Australia Day 2013

Obituary
Len Phenna MBE JP
State President 1975-1980

story on page 23

story on page 3
Volunteers Wanted

If you have any family members, friends etc that are willing to volunteer their time to assist on ANZAC Day please ask them to contact ANZAC House on 9287 3701 for details and information.

Contact Directory

Deadline for next edition: 22 March 2013
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@rslwahq.org.au

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This Month in Australian Military History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>3rd Battalion, Royal</td>
<td>Operation Rugged involved United Nations forces crossing the 38th Parallel and occupying strong defensive positions formed by a line of hills codenamed the Kansas Line and including Hills Salmon, Cod and Sardine, 45 kilometres north of Seoul.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 April</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Repatriation Department</td>
<td>Once soldiers were demobilised all tasks aimed at their rehabilitation and return to civilian life became the responsibility of the Repatriation Department.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 April</td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>First battle of Bullecourt,</td>
<td>The 4th Australian Division and 62nd British Division attempted to penetrate the Hindenburg Line at Bullecourt where they were unsuccessfully supported by tanks. Over 1,000 Australians became Prisoners of War, the largest number in a single action in the First World War. 3,000 became casualties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 May</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>26th Brigade, 9th Division AIF,</td>
<td>General MacArthur instructed Lieutenant General Sir Leslie Morshede, commander of I Corps, to seize and hold Tarakan Island and destroy the enemy forces there. The Netherlands East Indies Government was to be (re-established), Tarakan's oil producing capacity was to be conserved and the island's airfields put into use. The operation was codenamed Oboe 1, and the invasion began on 1 May 1945. Within five days the town and airstrip had been secured.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 May</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>General W.T. Bridges</td>
<td>Bridges commander of the First Division, AIF, died on 18 May while being taken to Egypt for treatment. His body was returned to Australia and buried overlooking the Royal Military College, Duntroon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 May</td>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Lieutenant F.W. Bell, VC</td>
<td>Lieutenant F W Bell, 6th West Australian Mounted Infantry, of Perth, Western Australia, awarded the Victoria Cross at Brakpan, South Africa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-20 May</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Lance Corporal A. Jacka, VC</td>
<td>Lance Corporal A Jacka, 14th Battalion, originally of Winchelsea, Victoria, awarded the Victoria Cross at Courtney's Post, Gallipoli. Jacka's was the first VC to be awarded to an Australian in the First World War. He also went on to be awarded the Military Cross and Bar as a commissioner officer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 May</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>HMAS Sydney's first voyage to</td>
<td>HMAS Sydney departs on first voyage to Vietnam with 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, embarked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 May</td>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Boer War ends</td>
<td>Boers surrender, ending the Boer War. Over 16,000 Australians served in South Africa, nearly of whom 600 died.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As State President Len presided over the League during a tumultuous time. He saw the RSL through the sale of ANZAC House and the subsequent move to temporary quarters at Sherwood Court. In 1973 Len was appointed a JP and in 1975 was made a Life Member of the RSL. He was also made a Life Member of the Korea South East Asia Forces Association.

In June 1977 Len was awarded Her Majesty The Queen’s Silver Jubilee Medal for services to the veteran community and in the same year was made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) also for services to the veteran community. In recognition of his long and distinguished service Len was appointed as the Honourary National Vice-President of the RSL in 1966. A lifetime appointment.

Len proudly served his Nation during time of war and conflict. He served the RSL for many years with equal pride and commitment. He leaves a proud legacy for his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Len will be sadly missed by the RSL and his family.

Rest in Peace Len.
Lest We Forget.

Graham Edwards AM
President RSL WA

Obituary

Len Phenna MBE JP
State President 1975-1980

Len was born in Lambeth, England on 17 November 1923. He came to Australia at the age of nine and arrived in Fremantle on the Jervis Bay in May of 1932. Len was educated at Fairbridge Farm School in Pinjarra where he recounted they worked hard but were treated fairly.

He enlisted in the AIF in 1941 at the age of 18 and saw active service in the Middle East and closer to home in New Guinea during WWII. Len was discharged in 1945 and married his love of his life, Patty May Young in 1945. Len and Patty had five children who gave them 11 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

After some years as a member of the WA Fire Brigade Board Len re-enlisted in 1951 and saw active service in the Korean War and also saw service in the Malaya emergency during 1957 discharging in 1966. Len first joined the RSL in Queensland in 1943 and transferred his membership to WA when he returned here in 1957. In 1965 Len was elected to State Executive. In 1967 he was elected as Junior Vice president and Senior Vice President in 1968. In 1975 Len was elected to the position of State President.

As State President Len presided over the League during a tumultuous time. He saw the RSL through the sale of ANZAC House and the subsequent move to temporary quarters at Sherwood Court. In 1973 Len was appointed a JP and in 1975 was made a Life Member of the RSL. He was also made a Life Member of the Korea South East Asia Forces Association.

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Rest in Peace Len.
Lest We Forget.

Graham Edwards AM
President RSL WA
It is three months since the election and I am now slowly getting a grip on various issues.

I seek change in how we conduct our business within State Branch and how we consult, involve and inform our branches and members of our State Executive decisions. I want our activities to be fully accountable, transparent, financially prudent and ensure that we operate to the highest possible standards of governance, integrity and credibility. Collectively we do an immense amount of volunteer work in the ex-service and broader community. We are made up of men and women of all walks of life, from different eras, wars and conflicts and while we reflect the Australian community and as a whole we also fulfill, on Australia’s behalf, a tremendous role in the commemoration of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice and do that well.

We are approaching a once in a hundred year opportunity to honour our ANZACS. This is not only an honour, it is a fundamental responsibility and duty of the RSL.

To assist our branches, I will be writing to all Sub-Branch Presidents to encourage them to start work, if they have not already, on plans to commemorate the Centenary of ANZAC and to encourage them to start work, if they have not already, on plans for the Interpretation Centre in Albany in February and high on the order of business will be the need to make a decision on the location of the Centre. Time is of the essence and if crucial decisions are not taken and taken soon I fear we will miss the deadline for the construction of the Centre which needs to be in place by 1 November 2014.

I wish to acknowledge the excellent efforts of the Albany Alliance representatives, competently chaired by Peter Aspinall and with great support from RSL colleagues David Knox & Laurie Fraser. They have invested countless hours in planning for this Centre and it is important that the Implementation Group is now able to capitalise on their efforts. To fail to do so will be to squander a large part of our ANZAC heritage.

My other priorities include a re-write of our Constitution. I have established a small group to begin rewriting our Constitution. I understand a time-frame was previously put in place to have this completed by Congress this year. This is not my time frame and I am not being held to it. More importantly, I think, is the need to get the rewrite done correctly and with full discussion and consultation with our membership. This will take time and I also see the need for a discussion paper to be circulated. I regret there is no documentation available on work already completed in relation to this task and that means we start from scratch. Wayne Tarr, Trustee, will chair the group which will include Dr Ken Michael AC, the former State Governor and RSL Patron.

Other issues include the future of Mandurah RSL which has until 2014 to find new premises following the sale of RSL assets to The RSL WA Retirement and Aged Care Association Incorporated (RACA). The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at Mandurah RSL. I will also take this opportunity to meet with surrounding Sub-Branch representatives. I intend to visit Bunbury and Margaret River shortly and hold regional discussions with our membership in those areas. Planning is underway for regional and metropolitan visits in the near future. I hope, in this way, we can cover the whole State in the remainder of the year and ensure the proper level of consultation with and from sub-branches is underway.

I recently met with the National RSL President, REAR ADM Ken Doolan AO RAN (Rtd) and his Deputy, Mr Don Rowe OAM who is the NSW President. They presented me with a paper addressing the future of the RSL and expressed a strong view to have this paper dealt with on a National basis. I have circulated this paper to members of State Executive and will discuss the content with them at our next State Executive meeting in March. I also intend to fully discuss these papers with Sub-Branch Presidents when we meet in a few weeks’ time.

Of continuing concern is the number of Sub-Branches, in mainly country and regional areas, which are battling for numbers. This puts incredible pressure on existing members, many of who are in advanced years and have already done their part for the RSL in keeping the Spirit of ANZAC alive. Some say they will hang on until the Centenary of ANZAC, but the question remains as to where we go from there? For that reason membership retention, renewal and recruitment are paramount. We do need to bring new members in but we also need to look after our existing and older members.

The future must, of course, involve a good working relationship with other ESOs who play an important role in the veteran community and with whom we must seek positive working relationships.

I look forward to the year unfolding and do so in the belief that with the support of our Sub-Branches so we may address our challenges with confidence. We are entering a challenging but exciting time as we plan for and approach the Centenary of ANZAC.

We owe it to past generations of Veterans to get it right and keep faith with them. We owe it to Veterans and current serving members of the ADF to secure the future during this time so that we meet our responsibilities to them and to the legacy of RSLWA.

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**From the Presidents Pen!!**

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**Navy Bereavement Pin**

The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) has commissioned a Bereavement Pin to recognize the valued contribution of all Navy personnel who lost their lives while in the service of the RAN, and the nation.

The Navy Bereavement Pin (NBP) is a distinctive 20mm gold lapel pin which has the crest of the Royal Australian Navy encompassed by wreath ‘supporters’.

The NBP has been developed to meet an expressed wish by many families, who have lost a close family member while they served in the Navy, to have a tangible yet discrete momento of the service of their loved one. The NBP is a symbol that can assist family members to commemorate the life and service of a relative who was lost while serving in the Navy.

To date, over two thousand NBPs have been provided to descendants and family members of Navy personnel. Of note, Navy Bereavement Pins have been issued to family members of some of the earliest RAN wartime casualties which occurred during World War One, as well as to the families of Navy personnel who have died in service more recently.

It is the Chief of Navy’s wish that, by prominently wearing the NBP, or having it as a special keepsake, the Pin will assist relative to remember proudly a family member who lost their life while serving in the RAN.

**Eligibility**

Criteria for a family member to receive the NBP are:

- a) the passing of the Sailor or Officer occurred while they were a member of the Royal Australian Navy;
- b) the applicant, and any other persons included in the nomination, is/are related to that Sailor or Officer.

All family members of Royal Australian Navy personnel who died while serving in the Navy, since Federation, during war or peace, on active service, or even off-duty, are eligible to receive the NBP. Eligibility extends beyond immediate family and may include members of an extended family.

