemi, told the Sydney Morning Herald.

However, while a healthy diet is pivotal to a person’s well-being, the sun apparently “wins out” in the ageing stakes.

“There are many factors behind skin ageing and wrinkles but I have no doubt that first on the list is sun damage,” Dr Artemi claimed.

From the Aged Care DPS Guide

National Day of Malta Kings Park

The republic of Malta celebrated its National Day on September 8 with several activities including a military parade in Valletta and a concert in Victoria (Rabat) Gozo. The main event is a Pontifical Mass and a concert by the National Orchestra at St John’s Cathedral in Valletta.

Wreaths are laid at the Independence Monument in Floriana.

In Western Australia, the Maltese Community of Perth has for over 50 years observed this important day in their homeland with a dinner dance, followed by a solemn Silent Wreath Laying ceremony at the War Memorial in Kings Park on Sunday 11 September 2011. A representation of Maltese – Australians assisted by eleven dedicated RSL wardens conducted the traditional, moving service at Kings Park in glorious sunshine.

Professor David Plowman ably carried the Maltese Flag, Presidents Frank Cavalla and Louise Vink of the two Maltese Associations in Perth laid the beautiful red and white carnations wreath and Dr Tony Sciberras, Honorary Consul for Malta in WA delivered a well researched speech highlighting the bravery and sacrifices of the Maltese and their allies during World War 2, to achieve the free democracy now enjoyed by the Maltese Islands.

The cooperation and effort of the RSL organisation in this traditional ceremony is, as always, very much appreciated by the small Maltese Community in WA.

Judy Pavia
Mr Bill Gaynor OAM RFD, State West Australian commitments. Australian Navy and specifically the informative overview of the Royal Officer of HMAS Stirling gave a very Captain Brett Wolski, Commanding club on Saturday 3 September. Bouvard Sport & Recreation formal dinner held at the Port of its charter / formation with a celebrated the 10th anniversary The Dawesville RSL Sub Branch and general community over many years. 80 members and guests thoroughly enjoyed the evening thanks to the efforts of Mrs Lorris Mavrick, Mr John Pronk and MC Bart Mavrick. Col Gibson PR Dawesville Sub Branch The Dawesville RSL Sub Branch celebrated the 10th anniversary of its charter / formation with a formal dinner held at the Port Bouvard Sport & Recreation club on Saturday 3 September. Captain Brett Wolski, Commanding Officer of HMAS Stirling gave a very informative overview of the Royal Australian Navy and specifically the West Australian commitments. Mr Bill Gaynor OAM RFD, State President of the RSL presented Certificates of Appreciation to Mr Ric Lundberg and wife Hanna Lundberg in recognition of their service to the Sub Branch and general community over many years. 80 members and guests thoroughly enjoyed the evening thanks to the efforts of Mrs Lorris Mavrick, Mr John Pronk and MC Bart Mavrick. Col Gibson PR Dawesville Sub Branch

10th Anniversary Celebrations Take Place in Dawesville

2011 REMEMBRANCE DAY Luncheon | FRIDAY 11th NOVEMBER

Application for tickets

1. I ______ wish to apply for ___ ticket(s) at $45.00 each to the 2011 Remembrance Day Luncheon.

Total money enclosed: $ ________ Phone Number: ________

Address: __________________________ Postcode: ________

Name of Guest/s: __________________________

RSVP: 21st October 2011

Please fill in Ticket Application Form and Post with your cheque or money order to;

Poppy Day Luncheon
PO Box 3023
East Perth WA 6832
(Please make cheques out to RSL WA)

Support the RSL

WIN UP to $20,000 CASH

All proceeds from the Raffle (less costs for printing, postage, statutory costs and prizes) are returned to the RSL WA Branch Inc for the following services and support to the ex-service community:

- Funding for the provision to welfare for food, lodgings, emergency housing and accommodation;
- Counselling and support in finance, family, aged care and social interaction and
- Pension and advocacy services.

Contact RSL WA on 9287 3799 to obtain Raffle Books.

REMEMBER - All sold and unsold tickets are to be returned to the RSL State Branch as soon as possible for accounting purposes.

NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 28th October, 2011.

MY Community is a loyalty program where the customer at Cash and Carry in WA can determine where much needed funds are able to be directed in the community.

For every $100 (excluding tobacco and liquor products) spent the customer will receive one MY Community token. This token is then placed by the customer in one of our charity bins. Each month these bins will be emptied and the tokens tallied, ready for payment to the charity group. Payments to the charity will be quarterly. Each one of our three Cash and Carry branches (Canning Vale, Balcatta and Bunbury) will have 20 Community groups participating in the program. The way the program works is for every $100 a customer spends in the store, they will receive one token to donate to the local community group of their choice. For example, if a customer spends $300 they will receive 3 coins to donate. Customers will deposit the coins they have received into a Community group’s deposit box.
The Listening Post
October 2011

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

Purslowe Funerals

The Australian Women’s Land Army

On Thursday 7 April Mr Gaynor, RSL WA President, hosted a morning tea for the Australian Women’s Land Army (AWLA) at ANZAC House to recognise the closing down of the association.

Unfortunately, due to declining membership, the AWLA WA Division held their last official meeting on 24 February 2011 where it was decided to dissolve the association.

The AWLA was originally formed during WWII to combat labour shortages in the rural sector caused by male farm workers leaving to join the army. On 27 July 1942 a national body was formed.

Denis Connelly

State War Memorial Warden Appointed

RSL WA has announced the appointment of Dr Ruth Shean as the Warden of the State War Memorial, Kings Park. Dr Shean will take up her appointment on Remembrance Day 2011.

Dr Ruth Shean is the Director General of the Western Australian government’s newly formed Department of Training and Workforce Development, a position which she commenced in December 2009.

While at DTWD, Dr Shean has led the development of Skilling WA, Western Australia’s Workforce Plan. She has also overseen the development of the state’s Skilled Migration Strategy and the Western Australian State Migration Plan.

Prior to her current role, Dr Shean was Commissioner for Public Sector Standards, the government watchdog which oversaw standards within the public sector and assisted with the appointment of government CEOs. Her other previous roles include Director General of the Disability Services Commission and Director General of the Department for Community Development.

Dr Shean has also been a non government CEO, and has held leadership positions on both state and federal government reviews and committees. She has comprehensive experience in university governance, having been on governing councils of both Curtin and Murdoch Universities. Dr Shean has a Masters Degree and a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Western Australia.

She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and holds a Graduate Diploma from the Institute.

Dr Shean’s father, Lieutenant Commander Maxwell Henry Shean D.S.O. [Bar], Bronze Star [USA], was featured in the March 2008 edition of “THE LISTENING POST”

Denis Connelly

Purslowe’s staff today – smart, contemporary, caring.

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The LisTening Pos T
October 2011

12

ANZAC Club returned to the 1940s with a Springtime Tea Dance on Wednesday 7 September. There were approximately 55 people in attendance. Matthew Holyday (ANZAC House Manager) hired a dance floor and organised for Bill Louwen and the Sapphires (a three piece band) to perform to ensure all enjoyed the ambience of the event.

Amongst the dancers were Maurice and Hilda Medley who have been married for 65 years. On the day of the tea dance Maurice celebrated his 90th birthday.

Joy Perkins was also in attendance. Joy met her now deceased husband Bill at one of the original ANZAC Club Dances in the 1940s.

