50th Anniversary of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam

AATTV Victoria Cross Recipients

Major Peter John Badcoe
Warrant Officer Class II Keith Payne
Warrant Officer Class II Kevin Arthur Whanley
Warrant Officer Class II Rayene Stewart Simpson
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

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Notices
Sudoku and Crossword
Solutions
The Last Post


For contributions to next edition.

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

Address to: The Editor, The Listening Post
RSL, PO Box 3023 East Perth, WA 6892
Email: listeningpost@rslahq.org.au

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Denis Connelly, Editor

To all Sub Branch Presidents’ and Secretaries

send photographs and a short article on special activities at your Sub Branch to The Listening Post.
Denis Connelly, Editor
Government Announces Funding for Centenary of ANZAC Commemorative Activities

State Premier The Hon Colin Barnett MLA recently travelled to Albany to announce funding support for the Centenary of ANZAC Commemorative Activities in Albany scheduled to commence in November 2014 to coincide with the departure of the convoys transporting Australian troops to the battlefields of the First World War.

Albany is generally recognised as the birthplace of the ANZACs and it is fitting that it will herald the beginning of Australia wide commemorations that will honour the original ANZACs.

Accompanied by RSL State President Mr Gary Scott and RAN (Rtd) Mr Damian Dixon, Mr Barnett MLA recently travelled to Albany for the Great War. The logistics of managing such a group of visitors to the Albany area has presented some challenges, but with the support of neighbouring Shire Councils at Denmark and Plantagenet (Mt Barker) there is an air of confidence in the organising group that all visitors will be accommodated.

While it is recognised that the Departure of the Convoys from Albany will be the ‘certain raising event’ for Australian –wide activities it will become the beginning of an education process that will last for many years as a new generation of young Australians learn more of the sacrifices made by young Australians a century ago.

The venture is a project initiated by the RSL and is supported by the Commonwealth and State Governments and the City of Albany with valued support from Lotterywest and business entitlement throughout the Albany Region and Great Southern Region of Western Australia.

A Message From the CEO / State Secretary

Mr John McCourt
CEO / STATE Secretary
Mr Kevin Trent OAM RFD
Mr Don Blair OAM RFD
Mrs Donna Prytulak
Mr Phillip Draber
Mr Damian Dixon
Mr Phillip Orchard AFNI
Mr Peter Fardon
Mr Ross Davies
Dr Neil MacNeill
Trustees
Mr John Cox OAM JP
Mr Kevin Trent OAM RFD
Mr Wayne Tarr RFD ED
CEO / STATE Secretary
CMRD Phillip Orchard AFNI (Rtd)

STATED EXECUTIVE 2011-2014

State President
Mr William Gaynor OAM RFD
State Vice President
Mr Denis Connelly
State Treasurer
Mr Philip Draber
State Executive
Mr Damian Dixon
Mr Dlawyn “Digger” Cleak OAM
Mrs Donna Prytulak
Mr Gary Scott
Mr Ian Johnstone RFD
Mr John McCourt
Mr Peter Aspinal
Mr Peter Fardon
Mr Ross Davies
Dr Neil MacNeill

The LisTening Pos T October 2009 3

the following information has been passed to all Sub-Branch Presidents & Secretaries:

Since drafting my initial article, post Congress 2011, and providing ‘sirestps’ as information has come to hand I still get asked for intricate detail of my investigation. Legal advice sought at the time considered many allegations to be baseless, whilst those alleging merely technical irregularities were disregarded as inconsequential. Legal opinion could have failed the process conducted may have materially affected the outcome of one or more of the ballots. Accordingly, the State Executive determined that the possibility of an unfair outcome was sufficient for the RSL WA State Branch to seek a declaration from the Supreme Court of Western Australia that the election was invalid and the outcomes were void.

The Executive of the RSL sincerely apologised at the time for these regrettable circumstances and their primary concern was for me to act decisively, transparently and in the interests of procedural fairness for all candidates and Sub-Branches in accordance with the values of the RSL. The process has been lengthy and demanding. The Order from the Supreme Court Registrar directing that the State Congress Election of 26 November 2011 be ‘declared a nullity and of no force or effect’ was recently passed to the WA Electoral Commission. This documentation was forwarded requesting they (WAEC), as an independent body, conduct the election.

A positive response was received and planning/discussion in place with the intention of completing the process no later than 30 December 2012.

It is of note the Order highlighted that all actions taken, resolutions passed, decisions made, powers exercised, functions performed and duties discharged by the State Executive, constituted as a result of the announcement of the outcome of the Election in November shall have the same validity, force and effect as if taken, passed, made, exercised, performed and discharged by a duly elected State Executive pursuant to Rule 33 of the Constitution.

I, in consultation with the Electoral Commissioner and his team, have discussed constitutional requirements, timeframes, documentation preparation and methodology to ensure all legal requirements are met. As a result the Electoral Commissioner has issued the attached letter regarding the process and timing.

It is appreciated that, for some Sub-Branches, the schedule is tight hence this early notification. The WAEC nomination form/template will require that Nominees are:

financial Life/Service member of the League;

the member was nominat-ed at a properly constituted Sub-Branch meeting by two AUTHOURISED office bearers;

and that the form is signed and dated accordingly.

Continued on page 4…

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Mr Kevin Trent OAM RFD
Mr Wayne Tarr RFD ED

CEO / STATE Secretary
CMRD Phillip Orchard AFNI (Rtd)
This Month in Australian Military History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 November</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>First AIF sails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 November</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>No. 77 Squadron RAAF supports 3RAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 November</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>HMAS Sydney [i] destroys SMS Emden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 November</td>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Somme campaign ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 December</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Australia at war with Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 December</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>HMAS Perth under fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>The second convoy of the first AIF departs Albany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment arrives in South Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 January</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>HMAS Tobruk bombards Chomi Do, Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 January</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Full mobilisation ordered in Australia</td>
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</tbody>
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These events are only a selected number of significant dates when Australians were involved in activities of importance. For the complete list go to: www.awm.gov.au

Election Update

Continued from page 3

Letter from WA Electoral Commission

Dear Mr Orchard,

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in the election of the State Executive for the Returned Services League of Australia, Western Australian Branch Incorporated.

I note the order made by Registrar Whitby on 6 July 2012 declaring the election of the State Executive on 26 November 2011 as a nullity and of no force or effect. Accepting that it is the intention of the State Executive to delegate the conduct of the fresh election to the Electoral Commissioner, I consent to conduct the election as required by Rule 33 of the Constitution and in the manner and form described at Annex A. The estimated cost of conducting the election as a postal voting election is $4,300 - $4,500.

While much of the detail at Annex A is procedural, this is considered necessary to give effect to the Court Order and define the limits within which the Electoral Commission will operate and with which the State Executive are agreed. Also I seek assurance that the Electoral Commission will be indemnified by the Returned Services League of Australia, WA Branch Incorporated, in relation to any legal proceedings against the Commission arising out of or relating to the implications of the 2011 election nullification.

Yours sincerely,

Warwick Gately
AM Electoral Commissioner
18 September 2012
Much ill informed and unfounded criticism continues to be circulated about the RSL’s stand on this issue. The President was unable to glean from any of the text of a letter the National President sent recently to one who wrote to him about the topic.

Thank you for your letter in which you expressed your “profound concern at the total failure of the RSL to support the efforts of the ex-service community to keep every person in retirement more than adequately cared for at a cost more relevant to the cost of living than the CPI”.

The reality is that the RSL has been and remains in the vanguard of ex-service efforts aimed at persuading the Commonwealth Parliament to bring about legislation to provide for a better level of indexation of military superannuation payments than is provided by the Consumer Price Index.

We made a formal detailed submission about the indexation of military superannuation payments and since then we have continued to try to persuade Members of the House of Representatives and Senators to support this justifiable proposition.

Prior to the debate in the Senate in June 2011 about the Fair Indexation Bill introduced by the Opposition as a Private Member’s Bill, I lobbied former Senator Xenophon to support the legislation; but despite three meetings with Senator Xenophon it was recorded that he fought a crucial vote. The legislation failed to pass when the vote in the Senate was tied.

I was present in the Senate visitor’s gallery throughout the debate on the Fair Indexation Bill to make the point that the RSL is actively involved at the highest levels. It is worth recording that the lack of visible support by other ex-service organisation national presidents while this crucial matter was being debated was noted by our elected representatives.

I have recently addressed RSL Annual State Congresses in all States and Territories (except WA because that meeting is not scheduled until later in the year), and in each instance have spoken at length to large numbers of RSL delegates about the actions we have taken about this matter and our intention of keeping up the pressure. I have also spoken to Members of the House of Representatives and Senators to support this justifiable proposition.

RSL Priorities for Government to address Veterans’ Affairs Issues

At the recently held National Congress, delegates resolved to list a priority of government for consideration in the forthcoming budget allocations. While 7 items have been listed in priority order, there are other issues that need to be addressed. In the past we have found that there has been due consideration of our listed items and this approach appears to have some input on how priorities are addressed.

Nonetheless all listed items are continually placed before government for funding considerations, however limited funding results in only our priority listed items receiving attention.

Indexation

That the indexation of all components of Military Superannuation under the DFRDB and other Commonwealth superannuation schemes for indexation of payments is based on the SBSR rather than the legislative base of the schemes, is unjust and recommends it be abandoned. The RSL also considers that the findings of the 2008 review of the indexation of DFRDB and other schemes for indexation of payments provide reasonable and valid support for abandonment of the SBSR and that the RSL be permitted to have a say in the indexation of these schemes.

The RSL contends that the nexus between military superannuation schemes and other Commonwealth superannuation schemes for indexation of payments is the single most important consideration of the legislative base of the schemes, is unjust and recommends it be abandoned. The RSL also considers that the findings of the 2008 review of the indexation of DFRDB and other schemes for indexation of payments provide reasonable and valid support for abandonment of the SBSR and that the RSL be permitted to have a say in the indexation of these schemes.

Separate and detailed submissions on these issues have been made to both the Review of Military Superannuation, and the more recent Review of Indexation of Commonwealth Superannuation including DFRDB. The fundamental issue is one of equity for those who have served our nation in our Defence Forces.

BEST Funding

That the Government immediately reinstate funding for BEST Round 15 to the Round 12 appropriation.

Rationale:
The funding for BEST was cut from $4M in Round 12 to $3.5M in Round 13 to $2.6M in the current Round 14. This cut has caused considerable difficulty to RSL Sub-Branch Pension, Welfare Officers and Advocates in assisting Veterans and Serving Members in their applications for Entitlements. In Victoria, some Veteran Centres have been forced to close even though in the BEST Review of 2011 they were highlighted as the model which all ESO’s should aspire to.

Mental Health Disorders and Enduring Disability

That the Government continues to enhance a national mental health rehabilitation scheme for veterans suffering with chronic mental health problems based on individual case assessment and management programs.

Rationale:
The Dunt Report recommended that The ADF and DVA should have joint responsibility for a comprehensive transition service that works closely with the Adult Transition Centres and extends at least 12 months post discharge. The Government has accepted the wide ranging recommendations of the Dunt Report and the Department of Defence will now implement them, committing $83M over the next four years.

The RSL has long believed that there is a need for greater funding being directed towards a national mental health rehabilitation service as ex-service men and women frequently fail to have their ongoing mental health issues managed post discharge (particularly when relocating to rural and remote areas) due to lack of funding and a shortfall in the number of service providers. We are aware that The Australian Government provides funding to States and Territories to assist them to provide free public hospital services for public patients and urge the Government to ensure that this level of funding keeps pace with the rising need for mental health and wellbeing programs for people affected by mental illness or psychiatric disabilities who live in the community.

A report by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) released on 14 July 2006 recognised that “people with mental illness are amongst the most socially disadvantaged and economically marginalised” who require a wide range of services including “stable housing by linking them with personal support services” and “improving referral pathways and links between clinical, accommodation, personal and vocational support programs”. This report has been endorsed by all Australian States and Territories and action plans developed for implementation.

Residential Care-Younger Veterans

That the Government develop a system to ensure access to appropriate accommodation for disabled Veterans (physically and psychologically disabled) requiring 24 hour supported living.