**Nominations**

If you are related to a person who passed away while serving in the RAN and wish to apply for the Navy Bereavement Pin, the application form and other information is included on the Royal Australian Navy website at: [http://www.navy.gov.au/about/our-people/navy-bereavement-pin](http://www.navy.gov.au/about/our-people/navy-bereavement-pin)

Please allow up to five to six weeks for your nomination to be processed. Your NBP will be mailed to you. Relatives without internet access should call 1800 6265 3383, for an application form.
Lt Cmdr Leon Verdi Goldsworthy

GC DSC GM RANVR

In this article we have a look at a Naval Officer who many believe should have been awarded the Victoria Cross for his efforts during WWII.

Lt Cmdr Leon Verdi Goldsworthy GC DSC GM RANVR (aka “Goldy”) was born on 19 January 1909 in Broken Hill, New South Wales. After Goldy completed his school- ing at Kapunda High School he attended the Adelaide School of Mines and later earned a Degree in Engineering with majors in electricity and physics at the University of Adelaide.

1930 saw Goldsworthy move to WA and take up a position with Neon Light Company, later becoming Production Manager. In November 1939 he married Maud Ellen Rutherford.

In 1940 Goldy attempted to join the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) but was turned down as he had a medical condition, “hammer toes”. His condition was later surgically corrected, however he was once again turned away from the RAN as he was only 5’5” tall. On 24 March 1941 Goldy was finally accepted in to the RAN. The newly commissioned Sub-Lieutenant Goldsworthy was posted to England in the latter part of April that year to complete his training. Whilst there he volunteered for duty with the Rendering Mines Safe Section (RMSS) of HMS Vernon.

With a background in electricity and physics Goldsworthy had a greater understanding of the technology employed in the German mines and the installed Booby Traps. His skills also allowed the allies to retrieve some of the more potent mines. It did not take long for him to prove himself to be a skilled operator and he was nicknamed “Tricky” and “Mr Fix It”.

Goldsworthy was often required to work in very difficult circumstances such as in mud up to his knees and underwater wearing a bulky diving suit which made for cumbersome and slow movement.

On 13 August 1943 Goldsworthy defused a German mine in the water off Sheerness using a special diving suit which he and a colleague had helped to develop. In September and October 1943 he defused two mines, one of which had rested at a Southampton wharf for two years and the other in the River Thames. For this he was awarded the George Medal. Then, in April 1944, he disarmed an acoustic mine that had lain in the water off Milford Haven for two and a half years. In September 1944 he received the George Cross for his work in recovering and defusing mines between June 1943 and September 1944. This award was given to civilians or military personnel for actions not normally covered by purely military decorations. Late in 1944 Goldy was transferred to the Pacific theatre for a tour of duty with the US Navy’s Mobile Explosive Investigation Unit, which involved an entirely new standard of training and identification as the Japanese weapons bore no resemblance to those of the Germans. His work involved neutralising Japanese mines and booby traps following the American Invasion of the Philippines and similar tasks in support of the various Australian landings in the Borneo area.

Before the Allied invasion of France, Goldsworthy was involved in the selection and training of men for port clearance and he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in January 1945 for his bravery and leadership in clearing Cherbourg Harbour, which was needed urgently to supply Allied troops advancing across France. On one occasion he disarmed a new German ‘K’ type mine in 15 metres of water under shelling. After his work in France, Goldsworthy served with the United States Navy in the South Pacific Theatre, helping to defuse Japanese mines in the Philippines and in the Borneo area. He was among the first to enter and search the caves in Corregidor.

By his example and courage Goldy was a great inspiration to his team of sea divers who worked with him on these dangerous assignments. The constant depth charging and shelling increased the hazard of his occupation - if any explosion occurred within a mile of him he was likely to be fatally affected by the compression effects of water. He was also a great inspiration to his family.

For a man initially rejected as being physically unfit for the Navy, Goldy finished the war as the most highly decorated man in its history, the acknowledged underwater mine disposal expert in Europe, the conqueror of over one hundred weapons in European waters and about thirty in the Pacific.

Goldy returned to Western Australia in January 1945. He had one child, a daughter Pamela, from his first marriage. He is one of only eight people in the world to have been awarded both the George Cross and the George Medal. He died on 7 August 1994 at the age of 85 in Perth, Western Australia and was cremated at a service at Karrakatta Cemetery with full Military Honours.

References
1. The Australian War Memorial, Canberra
2. Royal Australian Navy Gun Plot – Famous Australian Naval Officers (www.gunplot.net)
3. Ancestry.com
The Australian Defence Force (ADF) Members

The OSM has been introduced to replace the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) and Australian Service Medal for future ADF operations. The OSM will be awarded to ADF members for service on operations recommended and approved as warranting recognition. Each declared operation will be recognised by the standard medal with a unique ribbon for each operation in the same way as the United Nations Medal is awarded. Where appropriate, an accumulated service device will recognise those who render additional prescribed periods of service on a particular operation.

The first service declared for the OSM is the range of border protection operations conducted since 1997.

An application form specifically designed for the Australian Operational Service Medal - Border Protection (AE 376) has been produced and can be downloaded from http://www.defence.gov.au/medals/. It is also available on the DRN Webforms site.

Applicants should be aware that every attempt will be made to process their applications promptly. However, the Directorate of Honours and Awards is continuing to source reliable data to enable accurate assessments of all applications received. To that end, there is likely to be a significant delay before applicants are advised of the outcome of their application for the Australian Operational Service Medal - Border Protection.

The Operational Service Badge

Before the establishment of the OSM, those who received the AASM were also issued with the Returned from Active Service Badge (RASB). Because the OSM recognises all declared operational service, an Operational Service Badge (OSB) has been established to be issued on the first award of the OSM.

The OSB has two versions - military and civilian, to be issued with the respective medal types. The RASB will continue to be issued with the AASM for current war-like operations.

In contrast with the RASB, the OSB may also be issued to the next-of-kin of deceased members to complement the award of the OSM.


Notes

The George Cross

Founded by King George VI in 1940 as the highest award for acts of conspicuous gallantry performed by men or women when not in the face of the enemy.

In order of precedence it comes immediately after the Victoria Cross. At the time of its inception living recipients of the Empire Gallantry Medal exchanged their medals for the George Cross and the Empire Gallantry Medal became obsolete. In 1971 surviving holders of the Albert Medal and Edward Medal also exchanged their medals for the George Cross.

The RAN won four awards during the 1939-1945 war for bomb and mine disposal and a fifth, posthumously, for the Voyager sinking in 1964. All four Army awards were posthumous, three for the 1939-1945 war and one for Korea. Thirteen Australians have been awarded the George Cross.

The medal itself consists of a plain silver cross with a circular medallion in the centre, surrounded by the words “For Gallantry”. The ribbon is dark blue, 1.5 inches wide.

The George Medal

The George Medal was founded by King George VI in 1940 at the same time as the George Cross. The circumstances of award are exactly the same as those of the George Cross except that the act of gallantry for which the award is made need not be of such a high order as that which would merit the award of the Cross. The only recipient of the George Cross, George Medal and bar is RAN Lt High Randall Syme.

The medals consist of a plain gold cross with a circular medallion in the centre, surrounded by the words “For Gallantry”. The ribbon is dark blue, 1.5 inches wide.

This year the ANZ Hamper was presented to Mr Thomas Frances Stokes and his wife Merle of Nedlands.

Thomas served with the Royal Australian Navy as a Signalman on a Minelayer in the Pacific from 1944 to 1947.

Upon discharge from the Navy Thomas worked as a Travelling Rep for a local Insurance Company.

Thomas and Merle who reside in Elloura Lodge, Nedlands have been married for 66 years. The couple have five adult children and many grandchildren.

Rosalind Howat

**Australian Operational Service Medal (OSM)**

**Australian Defence Force (ADF) Members**

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Welfare & Pension News
With Rosalind Howat Welfare Officer

Pensions Advocacy & Welfare Services

Community Care Packages
Referrals for Community Care Packages usually come from GP’s, Family members or Aged Care Assessment Teams but you can also self refer for services. Community Care Services can include:

- Personal Care, such as assistance with showering and dressing.
- Domestic Assistance, including cleaning, laundry and meal preparation.
- Transport to and from medical appointments and social functions. Respite Care Packages are available to some individuals who care for a loved one at home. If you require any further information or have any questions please contact the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House.

Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) provides additional services to eligible Veterans. Homefront is a prevention program designed to prevent falls and accidents in and around your home. All Gold and White card holders are eligible for a free Homefront assessment. If recommendations are made for work to be done and you are happy to proceed a registered Tradesperson can provide a quote and carry out the work. DVA provides some financial assistance but if the cost of the work is more than the allowance you will need to pay the difference. Veterans Home Maintenance Line will provide you with contact details of reliable, qualified tradesmen in your area. If you require any further information have any questions or wish to arrange any of the above services please contact Department of Veterans Affairs on 1800 80 1945.

The WA Sailors Soldiers & Airmen’s Relief Fund Trust
The Trustees of this fund meet on the second Tuesday of each month to consider applications for assistance. Applications are accepted from any Veteran, Widow, Serving member or Ex-service personnel experiencing financial hardship. You do not need to be a member of RSL to receive assistance. The Trustees of this Fund manage and distribute monies collected on Poppy Day each year. The Trustees will consider and evaluate all reasonable requests for assistance. Financial grants are restricted to those that are genuinely in need and unable to pay for some item or purpose required to preserve quality of life. For further information or an application form please contact the Fund Administrator, Rosalind Howat.

RSL Welfare/Emergency Relief
As the cost of living continues to rise many people are finding it difficult to make ends meet. If you are experiencing difficulties in this area please contact the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House on 9297 3707 or 0417 905 742. Some assistance with the necessities of life may be available to eligible Veterans and their dependants experiencing financial hardship. RSL volunteers regularly visit Veterans in Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Prisons in the metropolitan area. If you would like to arrange a visitor for yourself or a loved one please refer to the Hospital Visitors List below or please contact Mr Terry O’Neill of RSL Legal Support Group on 9440 6233 for Prison visits. To arrange a Nursing Home visit please contact the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House.