Also in attendance was Eric Watts (Rat of Tobruk) from the Belmont Sub Branch with his friend Jean. Eric celebrated his 95th birthday on 11 September.

Margot Harness (previous RSL WA Welfare Officer) along with her husband Mike and some friends came along to join in the dancing.

Matthew Holyday was very pleased with the response and has stated that ‘the older members enjoyed a morning of wonderful memories and made new friends.

The Club shall repeat the Dance again in the near future’.

Denis Connelly

Dear Sir,

Our group of five wish to compliment Matthew Holyday and Staff on the presentation of the afternoon Tea Dance at ANZAC House on 7 September 2011.

As usual food and service was excellent. Music provided by the Sapphires Dance Band brought back many happy memories and deserved the spontaneous applause.

Thanks also to Denis Connelly for the group photo.

A great way to celebrate my 90th Birthday.

M Medley
The LisTening Pos T october 2009 13

Depending how old you are you might remember the outhouse at the end of the garden path in the back yard where, as a child, going to the toilet at night time was a scary mission. Toilet paper was the local newspaper and once a week at 4 o’clock we were woken up by the clang, as the dunny man changed the drum. Toilet hygiene has increased in leaps and bounds.

Now we all have a toilet inside our house that flushes our business away at the touch of a button, putting the good old dunny man out of a job. Toilet paper is available in so many types, from single ply scratchy sheets to the triple ply ultra soft luxury scented toilet rolls and even now moisturised wipes.

We have come a long way in our hygiene from the days of the thunderbox. But as far apart as the old newspaper was to our luxury scented toilet rolls is toilet paper to the Hyundai or Coway bidet toilet seats.

Now these marvellous automatic toilet seats are available in Australia. With just the press of a button, the bidet toilet seat provides a gentle stream of warm water that cleans you thoroughly. Then press the ‘air dryer’ button and the bidet will automatically dry you without having to use any toilet paper - leaving you feeling so fresh and so clean!

It just replaces your existing toilet seat and is available only from The BIDET SHOP®. They have many latest models to choose from to suit all requirements and budgets. Even have a bidet toilet seat that will automatically open the lid for you and then close after you leave (This feature could save many a marriage).

For more info or to purchase call The BIDET SHOP® on 08 6102 5610 (local) or 1800 243 387 (national).

The LisTening Pos T october 2011 13

The City of Rockingham RSL Sub Branch held its Annual Mess Dinner on Saturday 23 July 2011. Attendees included RSL State President Mr Bill Gaynor OAM RFD, Mrs Joan Gaynor, President of the Rockingham RSL Sub Branch Mrs Tina O’Hara, Mr Damian O’Hara, Executive Officer HMAS Stirling, CMDR Rudi Overmeyer and Mrs Mim Overmeyer, OIC 59ACU Cadet Unit CAPT Marc Hall, Committee and RSL members.

After the dinner, the port was passed for the Loyal Toast, which was presented by Senior Vice-President Robert Gilmore whilst Life Member Robert Gilmore presented the Toast of the Day, paying tribute to the role women had played in supporting their men through both the good and tough times.

In her address, Tina O’Hara spoke of the close relationship the Sub Branch had with HMAS Stirling, and also thanked RSL State President Bill Gaynor for the support he had shown her over the years in the various positions she has held.

State President Bill Gaynor informed the guests that preparations were underway for the ANZAC Day Centenary celebrations commencing in 2014 and this would be the focal point of the RSL in the future with major works required at several locations. It would be a busy and exciting time for the RSL in the lead up to this major event.

CMDR Overmeyer was very enthusiastic regarding the Naval presence in WA with major upcoming events being held at HMAS Stirling and the increasing contingent of naval personnel to increase in the future to further protect WA’s coastline and the ability to deploy at short notice.

At the invitation of CAPT Hall, the State President concluded the evening by presenting promotions to three of the Army Cadets present. This presentation was to cadets who had recently taken part in the Senior Instructors course and successfully achieved the rank of Sergeant Cadets. This was a pleasant surprise and was appreciated by all the guests.

Wendy Gray
Honorary Secretary
City of Rockingham Sub Branch

(Left) Cadet Lauren Harrison (Right) Cadet Thomas Young

GONE ARE THE DAYS OF THE THUNDERBOX

Depending how old you are you might remember the outhouse at the end of the garden path in the back yard where, as a child, going to the toilet at night time was a scary mission.

Toilet paper was the local newspaper and once a week at 4 o’clock we were woken up by the clang, as the dunny man changed the drum. Toilet hygiene has increased in leaps and bounds.

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North Korean army and followed it. Initially, the UN force defeated the those forces. Shoalhaven and Bataan were part of Royal Australian Navy ships HMAS Australian Air Force 77 Squadron and involved. Defence personnel from the United Nations forces became on the verge of defeating the South when invaded South Korea and was on the line. armies of both sides guard the ceasefire never concluded and even now the was announced but negotiations were followed. On July 27, 1953, a ceasefire was announced but negotiations were never concluded and even now the armies of both sides guard the ceasefire line. With his resignation as President of the League in WA, Colonel Collett continued to support veterans and their families when he was elected to fill a Senate seat at a Federal Level. Colonel Collett’s main policy interests continued to be defence and ex-servicemen’s welfare and he held many portfolios and sat on many a committee to support this interest. He continued to provide assistance to the League in Western Australia and his advice and council continued to be sought. Colonel Collett was in the Senate until 1946 and he passed away the following year. His contribution to the League did indeed secure the foundations of the League in Western Australia and strengthen the organisation.

Korean War Vets Remember Mates

A small group of Kwinana residents let their voices ring out in a heartfelt rendition of the Australian National Anthem in recognition of Korean Veterans’ Day.

Four Korean War veterans, David Playle of Parmelia, Gordon Chippendale of Parmelia, Jack Gardner of Calista and Bevan Piper of Orelia, attended.

Kwinana Returned & Services League president, Don Burns, said the Korean War had become known as the forgotten war until a few years ago as the Federal Government had always called it a conflict, not a war.

Mr Burns said the war had started on June 25, 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea and was on the verge of defeating the South when the United Nations forces became involved. Defence personnel from the Australian Air Force 77 Squadron and Royal Australian Navy ships HMAS Shoulahven and Bataan were part of those forces.

Initially, the UN force defeated the North Korean army and followed it back into North Korea, which provoked China into entering the war to support the North Koreans. This meant the UN forces were outnumbered and pushed back south, and once again the South Korean capital Seoul was taken by the North Koreans.

Early in 1951 the UN secured a line close to the 38th parallel and it was during this phase of the war that 94 Australians of the Royal Australian Regiment’s 3rd Battalion were killed, wounded or captured in the Battle of Kapyong.

Once the frontline was stabilised, two years of fighting in the cold and inhospitable mountains of Korea followed. On July 27, 1953, a ceasefire was announced but negotiations were never concluded and even now the armies of both sides guard the ceasefire line.

Mr Burns said the first Aboriginal army officer, Reg Saunders, led C Company of the 3rd Battalion in the war.

By Anita McInnes

Courtesy of ‘Sound Telegraph’

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REMEMBER
REMEMBER VIETNAM
Vietnam Veterans’ Day
Mildura, Vic

To quote Billy Connelly - the veterans who attended the Vietnam Veterans’ Day Service in Mildura were very “windswept and interesting”.