Rationale:
We seek affordable and age appropriate accommodation options for Veterans who are unable to live in the community and are too young to access the Commonwealth funded residential aged care system. Within the ex-service community a small number of Veterans, generally in the 30’s to 50’s age groups, are unable to live in the community or with their families as a result of significant physical, medical or emotional care needs.

Although far from ideal, in cases of extreme physical disability it may be possible for a younger person to be assessed as eligible for admission to a nursing home by an Aged Care Assessment Team. However for younger Veterans this is generally more related to complex psychological symptoms, this is not the case.

Often these younger Veterans experience significant emotional and behavioural disorders related to PTSD which can affect their ability to self-care and make safe decisions, and interfere with interpersonal relationships. Difficulties can be exacerbated by social isolation and loss of contact with family and friends. Although older Veterans who require 24-hour care have access to a range of services specifically designed and funded to meet their needs, Veterans in the younger age groups have very few options when residential care is required.

Veterans’ Aged Care

That the Department of Veterans’ Affairs ensures and monitors that the Special Needs status of Veterans is recognised by States and Territories through the National Veterans’ Care Planning Advisory Committees during the annual advertising and allocation of new aged care places and packages.

Rationale:
This submission is raised to ensure that an appropriate number of new places proportionally representative of the veteran population be allocated as veteran specific and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs monitors and reports this allocation.

Home Respite Care

That the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) increase the allocated hours of respite for veterans requiring ongoing flexible approach to granting of overnight respite as the present arrangements do not permit the Carer to have sufficient time away from the Veteran to be beneficial to the Carer’s wellbeing.

Rationale:
Currently DVA may pay for up to 196 hours of in-home or 28 days residential respite, or a combination of both, in any one financial year. A Carer who needs a planned and reasonable time away from the house bound Veteran is limited to
Field Marshal Sir William

For those of you who have driven around the Swan River, on the Western side of Dalkeith you would have been on a road named after a World War I Commander, Birdwood Parade, and would have noticed streets in the area also named after World War I Victoria Cross recipients.

William Riddell Birdwood was born in India on 13 September 1865 at Kirkee, India and was the second son of Herbert Mills Birdwood, Undersecretary to the Government of Bombay, and Edith Marion Impey, whose father Major E.G. H Impey was the Bombay surgeon with the artillery.

As was the norm for British Foreign Service personal serving overseas, the young Birdwood was dispatched to England for his education. After completing his education at Clifton College he then went to Bristol Military College, Sandhurst.

After being commissioned, Birdwood was posted back to India serving in the North-West Frontier when the Boer War (1899-1902) erupted. Birdwood joined the British Commander Lord Kitchener’s Staff.

Upon returning to India in 1908 Birdwood was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal to the Indian Empire (CIE). In 1911 he was promoted to Major General and, in 1912, Birdwood served as Secretary of the Indian Army. At the outbreak of World War I in November 1914, Lord Kitchener, as Secretary of State for War in the British Government, directed that Birdwood be given command for forces raised by the Australian and New Zealand Government for service in Europe.

21 December 1914 saw Birdwood and staff arriving in Egypt at the same time as Australian and New Zealand troops were setting up camp. Birdwood had completed a repot commissioned by Lord Kitchener concerning the naval attack on the Dardanelles. This report convinced Kitchener, as Secretary of State for War in the British Government, that a more forceful attack on the Peninsula was required. A Mediterranean Expeditionary force was carried under command of Sir Ian Hamilton. Birdwood was by this time a temporary Lieutenant General and was ordered by Hamilton to land north of Gaba lepo on the Aegean side of the Peninsula contrary to that which had been suggested by Birdwood in his report. He was ordered to move inland and cut the supply line to the Serlikirn forces in Southern parts of the Peninsula.

The confusion was aggregated by high ridges, deep gullies, dense low scrub and the strong Turkish Defence. When Sir Ian Hamilton’s staff arrived in Egypt in late March 1915 to plan the military operations at Gallipoli, they brought with them a copy of a 1908 map (scale 1:63,360) of Gallipoli. This map was based on a French survey from 1854, as the British and French had not had access to the area since the Crimean War. In Egypt the map was enlarged to a scale of 1:4,000, over three sheets, which was issued to the officers of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Before the landings at ANZAC Cove and Cape Helles the 1:4,000 maps were supplemented by intelligence acquired through aerial reconnaissance. The first British aircraft reconnaissance was flown over the Gallipoli Peninsula on 28 March 1915, and flights continued, weather permitting, until the landing on 25 April. Officers, who were issued with copies of the maps used this information to correct errors and keep the Turkish positions and defences up to date.

Upon landing at Gallipoli, the officers found that the maps were not adequate for the campaign. Those who tried to use the maps found they had many inaccuracies. A group of New Zealanders attempting to advance from ‘Plague’s Plateau’ to ‘Russell’s Top’ took over an hour to get there because the map showed the two as being joined and the area easy to traverse. In fact they were joined by a thin, almost impassable “razorback”. So they had to detour down through the scrub into Shrapnel Valley, and then back up the valley’s side to Russell’s Top.

The heights given for many of the hills on the 1:40,000 map were wrong. One hill, named “Hill 971” by the British (its Turkish name is Koja Chemen) was reported to be 1,211 degrees out. So even “accurate” calculations for shelling a target, resulted in shells going astray by that amount. By evening the force was organised, Divisional Commanders Bridges and Godfrey urged Birdwood to consider...
Riddell Birdwood GCB GCMG GCVO GBE

re-embarkation; Birdwood refused, but agreed to place these suggestions to Hamilton. Hamilton refused these suggestions and ordered that the men should “dig, dig until they are safe.”

The impression that Birdwood had made on the ANZACs in Egypt deepened during the seven months on the Peninsula when the attackers became a besieged garrison. Daily the short, lean figure of their commander was seen in the front trenches, chatting with the soldiers, noting with a professional eye what the amateurs had overlooked and giving orders for its amendment, sharing the risks but never the water that was offered because he knew that every drop had been carried up from the beach. He neither smoked nor drank any form of alcohol but refreshed himself by swimming daily off ANZAC Cove — the name he gave the landing place — in spite of enemy fire. Birdwood’s serene courage won the admiration of all. His concern for the soldiers and his fighting spirit became important factors in ANZAC morale. Robert Rhodes James stated that his popularity ‘was something of a newspaper myth’ and quoted an unnamed Australian observer: ‘He bored the men and they bored him’. Charles Bean in his book Over There in 1919 confessed that many of the officers who had served with Birdwood at close quarters throughout the war, did not confirm this view; nor did Birdwood’s enthusiastic reception by Australians in London on ANZAC Day 1916, nor his progress around Australia and New Zealand in 1920. Whatever the extent of his popularity, there is no doubt of the respect in which he was held for his courage and his example. In Hamilton’s memorable phrase, he was ‘the soul of ANZAC’.

After Bridges died on the 18 May 1915 Birdwood tempor- torily took command of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and was formally appointed on 14 September 1915. Birdwood was aware of how the Australian soldiers viewed English officers so he appointed Colonel Brindal White from the first Divisional Headquarters as his ‘Chief of Staff.’ This partnership is considered crucial to the development of the AIF.

When the topic of evacuation was discussed in November, Birdwood was the only Senior Officer who opposed it, but his suggestion and ordered that the men should “dig, dig until they are safe.”

Field Marshal Sir William Riddell Birdwood GCB GCMG GCVO GBE died in England in 1951 and was buried with full military honours.

References:
The PAWS staff are on the move. As from early November 2012 the Pension and Welfare officers will be relocated to ANZAC House, 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth. Office hours remain the same Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm. Contact numbers also remain unchanged.

**Assistance with Utility and other 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 Trust Fund**

Another area of assistance available to ex-service members and their dependants is the WA Aged Sailors, Soldiers & Airmen’s Relief Trust Fund. The Trustees meet on the second Tuesday of each month to consider applications for assistance. Financial grants are restricted to those that are genuinely in need and unable to pay for some items or purpose required to preserve the 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.

**HOSPITAL VISITORS LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteer</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
<th>Hospital Visited</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Remah Glencarse &amp; Ms Bernadine De Beau</td>
<td>0447 007 522 As Above</td>
<td>Hollywood Private Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr John Duffy</td>
<td>9401 5815 or 0413780278</td>
<td>Joondalup Hospital, Glengarry Hospital, Osborne Park Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Mike Harvey</td>
<td>9293 1076 or 0419 091 708</td>
<td>Kalumburu Hospital, Armadale Hospital, Bentley Hospital</td>
</tr>
<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>Rev Canon Ken Barrett</td>
<td>9581 2519</td>
<td>Peel Hospital, RSL Care, Mandurah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr John Rankin</td>
<td>0438 264 371</td>
<td>Fremantle Hospital, Alma Street Hospital</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On 15 October we will be releasing the next two decades, the 1940s and 1950s issues of The Listening Post online at [www.rslcentenary.org.au](http://www.rslcentenary.org.au).

During the 1940s and 1950s, the League focused on issues to do with reparation, welfare and the defence of Australia. In terms of the defence of Australia, the RSL in WA joined with the National body in the formation of the volunteer Defence Corps. Sub-Branches across Western Australia recruited Veterans from WWII and those not eligible to serve in WWII and formed a Defence Corps that operated across the State.

The Volunteer Defence Corps was formed under the guidance of Army Headquarters who approved the formation and assisted in training of the Corps. The VDC was designed to improve the fitness of those who volunteered and educate them in the current military methods of defence and was an important element in the defence of Australia. The VDC in Western Australia was under the leadership of Brigadier General A J Bessell Browne. The League ran the Volunteer Defence Corps for a year before the Department of Defence took over the administration.

The RSL in WA during WWII worked with other organisations such as the YMCA and the Red Cross in the running of programmes for the support of those who were serving. Fundraising events were held to raise funds for the YMCA War Appeal and POW fund. Women’s Auxiliaries across the State actively participated in the fundraising for those who served.

1946 marked the largest membership numbers reported for the RSL in Western Australia. Membership was reported as 35,048 with 12 new Sub-Branches opening that year. 1945 membership numbers were quoted at 19,000 which represents a substantial increase for 1946.

Further releases of The Listening Post are scheduled in the upcoming months, it is anticipated that all back issues of the publication will be released by April 2013.
Trip to London June, 2012 - Bomber Command

On Wednesday 20 June 2012 Doug Arrowsmith, John Crago, John Richards and Bill Utting travelled to Sydney to join the other 28 delegates going to London for the Dedication of The Bomber Command Memorial.

A few days were spent in getting jetlag and seeing some of Sydney. T-shirts were added to our clothing of 3 pairs of trousers, 6 white shirts, an inflight travel bag and an Akubra hat. Three of our group appeared on Channel 10’s morning show on Friday and George Lamond and I were on Channel 9’s breakfast show on Saturday. My daughter, Judith, arrived late on Saturday to join with me at the Official Farewell Dinner. We were chosen to be at the Governor General’s table, as well as Bill Utting. I sat next to Her Excellency with Steve Flood on the other side of her. The Minister for Veteran Affairs was also at the main table.

The long trip started on Sunday, 24 June - 7 hours to Singapore then 14 hours to London. We were kept going to get into the new time zone. A bus trip to the Imperial War Museum (could have spent half a day there) followed and then to the banks of the Thames where the Battle of Britain and the Royal Air Force monuments were to be seen.

We had an early wakeup call so that we could be ready to board the bus to Runnymede for the Ceremony at the Air Force Forces Memorial. The Ceremony was very touching - about 8 young Air Force people from Canberra formed the Cenotaph Party. The Memorial has a list of 20,402, which includes 1,396 Australian, men and women of the Air Forces of the Commonwealth who have no known graves. Runnymede is quite some distance from London - out in the country with a view of the Thames a few miles away. Then back to London for a welcome at Australia House - nibbles and drinks the Air Vice Marshall presented a medallion to the Veterans. The day ended when 2 of us decided to have a beer at a close by pub (very small one) for old times sake. The number grew to about 12. The warm bitter beer didn’t bring back memories - maybe because of the difference in age, but then, there was no alternative to a warm, watery beer.