Contact: 9287 3707 or 0417 905 742

Take care till next time

ROSALIND HOWAT
State Welfare Officer

HOSPITAL VISITORS LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteer</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Remah Glencorse &amp; Ms Bernadine De Beaux</td>
<td>0447 007 522 As Above</td>
<td>Hollywood Private Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>St John of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr John Duffy</td>
<td>9401 5815 or 0413780278</td>
<td>Joondalup Hospital</td>
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<td>Glengarry Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Mike Harness</td>
<td>9293 1076 or 0419 091 078</td>
<td>Kalamunda Hospital</td>
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<td>Mr Bill Adamson</td>
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<td>Swan Seniors Mental Health Facility</td>
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<td>RSL welfare Officer</td>
<td>9287 3707 or 0412 009 191</td>
<td>Royal Perth Hospital</td>
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<td>Others as required</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev Canon Ken Barrett</td>
<td>9581 2519</td>
<td>Peel Hospital</td>
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<td>RSL Care, Mandurah</td>
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<td>Mr John Rankin</td>
<td>0438 264 371</td>
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<td>Alma Street Hospital</td>
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Hyde Park Inn, NSW
National President RSL
RADM K Doolan AO RAN Retd

RSL State Presidents, ACT: Mr John King, NSW: Mr Don Rowe OAM, QLD: Mr Terry Meehan, SA: BROG Tim Hanna AM, Tas: Mr Chris Munday, Vic: MAXGEN David McLaughlan AO Retd, WA: Mr Graham Edwards AM
Cc: President Tewantin Noosa RSL
Mr Ian Rowe

Gentlemen,
As a member of over 40 years standing in the RSL, over 20 years in NSW and now some 19 years in Queensland, I was disturbed by my encounter with the NSW RSL owned Hyde Park Inn during November 2012. On the recommendation of another RSL member I booked accommodation (Deluxe Room) for four nights, 12/15 November, via the Internet at the rate of $143 per night. On arrival and checking in I was told that as I was not a NSW member the rate would be $172 per night. I realise that this is still a substantial discount on normal rates but was somewhat astounded to see that the NSW RSL differentiated between state members. When I joined the services it was because I was an Australian serving Australia not a Victorian, my home state, a NS Welshman, where I lived during my service of 35 years, or a Queenslander where I chose to live in retirement. My question of you all is; is this a common practice in the different State Branches? And if so why?

I for instance do not see this practice in the sharing of assets on an equal footing. The National flag should not be used for business or other purposes even their spouse but you should not change the National flag. The Australian flag is part of the history of Australia and in changing the flag you will lose that history. Groups and political parties have tried to change the flag for their political purposes but have not convinced the public why the change is needed. Changing the flag means rejecting history and betraying the people who sacrificed blood to protect and build the country.

Today you change the flag, tomorrow someone else will have the right to do the same allowing the National Flag to be changed at whim. The National flag should not be used for business or other purposes.

Hoa Minh Truong.
(author of 3 books: the dark journey, good evening Vietnam & from labourer to author.)
Flower Power in Health

Flowers have long been used as traditional remedies, but they are now being used to treat conditions from dementia to depression.

Snowdrop
This small white flower reportedly can be used to treat mild to moderate dementia. Reminyl, one of the main type of drugs used to treat mild to moderate dementia, is derived from galantamine, a compound found in snowdrop bulbs. It helps increase levels of acetylcholine, a brain chemical involved in the transmission of messages from nerve cells.

Crocus
A member of the iris family, the crocus is being tested for toothache and the eye condition age related macular degeneration. When it comes to the eyes, saffron affects the amount of fat stored by the eye, making vision cells tougher and more resilient, according to University of Sydney researchers. Crocin, the compound that gives saffron its vibrant colour, has also been shown to boost memory and improve mental function in a study at the University of Tokyo.

Lavender
This flower, native to the western Mediterranean, has been known to help with insomnia, anxiety and stress. Oil from the fresh plants has been shown to help with insomnia, alopecia, anxiety, stress and post operative pain, according to the University of Maryland. Trials have shown lavender oil improves mood, and is a possible antidepressant, which might help explain its pain killing effects.

Milkwort
A plant with rose pink flowers, milkwort reportedly has a protective effect on brain cells. Men and women who took a plant extract three times a day for four weeks showed more significant increases in recall and made fewer mistakes than those given a placebo. Root extracts have also shown promising effects on memory in humans in two trials. It is not yet known how it works.

Daffodil
The bulbs of daffodils are said to be a source of galantamine, which is used to treat Alzheimer’s disease. Daffodils contain compounds that can get through the blood brain barrier (a semi permeable barrier that prevents many drugs from entering the brain). A Chinese study also suggests daffodil compounds can kill off certain cancer cells (such as leukaemia).

Gardening Tips For February

Here are some handy tips to best maintain and improve your garden during the month of February!

Trees, shrubs, climbers:
• Re-trim cut hedges if necessary.
• Prune rampant climbers such as bougainvillea, especially if invading nearby trees.
• Plant clematis and evergreens, watering them in well.
• Prune dead material from roses. Water and fertilise to encourage good autumn blooms.
• Water trees thoroughly during extended periods of drought.

Annuals, perennials, bulbs:
• Cut back any seed-producing plants you do not want to self-seed.
• Begin planting autumn-flowering bulbs.
• Cut and dry flowers and grasses for dried flower arrangements.
• Check plants for mildew and cut off any affected parts. Do not throw these onto the compost heap; place in a sealed bag and put in the garbage bin.
• Order bulb catalogues from mail-order specialists. Check for advertisements in garden magazines or go on line.

Tubs and containers:
• Trim shrubs and evergreens into shape.
• Cut back over-vigorous container plants.
• Take and pot up cuttings of fuchsia, pelargonium and other hybrids.
• Plant chrysanthemums in containers.
• De-head flowering plants regularly to ensure repeat flowering.
• Water vegetables in containers regularly to prevent crops drying out.

From the Readers Digest

New Oz Flag to End Shame

I refer to the West article of Australia Day “New Oz Flag to end shame”. While I have an immense respect for the views of Janet Holmes a Court and recognise her as a great Australian I am afraid we differ on the issue of the need for a separate Australian flag to fly at sporting events involving this Nation. On behalf of the RSL in Western Australia I take the view that the current Australian flag, which is good enough to be draped over the coffin of Australian Service men and women killed in action, ought to be good enough to fly at any sporting event - including the Olympic Games.

Graham Edwards State President RSLWA

Letters to the Editor Continued

Advice on the best ways to grow fruit and vegetables in your garden for February!

• Pick fruit and vegetables for storage, freezing or preserving.
• Remove any dead, diseased or damaged branches from fruit trees.
• Cut back any branches of morello cherry, nectarine and peach trees, which have finished fruiting.
• Harvest herbs for drying, cuttings, if desired, and plant in a propagator.
• Tie up any new espalier shoots.
• Pick up fruit fly infested fruit, place in plastic bag and stew in sun to kill maggots.

From the Readers Digest

MEDIA RELEASE

Morning Melodies:
WISH ME LUCK AS YOU WAVE ME GOODBYE
FEATURING LUCY MAUNDER, STUART MAUNDER, ANNE-MARIE McDoNALD AND ALEX RATHGEBER

Wednesday 13 March 2013
His Majesty's Theatre, 525 Hay St, Perth

Celebrate the music of our brave war heroes with the talented Maunder family and friends as they perform the popular and inspiring songs of the wartime period including World Wars 1 & 2 and the current Australian flag, which is good enough to be draped over the coffin of Australian Service men and women killed in action, ought to be good enough to fly at any sporting event - including the Olympic Games.

From the Readers Digest

Gardening Tips

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From the Readers Digest
Those who have already made the move say it is a wonderful way to live – especially in retirement. They have found that apartment living is hassle-free with significant benefits in terms of both lifestyle and finances.

5 available now or choose an apartment in our second development and move in when it's completed in the latter half of 2014.

$555,000 to $749,000
Only $5000 deposit
Balance at settlement

* When you can’t maintain your home *
* When security is a worry *
* When you want to reduce outgoings *

You should consider a brand new spacious apartment at the Royal Australian Air Force Association’s estate in Bull Creek.

Phone Maureen Winton 9311 4488 for information then come and see our display apartment.

On 19 April 2013 we will be launching both the exhibition and the online exhibition at the State Library focussing on the history of the RSL in Western Australia.

The exhibition will be in the foyer space of the State Library and will be open to the public from 20 April to 30 June 2013. As part of the project we will also have a travelling exhibition for those who may want to set up the exhibition in their own community.

The exhibition will be titled ‘War to Remembrance – A Living History of the RSL’ and will be focussing on the themes of Commemoration, Repatriation and Defence. The online exhibition will be on display at the library as an interactive touch screen display. Working in partnership with the State Library, we are pleased to offer a selection of public programmes which include a lecture by Professor John Stephens on the State War Memorial and the RSL, and by Mr John Dowson on his mother Mrs Joan Dowson who was an active member of the RSL and State Executive. The public programmes will also be offering something for school aged children with an interactive memorial building session. The public programmes will be advertised via our website so please keep an eye out.

Thank you to all the Sub-Branches who have provided us with assistance so far, we are still looking for content to include in the exhibition so it’s not too late. We are looking for photographs, stories, objects that tell the story of your Sub-Branch in the community. If you would like to contribute then please contact Naomi at ANZAC House.

Want to improve your life?

Obituary


Sadly missed by all.
Glenda Dawson

Partners of Veterans

Partners of Veterans’ representatives Roslyn Whitney, Lyn Wesson, Sam Cross and Keryn McDonald called into ANZAC House to present their Poppy Day collection contribution to Denis Connelly, State Vice President.
Things have changed, but our commitment to the Perth community hasn’t.

Purslowe Funerals are proud to announce their 100 year anniversary.

Since 1907, Purslowe has been a trusted provider of funeral services for West Australian families. Today we are a modern, Australian owned company that can provide you and your family the exact funeral service you desire.

Whether you are looking for a traditional service or something distinctly individual, Purslowe can call on 100 years of experience to get it right. We give you time to plan, to reflect, to remember the special moments.
Western Australian Museum

Remembering Them...

The Western Australian Museum is looking for little-known stories which our community partners can share with their visitors in the new exhibitions they are planning to commemorate the Centenary of WWI.