Port Kennedy members Les Crows and Geoff Trevor-Hunt OAM along with their wives Moira and Philomena attended a short service at the Vietnam Memorial in Mildura along with over 200 other veterans, their friends and families.

It was cold and windy and rained towards the end of the service, after which they all adjourned to the Mildura RSL for a get together and a lovely BBQ lunch.

Something of interest to the West Australian RSL membership is the Ramon Deed Veterans Retreat just over the boarder in NSW. It is a great spot to drop anchor if you are travelling in a van or tent and only $20 a night or 7 nights for the price of 6. The Crows and the Trevor-Hunts stayed there during their time in the area.

Philomena Trevor-Hunt

Help for RSL Facilities

On Monday, 5 September the Nollamara RSL Club hosted the landmark signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Corrective Services (DCS) and The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated (RSL WA).

The Minister for Corrective Services, Terry Redman MLA, stated that the MOU provides a framework for the management of collaborative projects between DCS and RSL WA.

Some of the many tasks that will be completed by the DCS offenders include maintenance of memorials and RSL facilities.

This arrangement has been exemplified in the past with extensive work having been carried out at the Blackboy Hill Commemorative site. Prisoners from Wooroloo prison spent several weeks restoring this significant local WW1 training area.

Mr Ian Johnson, Commissioner of DCS, signed the MOU with Mr William Gaynor.

Denis Connelly

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With a pre-paid funeral from Bowra & O’Dea.

In the confusion and emotional numines that follows when a person dies, it can be difficult for grieving relatives to make decisions about funeral arrangements.

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- 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

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Bowra & O’Dea. Simply a matter of trust.
They were the forgotten diggers. A generation of young men who fought for Australia like their fathers before them. But they returned as outcasts, casualties of a war nobody understood. Yet time heals the injustices of the past. Now they are heroes, revered as the warriors of Gallipoli, Tobruk, Kokoda and Korea. Vietnam Veterans, your time has come. The Bradford Exchange is proud to honour these brave diggers with a quality timepiece imbued with the spirit of the Anzacs that flows in their veins.

Hand-crafted for a true hero

As a bold salute to our Vietnam heroes, this handsome chronograph is hand-crafted from rugged stainless steel and intricately engraved with a wealth of icons associated with the war. Against the jungle green face, the name Vietnam and the famous Iroquois ‘Huey’ chopper loom large and proud in a gleaming silver tone. The side is engraved with the words Sacrifice • Mateship • Pride and serve as a reminder that the courage of these men will always be appreciated. The reverse of the case features a map of Vietnam surrounded by the name of the campaigns in which Australians fought, each one now a proud part of our history.

Availability is strictly limited. Act now or miss out!

If you served in South-East Asia or know someone who did, the “Vietnam Remembered Watch” is the perfect way to show your pride. It’s affordable too, payable in five easy, interest-free instalments of $39.99 - incredible value at just $199.95, plus $19.99 postage and handling. But the edition has been strictly limited to just 1,972 issues, so you need to act fast. To secure one of the low editions numbers valued by serious collectors, send no money now. Just return the coupon today.

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If placing your reservation online, please quote reference: 60546
Ean Lawrence McDonald RAN

Ean McDonald was born in Melbourne on 3 September 1918 to a Scottish migrant father, Edward McDonald, and Western Australian mother Eva, daughter of Joe Symonds; Fremantle Harbour Pilot and Bunbury Harbour Master. He began his maritime adventures as a Sea Scout at Pelican Point on the Swan River.

He completed his schooling at Perth Boys’ School with a Junior Certificate in 1934. His first job during the depression time was stamping “Made in Australia” on Japanese toothbrushes, after which he became a clerk, at Hume Pipe Company in Subiaco, until September 4 1939.

Ean had joined the Royal Australian Naval Reserve in 1938 as an Ordinary Signalman being called up immediately the war began. Joining HMAS SYDNEY in September 1939 he went with her to the Mediterranean where he joined STUART then VAMPIRE, VENDETTA, VOYAGER, and WATERHEN. He was aboard WATERHEN when she sank off Tobruk and claims to be the only man who served on every one of the Scrap Iron Flotilla Destroyers.

Joining HMAS PERTH late in 1941, he left her at her last call to Fremantle in early 1942, just days before she was sunk in Sunda Strait.

During his Officer Training Course at Flinders Naval Depot, Ean married Claire Hatton of Subiaco in May 1942. Then, as Acting Temporary Sub Lieutenant on Probation borne Temporarily for Training, he joined Corvette ECHUCA.

Returning to Flinders Naval Depot he completed a course to become a Gunny Officer.

Commissioning the new Survey Corvette SHEPPARTON, early in 1943, Ean remained with her until war’s end being appointed firstly as Gunnery and Executive Officer, then becoming a Hydrographer in New Guinea and northern Australian area surveying and pathfinding for allied armies who were island hopping towards victory over Japan.

Although a year later he was appointed in Command of and joined POLARIS, his broad expertise made him difficult to replace so that he was immediately recalled to SHEPPARTON until War’s end.

Ean tried working back at Hume Pipe Company, but soon left to study and matriculate while beginning a family and running a poultry farm to feed them.

Qualifying as an Architect in 1951, he then practised for twenty five years, meantime also serving as Councillor in the City of Perth for fifteen years.

Married to Cheryl McDougall, he became a Business Proprietor then Graphic Artist, retiring at 77 years.

Ean also became a Certified Ocean Going Master Mariner and has been a Lecturer in Navigation for many years writing a book on Offshore Navigation, and another on Pre-Captain Cook Australian Discoveries.

In his 79th and 80th years, 1997 and 1998, he navigated Susie Maroney in her successful record swims from Cuba to USA and Mexico to Cuba.

Evan McDonald – “The Flip Side War”
Ean McDonald passed away on Monday, 15 August 2011. Evan is remembered very fondly as the architect of the ANZAC memorial at WWW training ground at Blackboy Hill Greenmount.

Denis Connelly

Don Miller

Don (the Yank) Miller was the only ex pat US citizen (Ex United States Army) to enlist in the Australian Army.

He became an Australian Citizen to enable him to serve in South Vietnam with 1 SAS Sqn 1969 to 1970. Don passed away 12 months ago and wanted his ashes spread at a place called Boonerring Hill on the Bibbulmun Track.

With his two sons, Braden and Robert, nephew Simon, ex-army mates, Barry Hollitt and Peter Roper, shown below, who took this responsibility and headed off into the wilds.

After spending the night at White Horse Camp, sitting around the camp fire reminiscing about Don, we walked back to the hill to spread his ashes as per his wishes.

On Sunday, 21 Aug 2011, after a steep climb to the summit, Robert took over and completed the deed.

We think now that he could be in Albany as the wind was that strong.

We sat around with our thoughts for the next 20 or so minutes to remember a Husband, Father, Uncle, Friend and Soldier.

The book has now closed on Don’s life, but can be reopened anytime when friends and family get together and his name crops up. When we have a beer, we have one for Don.

Who Dares Wins - Lest We Forget

Barry Hollitt

The memorial at Blackboy Hill

Gillard Places People on Job for ANZAC 2014

Albany Centenary of ANZAC Alliance consultant Geoff Hand and Chairman Peter Aspinall show Prime Minister Julia Gillard the Alliance’s plans for the ANZAC centenary. Picture: Laurie Benson

Albany Centenary of ANZAC Alliance did not miss its chance to pressure Julia Gillard for more Federal Government support for its 2014 ANZAC commemoration plans when she visited Albany last week.