Wednesday, 26 June meant we were off to Duxford, which is quite some distance from London. Duxford was a fighter base and is now a museum for a multitude of aircraft including Lancaster, Concord, Sunderland, American Fortress and a few that are air worthy. Caught the spitfire taking off on camera. The major air show is held there. On arrival back in London, we were taken through many streets to view the sights, such as Big Ben, The Houses of Parliament, and Piccadilly Circus. Trafalgar Square, the Thames which has a tide of 25 feet.

The main day arrived - Thursday, 27 June. To Green Park at 9.30am where we spent cover an hour in an enclosed marquee enjoying light refreshments and then to our allotted seats, which were near the back, but with a good view. The Queen, The Duke, Prince Charles and Camilla and the Duke of Kent attended. The Queen unveiled the statues of the 7 airmen. A flyover by 5 modern aircraft and then the Lancaster which dropped a million light cardboard poppies. Many were collected and brought to the Memorial and handed to us. The Duke of Kent came to our group and spoke a few words to a few of us. The Memorial is magnificent but we could not see it very well, because of the crowd. The day was quite hot. Some Air Force people got a bit sunburnt as they were wearing caps.

Friday, 28 June saw us visit the Air Force Museum at Henden. British, American and German aircraft are on show including the massive Vulcan bomber and the famous “S” Lancaster. A Church Service at St. Clement Danes Church followed. This Church is recognised as the Royal Air Force Church and it dates back to the 14th Century. It missed the great fire of London in 1666, but was then in poor condition. Christopher Wren rebuilt it, but except for the outer walls it was destroyed in the blitz in 1941 and lay abandoned for over a decade. A world wide appeal in 1958 saw it restored and it was consecrated as the Central Church of the Royal Air Force. At the Service I was asked to read the lesson. This was done from the lectern which was donated by the Australian Air Force. The lectern sits over the badge of 460 Sqn. Badges of all Sqds. are inlaid in the floor of the Church. Those who served on 460 Sqn to had a group photo over the badge. The day finished with a special three course dinner at the Naval and Military Club with suitable speeches.

Saturday, 30 June was a long day. First to Hyde Park for short Service at the Australian Memorial, then a short walk to Green Park to get close up photos of The Bomber Command Memorial. Then to the Thames for a relaxing boat trip with lunch. Our Leader, Marj. General Mark Kelly gave a farewell speech with Peter Isaacson responding on behalf of the veterans.

The final briefing was at 3.30 and suddenly it was Sunday, 1 July and farewells, because we were split up for the trip home – some for Sydney etc and others for South and West Australia. Each of us was delivered home at about 2.00am. Great consideration was given by all of the support staff and I doubt if we could have managed the trip without their help.

So ended a wonderful occasion under the leadership of Mark (as he wished us to call him). We were fortunate to be chosen in the Official Party and I am sure we were good representatives.

Doug Arrowsmith
Vietnam Veterans Day Service 2012 - Northam

The Northam RSL Sub-Branch held a service on Sunday 12 August 2012 at 11.00am to honour those service personnel who served and those who had died on service in the Vietnam War.

The service was held in spotty rain at the Northam War Memorial and well attended.

Northam RSL Treasurer and Vietnam Veteran of 2RAR Geoff Scarterfield gave the address and spoke of the lead up to the battle of Long Tan of 18 August 1966 and described the battle and how the vastly outnumbered Australians from D Company, 6RAR overcame the North Vietnamese soldiers and won the battle against overwhelming odds with assistance from ammunition dropped at treetop level by two RAAF helicopters from No 9 Squadron, accurate artillery fire from the 105 Field Battery at Nui Dat base some 5 kilometres away and reinforcements from A Company and later B Company, 6 RAR bought by armoured personnel carriers of 1st APC Squadron.

Wreaths were laid by the Northam RSL, Northam RSL Women's Auxiliary, Vietnam Veterans and the Shire of Northam.

The prayer of Remembrance was read by Mr Ed Freeman-Smith, the bugle was sounded by Mr Luis Lim and the Ode was read by Mr Jim Donovan.

A sausage sizzle was held after the service with members and visitors enjoying the refreshments and comradery, on the day.

Philomena Trevor-Hunt

Mandurah Murray Vietnam Veterans Group Inc Vietnam Veterans' Day 18 August 2012

Mandurah was blessed with a glorious sunny day and approximately 400 veterans and public attended the ceremony which was held at the Mandurah War Memorial.

A large contingent of 5 RAR veterans bolstered the numbers this year. The Saluting Officer was Lt Commander Tracy McKeith from HMAS Stirling. The Navy provided the Cenotaph Party, with the local Cadets joining the Flag Party. The parade was led by the WA Police Pipe Band.

President of the MMVVVG, Mr Lionel Morris, welcomed everyone to the parade. Keynote speaker Mr Bob White gave an interesting address which included reference to the famous Battle of Long Tan which occurred on 18 August 1966. Rev David Oxley said the prayers and bugler Mr Tony Schraven sounded the Last Post, which was followed by the haunting song “Battle of Long Tan”.

The ladies choir “Voices in Harmony” sang during the wreath laying, after which the MC, Mr Dave Bryant invited everyone back to the Mandurah RSL for lunch and fellowship. The Parade Commander, Mr Kevin Booth MM, then dismissed the parade.

Helen Dean

The Broome Sub-Branch held their Vietnam Veterans Day Commemorative Service at Bedford Memorial Park at 1100hrs on Saturday 18 August 2012, where the service was attended by approximately 300 people. Included in these figures were representatives of the Shire, Broome Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Norforce and the Naval Cadets.

Norforce provided the Catafalque Party, whilst the Naval Cadets carried out the flag duties.

Veterans came from far and wide including Manjimup in the South and also the East Coast of Australia.

Following the service approximately 150 people returned to the RSL Club for some snacks and light refreshments, where a good time was had by all.

Rod Hill OAM - Secretary

Vietnam Veterans Day in Mareeba Queensland

Port Kennedy club member Geoff Trevor-Hunt OAM and his wife Philomena enjoyed a pleasant BBQ lunch with Vietnam and Somali veterans at the Vietnam Veterans club house in Darwin. While there he met and chatted with the Liberal candidate for the seat of Nelson in Darwin Judy Cole and her mother Barbara who came over from Brisbane to help her daughter in the upcoming territory election.

Philomena Trevor-Hunt

The Broome RSL Sub-Branch Vietnam Veterans Day

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Philomena Trevor-Hunt

Vietnam Veterans BBQ Darwin

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Philomena Trevor-Hunt
The City of Cockburn RSL conducted a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Service at the RSL Memorial Park and Field of Poppies, Spearwood at 10.30am on Saturday 18 August 2012. The day was picture perfect which saw a crowd in excess of 70 people.

The service commenced with the marchon of the RAN HMAS Stirling Gunnery Catafalque Party. The Acknowledgement of Country was presented by Petty Officer Sam Sheppard, Indigenous Recruitment Officer WA. The welcome and opening was presented by RSL the Sub-Branch President Digger Cleak OAM, this was immediately followed by the Vietnam Veterans address. RAN Vietnam Veteran Digger Cleak OAM spoke on RAN Service and involvement during the war, he was followed by Mr Peter Tinley AM MLA, accompanied by Army Vietnam Veteran Wally Schwartz Mr Peter Tinley spoke on the Australian Army service and involvement during the war. The final speaker was RAAF Vietnam Veteran Lester Leaman who spoke on the RAAF service and involvement during the war.

The Prayer and Blessing was presented by Rev Chaplain Robert Graue RANR, followed by the wreath laying which was led by our three Vietnam Veteran speakers, they were followed by eight invited dignitaries. This was followed by the Mayor's Address by Mayor Logan Howlett JP the RSL Ode to the Fallen was recited by Vietnam Veteran Lawrie Scott.

After the service everyone was invited to the RSL Sub-Branch for a sausage sizzle lunch and drinks, it certainly was a very enjoyable day capped off with great fellowship and RSL Mateship - a day to remember.

Arthur J Stanton
RSL Vice President (Ceremonial)
VIETNAM

We had a small group of 15 Vietnam Veterans this year for the service at 80 Mile Beach.

Our service went off well and everyone that was staying in the park attended. Around 260 people attended the service and we held a "sausage sizzle" evening at the completion of the service and this was well attended also. The owners of the Caravan Park donated prizes for a raffle and Coral & I donated 2 bottles of fortified wine. We also gave away, to 14 lucky site patrons, donated bottles of wine. While the 260 people were busy feeding themselves we had some musicians, who were staying in the park, entertain which was greatly appreciated by everyone in attendance. With the increasing number of Veterans on the road we would like to advise them that the Caravan Park will continue to conduct services related to ANZAC Day and Vietnam Veterans’ Day each year. Anyone wishing to find out more about this can contact Coral & myself by E-mail raycormiles@gmail.com or by phone on 0467571503 or 0427073397.

Ray Miles

80 Mile Beach

Vietnam Veteran’s Day 2012 - City Of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch

Once again, it has been time for the Vietnam Veterans’ Day Commemoration. Due to changes within the Ex-Service organisations in the area, the main Rockingham War Memorial was almost left without a service for the first time in 12 years.

However, the City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch again stepped forward and, after consultation, agreed that it was important for Veterans and the Community as a whole and that this important part of our military history should not be forgotten.

The President, Secretary and Assistant Secretary put together a short service with the help of the Committee. Members of the Committee also acted as MC, flag orderlies and in other roles as deemed necessary, the result being a very successful morning.

This year, the attendance by Veterans, Community and Service Personnel was small but enthusiastic, however as the Service started, members of the public stopped to observe with a great deal of interest also shown by stall holders at the nearby markets.

We again had representatives from HMAS Stirling Cmndr Rudi Overmeyer was guest speaker and Chaplain, Capt Melissa Baker taking the prayers. The Mayor of Rockingham was represented by Deputy Mayor Ms Deb Hamblin.

After the Service, those who attended the Service and a few others returned to the Sub-Branch to socialise and enjoy the good weather that prevailed on the day.

Mark Stevens
Assistant Secretary
City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch
Maltese Australian Wreath Laying Ceremony

This annual event for Maltese – Australians to celebrate Malta’s most important National Day took place at the beautiful King’s Park Memorial site on Sunday 9 September 2012.

The ceremony manifests the pride all Maltese feel about their homeland, and now as Australians their deep love and respect for their adopted country.

Malta has strong, old ties with Australia through events in both World Wars and migration for over 100 years. ANZAC Day is commemorated in Malta and a special Monument dedicated to the ANZACs has now been built.

The RSL organisation’s cooperation and professionalism in conducting this solemn ceremony is very much appreciated by all members of the Maltese Association of WA.

**Judy Pavia** - Maltese Association of WA

Mens Health Peer Education Program

Mens Health Peer Education Program (MHPE) has commenced meeting at the RSL East Victoria Park as of 22 August 2012.

They will meet fortnightly with informative sessions from guest speakers and organisations. The group has been operating from High Wycombe & Forrestfield for some time and is now branching out to assist more people within the community.

The MHPE was established over 10 years ago for War Veterans and Ex-Servicemen and is a national initiative supported by the Australian Government and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. Health is a subject that is often pushed to the back of the queue by men, particularly in the veteran community and this is why it is so important to get men talking about their wellbeing in the same way that most women do.

MHPE and the East Victoria Park RSL Sub-Branch will be holding a sundowner combined with mens’ health care issues during Health Week and has put aside Friday 26 October 2012 for this occasion. MHPE will be organising a guest speaker for the evening.

**Jacquie Liddiard**

Retired Royal Australian Navy Members to Help Primary School in Thailand

Care Leavers Australia Network

Care Leavers Australian Network (CLAN) is a support, advocacy, research and training group for people brought up in care away from their family as state wards or home children raised in Children’s Homes, orphanages, other institutions, or who were placed in “care”.

Many of these people are middle-aged or older but still carry the burden of unsolved issues from the past. CLAN’s aim is to raise community awareness of these issues, and to campaign for government assistance to redress them.

CLAN welcomes everyone who has been affected by the “care” system regardless of your background or heritage - they are here to help.