Many organisations want to tell stories from that time to give visitors a better understanding of the impact the First World War had, not only on the immediate lives of those who served and returned, or those left behind, but also how it shaped their futures, with some effects of war lasting for years after the fighting had ended.

Many of us have heard the stories of men who returned from the front but who could not settle back into civilian life – men who became recluses or itinerant workers, unable to reconnect with their loved ones and restart their old lives. These stories are important because they help us to remember all those whose lives were impacted by WWI and the sacrifices they made.

We would love to hear any stories you might have that you would like to share with your community and the rest of Western Australia. Please contact either Amy Wegerhoff or Clare-Francis Craig to have a chat about the project, possible stories to tell and how you can be involved. Call (08) 9212 3700.

Can you help

Royal Australian Signals Association (WA)

Australian Special Wireless Group Memorial WWII, Coker Park, Cannington WA

Plea for funds to repair and relocate memorial

The Australian Special Wireless Group WWII Memorial is currently located in Coker Park, Cannington WA. Sadly, it is water stained and has some cracks in the memorial stone. The Association has been liaising with the City of Cannington Council regarding the repair and relocating of the memorial to be in front of Cannington-Victoria Park RSL Sub-Branch on Wharf St, Cannington WA.

The cost of the repair and relocation will be in excess of $1,000. Donations are sought and may be forwarded to:

Secretary / Treasurer RASigs Assn (WA)

PO Box 3045, Belmont WA 6104

(08) 9277 1406

bmcaul@bigpond.net.au

We thank all who take the time to consider this request.

Peter Lofdhal – President - RASigs Assn (WA)

(08) 9305 1303 - signals@eetel.com.au

Cadet Efficiency Awards

These awards were presented at the Australia Day Presentation Evening on Friday, 25 January 2013.

Navy Unit  TS Pilbara

Individually, both the Leeuwin and Gallipoli Flotilla conduct administration and skill based inspections on all cadet units on a yearly basis. The inspections are carried out over 2 days, spaced some 6 months apart. The Administration or Departmental Inspection as it is correctly called looks at the way business is conducted within the unit and targets safety, compliance to regulations, community support, cadet training and a number of other important areas. It is also designed to highlight shortfalls that Flotilla HQ’s will provide assistance and guidance to help rectify so that Commanding Officers can provide the safest possible facility for cadets to undergo their training.

Army Unit  Christ Church Grammar School Cadet Unit

Christ Church Grammar School Cadet Unit competed against 27 other Australian Army Cadet Units in WA for the Cadet Efficiency Shield. During the Brigade Annual Field Exercise conducted in Bindoon during October of 2012 the cadets participated in a rigorous set of competitions including Drill, First Aid, Skill at Arms, Orienteering and a Marksmanship Shoot. Christ Church scored the highest in both the Drill Competition and the Orienteering Competition, they also finished equal first in the Skill at Arms Competition.

Captain Conrad Scott and Lieutenant Colonel Ron Watkins presented the award on behalf of the Unit.

Air Force Unit  713 SQN Cannington

713SQN Cannington is the largest Australian Air Force Cadet Squadron in Western Australia. The Squadron was judged by a panel consisting of the Wings Senior Staff Officers as well as the Wing Warrant Officer across a number of categories including quality of training, recruitment and retention of cadets, effective community engagement, efficient and effective use of resources and overall contribution to the Wing. 713SQN excelled across all selection criteria which included a focus on safety management and recruitment.

The Squadron is a vibrant and well run unit with cadets playing a key role in the Squadron being involved in every aspect of its operations. There is significant parental involvement. FLTLT Wendy Anderson was the Commanding Officer of the squadron in 2012 and has recently been posted to 701 SQN RAAF Pearce for 2013.

FLTLT Wendy Anderson collected the award on behalf of the Unit.

The LISTENING POST February 2013

RSL "Spirit of ANZAC" Award 2012

Friday, 25 January 2013

Thank you to Mr Ian Goodlich for his continuous kind donation to the Cadet of the Year which enables T-Shirts to be purchased.

CDTCPO Angus Stewart TS Marmion
Angus attends Lake Joondalup Baptist College and will be in year 12 this year. He hopes to go to university and is not sure whether he wants to study engineering or join the navy. Angus likes to study.

Army Cadet

CUO Amanda Ward 509 ACU Lynwood
Amanda completed year 12 in 2012. She hopes to become a teacher or join the military. Amanda likes playing video games, playing guitar and being an Army Cadet.

Naval Cadet

CUO David Jorritsma 703 SQUADRON
David attends Murdoch University and is doing a Double Degree in Engineering and Science. David enjoys his time with the cadets, writing and socialising with friends.

Air Force Cadet

The BIDET SHOP * Testimonial

Late in November of last year I fell and shattered my right elbow. The elbow was operated on and the result is that I now have a Titanium elbow joint with 2 plates and numerous screws holding everything together and I am now unable to fully extend my right arm and have found I am now unable to reach many things including the clothes line.

I am even unable to reach my own breast, so I invested in a bottom wiper but it was a waste of money as I found a different type and bought it. It was better designed but it still wasn’t satisfactory for what it had been designed for.

In June of last year I ordered a Bidet RA13BE, I was given the name and contact number of a plumber and electrician whom the Bidet Shop recommended for the installation.

Two days later the boxed Bidet was delivered to my front door. That same day I had the power point installed and the following morning the plumber came and installed the Bidet. Since the Bidet’s installation I now have my independence back as I don’t require any assistance with my toileting.

I just wish that Bidet’s were installed in the disabled toilets at the clubs etc, as it would allow me and others similarly disabled to have a morning, afternoon or day out and not have to ask their carer/husband/wife to assist them when they need to use the disabled restrooms.

It would just make these outings so much more comfortable for all concerned. It would also allow us to be able to get out on our own and just enjoy the day independently.

I am so happy with the Bidet and would recommend it to anyone who has a loss of mobility, or an inability to be able to wipe their own behind. The warm seat, warm water and warm air make the whole experience delightfully, quite luxurious.

Thank you, I am yours sincerely,
Mrs. M. Humphries
*Name changed for privacy reasons

Contact The BIDET SHOP’s friendly staff today on 1800 243 387 (free call) or view online at www.thebidetshop.com.au

CUO David Jorritsma 703 SQUADRON
David attends Murdoch University and is doing a Double Degree in Engineering and Science. David enjoys his time with the cadets, writing and socialising with friends.

The BIDET SHOP

With just the push of a button you can have warm water and warm air

- Heated seat
- Soft Close lid
- Remote control
- Heated water and warm air
- Dryer

For more information or to purchase, contact
The BIDET SHOP on 0124 960 960 (local) 1800 243 387 (free call) or view online at www.thebidetshop.com.au

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Australia Day Awards 2013

The 2013 Australia Day Medallions Presentation Night was held on Friday, 25 January 2013 at ANZAC House.

Bill Heel OAM has had a long and distinguished career in Scouting. Beginning in 1937 as a Cub in Queensland he has worked his way through almost every section of the Scout movement and has been awarded Scouts’ highest honour for Uniformed Scouts, that of the Silver Kangaroo Award.

His early years were spent in Sea Scouts and after ‘learning the ropes’ he became a warranted Scout Leader in 1947.

His move to Perth in the early 1970s resulted in a continuing active involvement in the movement, firstly at Hampton Park then into District Scouting in the Bayswater District – a position he held for eleven years. Having well and truly served the movement at the coalface he turned his talents to assisting the operations at branch level. He worked with Scout Groups and facilitated group involvement in Scout Jamborees throughout Australia for well over twenty years.

As a Branch Scout Leader for Projects he was assigned to oversee water activities and planned and presented as a Small Ships Safety Instructor. His efficiency in this area led him to be appointed a Commissioner Trainer/Tutor at the Mandajel Training Centre in the Perth Hills.

Bill holds the Southern Cross Award of the Baden-Powell Guild that is Scouts’ Highest Award. In recognition of his lifetime service to Scouting he was, in 2010, granted the honour of Life Member of the Scout Association.

In June 2000 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for Services to Scouting – a richly deserved recognition for his outstanding and dedicated service to youth.

His association with the RSL goes back some 15 years and in that time has provided and trained Scouts to engage in the ceremonial aspects of ANZAC Day at the Perth Parade. Scouts have played a major role in services provided at Perth ceremonies and the participants presentation and precision movements can be attributed to the work of such dedicated Scout Leaders – organised by the Award recipient, William (Bill) Heel OAM.

Over many years the RSL Port Hedland Sub-Branch has raised funds for the local community. In 2003 they opened a community shop in order to raise funds for its own operations and welfare commitments and to provide an avenue where funds raised from donated goods can help the local community. As a result of this venture the Sub-Branch has provided an avenue where people can donate their unwanted goods; raised the profile of the RSL in the local community; and provided customers access to affordable items.

The RSL Community Shop has raised in excess of $200,000 since establishment. This has enabled the Sub-Branch to actively support those in need, for example: donations to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal and packing & shipping in excess of 500 boxes of clothing and other items for Red Cross in Victoria. Other groups supported include: Percy Gratwick VC Memorial Annual Sports Awards; Navy & Army Cadets; Schools; Country Week; Aged Community Care; Sporting Groups; Indigenous Organisations & Honouring Indigenous War Graves; Pilbara Music Festival and the Seafarer’s Centre.

The Committee and Members of the RSL Port Hedland Sub-Branch are commended for this community support and for raising the profile of the RSL within the community of Port Hedland.

Collecting the Award from the Port Hedland Sub-Branch is President, Mr Val Middleton, and the Secretary, Mrs Robyn Middleton presented.

In addition to their generous donation of storage for our poppies, Compu-Stor provide the RSL with a range of services including secure document destruction, secure electronic media destruction and offsite storage for our inactive records.

The records stored at the offsite facility are accessible and, depending on the urgency, can be recalled and delivered to our offices at short notice. The database provided by Compu-Stor is available online and fully searchable, enabling us to retrieve specific records.

Compu-Stor also provides a high level of customer services and any queries we have are addressed and resolved in an efficient and prompt manner. As a not for profit organisation that provides welfare and resources for returned service personnel, the RSL is conscious of receiving value for the money they spend and Compu-Stor kindly offer us numerous savings on their already competitively priced rates. The support of Compu-Stor has strengthened our delivery of a secure and effective service to the veteran community in the management and storage of records.