The Prime Minister visited the Desert Mounted Corps Memorial on Mt Clarence where she was briefed on extensive plans for the commemoration.

Alliance consultant Geoff Hand explained the plans for a re-enactment of the departure of ships from Albany, carrying soldiers to World War I, and an interpretive centre on Mt Adelaide, towards which the Government has already committed $250,000 for a scoping study. Mr Hand told Ms Gillard about $12 million would be needed to fund the interpretive centre and a few other associated projects, including the opening of the lower forts.

He told the Prime Minister there was a possibility of some corporate sponsorship, but time was running out. “We are going to look like the Indian Commonwealth Games unless we get going come October, so we have got to speed up our processes,” he said.

Ms Gillard assured Mr Hand it would not come to that, and said she had “people on the job”.

Mr Hand also told Ms Gillard the alliance was expecting at least 20,000 to 30,000 Australians to flock to Albany to view the ship re-enactment.

Although the Prime Minister did not make any new announcements regarding the ANZAC Centenary commemorations, alliance chairman Peter Aspinall said it was a successful visit. “We believe Ms Gillard was suitably impressed with what she saw and heard,” he said.

Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chief Executive Graham Harvey echoed that view.

Elle Farcie

Albany Advertiser

Don Miller

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Denis Connelly
The Colour Party will then lead and the playing of the Last Post. short service, laying of wreaths Memorial where there will be a 11.30am march off to the War Johnson Street at 11am for an Those marching should gather in Stirling Square, Guildford on Sunday morning, 6 November 2011.

Those marching should gather in Johnson Street at 11am for an 11.30am march off to the War Memorial where there will be a short service, laying of wreaths and the playing of the Last Post. The Colour Party will then lead the parade, the official party and the congregation to St Matthew’s Church for a service.

After the service at approximately 11.30, light refreshments will be provided at the hall adjacent to the church, following which all are welcome to share some fellowship at the Rose & Crown Hotel, 105 Swan Street, Guildford.

For enquiries or further information please email info@artillerywa.org.au or contact the Secretary, John Blylevens on 0438 695 711 or the Vice-President, Peter Mahoney on 0400 408 285.

Secretary

A monument to commemorate the bravery and loyalty of indigenous Coastwatchers and Scouts during World War Two has been dedicated in the Solomon Islands capital, Honiara. It was officially opened by Solomon Islands Governor-General, Sir Frank Kabui, in conjunction with the 69th anniversary of the landings made on Guadalcanal and Tulagi by US Marines on the 7th August, 1942.

While the new memorial particularly recognises those who undertook Coastwatching roles on Guadalcanal, New Georgia and elsewhere in Solomon Islands, the dedication ceremony also recognised the entire South-West Pacific network of Coastwatchers, including those who operated from Bougainville and other locations. The intelligence provided to US and other Allied forces by the Coastwatchers and Scouts was crucial to victory. Wartime South Pacific Area commander, Admiral ‘Bull’ Halsey, remarked that “The Coastwatchers saved Guadalcanal, and Guadalcanal saved the Pacific.”

Speaking at the unveiling on the 7th August, former Solomon Islands Prime Minister and Chairman of the Trust which designed and constructed locally. Three surviving Solomon Islands Scouts who fought in the campaigns were present at the ceremony, while the US Marine Corps was represented by Colonel Robert D. Loynd based in the northern Pacific and a military band from US Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The opening of the monument was preceded by a service at the official US Memorial overlooking the Matanikau River, scene of heavy wartime fighting during the Battle of Guadalcanal.

Photos and story by Martin Hadlow

To commemorate the battle of Long Tan on 18 August we laid a wreath at the Three Springs war memorial in the morning.

As many residents of our town have our national flag in their yards, we asked them to fly them at half mast for the day. The flags in front of the Shire office were also flown at half mast.

Sean Boonstra Publicity Officer - Three Springs

Long Tan Day

Artillery

Footpath Freedom

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Speaking at the unveiling on the 7th August, former Solomon Islands Prime Minister and Chairman of the Trust which constructed the statue, Sir Peter Kenilorea, noted that many of the major battles fought in the (then) British Solomon Islands Protectorate during the Second World War were virtually unknown to the present generation of Solomon Islanders. He also pointed out that the bravery of Solomon Islands Scouts had not been adequately recognised. However, with the opening of the memorial, he said that names and places such as the Battle of Savo Island, Iron Bottom Sound, Mount Austen and Bloody Ridge would become better known to a new generation, which could be proud of the courageous and vital role played by Solomon Islands Scouts and Coastwatchers.

Royal Australian Navy Defence Advisor, Commander Geoff Turner, outlined the history of the network of teleradio operations, code-named Ferdinand, established in the 1930s by Commander Eric Feldt of the RAN. He mentioned the importance of the role played by the administration officers, planters, missionaries and others who reported from behind enemy lines as Japanese Imperial forces swept south in 1942 from their base in occupied Rabaul. Without the help and protection of local people, Commander Turner noted that the mainly expatriate Coastwatchers would not have been able to survive.

The new monument, located near the Point Cruz wharves in Honiara, was designed and constructed locally. Three surviving Solomon Islands Scouts who fought in the campaigns were present at the ceremony, while the US Marine Corps was represented by Colonel Robert D. Loynd based in the northern Pacific and a military band from US Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The opening of the monument was preceded by a service at the official US Memorial overlooking the Matanikau River, scene of heavy wartime fighting during the Battle of Guadalcanal.

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Long Tan Day

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Sean Boonstra Publicity Officer - Three Springs

Long Tan Day
WWII Tunnels

The guided tours of the Leighton Battery Heritage Site at Buckland Hill are proving very popular with the public. Since the Official Opening in November 1997, several thousand visitors have viewed the complex both above and below the ground.

The site has been entered in the Register of the National Estate as a significant World War 2 Coastal Defence Facility and with its historical background; people of all ages are participating in the tours.

History records that due to enemy activity in 1942, authority was given to relocate the Fort Arthur guns to Buckland Hill where they were placed and this continued until 1963 at which time the Coast Artillery Branch of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery was disbanded. In 1963 the guns and associated equipment were disposed of as scrap, the entrances were blocked off and the tunnels were filled with rubble. In 1979 the land was returned to the Western Australian Government and the land sold for residential development, with one third of the tunnels were filled with rubble. The entrances were blocked off and the tunnels were filled with rubble.

Mr Sutherland, State Secretary RSL WA, commented that all too often the Australian flag is being incorrectly used at funeral services.

To this end the editor has decided to publish how our flags are permitted to be used.

Visitors remark on the quality of the displays and the information provided by the tour guides. The tours which last for an hour are conducted every half hour between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm each Sunday. Access to the site is from the car park in Boundary Road Mosman Park, then a short walk along the uphill footpath to the Command Post.

A modest charge of $7.00 for adults and $2.00 for children applies to the uphill footpath to the Command Post.

1. For funerals: The flag is to be large enough to cover the coffin fully. The flag is to be draped over the coffin with the ‘Union Jack’ over the top left hand quarter.

2. For deceased ex RAN personnel, permission must be sought from the Chief of Navy, RAN – Mr Sutherland, State Secretary RSL WA, commented that all too often the Australian flag is being incorrectly used at funeral services.