If you would like to find out more information please have a look at this web site: www.clan.org.au

CLAN is a Network for the whole of Australia, their number is: 1800 008 774

We hold some of our gatherings at ANZAC House having a very delicious lunch in a very lovely relaxed setting enjoying each other’s company. Our group are members of CLAN Western Australia; we are made up of different “homies” brought up in institutions from different States. We are able to come together and discuss and talk about our childhood with no judgment of any kind, as we went through life not mentioning it to anyone. Believe me, it does help to talk to others that have been through the same things and having someone to listen to and believe in what you have gone through. If you would like more information feel free to give CLAN a call on 1800 008 774.

Carolyn Frawley, member
Official Launch:
Royal Australian Engineers Foundation Website

As part of the 110th birthday celebrations for Army’s Corps of Royal Australian Engineers, the Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) Foundation is proud to have officially launched its new website at www.raefoundation.org.au on 1 July 2012.

Created to support the cause of Australia’s past and present Sappers (a term used to describe military engineers), the website is a key part of promoting the Foundation’s message and aims.

“The Sapper community in Australia has a proud tradition of service to our nation,” said (retired) Colonel John Wertheimer, Chairman of the RAE Foundation. “The Foundation seeks to honour that tradition while looking to serve the interests of current and future Sappers and their families.”

The RAE Foundation is a charitable, not-for-profit organisation with five objectives:

- assist with the welfare of RAE personnel and their dependants
- support projects that enhance the image of the RAE Corps
- maintain Australia’s military engineering heritage
- conduct research and produce histories of Australian military engineering
- encourage excellence in military engineering.

“The Royal Australian Engineers have served Australia since 1902, performing tasks such as designing and building roads and bridges, demolishing obstacles and clearing landmines or other explosive hazards,” said John Wertheimer. “In this latter task, particularly in recent deployments to Afghanistan, casualties suffered by RAE personnel have regretfully led to an expanded role for the RAE Foundation. Noting the ethos of our first objective, recent operations have highlighted the need for support such as ours,” he said.

“Our suite of programs includes welfare support programs for soldiers who are injured and the families of those killed while serving. We also work with industry to find employment opportunities for soldiers who can no longer serve, but still have valuable skills for employers. We see this as a hand-up for the soldier, rather than a hand-out,” said John Wertheimer.

“Sappers are a tight-knit community and always have been. The Foundation is one way for those of us who have served to give something back to the Corps, and to those serving soldiers who are writing its history today.”

Media Contact: Major Matt Prior, RAE Communications Manager, RAE Foundation
Tel: (02) 6266 8519 / 0477 319 470 Email: matthew.prior@defence.gov.au

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While we focus on the needs of the Defence community including RSL members, we invite all Australians to join and benefit from our outstanding range of products and services.

Over many years, the close relationship shared with the Returned & Services League of Australia has led ADCU to develop a number of products and services specific to the needs of our RSL sub-branch members.

A range of products designed for our RSL members

- Deeming Access Account – with an interest rate in line with the deeming rates set by the Government each year, the Deeming Access Account helps make it easier to manage your pension and the interest received on your savings.
- DIY Super Saver Account – specifically designed for self-managed superannuation funds, this flexible account provides you with greater control over the investment of your superannuation funds.
- Special Term Deposit rates for RSL members – we offer special high-interest Term Deposits for RSL sub-branch members.
- A complete range of lending products – including home, investment, personal and car loans.
- Low Rate Visa Card offering a low ongoing interest rate, low annual fee, convenient payment options and an interest free period on purchases. Full range of competitive insurance products – ADCU offers a range of insurance products with competitive premiums and easy payment options.

To find out more about our products and services visit www.adcu.com.au, call ADCU on 1300 13 23 28, or drop into your local branch.

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- Full range of competitive insurance products
- A relationship reward program that rewards you for more information enquire in branch, visit www.adcu.com.au or call 1300 13 23 28.

Our condolences go to the BARRINGTON family on the recent passing of our friend & colleague. A member of the Scarborough Sub-Branch since 1989, State Executive for many years and the State War Memorial Warden for 2008. Ken passed away peacefully in Hollywood Private Hospital in the early hours of 10 Oct. Husband of Melita, father of Vicki, Kenneth, Bruce and Christopher and grandfather to 15 grandchildren. He will be sorely missed by the RSL community. Ken had a distinguished Army career.

6 Dec 33 – 10 Oct 12

Vale Kenneth Victor Barrington

6 Dec 33 – 10 Oct 12
The essential mobility scooter buying guide

After plenty of thinking and talking with family and friends, you’ve decided the time is right to invest in a mobility scooter. So, where do you start in choosing a scooter that is best for your needs?

Your choice really comes down to where you want to use your scooter, the distances you want to travel on your scooter and matching you size to the size and performance capabilities of the scooter. For example, if you plan to spend a lot of time going on longer trips then you will need a completely different scooter from someone who plans to only use their scooter in their home and zipping down to the local shops at the end of the street.

Damian Ryan, a Senior Healthcare Consultant from Bluesky Healthcare has provided some answers to questions for you to think about and how their answers might affect your scooter choice:

Indoor or outdoor?
If you mainly want to use your scooter within your home and within a shopping centre then size, turning circle and manoeuvrability will be the top priorities. A compact 4-wheel model might be the best choice for you.

If you intend to do a lot of outdoor travel including over varied terrain such as uneven footpaths, gravel, grassed areas and hills, then a larger 4-wheel model will provide more power and reliability.

If you will be covering rough terrain or suffer from back pain then a scooter with shock absorbers and suspension will be what you need to safely cope with uneven terrain and provide a more comfortable ride.

If you live in a very hilly area or if you are a bigger person then a scooter with a 4 pole motor is a must to ensure the delivery of the extra power you will need and to prevent the motor from overheating and short term burn out.

How fast and how far?
You can’t get too carried away here; scooter drivers do need to stick to a maximum speed of 10 km/h on footpaths, shared paths and roads. But if you need to navigate steep hills or travel longer distances, then you will generally want a scooter with a more powerful motor and a larger battery capacity. Be sure to ask how many kilometres you will get out of each battery charge and how long the battery will take to charge.

If you will mainly be taking shorter trips to the local shops and visiting neighbours, you may be happy with a model with a lower maximum speed and a shorter battery life.

Night-time?
If you plan to be out and about on your scooter any time after the street lights go on, then the scooter must have front and rear lights and indicators.

How heavy?
What kind of weight will your scooter need to carry? This is known as the scooter’s ‘load capacity’. If you are a larger person, you will need a more robust, heavy-duty model.

What’s the next step?
After thinking about when, where and how you want to use your scooter, the next step is talking to someone who will assess your needs and help you decide exactly which scooter is best suited to you. Make sure that you trial the scooter at your own home where you will use it every day not in or around a retail shop you will never ride the scooter.
In May 1962 the Australian Government announced the commitment of a group of Australian Army Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned officers to be employed with the Army Republic of South Vietnam (ARVN) initially in training roles. This unit was called the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) and was generally referred to as ‘The Team’. It deployed on 31 July 1962, the first Australian Military Unit to serve in South Vietnam and served for ten years, four months and eighteen days - the longest continuous operational service of any Australian unit in South Vietnam.

Initially deployed to the northern provinces of South Vietnam over the ten years its members served in all four Military Regions of South Vietnam from the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) in the North, to the Central Highlands and to the Mekong Delta in the South. Members of the Team worked in pairs or in small teams as advisors, commanders and trainers in ARVN Infantry and Armoured Regimental, Battalion, Company and Platoon units as well as training and commanding Montagnards in Mobile Strike Forces (MSF). Other members were involved in such diverse units like, Province Reconnaissance Units (PRU), Mobile Advisory Training Teams (MATT), Night Operation Advisory Teams (NOAT), Village Defence Advisory Teams (VDAT), Regional and Popular Forces (RF/PF) and in 1970 some members of the Team were involved training Cambodian Army units. The AATTV was withdrawn from South Vietnam on 18 December 1972 and taken off the Order of Battle of the Australian Army in 1973. The Team was both elite and unique with its members being specially selected. It was small and for its size, one of the most highly decorated units in the Australian Army and just because of its name it is unlikely ever to be raised again.

The strength of the Team initially of 30 members in 1962 increased to 83 in 1964, 100 in 1965 and 227 in 1970. Over the 10 years 992 Australians and 10 members of the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment served with the Team. During its service 33 members were killed in action (KIA) and 122 were wounded in action (WIA), four individual members were awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) for Valour and other members received 109 individual Imperial awards, 338 United States awards, 376 Republic of South Vietnam awards and 45 Cambodian awards. The AATTV as a unit was awarded the United States Army Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Citation.

The Former members of AATTV assembled at the spiritual home of the Team at the former Jungle Training Centre, Canungra Queensland, for the 50th Anniversary of the Australian Government’s commitment to the Vietnam War.

The Memorial Service was conducted at The ‘Can Nha Co Van Uc Doi Loi’ Home of the Australian Advisor, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam on Saturday, 28 July 2012.
Army Training Team in Vietnam War

Advisor, and was officially unveiled and dedicated in 1996, it is a small Asian style building which has the names of all who served in the Team engraved on the inside wall, with the unit badge and motto in the centre. A head and shoulder bust of the first Commanding Officer of the Team, Colonel FP (Ted) Serong DSO OBE is at the entrance to the Can Nha. The building is simple in design and it is where visitors can spend time in peaceful reflection.

Although the AATTV never served in Australia, Canungra Jungle Training Centre is where all members posted to AATTV attended a special course to train and assess their suitability for service in AATTV.

The Memorial Grove consists of rows of rainforest hardwood trees representing each member of the Team, a ‘Row of Memory’ in honour of the Team members KIA and a special row to honour the four members of the Team who were awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) for Valour.

The Memorial Service to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam was conducted with the support of the Army Band Enoggera, Padre Brenton Fry and 126th Army Cadet Unit who provided the ‘Catafalque Party’ and ‘Held Ground’. The Welcome Address was given by Colonel Darryl Groves Commander Land Warfare Centre; the Commemorative Address was given by Major General John Hartley AO (Retd) National President of AATTV Association. Wreaths were laid by Major General Michael Jeffery AC AO (Mil) CVO MC (Retd) National Patron of AATTV Association, General David Hurley AC DSC Chief of the Defence Force, Sergeant Major Chris Ninkovich United States Army, Lieutenant Colonel Joe Dowrick New Zealand Army, Mr De Le National Vice President Army of the Republic Vietnam Association, Ms Alison Stanley Deputy Commissioner Department of Veterans’ Affairs and Mr John Smith OAM, President of Queensland Vietnam Veterans’ Association and Family and Friends of the Team. Mr Peter Conway AATTV Association Queensland read The Roll of Honour of our fallen mates and Mr Keith Payne VC OAM recited the Ode. The Master of Ceremonies was Colonel Kerry Gallagher AM (Retd).

At the completion of the Memorial Service 183 former Team Members, their families and Guests were catered for to a picnic luncheon under the Trees where we once trained for operational service in South Vietnam many years before. The passage of time has thinned the ranks taking into consideration that many of the members were veterans of the campaigns of WW2, Korean War, Malayan Emergency and Confrontation in Borneo. That evening the 50th Anniversary Team Dinner was held at the Brisbane Convention Centre for 477 guests, family and members of the Team.

Gary Sutherland
Memorial Service Conducted on Saturday 28 July 2012 Canungra.
Mr Russ Ewin, aged 93, former Australian POW Officer, one of the last two Officers and total of four Sandakan POWs still alive. Russ tested out the only working replica of the ‘secret radio’ built in the Sandakan Mile POW Camp. The item was constructed by a local Merredin radio buff, John Tuppen, as close to actual radio specifications, through information given by Lt Rod Wells, one of the surviving officers who assisted in the construction in 1943.

Life sized depiction of the Death Marches painted by Mrs Non Meston, daughter of WA POW Pte Alec CADGWAN, who died on the second march in June 1945.
We must face this test with fortitude and fight grimly and unflinchingly
– John Curtin, Prime Minister 1941 - 1945

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Your order is protected by our satisfaction guarantee. If you are not completely delighted with your purchase, return it for a full refund. Shipping and handling is not included in these prices.
Sub-Branch News

City of Cockburn RSL - Korean War Veterans' Memorial Service

The City of Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch conducted a Korean War Veterans’ Memorial Service on Friday 27 July 2012 at the Memorial Hall, Hamilton Hill.