Collecting the Award is Nikki King and Amanda Rowe, presented by RSL WA Vice President Denis Connelly.

Graeme Bott
Albany RSL
Sub-Branch

1. Where did you spend your years prior to joining the Armed Services?
Two years in the Army Cadets at Perth Boys School and at Wesley College. Joined the State Electricity Commission in 1952 and served 39 years.

2. Why did you join the Armed Services?
I was called up for National Service in 1953 – 1954.

3. What Armed Service did you join and what is the reason for this choice?
Navy. I was learning accountancy at night school and the navy training was all done in one hit. With five months straight of training I had a 12 month break then completed one more month before finishing my National Service Training. Plus all my workmates were Ex-Navy. “Never fear the Navys here” as we used to say.

4. What was your most memorable event in the Service?
Recovering three cannons from the wreck of the Zeewijk (1727) in waist deep water on the inside of Half Moon Reef in the Abrolhos. HMAS Mildura got there first. HMAS Fremantle got two others. One thing we learnt was chip and paint. We ended up chipping half the top off the barrel. The cannon ended up in the backyard of the museum in Francis St, Perth.

5. How do you see the future of the RSL?
With all the overseas conflicts etc, since Vietnam, the RSL will be there for a very long time.
Australia Day Awards 2013
Awards 2013
The Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS Tobruk deployed on 24 Sep 2012 for a South West Pacific Deployment. During the deployment, HMAS Tobruk is scheduled to participate in amphibious exercises Sea Lion, Croix du Sud off New Caledonia and Pae Tata off New Zealand.

NUSQN 808 also embarked HMAS Tobruk for the deployment to carry out individual and collective training leading to Navy Operational Test and Evaluation (NOTE) on the Australian Defence Force’s (ADF) new multi-role MRH-90 helicopter.

HMAS Tobruk provides the ADF with amphibious heavy lift capability. The ship has recently undergone maintenance which will allow her to operate until her planned withdrawal from service at the end of 2014.

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**Troops Overseas**

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**HMAS Tobruk**

South West Pacific Deployment Members of HMAS Tobruk’s Ships Company and embarked Australian Army get into the Christmas spirit as the ship leaves New Zealand for her return to Fleet Base East, Sydney, as part of Tobruk’s 2012 South West Pacific Deployment.

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

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

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

There are many benefits to a PrePaid Funeral Plan:

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

Special extras for RSL members:

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

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

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

**PREPAID DIVISION: 406 BEAUFORT STREET, HIGHGATE 6003. TELEPHONE: 9231 5100 FACSIMILE: 9228 4614.**
This Christmas there were more than 3,300 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel deployed on operations around the world and away from their families and loved ones. They received a small taste of home by marking the occasion with traditional lunches and games of cricket and other activities in the spirit of the season.

In Afghanistan, 7 Royal Australian Regiment Task Group enjoyed a Christmas lunch served by the Officers and Senior Non commissioned officers observed the Christmas military tradition by serving food to the soldiers in the dining hall as a gesture of appreciation and respect. The buffet included 28 Australian, European, and US delicacies including turkey, pork, prawn, lobster, salmon and mince pies.


den on Christmas Day. Our personnel in the Solomon Islands lunched with their Australian Federal Police partners, enjoying a Christmas dinner served by their Officers and Senior NCOs, and played cricket on Boxing Day.

Navy personnel embarked in Armidale Class Patrols Boats on border security operations enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch on station between Cairns and Christmas Island and at least one Air Force P-3 Orion crew spent Christmas Day on maritime patrol in the skies above Northern Australian waters.

We thank the men and women of the ADF for their contribution to our national security and their families for their support. The holidays can be a particularly tough time to be away from home but some traditional Aussie Christmas cheer can make it a little easier.
Celebrating a proud Australian tradition, it’s the…

**LITTLE AUSSIE DIGGER**

By Master Doll Artist Bonnie Chyle

Supersoft RealTouch™ vinyl skin

Hand-painted to perfection

This little man knows exactly what he wants to be when he grows up: a soldier in the army just like his dad and granddad before him. It’s a proud family tradition and he’s ready to do his bit. At the salute, meet the “Little Aussie Digger” – available only from The Bradford Exchange.

Bonnie Chyle, renowned all over the world for her exceptional talent in creating lifelike dolls, has scored another winner with the “Little Aussie Digger.” Every aspect has been lovingly crafted by hand to reflect each tiny feature of a real baby. Our So Truly Real® RealTouch™ vinyl skin is super-soft to the touch, while hand-applied hair and eyelashes and hand-painted fingers and toes bring “Little Aussie Digger” to life.

Like any soldier, he’s dressed for action in camouflage fatigues and boots, ready for the rough-and-tumble of his playground adventures. He sports his very own slouch hat, an enduring symbol of the Australian Army which his dad wears with pride. He even has his own dog tags inscribed with a slouch hat and a loving message “My Little Aussie Digger,” from his Sergeant Major (well, his Mum, anyway!).

Fall in and reserve your doll now!

Don’t miss your chance to welcome this adorable new recruit into your home and heart. He’s available only from The Bradford Exchange, for a limited time. Reserve your doll now for the value price of just $199.95, payable in five instalments of just $39.99, *plus $19.99 postage and handling. Your satisfaction is assured with our world-famous 365-day money back guarantee. Send no money now. Just complete and mail the coupon today.

Arrives with TWO FREE Dog Tags!

Incredible Value!

Only five easy instalments of $39.99*

For quickest delivery, order online:

www.bradford.com.au

Quoting reference code: 67243

**YES! Please reserve** “Little Aussie Digger” as described in this advertisement. This doll is available for five instalments of $39.99 each, plus $19.99 postage and handling. I understand I need pay nothing now.

Pay Nothing Now

Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. All sales subject to product availability and reservation acceptance. Credit criteria may apply. From time to time, we may allow carefully screened companies to contact you. If you would prefer not to receive such offers, please tick this box.

Please select your preferred reservation option:

1. **MAIL** no stamp required, to: The Bradford Exchange, reply Paid 86369 Parramatta NSW 2124

or

2. **FAX** to: (02) 9841 3399 – 24hrs

or


Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms               First Name:                           Surname:
Address:                           Postcode:
Phone: (optional)     Email: (optional)

Please respond Promptly

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Sub-Branch Events

Arthur Scanlan, RSL
Life Membership

On Sunday, 16 December Mr Arthur Scanlan received RSL Life Membership for his tireless work in Donnybrook. Arthur is 92 years young and has been a Donnybrook RSL member for 65 years including 26 years as Secretary/Treasurer.

The presentation was officiated by Mr Graham Edwards AM President WA RSL. Arthur's contribution to the RSL and his local community on various committees where he has been active with any work that needed doing and accepting little accolades. The Donnybrook RSL would not be as it is today without Arthur's tireless work. Congratulations to a very worthy recipient

Damian Dixon
Lower South West Regional Representative

Australia Day City of Belmont
RSL Sub-Branch

Members and friends of the Sub-Branch returned again this year to join together in celebrating Australia Day. About 170 people joined in the festivities.

The President, Alan Richardson OAM JP, welcomed everyone and introduced the guests: Bill Collidge; representing the State President of the RSL, Steve Irons MP, Federal Member for Swan, Hon Eric Ripper; Member for Belmont, Councillor Phil Marks, Mayor of the City of Belmont and councillors.

The special annual "City of Belmont Australian of the Year" Award for the outstanding citizen who has lived in the area for a certain number of years and contributed to the community by their involvement in several areas was presented to Dot Balscombe, Vice President of the Sub-Branch. She was overwhelmed. Dot was also re-presented with her Life Membership of the RSL Certificate by Bill Collidge as it had to be reframed after the presentation at State Congress. She was congratulated by her many friends present.

The crowd were entertained by the band, the Numguts, throughout the day and our group of magicians amazed the crowd with their tricks. We were delighted to welcome the dancers from the Cei-di-Upton School of Irish Dancing who had several competition winners in their group. They were fantastic. A raffle was held and there were many happy winners.

The lunch was prepared by some of our many volunteers and they served roast lamb, sausages, salads and lamingtons. The bar was busy as always and many thanks to the committee and members who made the day such a success. See you all next year.

Olga Greig
Honorary Secretary
City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch

A Very Merry Christmas at the City Of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch

The weather was perfect, the Sub-Branch was all decked out with colourful Christmas decorations and a great day was about to begin.

Members along with their children and grandchildren began to arrive and the band struck up a medley of popular tunes. While everyone caught up with friends and had a cup of Christmas cheer, Santa and his elf arrived much to the delight of the children. Presents were handed out and Santa listened to each child's wish for Christmas. Santa's elf dug deeper into Santa's sack, and as if by magic, found extra gifts for the children, who were so excited. Then Santa and his elf were off to another function and it was time for lunch.

A wonderful spread had been prepared by the Sub-Branch caterers, Frank Weber and Sue Kent. Seafood lovers were well catered for with king prawns and beautiful fish together with all the other festive fare. Sweets rounded off the perfect meal.

It was then time for the Annual Monster Raffle, and would you believe, the first ticket drawn by the Vice President for the major prize, was none other than our President's ticket! Everyone laughed, with the usual jokes doing the rounds. The draw continued and many members won some great prizes including myself. After the draw, members kicked back and enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere and the great music. This was another very successful Christmas function at the City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch.

Wendy Gray
Honorary Secretary
City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch
**Sub-Branch Events**

**Alan Richardson OAM JP**

The members of the City of Belmont were highly delighted to read that their president, Alan Richardson, was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in the Australia Day Honours List for 2013.

Alan served in the Royal Australian Engineers from 1961 - 1972 and saw service in Australia, Malaya, Thailand, Sarawak and Singapore. He joined the RSL in 1967 and served in various roles at the Rivervale-Carlisle Sub-Branch until that branch merged with the Belmont RSL and the name was changed to the City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch. Alan became the president of Belmont in 2009 and the first president of the City of Belmont Sub-Branch and still serving in that capacity.

During this period Alan was given Life Membership of the RSL and later a Meritorious Medal. He also served on the State Executive for 10 years.

Alan served as a councillor and later as deputy mayor of the City of Belmont and was involved in various aspects of community service throughout the area.