3. Flying of the National Flag at Half Mast

a) The flag is to be half mast immediately below the top of the pole. This applies to flags flown in the form of battens, and not to flag staffs.

b) The flag is to be half mast at the top and bottom quarters of the flag pole. This applies to flags flown on flag staffs.

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The Australian Flag

At a recent memorial service for a veteran someone commented “They’ve placed the flag incorrectly on the coffin”. Mr Sutherland, State Secretary RSL WA, commented that all too often the Australian flag is being incorrectly used at funeral services.

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The Correct Use of the Australian Flag

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FOR further information on the correct usage of our National and Service Flags visit www.itsanhonour.gov.au/symbols/flag.cfm. Also, refer to “The RSL Handbook” for more information.

To obtain a flag for use at a funeral service please contact your local Federal Member of Parliament.

Denis Connelly
Editor
As a special part of an arranged tour group, World War 2 Veterans Keith Ireland (AIF) and Roy Atkinson (RAAF) made a long awaited and very nostalgic return visit to Sabah in Borneo, 66 years after first engaging the Japanese there in 1945.

The tour party of 11 all had a reason to be part of this 10 day journey. Keith & Roy were both only 22 years old when they were sent to Borneo as part of the Liberation Force. Other members of the group included members of the Starcevich family who travelled to pay homage to their Uncle, Tom Starcevich, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for most conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy. Members of the Hislop family attended to pay respects to their Uncle, Rupert Crilly, one of hundreds of POWs who died on one of the notorious death marches instigated by the Japanese. Keith Ireland’s daughter Kaye, was also there—not only to provide any assistance that the old veterans might have needed, but also in order to fulfill a natural desire to see first hand, the type of conditions these heroes endured during their campaign. Others were there simply out of a need and desire to pay their respects.

A Memorial erected to honour Allied troops who died fighting to liberate North Borneo from Japanese occupation, was unveiled in Sandakan on Sunday 14th August. As part of the ceremony (which included the unveiling of the Liberation Monument) Keith & Roy were given the honour of proudly reciting The Ode.

As the sun was rising on the morning of Monday 15th August, the annual Memorial Service held at Sandakan Memorial Park marked the 66th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

The story of Sandakan is one of the most tragic and important in Australia’s World War 2 engagement. Again, Keith & Roy were given the honour of being included in this prestigious service, laying wreathes to honour all those men who served, and to especially recognise the exceptional bravery of those who fell during this campaign.

The tour, organised by Ryan Rowland from Flightline Travel, was one of significantly memorable and emotional moments: Traveling along the death-march road from Sandakan to Ranau; seeing the awesome and somber Mt Kinabalu; visiting the Kundasang War Memorial and Labuan cemetery; seeing the locations of former prisoner of war camps and other historical memorial sites. Other memorable and deeply touching experiences included seeing Behala Island and speeding across the waters to Labuan Island where Keith Ireland recalled quite clearly ‘Brown Beach’, where his transport ship landed 66 years ago. It was here also, at Surrender Point on Labuan Island on 9th September 1945, that Australian Imperial Forces received the unconditional surrender from the Japanese.

A wonderful, somber and entirely unforgettable journey was had by all who took part.

Lest We Forget
Kaye Ireland

When they were sent to Borneo as part of the Australian Imperial Forces received the unconditional surrender from the Japanese.

Battle for Australia Day

On Wednesday 7 September 40 people gathered at the Melville City Memorial for a short ceremony conducted by the Applecross Sub Branch.

In attendance were the RSL WA State President, Bill Gaynor and wife Joan, His Worship the Mayor, City of Melville, Russell Aubrey, representatives from Ex Service Organizations, staff and students from Applecross Senior High School and members of the public.

At the conclusion of the ceremony all enjoyed a morning tea provided by the Melville City Council.

Helen Pickering
Secretary – Applecross Sub Branch

The Royal Red Cross

The Royal Red Cross medal was instituted for Military Nursing by Queen Victoria 27 April 1883 (chosen because it was St George’s Day).

The decoration was awarded from that day to nurses for exceptional services, devotion to duty and professional competence in British military nursing. When the details were finally decided (four years after her request to Parliament) the Royal Warrant said that the Royal Red Cross medal be given:

“upon any ladies, whether subjects or foreign persons, who may be recommended by Our Secretary of State for War for special exertions in providing for the nursing of sick and wounded soldiers and sailors of Our Army and Navy.” (During the reign of King George V the words or Our Air Force in the field were added to the Royal Warrant.) Queen Victoria wanted a special award for the distinguished service by women nursing sisters in both South Africa in the Zulu War in 1879, and in Egypt in 1882.

Apart from recognising Florence Nightingale retrospectively for her service in the Crimean War—1853-1856—the Queen wanted to reward Sister Janet Wells’s extraordinary service in the Zulu war to British soldiers and Zulu warriors alike.

To the end of the Boer War, the RRC was considered the equivalent of the Victoria Cross for women.

The Royal Red Cross has been rarely awarded.

RRCs awarded to Australian nurses in the Boer War:
Martha Sarah Bidmead - South Australian Nurses 27 Sept 1901
Elizabeth Nixson - NSW Army Medical Corps Nurses 27 Sept 1901
Marianne Rawson - Victorian Nurses 26 June 1902
Emma Maud McCarthy - Princess Alexandra’s Nurses British Army Nursing Service 1899-1902

George Stevens

Reprinted from the August 2011 NSW edition of Monumentally Speaking the occasional newsletter of the NSW Committee of the National Boer War Memorial Association: www.bnwm.org.au

Feeling Thirsty? Sip on a glass of Orange Juice

Pour yourself a glass of orange juice rather than reach for the coffee tin next time you are thirsty, as Swedish researchers have discovered Vitamin C can dissolve the toxic protein aggregates that build up in the brain in Alzheimer’s disease.

The research conducted by Lund University and published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, showed brain tissue from mice suffering from Alzheimer’s was treated using Vitamin C. Researchers claim vitamin C, or L-ascorbic acid, dissolved the toxic protein aggregates that define Alzheimer’s. The brains of people with Alzheimer’s contain “lumps of amyloid plaques” which consist of protein aggregates. These cause nerve cell death in the brain and the first nerves to be attacked are the ones in the brain’s memory centre. “Our results show a previously unknown mode for how Vitamin C affects the amyloid plaques,” lead researcher, Katrin Mani, said.

Ms Mani said another “interesting” finding was the useful Vitamin C does not need to come from fresh fruit.

“In our experiments, we show the Vitamin C can also be absorbed in larger quantities in the form of dehydroascorbic acid from juice that has been kept overnight in a refrigerator, for example,” Ms Mani said. However, the protective antioxidant effects of Vitamin C for a variety of illnesses, ranging from the common cold to heart attacks and dementia, have been debated by researchers for decades. The notion that Vitamin C can have a positive effect on Alzheimer’s disease is controversial, but our results open up new opportunities for research into Alzheimer’s and the possibilities offered by vitamin C,” Ms Mani claimed.

For Alzheimer’s disease yet exists, researchers indicated the findings of this latest study were aimed at developing treatments and methods to delay and alleviate the progression of the disease by addressing the symptoms.
hoped money would flow in from enthusiastic people throughout the state. In the first year of fundraising only £101 was raised.