The service opened with the march on of the RAN. The RAN, HMAS Warramunga, Catalquate Party, and then Sub-Branch President Digger Cleak OAM acknowledged and welcomed all in attendance. The opening was followed by the Acknowledgement of Country, presented by Petty Officer Sam Sheppard, Indigenous Recruitment Officer WA and followed by an Indigenous Spirit Dance performed by members of the HALO Group.

The Korean War Defence Address was given by Commander Michael Turner, Commanding Officer, HMAS Warramunga, about RAN service during the Korean War. It was interesting to note that HMAS Warramunga 1 served in Korea waters during the War. He was followed by Brigadier Stephen Cain, Australian Army Headquarters, who spoke on Australian Army service during the Korean War. The final defence address was from Wing Commander Turner. Mr Arthur Stanton read out details of the awards, much to the surprise of all, the awards were then presented by RSL WA State President Mr Bill Gaynor OAM and RSL Sub-Branch President Digger Cleak OAM.

After the service approximately eighty people returned to the Sub-Branch for a light lunch and refreshments. We received a lot of accolades for our first Korean War Veterans Memorial Service.

Arthur J Stanton
RSL Vice President (Ceremonial)

Pinjarra - Induction to Legacy

Barbara Hartney was inducted into Perth Legacy at the Pinjarra RSL Sub-Branch on Friday, 3 August 2012 by Perth Legacy President John Sargeant in the presence of fellow RSL Members. Fifteen members from Legacy were made welcome at the Pinjarra RSL for the induction of Barbara into the Perth Legacy Organisation. Barbara is a member of the Pinjarra Sub-Branch and serves on the RSL Committee and a member of the Women’s Auxiliary.

Sue O’Donnell

 Esperance RSL Sub-Branch

Borneo Exhibition Group Inc (BEG) WA, 6 to 26 August 2012

Our Sub-Branch in conjunction with BEG presented in the Local Cannery Art Gallery the acclaimed WW2 exhibition, Borneo 1942–45, Sandakan. Also shown were “The Honor Rolls” of the 2,485 Australian and British POW’s who died on the ‘Death Marches’.

Local soldier Tom Starcevich won his Victoria Cross during this period. Two of our Sub-Branch members, Joe Rose and Brian Clayton, laid a wreath at the base of a replica Memorial of ‘Gunner’ Cleary who died after being beaten and abused for 11 days by his Japanese captors for trying to escape.

Our thanks to the organisers of this exhibition Ryan Rowland, City of Perth; and Reece Chatillon, President Narrogin RSL Sub-Branches.

Riverton RSL Sub-Branch

Inaugural Vietnam Dinner

72 Sub-Branch members and friends sat down to a 5-course dinner on 18th August. Special guests were Mr Bill Gaynor State RSL President; Dennis Jenson MP and Thanh Van Nguyen, President Republic of Vietnam Veterans Association.

The highlight of the evening was the roasting display of music from the WA Swan Regiment Drum Corps and Pipes. It was first class entertainment from school age Army Cadets led by Captain Peter Jones OAM. Riverton RSL President Bill Collidge spoke of the importance and responsibility that the Sub-Branch has to resume its standards and values in providing the ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day and now a Vietnam dinner. He later presented a donation for the Cadets.

Dr Tony Thatcher
Capt (AAC) Vincent Bond and Mr Te Ha of the Republic of Vietnam Veterans Association.

Information Day at the Northam Memorial Hall

On 14 July Donna Prytulak held an information day for the Sub-Branches in her region at the Northam Memorial Hall. Most Sub-Branches were represented which showed that something like this is needed in the country regions.

Before the day started, RSL State President, Mr Gaynor presented Tammin Sub-Branch a copy of their Charter which Lorraine Packmen accepted on behalf of the Sub-Branch. She said that she very honoured to able to accept the copy as the original had disappeared several years ago.

The day was well supported by Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) with Roger Bowler, Assistant Director Veterans Access Network, giving a presentation of different aspects of DVA and giving the Sub-Branches information regarding DVA’s new MyAccount service online. This was very informative and Roger hoped that the Sub-Branches could go back and tell their members about this new service. The website is www.myaccount.dva.gov.au, take a look.

Also present on the day were RSL President Bill Gaynor, Vice President Denis Connelly and CEO/State Secretary Philip Orchard. Each gentleman gave a brief outlook to the RSL WA, the future of the RSL, membership, The Listening Post, Veteran Affairs, the 100 year Commemoration Services in Albany and although the Avon Region most Sub-Branches have their own important part in the lead up to 2015. Getting youth involved with the RSL was agreed to be a part of the future.

After some questions and more discussion the group enjoyed a warm hearty country meal supplied by the Northam Retired Citizen’s Association. RSL Sub-Branch Women’s Auxiliary headed by Mrs Grecian Withnell with help from Jodie Prytulak.

All agreed it was a worthy day and are all looking forward to next year.

Donna Prytulak

Inaugural Vietnam Dinner

City of Cockburn RSL - Korean War Veterans' Memorial Service

Riverton RSL Sub-Branch

Information Day at the Northam Memorial Hall

Sub-Branch News

City of Cockburn RSL - Korean War Veterans' Memorial Service

The City of Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch conducted a Korean War Veterans’ Memorial Service on Friday 27 July 2012 at the Memorial Hall, Hamilton Hill.

The service opened with the march on of the RAN. The RAN, HMAS Warramunga, Catalquate Party, and then Sub-Branch President Digger Cleak OAM acknowledged and welcomed all in attendance. The opening was followed by the Acknowledgement of Country, presented by Petty Officer Sam Sheppard, Indigenous Recruitment Officer WA and followed by an Indigenous Spirit Dance performed by members of the HALO Group.

The Korean War Defence Address was given by Commander Michael Turner, Commanding Officer, HMAS Warramunga, about RAN service during the Korean War. It was interesting to note that HMAS Warramunga 1 served in Korea waters during the War. He was followed by Brigadier Stephen Cain, Australian Army Headquarters, who spoke on Australian Army service during the Korean War. The final defence address was from Wing Commander Turner. Mr Arthur Stanton read out details of the awards, much to the surprise of all, the awards were then presented by RSL WA State President Mr Bill Gaynor OAM and RSL Sub-Branch President Digger Cleak OAM.

After the service approximately eighty people returned to the Sub-Branch for a light lunch and refreshments. We received a lot of accolades for our first Korean War Veterans Memorial Service.

Arthur J Stanton
RSL Vice President (Ceremonial)

Pinjarra - Induction to Legacy

Barbara Hartney was inducted into Perth Legacy at the Pinjarra RSL Sub-Branch on Friday, 3 August 2012 by Perth Legacy President John Sargeant in the presence of fellow RSL Members. Fifteen members from Legacy were made welcome at the Pinjarra RSL for the induction of Barbara into the Perth Legacy Organisation. Barbara is a member of the Pinjarra Sub-Branch and serves on the RSL Committee and a member of the Women’s Auxiliary.

Sue O’Donnell

 Espersen RSL Sub-Branch

Borneo Exhibition Group Inc (BEG) WA, 6 to 26 August 2012

Our Sub-Branch in conjunction with BEG presented in the Local Cannery Art Gallery the acclaimed WW2 exhibition, Borneo 1942–45, Sandakan. Also shown were “The Honor Rolls” of the 2,485 Australian and British POW’s who died on the ‘Death Marches’.

Local soldier Tom Starcevich won his Victoria Cross during this period. Two of our Sub-Branch members, Joe Rose and Brian Clayton, laid a wreath at the base of a replica Memorial of ‘Gunner’ Cleary who died after being beaten and abused for 11 days by his Japanese captors for trying to escape.

Our thanks to the organisers of this exhibition Ryan Rowland, City of Perth; and Reece Chatillon, President Narrogin RSL Sub-Branches.

Riverton RSL Sub-Branch

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Donna Prytulak
Highgate's "Birthday Boys' Bash" 2012

State RSL President Bill Gaynor paid tribute to the Serpentine-Jarrahdale RSL Sub Branch last month at a housewarming for its South Western Highway op shop and headquarters.

Mr Gaynor, a former Mundijong resident and teacher, said it was a milestone the group now had the keys and ownership of the building it had been renting for several years.

“The Serpentine Jarrahdale RSL has been rolling along since 1995 and in it we have a Sub-Branch that has been building to get itself together, find itself a home and fund a portion of that home,” he said.

“I am sure from here it will grow as a gathering place for not only veterans but also for community members.”

Members of the Greenham family, who sold the house to the RSL, were at the housewarming.

Pam and Ron Greenham built the house almost 60 years ago.

“Years of wonderful memories included five children and 12 grandchildren,” Barry Greenham said.

“Through all this Pam’s chocolate cake and Ron’s barbecues were at the heart of hundreds of family gatherings. “They would both be so proud this house is now a focal point in Byford as the base for the RSL.”

Serpentine Jarrahdale RSL president Ric Giblett was pleased the State RSL now had the title deeds to the building.

“It has secured the tenure in the shire which has been very tenuous,” he said.

“We didn’t know where we would go, we had no home but we were continuously looking and we initiated that ourselves.”

“It is satisfying to know that generations, should they want to take up the cause of helping others in the shire, have a base from which to work.”

Mr Giblett said the Serpentine Jarrahdale Sub-Branch did not restrict itself to helping ex-service people and in the last three years had donated more than $10,000 to schools and community groups within the shire.

“State RSL President, Bill Gaynor, Vietnam Veteran, Colin Jobling, RSL State Executive, Doug Carpenter Pictured (left to right): Darling Range Snr Vice President, Wayne Loughrey, Vietnam Veteran, Bill Gibberd, RSL State President, Bill Gaynor, Vietnam Veteran, Colin Jobling, Sub Branch Secretary, Doug Carpenter

Darling Range held its AGM on Friday, 29 September and was delighted to have the State President of the Western Australian RSL Branch, Bill Gaynor, as their guest for the AGM and the following monthly meeting.

Mr Gaynor took the chair for the election of the office bearers and the Past President, Frederick Smith was re-elected, as were Wayne Loughrey as Snr Vice President, Keith Stitt as Jnr Vice President, Doug Carpenter as Secretary/ Membership Officer, Christina Esschert as Treasurer and Peter Cowley as Chaplain and Welfare Officer. Wardens and Committee members were also elected or re-elected.

Mr Gaynor discussed the plans for the Serpentine Jarrahdale RSL Sub Branch, Mr Gaynor said that it had been before the executive of the State RSL and it was found through a search of RSL WA archives that the Sub Branch was originally called the Kalamunda RSL Sub Branch. It was decided to put this to the next meeting to further discuss the option to change the Sub Branch name back to Kalamunda which would give the Sub Branch a local identity and align itself more to the local shire area and State electorate.

Margot Harness. Wayne Loughrey, Snr Vice President, thanked Mr Gaynor for his attendance and presenting a future outlook for the Sub Branch.

By Robyn Molloy
* Reproduced with the permission of Examiner Newspapers editor Robyn Molloy.

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Cottesloe RSL Sub-Branch presents the 2012 Frederick Bell VC Memorial Lecture at Cottesloe War Memorial Hall and Civic Centre 109 Broome St Cottesloe.

Friday 9 November 6pm for a 6.30 start. Admission Free Donations appreciated

RSVP for catering by Friday 2 November to Secretary Neville Green 93045182, email: marnev18@y7mail.com

Speaker Profile: Rob O’Connor

Rob O’Connor QC is a retired barrister (with a current practising certificate). He is a Fellow of CPA Australia and graduated with Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) from the Australian National University ANU, Canberra. He was an officer of the Australian Taxation Office in Perth and Canterbury for 15 years, and then practised as a lawyer in Perth for 32 years, including 25 years at Francis Burt Chambers specialising in Commonwealth and State taxation, 20 years of which were as a Queen’s Counsel.

He is a past State President of CPA Australia; past National Councillor, past State Chairman and an Honorary Life Member of the Tax Institute; past member of the Tax Agents Board of WA; past Deputy Chairman of the Government House Foundation; past member of the Board of the Constitutional Centre of WA; past member of the Board of the WACA; past President of the Rotary Club of Dalkeith; and past convener of the UK study grants committee of the Australia-Britain Society.