A worthy recipient to be awarded OAM.

Olga Greig OAM

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**Clean Up Australia Day**

Clean Up Australia Day is the largest community mobilisation event in the country. Each year nearly one million people take to their streets, parks, bushland, beaches and waterways to remove rubbish. With over 8,000 registered sites across the country, volunteers are annually removing more than 16,000 tonnes of rubbish.

Clean Up is urging us all to be good sports and join the winning team on Sunday 3 March 2013 by registering or joining a Clean Up Australia Day site.

It’s as easy as going to www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au and following the prompts to ‘create’ or ‘join’ a site.

If you need help, call the team on 1800 CUA Day [1800 282 329].

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**RAC’s newest membership recognises varied needs of Western Australians**

The RAC’s newest membership, Wheels2go, will provide peace of mind for members using mobility devices.

Officially launched on 30 November, Wheels2go will provide 24/7 roadside assistance for members in a mobility device such as a manual or electric wheelchair.

One of the defining features of the membership is the taxi allowance, which will entitle the member to five taxi trips per year valued at up to $55 per trip, if the RAC cannot get them going again.

For a limited time members will only need to pay the annual membership fee of just $45. As a special introductory offer the $20 joining fee for Wheels2go will be waived from 30 November to 31 May 2013.

Advice for Wheels2go members:
- Carry a spare tyre tube that is in a good condition
- Carry a mobile phone with you
- Have emergency numbers with you at all times
- Have your wheelchair or mobility device serviced regularly; at least once per year.
- Charge your mobility device battery back to full after every time you use it
- Try not to leave home without a fully charged battery

For more information about Wheels2go or to sign up for membership, please visit rac.com.au/wheels2go

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**Bellevue**

Gary Sutherland was presented with a Mallee Root clock by members of Bellevue RSL Sub - Branch as appreciation for his long and dedicated service to members and others during his time as secretary.

He still provides a lot of assistance and support from his wealth of knowledge. We thank you Gary.

Roy Jewell - Honorary Secretary

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**Support the RSL**

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

For every $100 (excluding tobacco and liquor products) spent the customer will receive one MY Community token. This token is then placed by the customer in one of our charity bins. Each month these bins will be emptied and the tokens tallied, ready for payment to the charity group. Payments to the charity will be quarterly.

Each one of our three Cash and Carry branches (Canning Vale, Balcatta and Bunbury) will have 20 Community groups participating in the program. The way the program works is for every $100 a customer spends in the store, they will receive one token to donate to the local community group of their choice. For example, if a customer spends $300 they will receive 3 coins to donate. Customers will deposit the coins they have received into a Community group’s deposit box.
At war for Christmas

On Christmas Eve 1914, soldiers of the British, French, and German armed forces bunkered down in trenches on the Western Front, their thoughts on their loved ones at home.

As night fell, the sound of German soldiers singing carols drifted across no man’s land and small fir trees and lanterns appeared on the tops of their trenches. Messages were shouted between the two sides and some soldiers ventured out to meet and exchange gifts. The momentum for goodwill gained pace and on Christmas Day more men met to talk, take photographs, and even play football.

Christmas and war are not compatible, but too often they are thrust together. The Christmas truce of 1914—a series of unofficial ceasefires—was a statement of peace and humanity amid one of history’s most brutal wars. These ceasefires were permitted by some officers to allow the men a chance to improve living conditions in the trenches. But not all troops took part: in some areas, time was given only to recover and bury the dead; in other sectors, there were casualties as fighting continued. The following year, strongly worded orders from the high commands of both sides were issued in the lead-up to Christmas warning against further fraternisation. A small number of ceasefires were declared, but they were not nearly as widespread as in 1914.

By the time Australians experienced Christmas on the Western Front, the British command saw the date as an opportunity to wreak even more havoc on the enemy. Australian official historian Charles Bean records that on 25 January 1916, “at the hour when it was thought probable that the Germans would be sitting down to their midday feast, every gun of the [British] Fourth and Fifth Armies fired two rounds at the points where the enemy’s troops and staffs might be foragethering”. Bean notes that the order was considered “ruthless” and “repugnant” by many of the British troops, who were “by no means opposed to ‘disgracing’ Christmas by exhibitions of brotherliness and good humour”.

Hundreds of thousands of Australians have spent Christmas at war: freezing in First World War trenches, as prisoners of war of the Japanese, or on reconnaissance and ambush operations in Vietnam. Even today Australian soldiers find themselves spending Christmas far from home, on operations in Afghanistan.

Soldiers are not forgotten at this time of year, and efforts have always been made to bring a little joy—and a decent meal—to those serving, or those recovering from wounds. For Christmas 1915, the Australian Comforts Fund Committee distributed 20,000 boxes containing handkerchiefs, cigars, cigarettes and matches to men in camp in Egypt. Many had just returned from Gallipoli. In a letter home in early January 1916, Sister Letitia Moreton of the Australian Army Nursing Service described the efforts that had been made for wounded men recovering at the 2nd Australian General Hospital in Egypt:

> We gave our patients out at Ma'adi Hospital a very nice little Xmas. A very nice dinner, roast turkey, chicken, ham, plenty vegetables, plum pudding, claret cup, beer, soft drinks, sweets, etc. They enjoyed it, poor things. The Dsh helped us with it too, one carved the turkey and ham while the other gave out the drinks.

The place was rather nicely decorated and everyone enjoyed the day.

Sadly, that was Sister Moreton’s last Christmas: the following year she was posted to India for service, and died there of Enteric Fever in November.

Christmas is often a marker of time for a soldier at war. They count their service by each one that comes and goes, and are optimistic that it will be the last spent away from home. In 1918, Private William Lewis of the 17th Battalion sent a pretty Christmas card from Belgium to his mother and younger brother Charlie, wishing all the best and “hoping to be with you all for the next, 1919”. Fortunately, he was.

The freezing cold Christmas of the Western Front gave way to tropical heat and humidity during the Second World War, as most Australian service-men spent at least one festive season in the Pacific. But that did not necessarily mean an end to the traditional hot Christmas lunch. In his book The Hard Slog, Karl James writes that on Bougainville for Christmas 1944, the senior command of the Australian II Corps sat down to “turkey, ham, fresh potatoes, peas and onions, followed by plum pudding and sauce”. The 26th Battalion held a Christmas Eve concert that included a jazz performance and went swimming on Christmas Day; and the 27th Battalion ate fresh fish and roast pork from wild pigs.

Some prisoners of war even managed to rustle up a decent meal for Christmas. Jock Mathieson was interred at a camp on Banka Island for Christmas 1943. On 24 December he wrote to a friend, Captain Wilma Oram of the 2/13th Australian General Hospital, who was interred at the nearby women’s camp:

> Great preparations are being made for tomorrow’s food. I believe we will be eating throughout the day. Three pigs have been slaughtered—they are being prepared just now for the cooking pot. The local authorities have contributed a great deal towards tomorrow’s food. There will be Church services and carol singing.

Other Prisoners of War were grateful to the Red Cross for providing food parcels that made Christmas a little bit special—but they would have much preferred to be with their families.

As a Prisoner-of-War.

> It was no doubt the best of three Thanks to Red Cross Society But let us hope in Him above We spend the next with those we love.

Christmas for those who served in the Vietnam war may have featured festive concerts by Australian entertainers, and parcels provided by the Australian Forces Overseas Fund. In Fighting to the finish, the final volume of the official history of the Vietnam war, Ashley Ekins records the diary entry of Captain David Wilkins of C Company, 5RAR, who wrote that his company’s officers and sergeants began Christmas Day 1969 by “serving coffee royale [coffee laced with rum] to the diggers IN BED. Later we continued our duties and served the diggers Xmas dinner, much to their delight. Will have to knock ‘em back to size tomorrow.” They had earned it, having spent the previous ten days on reconnaissance and ambush operations in rugged, jungle-covered territory west of Binh Ba.

However, Ekins writes that the soldiers of 5RAR were not so lucky, and found themselves continuing to fight in spite of a so-called Christmas Day truce. Second Lieutenant Neil Smith of 5RAR, who was stationed at a remote fire support base, wrote: “Christmas Day was just another day to us. The battalion had four contacts on Christmas Day and killed two VC [Viet Cong].”

Across the world, and through the ages, diggers have always yearned to be home by Christmas".

Emma Campbell, Australian War Memorial

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Australian Defence Credit Union (ADCU)

Mia Sibum and Kerilee Dawson of ADCU presented a cheque of $2,000 to Graham Edwards, President of RSL WA, for the Annual Cadet Efficiency Awards – a joint RSL/ADCU initiative. ADCU has proudly supported the Cadet Efficiency Awards for the past few years.

The Cadet Efficiency Awards were held at the ANZAC Club, ANZAC House on 25 January, 2013. Remember that RSL Members and RSL Sub-Branches receive special term deposit rates from ADCU which provide a large range of banking products, as well as offering outstanding service.

Mia Sibum - Regional Manager, Western Australia - ADCU
70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and the Minister assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC, the Honourable Warren Snowdon MP, has asked me to write to you regarding a proposed Australian Government commemorative mission to the United Kingdom in late May 2013. The purpose of the Mission is to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic.

The Minister would like to invite the nomination of former veterans who served in the Battle of the Atlantic between 1939-1945, in either the RAAF, RAN, RANVR and the Merchant Navy and met the requirements to receive the Atlantic Star. The total size of the group will be no greater than eight veterans.

The mission itinerary is still being developed, however, the delegation is likely to be away for approximately eight days from the 21 May 2013.

I have written to the National and state branches of the Returned and Services League, the RAFA Association and the Naval Association regarding this mission, with the view that this invitation and the nomination forms reach as many veterans as possible. I ask that you distribute both this letter and the forms to your membership, and through your networks as soon as you are able. The nomination period is open until 1 March 2013. Nomination forms will also be available on the DVA website (www.dva.gov.au) under the “Quick Link” to “Commemorative Missions”.