The headline “NO WAR MEMORIAL. Contributions Too Scanty” in The West Australian (29/05/25) seemed to spell the end to the entire project. It was at this stage that the RSL decided to step in and take control of matters. Mr ES Watt of the RSL executive declared that if the public would not subscribe then the returned soldiers should each put in a few shillings to erect their own.

This was not the first time that returned servicemen were to be asked to contribute. On ANZAC Day 1928 Archbishop Riley made an impassioned appeal for funds in order to complete the memorial. He was addressing the returned servicemen at the end of their march through Perth that morning.

He was not in good health at the time and opened by reminding everyone that this may be the last time I make an appeal. He pointed out that the War Memorial was being constructed in the most delightful spot in a delightful country. It was a crying shame, he continued, that he had to make an appeal for money. It is not fitting that a soldier should have to get up and appeal to soldiers for a few thousand pounds to finish a war memorial, he concluded.

His reference to a few thousand pounds was not quite correct. The target was £11000 and by the end of 1927 only £3000 had been raised. It had indeed been a monumental struggle. In May 1925 State public servants had been urged to donate “At Least a Day’s Pay” and various businesses in Perth had responded with enthusiasm.

The major banks agreed to accept donations for the cause and concerts organised by the RSL were successful in attracting finance. Sir William Lathlain, as Chairman of the State War Memorial Committee was behind many of these new initiatives. He also urged that a tree be planted in King’s Park for every WA digger who fell in the war.

The next option was to seek money from the Perth City Council and the State Government. Today both these avenues would have been willing to contribute but not so in 1925. The Labor Premier Mr P Collier put the matter to his Cabinet and it was rejected. “If they desire to have one they will have to erect it themselves” he was quoted as saying.

The Perth City Council also felt they could not legally vote funds for the purpose of subscribing to the State War Memorial. This had not been the case in Fremantle where their council had donated £500 towards their own War Memorial on Monument Hill. The executive of the RSL met on 17th March 1926 and declared “We are disgusted at the fickle efforts made by the Government and the people of Western Australia.” At this stage it seemed the project would not continue.

Nevertheless, on 8th April 1926 it was announced that despite the poor response to the appeal the project would proceed and the construction of the memorial would begin. The tender of Mr AT Brime for £3506 was accepted. Sir Talbot Hobbs was appointed Honorary Architect and his design was first seen by the public on 16th September 1926 when it was published in The West Australian.

This was indeed a generous act by Sir Talbot Hobbs. In February 1924 it had been agreed to hold a competition for suitable designs with substantial prizes on offer. The prizes of 300 guineas (first), 150 guineas (second) and 75 guineas (third) would have eaten up all the money that had been donated.

Sir William Lathlain announced to the press that the foundation stone (obelisk) of the WA War Memorial would be in position for an unveiling ceremony on the Sunday following ANZAC Day 1928. On 28th January 1928 readers of The West Australian learnt that the Melbourne City Council had given £250000 for the construction of their Shrine of Remembrance. I wonder how the WA War Memorial Committee responded?

It is interesting to note that the first commemorative observance at the State War Memorial took place on ANZAC Day in 1929. It was officially unveiled and dedicated. A remarkably large number of returned men and citizens assembled at 6 o’clock to attend a brief ceremony at the incomplete memorial. Little did they know at the time that they were setting in motion the annual ANZAC Dawn Services that have been a highlight of ANZAC Day commemorations in Perth ever since.

On Sunday 24th November 1929 the State War Memorial was finally unveiled and dedicated. A crowd of around 10000 witnessed the unveiling by the State Governor, Sir William Campion and the dedication by Chaplain Rabbi DI Freedman. An impressive yet simple service marked the culmination of years of frustration and devoted effort. Lady Birdwood, wife of Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood, laid a wreath along with representatives of foreign nations, including Germany. Sir Talbot Hobbs reminded those present that only three things remained to be completed. These were the inscription of names, the flood-lighting of the memorial at night and the work of beautifying the grounds around the memorial.

Visitors to Perth are often taken to the State War Memorial overlooking the Perth CBD and the Swan River. To the east lies the Darling Scarp and the Canning River can be seen flowing into the Swan River from the south. It is indeed a splendid location for such a memorial. We have to thank all those who persevered in the struggle to have it built against such opposition and apathy. The RSL WA Branch can claim this to be one of its finest achievements.

Peter Hopper
President - Shenton Park RSL Sub Branch

Carine Senior High School

Carine SHS was invited by the Borneo Prisoners of War Relatives Association in 2004 to become the custodians of the Sandakan Memorial and to take responsibility for the memorial service each year around August 28.

We accepted the invitation willingly and now run the service with school musical and choral accompaniment and students managing the wreath laying. This year we had Lea Hiltenkamp as MC, Georgina Carson as the Bugler (both are students at the school) and had the Head Girl, Indiah Brockett, and Head Boy, Daniel Ortlepp, present a speech.

This year the weather was again very kind and in excess of 100 people joined the Relatives and school contingent in making a moving and memorable service.

Paul Ganderton
Principal
Carine Senior High School

Anyone visiting the WA War Memorial in King’s Park today would be puzzled to discover that the LisTening Pos T

October 2011

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Head Girl Indiah Brockett and Head Boy Daniel Ortlepp presenting their speech
Bevan Patrick Turner
I have been trying to contact veterans who served with 2Lt Bevan Patrick Turner, Regimental No. 15893, 104 signal squadron, South Vietnam 1969-70. I have found out that he has passed away.
He was my father, whom I didn’t know and I would like to find out more about him.
I was wondering if anyone could help me with any information on him.
I was actually born on the day that he deployed for Vietnam and so have no knowledge of him at all, so he deployed for Vietnam and so him.
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He was my father, whom I didn’t
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Vietnam 1969-70. I have found out
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I have been trying to contact
friends as well as Allied personnel. A
be celebrated in Canberra. Open
40th Anniversary of the 3RAR
Editor
publisher in the near future.
appreciated.

Chalkies
Our “chalkies” group meet regularly in and around Brisbane and we are anxious to contact as many of the 300 conscript teachers and others who served in TPNG both before and after independence in 1975 with a view to gathering material for a historical record of those times to help the soldiers in PNG today. A historical society is envisioned based in Port Moresby but assisted by interested Australians who are able to contribute material to a record of the PIB, PIR and RPIR over the last 50 years.
Any input would be greatly appreciated.
Terry Edwinsmith - tedwmsmith@yahoo.com.au

Dear Editor,
I am a military historian and writer living in Canberra. I am currently gathering material for a book on the history of the Australian Army’s detention system and facilities from 1914 to 1948, which the Army History Unit is to publish. I am writing to ask if you would be good enough to publish a request for information and assistance in your magazine.
I would like to hear from anyone who has any information on the various military detention facilities (Detention Barracks, Guard Compounds and Field Punishment Compounds) which were operated around Australia and also in the United Kingdom, Palestine, Malaya, Papua, New Guinea and the Netherlands East Indies (Morotai) during and immediately after the Second World War. I am particularly keen to gain access to personal reminiscences (in the form of letters, diaries, etc) and photographs and I am interested in the story from both sides of the fence, i.e. both inmates (soldiers under sentence) and staff.
Please note that I am not seeking information on prisoner of war camps or civilian detention camps (for enemy aliens and others) operated in Australia during the war.
Anyone who thinks they can assist can contact me at:
Mr G.F. Wilson - PO Box 6021
Lanyon LPO CONDER ACT 2906 or Frank
Poole 0416 193 387.
Your Association needs your continuing support

Quiz
To all those readers that entered our quizzes, “Battle for Bardia” and “Do Unto Others”, Thank You.
The winners will be contacted by the publisher in the near future.