He is currently a member of the Legal Practice Board; the Board of the South Perth Hospital; the management committees of the Friends of Battye Library, the Nelson Society of Australia and the WA Explorers Diaries Project; the State Records Advisory Committee; WACA Honorary Legal Counsel; historical societies; an Officer of the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem; and various community bodies. He is an affiliate member of Cottesloe RSL Sub-Branch and of the Military History Society of WA.

His interest in McCarthy VC arose from the fact that he also was born at York and was baptised in the same York church as McCarthy, and the lack of general knowledge in WA of McCarthy and his brave deeds. He has been researching McCarthy for the past two years.

About U. Lawrence Dominic McCarthy VC, C De G

York-born World War I hero Lt. Lawrence Dominic McCarthy was awarded the Victoria Cross, two Croix de Guerre (one avec palme), was mentioned in despatches twice, and was wound twice. His fellow-soldiers and the British Press described his VC as a “Super VC” and Australia’s official war correspondent Charles Bean paid this accolade: an achievement which, next to that of Lt. Jacka at Pozieres, was perhaps the most effective feat of individual fighting in the history of the AIF.”

However, even in his home State of Western Australia, very few people are aware of McCarthy’s brave deeds.

McCarthy was born in York in 1892. His mother died aged 28, fours days before his 4th birthday and McCarthy and his two elder brothers were immediately placed in a Subiaco orphanage and in 1901 were among the first 82 boys at the new Clontarf Boys’ Town. McCarthy remained at Clontarf until just before his 14th birthday.

After jobs as a farm apprentice and timber mill contractor (at Mt Helena) where McCarthy lost some fingers in a mill accident, McCarthy enlisted in the AIF at age 22 in September 1914. He trained at Blackboy Hill WA and Broadmeadows Victoria. He sailed as a member of the 16th Battalion from Melbourne in December 1914, and left Australia from Albany on New Year’s Eve 1914.

After a few months in Egypt, McCarthy was one of the ANZACs who landed at Gallipoli on the first ANZAC Day. Apart from a period in England recuperating after being wounded, McCarthy was at Gallipoli from the first day until the last day (the evacuation on 20 December).

He served in France and was again wounded and convalesced in England.

For his bravery at Beaumont at France, McCarthy was awarded the Croix de Guerre avec palme. On 23 August 1918 McCarthy was awarded a Victoria Cross and a second Croix de Guerre for his extraordinary gallantry and valour at Madame Wood near Vermandovillers, France.

Single-handedly, McCarthy killed 20 Germans and captured 5 machine guns, 50 prisoners and 700 yards of German trench.

After the war, McCarthy married Englishwoman Florence (“Polly”) Minnie Norville in England. They sailed separately to WA and lived in Perth. McCarthy became a prominent citizen of Perth, was pre-select ed to contest a seat in the WA Parliament, needed further hospitalisation for his war-caused injuries, was employed by the RSL, and in controversial circumstances had to resign from the RSL State Executive, was dismissed as an RSL employee, and had to face an expulsion motion from the RSL.

Unemployed, in 1927 McCarthy with his wife and young son moved permanently to Melbourne where McCarthy became a commercial traveller and later a city building caretaker. Sadly, their son Lawrence junior was killed on active service in Bougainville shortly after the end of World War II in 1945.

Some of McCarthy’s WA relatives caught up with him on trips to Melbourne, and McCarthy made some visits back to Perth to see his brothers and their families; he also visited Clontarf on these visits and was a big hit when he addressed the boys there. He and Polly went to England in 1956 to attend celebrations commemorating the centenary of the Victoria Cross, and to Gallipoli in 1965 on the 50th anniversary of the ANZAC Day landing.

McCarthy died at age 83 in 1975 in Melbourne. Polly lived on until 1999 when she died at the grand old age of 103 years, 10 months.

At the time of Lawrence Junior’s death in 1945, he was engaged to Nancy, who some years later married another man Jan Bastiaan. Nancy and Jan had a son named Ross in 1951. Ross and McCarthy became close friends. McCarthy arranged Ross’s enrolment at Wesley College, Melbourne (where Lawrence junior had attended), generously assisted in paying Ross’s college fees and instilled in Ross a strong and lasting knowledge and interest in Australian war history. Dr Ross Bastiaan is now a leading Melbourne periodontist, has been Deputy Chairman of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra since 2003, was guide to Prime Minister John Howard on his trip to Gallipoli and the Somme in 2000 and guide to the Victorian Premier’s trip to the war sites in Singapore and Japan in 2006, and has created 200 sculptures and plaques which have been erected at places around the world where McCarthy and Australian troops have been engaged in combat, for which Ross has been made a Member of the Order of Australia.

Rob O’Connor’s address will also discuss the personal side of McCarthy and what motivated him to perform his incredible acts of gallantry and valour. At the end of the address, you should have a much greater knowledge of the life of McCarthy VC.
Members Dine-In Night 2012 City Of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch

The City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch held its Annual Members Dine-In Night on Saturday 28 July 2012. Attending were State President, Mr Bill Gaynor OAM RDF and Mrs Joan Gaynor, President of the Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch Mr Robert Gillimore and Mrs Deborah Gillimore, Commanding Officer of the 59 Naval Cadet Unit Mr Mark Stevens, representing the Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch Hon. Gary AO, OIC TS ANZAC Naval Cadet Unit Lt. Ray Cron and Mrs Michelle Cron, representing the 59 Army Cadet Unit were Capt. Michael and Mrs Deborah Richards with Councillor Allan Hill and Mrs Teresa Hill representing the City of Rockingham Council.

As the guests arrived, there was a photo shoot followed by lively conversation prior to the Dinner while guests mingled and conversed with each other. The student band from Comet Bay College had already struck up the music and the night was off in full swing.

After the guests were all seat, the Club Manager, Mr Barry Cole said Grace and the Naval Cadets from the TS ANZAC Naval Cadet Unit served the first course. As the evening progressed and the Dinner was over, the formal part of the evening commenced with Life Member Mr Robert Gilmour presenting the Toast to the RSL. Mr Mark Stevens took the Loyal Toast to Members and Company, with Mr Bob Cooper toastng absent friends.

In his address, Capt. Wolski spoke of the close ties between the Sub-Branch and HMAS Stirling. Future expansion of HMAS Stirling was touched on as well as the new residential units being completed on the base for single personnel. Capt. Wolski announced that he had received a promotion and would be going to Canberra with the warmer weather and his time in Rockingham being missed. He also spoke at some length regarding the important role that women were playing in the modern Navy. He then announced that the new Commanding Officer of HMAS Stirling would be Capt. Angela Bond who would be taking up her new position in January 2013. One for the ladies!!!

The inclusion of our young people at required events is always a pleasure. The Naval Cadets fulfilling their role with the serving of the Dinner and the students from Comet Bay College, with their band and wonderful vocal soloists, truly inspiring;

The new team in the kitchen, Mr Frank Weber and Mrs Sue Kent, delighted everyone with the beautiful fine dining meal, finishing it off with cheese and fruit platters, tea and coffee. This bought to a close another very successful Dine-In Night.

Wendy Gray Honorary Secretary
City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch

Mr Gaynor presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr Fred Abbott in recognition of his outstanding service to the Sub Branch and general community over many years.

Col Gibson - Vice President
Dawesville Sub-Branch

Riverton – Golf Day

Bill Gaynor presenting Fred Abbott his Certificate

The Sub-Branch conducted its annual dinner on 1 September.

Guests at the dinner included Brigadier Steve Coggin CSC Commander 13th Brigade, Mr Bill Gaynor OAM RDF, President of the RSL WA Branch and their wives Kerryn and Joan. Representing the Mayor of Mandurah was Cr Rhys Williams and partner Monique.

Brigadier Coggin gave a very enlightening overview of current policies and future projections of our Defence Forces, specifically the role the Army involvement in its integration with the regular Army.

Photograph L-R: Neil Coates, Danny Savage, Ray Pearce, Brendan Mitchell, Crucken Baill, Peter Owa, Chief Saunders and Tony Thatcher

Riverton RSL Sub-Branch Golf Club entered two teams for this years inaugural RSL Sub-Branch Golf tournament.

Both teams proved that age and teaching can out do youth and skill, however we failed to outplay those older and wiser than us. Soundly defeated, we, the Riverton Sub-Branch, (i.e. Brett ’Chief’ Saunders) have taken on the challenge to be the 2013 organisers. Chief has promised a polished after game speech. The challenge was played under different rules where 6 holes were secretly selected then the best scores taken.

Light refreshments were constantly served but many players had difficulty standing (it must have been the wind?)

The most important consideration was that a bunch of old diggers, pussers and the light blue brigade got together to laugh and enjoy fellowship. Two old pussers met after signing on 40 years ago. Secret Harbour was the venue, however this author warns all golfers to take extra golf balls, a GPS and a hip flask.

Tony Thatcher

Letters of Condolences

Our most recent losses, all described as ‘highly respected and outstanding soldiers’ took the number of those killed in Afghanistan to 38. On behalf of RSL WA HQ and the West Australian membership the State President has dispatched letters of condolence via Defence to their Next of Kin (NOK).

As with SGT Baddams, the CEO will liaise with the NOK for LCPL MacDonald and Sapper Martin regarding their State War Memorial inscriptions. Subject to the NOK wishes this will be completed by ANZAC Day 2013.

Philip Orchard

"Peace and quiet" boosts memories

All of the important fragments of our memories that should be sought and preserved somehow just disappear. Now researchers have discovered all it takes is a person to ignite the memory is to simply sit and close their eyes for a few minutes.

In an article published in the journal Psychological Science, a publication of the Association for Psychological Science, psychologist Dr Michael Durcak and colleagues show memory can be boosted by taking a brief ‘wakeful rest’ after learning something verbally.

Dr Dewar explains that growing evidence to suggest the point at which we experience new information is “just at a very early stage of memory formation and further neural processes have to occur after this stage for us to be able to remember this information at a later point in time.”

Reproduced from the Aged Care Guide

Dr Dewar and her colleagues show memory of the Association for Psychological Science, a publication the computer.

"Indeed our work demonstrates activity of new memories is not completed within seconds," Dr Dewar says.

“Ordinarily we hold that memories can be boosted by taking a brief ‘wakeful rest’ after learning something verbally. The task was chosen because it required participants to focus on subtle differences in each pair and point to them.”

When participants played the spot-the-difference game on the computer, they were given a 10-minute delay that consisted either of wakeful resting or playing a spot-the-difference game on the computer.

Reproduced from the Aged Care Guide

In one study, the participants were asked to recall both stories half an hour later and then a week later. Participants recalled much more story material when the 33 normally ageing adults between the ages of 61 and 87 were told two short stories and asked to remember as many details as possible. Immediately afterward, they were asked to describe what happened in the story and then they were given a 10-minute delay that consisted either of wakeful resting or playing a spot-the-difference game on the computer.
In September, 13 North Beach RSL members joined with volunteers at the Legacy Maintenance Week at the Camp in Busselton, part of the “Holy Mile”.

Volunteers “turned to” each day to complete a range of tasks including pressure cleaning paths and walkways, moving, removing deadfall, trimming trees, removal of rubbish and rubble, cleaning out sheds, erecting shelves, washing bedding and sorting out the workshop. Others groups formed up a number of areas and laid concrete as cement trucks arrived with donations from the local batching plant. Another task was relocating wildlife, a possum, disturbed during the day in the workshop took his revenge at 3 in the morning dancing over the accommodation block roof.

Our tradesmen supplied power and hot running water to accommodation areas and renewed fittings as required to comply with council requirements.

The YV Forum is to be used throughout the year by groups of War Widows, ex-service organisations and in the New Year the Annual Legacy Children’s Camp accommodates Legacy wards from WA and Interstate. These children are dependants of Australian Defence Force personnel who have lost their lives in service of their country. Last year 80 children spent two weeks at the camp.

Rob Sweet – Secretary - North Beach RSL Sub-Branch

Young Veterans’ Forum

The Young Veterans Forum (YV) Forum is to provide a consultative forum that can effectively address issues raised by current serving members of the Australian Defence Forces (ADF) and ex-Defence Force Members, post 1975, who have recently separated from the Armed Forces.