In addition to service history, health considerations will be a major factor in the selection process undertaken by the Department for this mission. Nominees should be free of major health problems, for example significant conditions relating to heart, circulatory disorders, respiratory difficulties and nervous conditions. The Department understands that veterans of this age group are likely to have pre-existing health conditions, however I encourage nominees to state that medical criteria will apply and any condition viewed as significant or high risk may preclude veterans from being selected. The health of veterans is important to both the selection process and the travel undertaken. As such, a Doctor and a Nurse will travel with the delegation. The final decision on fitness to travel will be made by the Department’s Principal Medical Adviser. Dr Graeme Killer AO. I have enclosed forms for this purpose, which I request you copy and send to each nominee for completion. The Department can provide you with an electronic version of the letters and forms if needed.

Previous experience has shown that commemorative visits can be physically and emotionally demanding. While the itinerary will take account of mobility and age, it will still be quite demanding, with activities and events each day requiring a degree of physical and emotional endurance. All veterans nominated or nominating must be physically independent to the extent that they can climb and descend stairs unaided, walk distances of up to 500 metres without tiring (including on uneven ground), and climb in and out of vehicles and aircraft without difficulty. Strict and detailed medical assessments are requested of all nominees.

In taking up the invitation to nominate, veterans should note that the invitation and the Mission itself, does not include support for partners and carers to travel. Those included in the Mission party will be accommodated and must travel with the group at all times. I cannot emphasise too strongly that those chosen must be fit and able to cope with long distance air travel, a fairly comprehensive programme of events and activities.

Nominees who are shortlisted by the Department for further consideration for the mission will be required to undergo additional medical assessment before their names are put forward to the Minister for selection of the final party. Fitness to travel will continue to be monitored until the party is due to depart. I reiterate that the final decision on fitness to take part in the visit will be made by the Department’s Principal Medical Adviser.

The Department will arrange all travel, accommodation and meals, and passports (where necessary), for mission participants. The mission party will be provided with some items of clothing to be worn at ceremonies and functions during the visit. All nominees must understand that they will be required to accept a number of conditions to be considered for the visit party:

- to accept twin share accommodation, as part of a collegiate support arrangement;
- undergo medical assessment;
- to travel at all times with the visit party and remain with the visit party for the entire duration of the visit (i.e. from departure from Australia to return to Australia);
- if requested to do so, to take part in media interviews arranged by the Department, before, during and after the visit. Commemorative visits usually attract considerable media interest and the Department will provide support for these interviews; and
- no family members or individual carers will accompany the Mission. DV A will provide medical and other support staff.

In view of the logistical requirements in arranging the visit, it will be necessary to receive all nominations by no later than 1 March 2013. Nominations should be made on the enclosed forms and include biographical details of the nominees that will assist the selection process. If the nominees have any questions about the nomination process or difficulties completing the form, please telephone Mr Paul McAlonan in the Department’s Commissions & ANZAC Centenary Branch on (02) 6289 6127.

Forms should be marked for the attention of Mr Paul McAlonan and sent to the Department at GPO Box 9998, Canberra ACT 2601 or faxed to (02) 6289 4849.

The final decision for the mission to proceed is expected to be made in mid-late March. Letters of invitation will then be sent to successful nominees, however their participation will be subject to final medical clearance.

MA Kelly AO DSC – Major General - Commissioner

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) 9452 2810

2013 RAN Aircraft Handlers Reunion
The 2013 RAN AH, AVN, FF, MTD and WRAN MTs Reunion will take place in the City of Rockingham RSL Club on Saturday 2 March 2013 from 10 am. Admission is free but bring your wallet and lunch will be available. For further information and notice of intention to attend, please phone Tabby Gilmore on (08) 9592 4216.

Bob Gilmore

Australian Defence Force – Cambodia / UNTAC 1992-93
Proposed 20 Year Reunion – Saturday 25 May 2013, Canberra ACT
RMC Duntmoon dinner and other venues and events to be decided.
All replies direct to either of these: BRIG Peter Daniel - (formerly of UNTAC still serving in the Army!) peter.daniel@defence.gov.au Lisa Studdert - (formerly of Australian Mission) - lisastuddert@gmail.com

Bill Mason – (formerly of NGO Catholic Relief Services - Australia) - wmason@homemail.com.au

HMS Ganges Association
The WA Division would like to extend a welcome to ex Ganges 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 HMS Ganges Association exists simply 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.

Ian Critchley
Secretary

HMS Ganges Association – Geraldton
The Naval Association of Australia wishes to form a sub-section in Geraldton and welcomes 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

RAN – Gunnery Branch Reunion
24 to 26 April 2013, Hobart Tasmania
All replies direct to:
Graham Halton
HMCS Duchess, Vietnam

Geoff Marshall
- wliggle88@hotmail.com

Moss Love
lowecharmaine81@yahoo.com.au

RAN – 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: robertmcgreen@optus.net.com.au or Rick Watkins – (02) 4256 2620 – E: rick.w2@bigpond.com

Royalty

RAN – Gunnery Branch
24 to 26 April 2013, Hobart Tasmania
All replies direct to:
Cindy Gallahar - 1 Vernon Ave, MONTROSE, TASMANIA 7010 – (03) 6722 2944 – wrens.reunion2014@yahoo.com.au

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.au/Contact-President

RASigs SA – Bruce Long 0417 227 533
president.sa@rasigs.com.au

RAN – Proposed WRANS-RAN Servicewomen Reunion
28-30 March 2014
Hobart, Tasmania

Expressions of Interest accepted until the end of May 2013.
All replies and queries direct to:

The LISTENING POST February 2013

22
Sudoku

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

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

Provided by Sudoko.com.au

Easy Sudoku

Hard Sudoku

Crossword

Across
41. Mr. Donahue 42. Jewels 44. Perfect 46. Debate
50. Headed 51. Dame 52. Odors 54. Thrill
55. Yell lead 57. Oddes 61. Thrill 62. "to the right!"
63. Allow 64. Dam 66. Crawling vines 67. Dam
69. Capital of India 70. Sege liyy's capital 71. Military attack
72. Use a keyboard 74. School group 76. Tentin
77. Thored flower 79. Invited 80. Headed 82. Alesian
86. British thermal unit 87. Child 91. Card game
93. Writing liquid 95. Hiss 98. GS
Down
9. Canoe propeller 10. Sago lily's bulb 11. 20th century black and white photographer
41. Mr. Donahue 42. Jewels 44. Perfect 46. Debate
50. Headed 51. Dame 52. Odors 54. Thrill
55. Yell lead 57. Oddes 61. Thrill 62. "to the right!"
63. Allow 64. Dam 66. Crawling vines 67. Dam
69. Capital of India 70. Sege liyy's capital 71. Military attack
72. Use a keyboard 74. School group 76. Tentin
77. Thored flower 79. Invited 80. Headed 82. Alesian
86. British thermal unit 87. Child 91. Card game
93. Writing liquid 95. Hiss 98. GS


Monash University is conducting an on-line survey on how Australians and New Zealanders relate to ANZAC Day. The survey takes approximately ten minutes. Please check these websites for further information: Monash University justification http://www.monash.edu.au/news/show/anzac-day-remembered

Eric Heath Secretary RMPA Western Australia Branch

Notice

ANZAC Vietnam Veteran & Friends

"Sing for Kids" Granville RSL Club, Sunday 10 February 2013 at 2pm
Tickets: $20 at the door or
10 February 2013 at 2pm Granville RSL Club, Sunday
"Sing for Kids"
Veteran & Friends ANZAC Vietnam
Monash University justifying ten minutes. Please
Zealanders relate to ANZAC conducting an on-line survey on
Monash University is con-
thinking from former mem-
bers of the Royal Military Police, other UK service police groups, other UK services that have been attached to the RMP and the Australian Military Police that have been attached to the RMP.

For further information please contact Eric Heath: (08) 9291 8962 or eric.heath@bigpond.com

The RMPA Western Australia Branch

The RMPA Western Australia Branch confirms it is interested in hearing from former members of the Royal Military Police, other UK service police groups, other UK services that have been attached to the RMP.

For further information please contact Eric Heath: (08) 9291 8962 or eric.heath@bigpond.com


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different mediums are used to inter-relate. After many years of deployments, Defence networking has today become stronger than ever. Now our families are all inclusive of anyone wearing a uniform in Defence – whether single, married, de-facto, married unaccompanied, separated, sharing – the list is very wide. The needs of Defence families one may say are unique or are they? I hear so often “but you guys have it so easy today”, “back in my day……………….” The needs of today are different, but the one thing remains true – the need for support. Today, the use of social media networks would have to be undoubtably the best medium to maintain that “support” link. Helping those families that are new to an area, seeking information about schools, or where one can find different services. However, most of all people need people who appreciate and understand their individual family needs. I remain amazed at the amount of support that is provided using different technological mediums such as Google Plus, Tumblr, Twitter or the most popular one, Facebook. Military support groups that set up on Facebook are restricted to ensure the right people get access to maintain those Defence connections in turn making people free to ask questions. Arranging social gatherings like morning teas, barbecues, and family outings – whatever the name, these networks of defence personnel are stronger than ever before. Friendship can stand the test of time will certainly be formed. When I moved my family to our present location, the support networks proved to be a blessing. While we had immediate family in the area, the military support networks provided the missing link of explanatory back up. Information on an area through these networks before relocating makes the transition for families so much easier settling into a new environment. ANZAC Day will soon be upon us and many people will be marching in new towns, units or maybe their local towns and communities. Some personnel will be marching for the first time without their units; maybe they have now left the services. However, either way Sub-Branches will see new faces come through their doors and attending their town’s commemorations. Unfortunately, we hear too many stories of particularly younger contemporary veterans, being turned away at the door of a local RSL sub-branch and Club. Even worse they are questioned, and those leading up to the Centenary of ANZAC, As we prepare our activities for this ANZAC Day and those leading up to the Centenary of ANZAC, how are you going to assist and make an effort to include your young Defence Personnel? What will you be doing to make more young members welcome? Many of whom may still be serving in the ADF.

Shawn McGill, Secretary
Young Veterans Forum NSW RSL
Currently serving with the Royal Australian Air Force

By the time this article goes to press, most of us will be back into the swing of the New Year’s activities. I realize that it is the start of a new year, and that you, like me, are not usually lost for words. Then it dawned on me – Military Family Networks. The mechanisms that are so necessary to support our military families. While most of us have settled into another year of challenges and opportunities, there are always going to be a dis- tant memory. Some individuals are commencing a new job; others have relocated to a new military base in a new town. Families now relocated have to find new schools for their children, make new friends and in some cases moving well away from established support networks. Now for many this is a normal occurrence and a regular location change is now accepted. However, for some it will be their first move, or maybe it is a difficult move leaving an area were the status quo has been well established over many years. Whatever you want to call it, move- ment remains a fact of military life. Lots of readers will remember the “married patches” found around military establishments – those little communities understanding the needs of others or supporting one another through difficult periods. Military family networks have always been around but in this day and age quite...
An amphibious operation of this type and scale had little understanding of their own army’s medical assets or the needs of a large medical organisation.