Denis Connelly
Editor
3RAR – 2nd Tour Vietnam 1971
40th Anniversary of the 3RAR return from Vietnam in 1971 will be celebrated in Canberra. Open invitation is extended to all former members along with their families and friends as well as Allied personnel. A formal gathering will take place at the Vietnam Veterans National Memorial on Sunday 16 October 2011 at 10am.
For further information please contact
0412 377 884 / webmaster@3rar.com
http://www.3rar.com
86 Transport Platoon Reunion – 2012
This unit being one of the biggest to have served in Vietnam outside of the battalions is holding a reunion in April 2012 at Port Stephens (NSW). The Reunion is to commemorate 40 years end of deployment
Contact: Raymond Davis (Chairman)
02 94761038 or email academy077@yahoo.com.au
Visit our website: www.86transportreunion2012.com

104 Sig Sqn National Reunion 2011
4-6 Nov 2011 at Twin Towns Services Club on the Gold Coast.
Full details and committee contact info on the special reunion web site at http://2011.au104.org
All Signals and Friends Welcome. Phone 0419-334555 or email reunion2011@au104.org for details.

2012 Sapper Centenary of Service in WA
2012 will be a big year for Sappers in Western Australia. Members of the Royal Australian Engineers have served for more than a century. The RAE Association on WA is preparing a book to cover the period 1912-2011. We need your help! Any items will be copied and returned.
Contact Mick Ryan OAM on 0407 446 666 or Nev Clark on 9307 2385

Australian Army Apprentices Association
There will be a Reunion of all Apprentices of the State in Canberra, 27 to 31 Oct 2011. The title is Apprentices Together 2011. Full details of this event are at www.aauaapprentice.org, or call Frank Maloney 0418 728 181, or Frank Poole 0416 193 387.
Your Association needs your continuing support

Cate Clark
Cate Clark, author of To Fight and Do Our Best: The First Australian Armoured Division in Guernmed in 1942-1943 is now looking to tell the story of the units of the 1st Australian Armoured Division after the Division was broken apart at Narrabri NSW.
Approximately half of the Division was sent to Western Australia to guard against the threat of the Japanese with the 2/10th Armoured Regiment, a part of that Division, going back to its home state.
Cate would like to talk to anyone with recollections of this time, most particularly veterans of the 2/10th Armoured Regiment or any other veteran that made the long trip to WA in late 1942/early 1943. She is interested in photos, recollections, memorabilia or just plain yarns.
History is always told best through the voices of who were there – if anyone could help she would be most grateful if they contacted her at: info@writertighthmedia.com.au or 0408 425 564

HMAS Canberra 2011 Reunion
The HMAS Canberra 2011 Reunion will be held at the Maroochy RSL on Sunshine Coast QLD from 21 to 23 October 2011. The reunion is being held for all personnel, partners and guests of the ships company who served on HMAS Canberra 1980-2005. It will be a great opportunity to join in celebrating the Ship’s 30th birthday with the fine people who served her.
Please indicate your interest of attending at http://www. surveymonkey.com/s/DXHHKXS
For further information please visit http://www.hmscanberra.com/news/reunion.html

Bill Krause

HMAS Shoalhaven Re-Union
and AGM
Former crew members of HMAS Shoalhaven are cordially invited to join their shipmates at Frankston, Victoria from 1 to 5 November 2011. This is a gathering of members of the ‘four frigates’: Shoalhaven, Murchison, Condamine and Culgoa.
For further information please contact George Franki – gf@franki@ yahoo.com

HMAS VENDETTA (1958-79)
A Dedication Ceremony for the HMAS VENDETTA (1958-79) Commemorative Plaque will be conducted at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) on the afternoon of Friday 14th October 2011. The plaque will be cast in bronze to the pre-determined standards of the AWM. The plaque will be placed alongside those of other Navy, Army and RAAF Service Units in the Western Courtyard of the AWM. This new plaque will join the Scrap Iron Flotilla plaque featuring the same named ship HMAS Vendetta (1933-45).
The plaque will commemorate the Service of the Destroyer and her crews in Malaya, Singapore, Borneo, FESR and Vietnam between 1958 and 1979. The Chief of Navy has been invited to unveil the HMAS VENDETTA Plaque in the presence of the Destroyer’s surviving crew members along with their families and the family and friends of those no longer with us.
This event has been made possible with a grant through the generous support of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs “Saluting Their Service” Commemorations Grants programme.
The Ceremony will be followed by a Reunion
Bill and Margaret Krause
Bluey Ryan Calls it a Day

Long serving and popular National President of the TPI Association, John “Bluey” Ryan, OAM, has called it a day after eleven years of service at the helm of the TPI Association during which time he has managed to get invited to the office of two Prime Ministers and a number of Politicians and Treasury officials in his quest to maintain parity for his TPI Membership.

It has been a hard road for Bluey and he deserves commendation for the effort he has gone to for his membership and veterans in general. Bluey maintained a professional approach in his efforts and made sure he always had the facts and a few up his sleeve before taking on our political management.

He was popular with Politicians and veterans alike and was mentioned in Parliament for his outstanding service and it was reportedly said that if our Pollies knew Bluey was coming to see them they had best make sure they had done their homework for he certainly would have.

He was awarded an OAM for his service in 2004 and leaves the job with the assurance that he has been very much appreciated. The downside has been that his health has suffered and although he does not leave the post because of this he admits it does have some input into his decision.

The incoming National President is Mr Greg Blyth who steps up from the South Aust State Presidency.

A B Gratwick
The editors have included new puzzles to test both our younger and young at heart readers. Sudoku is included in this and future editions of ‘The Listening Post’. Look upon this quiz as stopping the onward march of Alzheimer’s Disease!

Sudoku is a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle. The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid. Provided by Sudoku.com.au

Easy Sudoku

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Health Benefits of Fruit

Vitamins come in bottles, or you can tuck into rich summer fruit for good nutrition.

Mangos are great for helping with skin problems. They have more vitamin C than the recommended daily intake (RDI) and also half the RDI of vitamin E.

Cherries help with high cholesterol and have anti-inflammatory properties that can help alleviate arthritis and gout symptoms. They’re good source of vitamin C that helps reduce the risk of heart attack.

Bananas are low in calories and have soluble fibre that helps lower cholesterol. They replenish potassium and magnesium after exercising and are recommended for those with high blood pressure.

Pears are a good source of potassium, vitamin C, copper and dietary fibre, which helps to reduce the risk of colon cancer.

Kiwifruit help boost the immune system and contain more vitamin C than the RDI requires. They’re also a rich source of fibre, vitamin E, copper and magnesium.

Readers Digest
Maj HG Moor was commissioned into the RA in 1890 and spent the next three years serving in a garrison company in Mauritius before returning to England. He was transferred to the North West Mounted Battery in Natal, South Africa, serving as Garrison Adjutant for 13 months before a secondment to the British South Africa Company, to reorganise their artillery during their confrontation with the Matabele and Mashona tribes in Rhodesia in 1897.