The YV Forum’s function is to liaise, through the body of the League, with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) on tangible matters raised concerning post 1975 service personnel and their families. The Forum has an open door arrangement that is made possible through the generosity and ongoing support of the Deputy Commissioner of DVA NSW/ACT Ms Jennifer Collins.

The relationship forged with DVA has led to forum members being involved in several fact-finding, review panels and other similar functions.

The YV Forum does not work in isolation, nor is it another breakaway Ex-Service Organisation. We are endorsed and supported by the NSW State Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia.

The Forum is a great representation of regimental social associations is also encouraged.

The best examples of Sub-Branches with real practical applications runs on the board with younger members are South Lake Macquarie and North Bondi. Recently, I spoke with North Bondi on what they did and what works for them.

In the last 60 days, North Bondi has had 131 serving members join their Sub-Branch. Currently their membership stands at 285 and expected to be approximately 500 strong by the end of the year.

The RSL needs to change targeting to meet today’s serving members, such as why should I join the League when I am “old”, how can I get involved and what I can do?

I am very much involved and hold a position on the Committee of my Sub-Branch having previously held an Executive position at another. My young family is supportive in my RSL commitments.

North Beach Legacy Camp Busselton, Maintenance Week 17-21 September 2012

North Beach Legacy Camp Busselton, maintenance week 17-21 September 2012, is a great representation of the Returned & Services League of Australia.

Formed in 2009 and meeting at least four times a year, the purpose of the Young Veterans (YV) Forum is to provide a consultative forum that can effectively address issues raised by current serving members of the Australian Defence Forces (ADF) and ex-Defence Force Members, post 1975, who have recently separated from the Armed Forces.

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Reunions/Services

2nd Intake Junior Recruit Training HMAS Leeuwin 1961
First Ever Reunion
To be held in the Shellharbour area NSW about 110 km south of Sydney.
Approximate date is yet to be confirmed, assume Feb/March 2014.
To register your interest and for further details contact Dave Turner davkat@bigpond.net.au or (02) 9520 2810

106 Field Workshop RAEME Nui Doi SVN
An Australian wide reunion will be held for all past members (all ranks, all Corps) and their partners in Mandurah WA on the weekend of 19-21 October 2012. A number of events have been organised. Please contact Fred on 0438 001 420 or go to www.106fdwkp.com for details.

Artillery
The Committee of the Royal Australian Artillery Association (WA) Inc would like to invite all Gunners past and present, their families and other interested parties to attend our annual Gunners’ Day march and service at St Matthew’s Anglican Church, Stirling Square, Guildford on Sunday, 4 November 2012.
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 sounding 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 1pm, 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 Blyleven on 0438 695 715 or the Vice-President, Peter Mahoney on 0400 408 285.

HMAS Leeuwin 42nd Intake Reunion
There will be a 40th Reunion of the 42nd Intake from 8-10 February 2013 in Canberra.
Visit http://42ndintake.homestead.com/ or for more information contact Don Hogarth via don_hogarth@hotmail.com or 0438 641 043.

HMAS Voyager
The During Class Destroyer HMAS Voyager was commissioned into the RAN in February 1957. She was lost following a collision with HMAS Melbourne in February 1964 with the loss of 82 lives - there were 232 survivors.
During her 7 years in service, between 1200 & 1400 men served in her data base is being compiled of former crew for the purpose of reunions. Please send your name and details to the webmaster, Les Sheohar, 9 Bunya Park Drive, Eatons Hill, QLD 4037 (07) 32462589 or lns@iinet.net.au

HM S Ganges Association
The WA Division would like to extend a welcome to ex Ganges boys and ships company to join the Division. We meet regularly on the 4th Thursday of the odd month at the Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle.
The HMG Ganges Association exists merely to encourage links, maintain comradeship between shipmates and keep the “Ganges Spirit” alive.
If you wish to know more about membership please contact.
The secretary Ian Critchley on 9419 3437.

Korean War Veterans Memorial Reunion Australia, Canberra
ACT
19 - 21 October 2012 sees the gathering of Veterans’, family and friends for the annual commemorative service and functions. For information packs and bookings please contact
Ms Wendy Karam on 0418 124 677 or email: wendykaram@yahoo.com.au

RAN - HMAS Leeuwin 8th Intake (January 1964) Reunion
23 to 26 April 2014, Wollongong NSW
All replies direct to either of the following:
Bob Green – (02) 4283 5201 – E: robertmgreen@optus.net.au or Rick Watkins – (02) 4256 2620 – E: rick_w2@bigpond.com

Naval Association – Geraldton
The Naval Association of Australia wishes to form a sub-section in Geraldton and welcome expressions of interest from serving and ex-serving members of the Navy who would like to join the Association.
Telephone (08) 9409 1014 or email jack.lecrae@ozemail.com.au

Naval Engineering Reunion 2012 Canberra
All serving, retired and civilian members of the Naval Engineering Branch are cordially invited to attend the Naval Engineering Reunion 2012 which will be held on Friday 9 November 2012.
Venue: Tuggeranong Valley Rugby Union & Amateur Sports Club, Ricardo Street, Wanniassa, ACT, 2905 Time: 1730 to 1200
Cost: $45.00 per head (Includes drinks & finger food) payment prior to the event / $50.00 per head at the door.
Bookings can be made by contacting one of the committee members listed below. The preferred method of payment is EFT, cheque or cash.
EFT Details - BSB 802 397 - Account 681137 - Account Name – Naval Engineering Reunion - Important - Please Enter Your Name in the comment or note section. Payment is requested by no later than Friday 2 November 2012.
Glenn Murch Ph: (02) 6261 1675 - Alan Freemantle Ph: 0418 297 860 - Neil Garvin Ph: 0423 025 114 - Lyn Jensen Ph: 0434 416 876 - Garry Smeep Ph: 02 6201 7915 - Email: RAN.Naval.Engineering.Reunion@gmail.com

DON’T MISS OUT
BOOK NOW

Naval Reunion
The 12th Annual Reunion of the First Frigate Flotilla (1946-1956), HMAS Condamine, HMAS Culgoa, HMAS Melbourne, HMAS Shoultzen will be held in Canberra 2 -5 November 2012. All ex-crew members plus their relatives and friends are invited to attend.
For further information please contact George Franki: (02) 9955 9444; 9/Waverton Avenue, Waverton 2060; gfranki@ymail.com

Partners of Veterans Association Western Australia Inc
Partners of Veterans Association Western Australia Inc held their Annual General Meeting in Bassendean on Monday 5 September. The Committee was re-elected unanimously. Congratulations to all.
There will be an outing on Wednesday 10 October at Coventry Markets Morley. Please meet at the main Walter Road entrance at the ‘chesterfield chairs’ at 10.30am. Please contact Kerryn on 9228 3350 or at partnersofveterans@bigpond.com for further information.
We will of course again be at Bruce Rock for the Back to the Bush Reunion on 1 to 4 November. Call along and join us at The Club at 1.30pm for afternoon tea. All partners are invited to join us.
We will be holding our end of year Lunch at Hogsbreath Cafe, Lake Street, Northbridge on Monday 3 December 2012 at 11.30. For further information please contact.
Kerryn on 9228 3350 or at partnersofveterans@bigpond.com

RAN - Gunny Branch Reunion
24 to 26 April 2013, Hobart Tasmania

Remembrance Day Service - Applecross
The Applecross RSL Sub-Branch will conduct a Remembrance Day Service at the City of Melville Memorial, Melville Civic Square, adjacent to the library at 11am on Sunday 11 November 2012.
Members of Ex-Service, Unit and Kindred associations and also members of the general public are invited to attend and to lay a floral tribute should they wish. Those participating are requested to assemble by 10.50am.
Enquiries may be made on 9330 1586.
Helen Pickering

Royal Australian Corps of Signals Association (SA)
RASigs National Reunion – Barossa Valley SA – 25-28 October 2013
The President and Members of the RASigs Association (SA) request the pleasure of your company for the 2013 RASigs National Reunion.
Register your interest at http://www.rasigs.com/

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS
The Listening Post relies on support from advertisers who contribute to our newspaper. It is important that when you are using their services or shopping for goods, you mention that you are responding to an advertisement in this newspaper. Then advertisers' then know that their advertisements are working and will continue their support of the RSL in this way.
It makes sense, doesn’t it?
So please remember to tell the person you are dealing with
"I saw your advertisement in "The Listening Post"
### Notices

**AVCAT Scholarships and Bursaries**
The Australian Veterans’ Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) is a national independent charity helping the children and grandchildren of ex-service men and women to a better future through higher education. Through the help of generous donors, AVCAT administers scholarships for the children of those who have served our country in peace and war in the Australian Army, Navy and Air Force. Scholarship selection is on a need and merit basis. Recipients come from all over Australia and study an enormous variety of courses. Over the years AVCAT has had doctors, psychiatrists and engineers, teachers, scientists, meteorologists, ballet dancers, circus performers, creative writers, film makers – the list goes on. Students attend universities, TAFE colleges and other approved tertiary institutions around Australia. The Australian Veterans’ Children Assistance Trust is an independent organization sponsored by the principal Australian ex-service associations. It was established in 2003 by the former Vietnam Veterans Trust, as a lasting legacy from Australia’s use of the Agent Orange Funds. Applications are now open and close on 31 October 2012. All applications should be received by this date. For more information you can visit the website: www.avcat.org.au

**Phone:** (02) 9213 7999,  
**Fax:** (02) 9213 7307;  
**Email:** avcat@dva.gov.au  
**Address:** PO Box K 978, Haymarket, NSW 1240

**RAAF Welfare Recreational Company (RWRC)**
The RWRC provides low cost holiday facilities in Queensland on the Gold Coast, at Merimbula on the far South Coast of NSW and in Darwin. While these facilities are predominantly for current serving members, our ex-service personnel may also access these facilities on an availability basis. Our website www.rwrfholidays.com.au has all our details, including those of the Winter Special which has just been launched. The website also has links to other available holiday facilities.

**RAN Minor War Vessels Association (RAN MWVA)**
Calling all serving and Ex-Serving Navy personnel who served on ‘sweepers, patrol boats and LCHs. I would like your feedback as to becoming part of this Association - RAN Minor War Vessels. This is more so with the work and conditions that patrol boats are now doing with the influx of illegal boat people whilst serving on Border Protection, and being used a “taxi service”. Having served on minesweepers 1965-66 and patrol boats 1968-70, believe me, they are not luxury cruises and to those serving now, they should be given all the help we can.

If anyone who has served on either or you know of anyone who has, let them know and if you could let me know of your expression of interest etc. Please contact Allan Moffat OAM at email address: shortym@optusnet.com.au.

**Western Australia Branch of The Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc.**
Invites you to a Forum For Carers, Partners, War Widows And Families Of Veterans that is being hosted by Western Australia Senator, Michaelia Cash.

**Venue:** McLarty Hall, Cnr of McCarty and Watts Roads, Shoalwater. Time: 2.30pm for a 3.00pm start. When: Tuesday 26 October 2012.

Present to answer your cares and concerns about what is important to you will be Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, Shadow Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Senator Michaelia Cash, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for the Status of Women.

Those wishing to attend need to confirm their attendance to: Jonathan Heron on 9226 2000 or via e-mail to jonathan.heron@aph.gov.au by Wednesday 24 October 2012. This event is being held during the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Week.

Lesley Westlake - WA PVA Inc - 1300 553 835 - www.pva.org.au

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### Christmas Card Competition

RSL State Branch is looking for old photographs to use on our Christmas Cards that show the activities Sub-Branches have participated in over the past 96 years, or Christmas during times of conflict. Entries are required by 14 November 2012 and will be attributed to you or your Sub-Branch. Previous examples of Christmas cards are:

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### Can you help?

**Brass Plaque**

This brass plaque was found in Oro Province, Papua New Guinea by a local land owner who said that his land was a former Australian airport during World War II. He had found this brass plaque buried on his land. It is about 14 cm long and 10.5 cm high and weighs about 735 grams and is 8ml thick.

I am trying to find out what machinery this was used on and weighs about 735 grams and is 8ml thick. It is about 14 cm long and 10.5 cm high and weighs about 735 grams and is 8ml thick. I had found this brass plaque buried on his land. It is about 14 cm long and 10.5 cm high and weighs about 735 grams and is 8ml thick. I am trying to find out what machinery this was used on.