Overview
To be successful, a modern army needs logistical support to survive - to arm, feed, transport and care for its soldiers. As history shows us the maintenance of health in any army, is a key factor in warfare.

When Australia entered the First World War in 1914, the Army Medical Service (AMS) had only recently been brought together after the federation of the Australian colonies in 1901. Like the rest of the 1st Australian Imperial Force (AIF), the AMS was largely an untested organisation of volunteers based on a small cadre of professionals. The prime function of the AMS was to maintain fit and healthy troops at the front or during operations, and to return the sick and injured to duty as soon as possible.

In many respects the Gallipoli campaign was a doomed undertaking. The seeds of ultimate defeat in December 1915 were the risks that attended a hugely ambitious, complex and large-scale amphibious operation - the landings on well-defended shores on the Gallipoli peninsula, under cover of darkness. Communications at the time were primitive while general staff officers had little understanding of their own army’s medical assets or the needs of a large medical organisation.

Our allies, who shared many of the same privations, came from the British, New Zealand, Indian and French armies. The Australian Army Medical Corps (AAMC) received aid from, and gave support to, all five forces at various times during 1915. This aspect of what we would now recognise as coalition support worked well for most of the campaign.

Underlying the execution of the Dardanelles campaign were factors wholly outside the control of the Australian AMS. Undoubtedly tragic, and sometimes avoidable, errors were made at the highest level of command with subsequent pressures on the AMS. An amphibious operation of this type and scale however, was without parallel in modern military history and mistakes were inevitable, as they are with any campaign of such complexity.

Gallipoli An Australian Medical Perspective explores these complexities and mistakes through the eyes of the infant Australian Army Medical Corps.

About the Author
Doctor Michael Tyquin is a consulting historian based in Canberra. He has published extensively in the areas of Australian social, medical and military history. He is a serving member of the Australian Army Reserve which he joined as a medical assistant with the 4/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse. He is the official historian of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps and is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland’s Centre for Military and Veterans’ Health.

Michael Tyquin was born in Melbourne, raised in a farm near Werribee in Victoria. He attended boarding school at St. Patrick’s College, Ballarat, school cadets, joined the Army Reserve in 1982, Mike is still active as an officer in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps of which he is the official historian.

Mikes interests in animals was obvious at a young age with his proud ownership of his first pony. Both his father and grandfather have bred and used Clydesdale horses. As a young boy he was intrigued by tales and recollections told by family and neighbours of the Light Horse and waited in vain for similar exploits of the horse, many of which could be seen grazing in the surrounding paddocks but which never seemed to merit a place in our local folklore.

When Mike was researching the history of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps for its centenary he came across a number of intriguing references to veterinarians and farriers and other men who made up the veterinary corps. It was then that he made a decision to revisit this group, bringing its story into the light of day and record its contribution to the Australian army - his book Forgotten Men is the long overdue account of the significant contribution to the Australian Army of the Australian Army Veterinary Corps in two world wars.

He likes researching history, overseas travel and wind surfing. He is widely published and is currently in the early research phase of a new book on profiteering and fraud in war-time Australia. He is also completing his first historical novel, set in the Boer War. Mike volunteered with Medic Sans Frontiers to go to East Timor at his own expense during its troubles in 1999, and returned again for six months with the Army in 2008.

Gallipoli An Australian Medical Perspective
By Michael Tyquin
Published by Big Sky Publishing

Great ANZAC Stories
The men & women who created the digger legend
By Graham Seal
Published by Allen & Unwin

The extraordinary and until now, secret story of what Britain's most famous submarine did before and after the Falklands War: a cold war exploit that puts Bond in the shade.

The Secrets of the Conqueror
By Stuart Prebble
Published by Allen & Unwin

Heroism, suffering, endurance, even humour- Graham Seal brings us stories from all the major wars in which Australians have fought.

Description
Over the years, the experience of soldiers at war has become the stuff of legend – tales of great bravery, battlefield wins, tragic losses and poignant moments. Great ANZAC Stories gathers iconic stories of Australians at war, both on the front line and at home. We relive the horror of the first day on Gallipoli, admire the courage of the men who fought from Remember, the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels and the secret submariners. We remember the nurses working in impossible conditions, support efforts on the home front and some of the most daring men this country has ever seen.

With larrikin episodes, grim jokes from the front and dramatic eyewitness accounts, Great ANZAC Stories includes stories which haven't seen the light of day since war-time, many from unpublished diaries.

Graham Seal uncovers the distinctive character of the Australian digger and follows the growth of the ANZAC tradition over our nation’s years.

‘These stories show the overwhelming blood and honour, heroism and horror that was the Australian experience on our cruellest shores’ - Peter FitzSimons

‘Accessible, short, often fresh tales capture the spirit and sentiment of ANZAC’ - Roland Perry

About The Author
Graham Seal is a Professor of Folklore at Curtin University, and a leading expert on Australian cultural history. He is author of the bestselling Great Australian Stories.

Release Date: 17 December 2012
Subject: Australianana
Pages: 320
Double Cross
The True Story of the D-Day Spies
By Ben Macintyre
Published by Allen & Unwin

The number one bestselling author of Agent Zigzag and Operation Mincemeat exposes the true story of the D-Day Spies.

Description
D-Day, 6 June 1944, the turning point of the Second World War, was a victory of arms. But it was also a triumph for a different kind of operation: one of deceit, aimed at convincing the Nazis that Calais and Norway, not Normandy, were the targets of the 150,000-strong invasion force. The deception involved every branch of Allied wartime intelligence: the Bletchley Park code-breakers, MI5, MI6, SOE, Scientific Intelligence, the FBI and the French Resistance. But at its heart was the ‘Double Cross System’, a team of double agents controlled by the secret Twenty Committee, so named because twenty in Roman numerals forms a double cross. The key D-Day spies were just five in number, and one of the oddest military units ever assembled: a bisexual Peruvian playgirl, a tiny Polish fighter pilot, a Serbian seducer, a wildly imaginative Spaniard with a diploma in chicken farming, and a hysterical Frenchwoman whose obsessive love for her pet dog very nearly wrecked the entire deception. Their enterprise was saved from catastrophe by a shadowy sixth spy whose heroic sacrifice is here revealed for the first time. Under the direction of an eccentric but brilliant intelligence officer in tartan trousers, working from a smoky lair in St James's, these spies would weave a web of deception so intricate that it ensnared Hitler’s army and helped to carry thousands of troops across the Channel in safety. These double agents were, variously, brave, treacherous, fickle, greedy and inspired. They were not conventional warriors, but their masterpiece of deceit saved countless lives. Their codenames were Bronx, Brutus, Treasure, Tricycle and Garbo. This is their story.

About the Author
Ben Macintyre is a columnist and Associate Editor on The Times. He has worked as the newspaper’s correspondent in New York, Paris and Washington. He is the author of eight previous books including Agent Zigzag, shortlisted for the Costa Biography Award and the Galaxy British Book Award for Biography of the Year, and the no. 1 bestseller Operation Mincemeat. He lives in North London.

The Battle of Mont St Quentin-Péronne 1918
By Michele Bomford
Published by Big Sky Publishing

The number one bestselling author of Agent Zigzag and Operation Mincemeat exposes the true story of the D-Day Spies.

Overview
The Battle of Mont St Quentin-Péronne 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.

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.

The Battle of Mont St Quentin-Péronne 1918 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-Péronne represents the Australian Corps at its very best, its diggers fighting for peace and satisfied that, ‘whatever 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-Péronne 1918 follows her first book, Beaten Down By Blood: The Battle of Mont St Quentin-Péronne 1918, the research for both 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.

Release Date: 10 Jan 2012
Subject: Military, WW1
Pages: 140

War Widows’ Guild of Australia WA Inc
66th Anniversary Wreath Laying Service

On 26 November 2012 members of the War Widows’ Guild, together with invited guests and joint Patrons, His Excellency, Mr Malcolm McCusker AV CVO QC and his wife Mrs Tonya McCusker, attended the 66th Anniversary Wreath Laying Service for the formation of the Guild in Western Australia. The service was held at the ‘Flame of Remembrance’ at the State War Memorial within Kings Park.

Wreaths and floral tributes laid by the official party were followed by war widow representatives from each major conflict, ranging from WWI to Afghanistan, laying a wreath on behalf of their loved ones. Over 50 members of the Guild were then given the opportunity to place their own poppy in memory of their husbands.

Jenny Knight
## United and Kindred

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## Australian Defence Force

Amy Campbell, Emma Cook, Amy Liebregts and Eliza Josey are a few of ten high school graduates from across WA who were recently farewelled by family and friends to commence training as an officer in the Australian Defence Force.

Commanding Officer HMAS Stirling and Senior Naval Officer in WA, Captain Angela Bond, RAN, and Officer in Charge of Defence Force Recruiting Perth, Lieutenant Commander Katy Morisset.

## Australia Day

The sound of artillery echoed across King’s Park on Australia Day as the Army fired a 21 Gun Salute to mark the occasion.

Gunners from the 3rd Light Battery of the 11/28th Battalion, Royal Western Australian Regiment of the Irwin Barracks based unit fired the salute.

The State President of RSL WA visited the unit to thank them for their time, praise them for their efficiency and recognise that the battery has taken part in the Australia Day salute continuously since 1948.

The Gunners fired the Army’s 105mm M2A2 Howitzer. State President Graham Edwards said Vietnam Veterans would remember the guns well as they were used extensively in South Vietnam as fire support.

The guns, which are now only used for saluting purposes, fired a rolling volley, in which one gun fires after another.

This year also marks the 65th Anniversary of the establishment of the battery’s predecessor, the 3rd Field Regiment of Australian Artillery in July 1948.
AMAZING HEROES

Hollywood has been serving our Veterans for over 70 years.