Shortly after returning to Natal he was transferred to Wales, then posted overseas again, this time to Albany in Western Australia to command the permanent artillery company as a Captain, arriving in August 1899. His timing, for a professional soldier, couldn’t have been better, for he was quickly chosen to command the 1 WA Mounted Infantry being raised for service in South Africa, and was accordingly promoted to Major, as hostilities broke out in October 1899. Maj Moor led 1 WAMI into its first action at ‘West Australia Hill’ on 9 February 1900. It was also in this first engagement that the unit took its first casualties.

He continued to take the unit into various actions for the next five months, demonstrating outstanding leadership in the face of Boer fire.

On 19 July 1900, while pursuing the Boer’s most able General, Christian de Wet, in the Palmietfontein in the Limpopo district of the Orange Free State, Moor (and four other members of 1 WAMI) was severely wounded. He died later that day.

He was buried first at Palmietfontein, but his remains were reinterred twice. His final resting place was Lindley’s Garden of Remembrance, where the headstone records his British South Africa Medal for his work in Rhodesia in 1897, and the Queen’s South Africa Medal with clasps for Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, Wittebergens and Cape Colony.

John Sweetman
WA Committee of the National Boer War Memorial Association Inc

For 27 years Stanley Reid was a Presbyterian Minister in Swan Hill Victoria and Boulder in Western Australia. When the Boer War broke out he volunteered as Chaplain to the 2nd Western Australian Mounted Infantry company only to be told that there was no provision for one. He volunteered as a private soldier. 2 WAMI, six Officers and 97 other ranks and their 125 horses, sailed from Freemantle on the SS Surrey on 3 February 1900.

They took part in significant actions in the advance on Pretoria, at Vet River, Zand River, Six-Mile Spruit and Diamond Hill in June 1900. They followed three weeks of patrolling railways in Orange Free State, then the advance on Komot Poon.

In July at Bronhurst Spruit there was a severe storm that disrupted the 2nd WAMI which had halted there to defend the railway.

Reid returned to WA when 2 WAMI’s year of service ended in October. He had written a damning letter about an officer’s conduct published in the West Australian, and was arrested. No Court Martial was called. To clear his name Reid demanded a Court of Enquiry, at which his assertions were supported by other witnesses. He was offered a commission in the 6th WAMI, joining 13 other officers—one of whom was his brother, the surgeon Capt Francis Reid—and the 214 ORs and 237 horses on the SS Ulstermore departing Freemantle 10 March 1900.

Reid was wounded at Brakpan, was treated by his brother and recovered. 6 WAMI then attacked at Renshaw on 23 June 1901 where he was severely wounded again. This time his brother was not able to save him. Reid was wounded at Brakpan, was treated by his brother and recovered. 6 WAMI then attacked at Renshaw on 23 June 1901 where he was severely wounded again. This time his brother was not able to save him. His Queen’s South Africa Medal has clasps for Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, Belfast and Cape Colony and Orange Free State.

He is buried in Middelburg’s Garden of Remembrance in Transvaal. As a kind of postscript to this account of a man of the cloth functioning so bravely in the front line, history records that Reid was wounded at Brakpan, was treated by his brother and recovered. 6 WAMI then attacked at Renshaw on 23 June 1901 where he was severely wounded again. This time his brother was not able to save him. His Queen’s South Africa Medal has clasps for Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, Belfast and Cape Colony and Orange Free State.

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I Confess

Major General John Joseph Murray, DSO & Bar, MC, VD

The astonishing siege of Tobruk has been captured in this compelling memoir from Major General John Murray, commander of the Australian 20th Brigade - the Rats of Tobruk. His account of inspiring yet harrowing events is a portrait of the relationship for fjigers with men seen through the long days of the siege against a relentless enemy as supplies dwindle, fatigue takes its toll and exhaustion threatens.

Written in April 1941 as the war entered its final phase, Murray captures the individual and the humanity, not just the heroics, of the commander in chief, General Sir W.E. Slim, and his staff, like Murray himself. From the commander in chief, to the junior officers and men, Murray’s account provides the reader with the reality of command as he reflects on its essence and the personal qualities required.

Murray was a good story teller and in I Confess, he captures the essence of what our society experienced at war. His memoir is a portrait of his relationship for fjigers with men seen through the long days of the siege against a relentless enemy as supplies dwindle, fatigue takes its toll and exhaustion threatens.

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Letters from Timor
Graeme Ramsden, OAM

Graeme’s deployment to East Timor in 1999 to support the Joint Support Unit with the international forces in East Timor (INTERFET) proved that operational deployment was a distinctive journey for each and every person who served there.

Graeme marvels with humour, passion and clarity, a very engaging account of what it means to serve God, soldiers and the civilian population during a military action. Through his letters home daily entries and letters he penned during his time in Timor, we learn something of the soul of a man who loved Jesus and his wife Diane.

He provides an insight into his enthusiasm for nurturing the men and women who were given into his pastoral care. Letters from Timor offers a very different perspective of Australian Military Operations.

Additional Information
- Deployed with International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) in September 1999. During the deployment, he was appointed Deputy Senior Chaplain for the mission.

About the Author
- Chaplain Graeme Ramsden was born in Wingham, Queensland. Before he began his military career in 1965, he served in Vietnam as a soldier with the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineer Corps in 1968-69. In 1976, he was commissioned and served as a quartermaster, officer commanding at workshops and, as an instructor at the Land Warfare Centre. In 1989, Graeme undertook theological studies and was ordained as a Deacon of the Roman Catholic Church and developed a wide pastoral experience with the church. In 1993, Graeme-Ramsden commenced duties as a chaplain in the Australian Regular Army. Graeme is married to Diane and father of four.

Armegondom
By Paul Daley & Michael Bowers
Two men on an ANZAC trail

“Inspiring stories of extraordinary bravery and sacrifice, told with great insight” – Bryan Dawe

Almost a century after the Australian Light Horse fought a series of epic and bloody battles against the Turkish Army across the deserts of the Middle East, Paul Daley and Mike Bowers retrace the steps of the men and boys who fought there.

In the early days of the Second World War the Bristol Military Aircraft factory was producing planes for the RAF and RAAF including the Bristol Blenheim bomber, the Beaufighter, and the Bristol Beaufort. During the war Australia produced hundreds of Beaufighters, so the Company was well known and respected here. In the post-War period the Company continued plane production (Bristol Britannia and two helicopters) and Bristol cars. In 1959 it was forced to merge with the British Aircraft Corporation (BAC), which later became British Aerospace.

In Western Australia after the war, the population exploded because of the return of service personnel, and large scale European migration. Consequently, there was an increased demand for schools and appropriate education. David Conolly-Walsh, the baby of the war generation who arrived in Western Australia after the war, grew up in the 1950s when over 200 rooms were provided. The baby-boomers who attended schools in the 1950s and 60s grew up with the words “prefabs” and “Bristol buildings”. Prefab was the shortened version of prefabricated, but students rarely recognised the complete word. The aluminium prefabs were a part of most school children’s educational experiences at that time.

While they are now as scarce as hens’ teeth, the Bristol prefabs served a vital role in accommodating the Western Australian population surge in the 1950s, which was accompanied by a shortage of building material. The prefabricated Bristol Aeroplane Company buildings were manufactured in Britain and transported to Australia by ship. In 1950 BAC recorded that Bristol dispatched 26 aluminium schools to Australia on February 7th. (http://www.ha.csic.csic.es/1945-1954/)

“The Bristol Military Aircraft Factory and Western Australian Education

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