**L/Cpl Ian Bullock**

I am looking for L/Cpl Ian Bullock 1Fld Sqn 3 TP. We served in SVN70/71. I would like to get in touch. Last known address 6/8-12 Wood St Inglewood WA 1972.

Robert Clare - clarecastle18@bigpond.com.
Almonds can help treat type 2 diabetes

A recent scientific study shows that incorporating almonds into your diet can help treat and possibly prevent type 2 diabetes, as well as cardiovascular disease.

The study, published in the Journal of the American College of Nutrition and one of the first of its kind to quantify prevention data, illustrates that consuming a diet rich in almonds may help improve insulin sensitivity and decrease LDL-cholesterol levels in those with pre-diabetes.

From Aged Care Guide
Healthy ways to cook meals

Whether you’re cooking at home, eating out or ordering takeout, it’s not just what and how much you eat but also how the food is prepared that counts. Here below are the leastest cooking methods.

Healthiest cooking methods
Roasting: Keep fat to a minimum and boost flavour by pouring wine, fruit juice, or even tea over fish, pumpkin or potatoes before baking.

Barbecuing: Use soy sauce, fruit juice, wine, honey or other low-fat marinades to baste meat or fish instead of oil or butter when barbecuing.

Grilling: Let the fat drip off your meat. Avoid oil-based marinades. Try wrapping seasoned food in foil packets so it steams in its own juices and stays moist as it cooks.

Microwaving: This quick cooking method preserves the flavours and essential nutrients contained in vegetables and fruit.

Poaching: Poach in stock, wine or fruit juice and season the poaching liquid with your favourite herbs—for even more flavour. This is the tastiest and leastest way to cook fish, chicken or fruit desserts. It’s the healthiest way to cook eggs, too.

Pressure-cooking: Ideal for beans, grains, soups, dried vegetables and stews. Chill soups after cooking, then skim the fat away.

Baking: Brings out a tasty or caramel flavour in vegetables and grains. Use a rack to let fat run off, meat, chicken or fish.

Sautée: Prepare your food without adding fat by substituting a bit of water, wine or stock for oil.

Steaming: Use a steamer basket to prevent nutrients from leaching into the water.

Other healthy cooking methods
Bolting: You’ll certainly trim the kilojoules with this cooking method, but remember that you’ll also lose some valuable water-soluble nutrients, especially if the food is chopped before boiling. Try boiling whole potatoes in their skins, or even carrots—any of your favourite vegetables.

Stir-frying: Use this quick cooking method to seal in the flavour of vegetables, toff, meats or chicken. Minimise fat by using a little bit of water or stock instead of oil.

Readers Digest

Film

Media inquiries: Minister Snowdon: Lidija Ivanovski 02 6277 7829 or 0407 108 935 Department of Veterans’ Affairs Media: 02 6289 6203.

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

We will remember them. Lest we forget.
A poor immune system can contribute to many diseases and conditions – particularly in later life. So, how do you safeguard yourself from ill-health and boost your immunity? The Sydney Morning Herald reports a number of foods can boost immunity and help the body heal with any challenges it may face.

**Boost immunity with these foods**

A poor immune system can contribute to many diseases and conditions – particularly in later life. So, how do you safeguard yourself from ill-health and boost your immunity? The Sydney Morning Herald reports a number of foods can boost immunity and help the body heal with any challenges it may face.

**Go nuts!**

Almonds, cashews and walnuts are packed with Vitamin E, an antioxidant that helps rid the body of free-radicals, while creating antibodies that fight the bacteria that often makes you sick.

**Add a little bitterness to your life**

Eating citrus fruits such as grapefruits, lemons, limes and tangerines may help you fight infection. But, if that sour taste does not tickle your tastebuds, then try consuming capsicums which taste does not tickle your tastebuds, but are high in Vitamin C and works to support a healthy immune system. Prawns build immunity

Prawns are low in fat – but the good news does not end there. Prawns also contain the antioxidant selenium, which is a mineral needed in small amounts and works to support a healthy immune system.

**Reproduced from the Aged Care Guide – DPS News**

**Great Southern Railway Indian Pacific**

Members of Greenbushes Sub-Branch with Philip Orchard, RSL WA, presenting Annmaree Stallard with her prize Congratulations to Annmaree Stallard of Greenbushes Sub-Branch who won the Great Southern Railway (GSR) Indian Pacific gold ticket for two. Annmaree is a Silver Chain nurse in the Greenbushes area and has been a member since 1989. Well done Annmaree & enjoy your trip. GSR is currently liaising with colleagues in South Australia regarding a similar draw next year in an effort to increase national membership.

**United and Kindred Listing**

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**Listed and Kindred Names**

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A Sappers’ War
How the legendary Aussie Tunnel Rats fought the VietCong
By Jimmy Thomson with Sandy MacGregor
Published by Allen & Unwin

Overview:
"We make and we break."
They were the forward scouts, the mine sweepers, the bridge builders and the tunnellers. They were frequently not just on the front line, but right at the sharp end of the action. They were the legendary Aussie sappers, the army engineers, who were literally everywhere in the fighting against the Vietcong.

This special breed of soldier lived hard and played hard. They were there at the beginning of the war. They were also among the last to leave. And along the way, they fought with their mates in infantry and tanks to bear the brunt of the Vietcong’s revenge.

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To the rest of the world, Vietnam was a conflict of ideologies. On the ground it was a battle of wills and the sappers were at the forefront. This is their story.

About the Author:
Jimmy Thomson is a journalist, author and screenwriter whose credits include the ABC-TV series Rain Shadow. He is the author of Snitch, Tunnel Rats and Watt.

A graduate of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, as a young captain Sandy MacGregor commanded 3 Field Troop in Vietnam, where he won the Military Cross. He served in the Army for 30 years, finishing as a colonel in the Reserves.

(Australias own Band of Brothers)
Beaten Down by Blood
The Battle of Mont St Quentin-Peronne 1918
By Michele Bomford
Published by Big Sky Publishing

Overview:
"Australia's own Band of Brothers"
Beaten Down by Blood: The Battle of Mont St Quentin-Peronne 1918 charts an extraordinary journey from the trenches facing Mont St Quentin on 31 August 1918 through the frenetic phases of the battle until the final objectives are taken on 5 September. This is the story, often told in the words of the men themselves, of the capture of the "unattackable" Mont and the "invincible" fortress town of Péronne, two of the great feats of Australian forces in the First World War.

The Author places real men on the battlefield, describing their fears and their courage and their often violent deaths. The struggle for control of the battle, to site the guns, to bridge the Somme and maintain communications are portrayed in vivid detail. The story also offers a glimpse of the men’s families at home, their anxiety and their life-long grief.

This work provides a carefully articulated context, describing the ground over which the battle was fought and examining the corps and the ingredients which made it "socially and structurally homogenous”. An overview of infantry firepower, tactics, training and discipline demonstrates that there was more to the Australian soldier than daring and dash. Likewise, the Australians’ German opponent, while numerically weaker and haphazardly thrown into the line, is portrayed as a worthy adversary—a determined and tenacious opponent.

Beaten Down by Blood explores the relationship between myth and history and the significance of the ANZAC legend. It analyses the forces that drove the diggers forward even when they had reached the limits of their endurance. The Battle of Mont St Quentin-Peronne represents the Australian Corps at its very best, its diggers fighting for peace and satisfied that, 'what ever might lie ahead, at least everything was right behind them'.

About the Author:
Michele Bomford holds a Masters Degree in History and a Diploma in Education from the University of Sydney. She was a History teacher for many years before turning to research and writing at the end of 2008. The Battle of Mont St Quentin-Peronne 1918 follows her first book, Beaten Down by Blood: The Battle of Mont St Quentin-Peronne 1918, the research for which was supported by an Australian Army History Unit Grant in 2009. As well as her passion for Australia’s role in the First World War, she is interested in 19th and early-20th century Australian History and Family History.

Battle Scarred
The 47th Battalion in the First World War
By Craig Deayton
Published by Big Sky Publishing

Overview:
"Australia’s own Band of Brothers"
One of the shortest lived and most battle hardened of the 1st Australian Imperial Force’s battalions, the 47th was formed in Egypt in 1916 and disbanded two years later having suffered one of the highest casualty rates of any Australian unit. Their story is remarkable for many reasons.

Doggded by command and discipline troubles and bled white by the desperate attrition battles of 1916 and 1917, they fought on against a determined and skilful enemy in battles where the fortunes of war seemed stacked against them at every turn. Not only did they have the misfortune to be called into some of the A.I.F.’s most costly campaigns, chance often found them in the worst places within those battles.

Though their story is one of almost unreleived tragedy, it is also story of remarkable courage, endurance and heroism. It is the story of the 1st A.I.F. itself – punished, beaten, sometimes reviled for their indiscipline, they fought on – fewer, leaner and harder – until final victory was won. And at its end, in an extraordinary gesture of mateship, the remnants of the 47th Battalion reunited. Having been scattered to other units after their disbandment, the survivors gathered in Belgium for one last photo together. Only 73 remained.

About the Author:
Craig Deayton is a History teacher with a special interest in Australia’s military history. He has worked as a teacher and College Principal for over twenty-five years and is currently Principal of Sacred Heart College in Hobart. Craig holds a Bachelor’s degree in History and a Masters degree in Education. This is his first book. Craig lives in Hobart with his wife Tracey and children Patrick, Dominic, Michael and Ann.
Francis Birtles was a man like no other. His motto in life was ‘chance it’. And he did... many times, in many ways. As a bushman, cyclist, motorist, soldier, sailor, photographer, author and movie maker, he was one of Australia’s greatest adventurers and one of our most daring rogues.

By the time he was nineteen he’d sailed around the world twice. Fought in a war. Been shot at and almost burned to death. In the early 20th century, picking his way along non-existent tracks, he cycled around Australia battling everything from dehydration and starvation to venomous snakes and climatic extremes. And then he did it again.

In the late 1920s, he became the first person to drive a motor car overland from London to Melbourne. On the journey he was strafed by an RAF plane in the Middle East and outwitted the head hunters of the Naga Hills in Burma. Cutting vehicle access through jungles and hauling the car up mountain passes, the world said it was impossible, but he had a go anyway. He arrived back in Australia to a hero’s welcome.

Francis Birtles’ whole life was remarkable. Boy’s Own Adventure. This inspiring and captivating biography captures his never say die spirit and stories of derring-do, showing us nothing is impossible.

Overview:
We make and we break.

Francis Birtles has been an editorial cartoonist since 1986. He is currently cartoonist for Sydney’s Daily Telegraph, for which he also writes a weekly motoring column.

In 1995, as part of the Federal Government’s Australia Remembers commemorative program, he co-conceived and implemented ‘Back to the Track’, a pilgrimage for WWII veterans commemorating the building of the Stirling Highway between Alice Springs and Darwin, involving a troop train and a convoy of 100 WWII vehicles.

In May 2005, Brown participated in a recreation of the 1907 Peking to Paris race using five 100 year old cars. He also presented a four part documentary series about the event.

Brown is a keen motoring enthusiast. He owns several vintage vehicles including a 1929 Dennis fire engine. The pièce de résistance of his collection, however, is the Bean 14 – exactly the same model in which Francis Birtles drove overland from London to Melbourne, and smashed the Darwin to Melbourne interstate speed record.

Too Much Food, Too Little Balance

My Story

1. Where did you spend your years prior to joining the Armed Services?
Educated in Sydney’s eastern Suburbs.

Surfing at Bondi and Maroubra.

Became a Navy Cadet aged 11.

2. Why did you join the Armed Services?
Natural progression from Cadet.

3. What Armed Service did you join and what is the reason for this choice?
Joined RAN aged 17 direct from Cadets. Sailors don’t have to work or run around.

Fleet reserve as instructor to cadets.

4. What was your most memorable event in the Service?
Selected to “chopper” duties for visits of H.R.H Prince Phillip Royal visits 1956.

5. How do you see the future of the RSL?
Positive, as long as RSL’s continues to assist serving ex-members, families, schools and local communities.
Hollywood has been serving our Veterans for over 70 years.