

Stand To

"The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance"



Lest We Forget



www.actrsl.org.au

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To make a contribution to the newsletter or to sponsor a page, contact the Editor by phone +61 2 6260 6344, fax +61 2 6295 1628 or email michaelis@netspeed.com.au

Welcome

Welcome to the second of Stand To for 2010. Thank you to the contributors from the various sub-branches who have provided newsworthy articles for this edition. I remind sub-branches that there is plenty of space to submit their annual report for the next edition which will be published early December in time for Christmas. If you wish to put a Christmas message in Stand To please submit them to the editor no later than 30 November 2010.

John King

President, RSL ACT Branch

One last task for Bob

The Hon Bob McMullan MP, recently presented Ms Kristine Boyce with her Australian Defence Medal. Ms Boyce is a former member of the RAN having served in a number of postings around Australia during her stint with the Navy. Kristine is currently a Personal Assistant and Program Support Officer with the CSIRO Land and Water research group located at Black Mountain in the ACT. Kristine was joined by members of her family for the presentation

which was held at Bob's office. Bob McMullan MP, is one of the longest serving members of the House of Representatives and has decided to retire from politics after a long and distinguished career. Bob said that he was very proud to be associated with the veteran community and noted that his electorate had the most current and ex-Defence personnel within any Federal electorate. Bob congratulated Kristine upon receiving the award and stated that there was no greater calling than putting on the uniform of your country. Bob has been a most supportive MP for the ACT Branch activities and he will be missed by all in this regard. On behalf of the ACT Branch I wish him all the best in his well deserved retirement.

John King

President, RSL ACT Branch



L to R: John King, Kristine Boyce and Bob McMullan MP.

BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA DAY 2010

Battle for Australia Day has been gazetted for commemoration on the first Wednesday in September each year.

Ceremonies are held around Australia to commemorate the drawn out struggle to defend Australia against Japanese forces during World War 2.

The Battle for Australia covers the period from the Malayan campaign and the fall of Singapore and the East Indies, through the Japanese invasion of Papua New Guinea, air and submarine raids on Australian towns and shipping, the 1942 battles of the Coral Sea, Milne Bay, the Kokoda Track and Guadalcanal, up to the recapture of Buna and Gona and the battle of the Bismarck Sea in early 1943. Also remembered are those

who contributed to the war effort on the home front and the subsequent campaigns to liberate New Guinea, the Pacific and South East Asia.

In Canberra, the ACT Committee of the Battle for Australia Commemoration National Council is organising the 2010 National Commemorative Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on Wednesday, 1 September 2010 at 11am.

The ceremony is arranged in conjunction with the Australian War Memorial and supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Australian Defence Force. Participants usually include national leaders, diplomatic representatives from the Netherlands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the United Kingdom and the United States,

the RMC Band, the Rugby Choir, students from primary and secondary schools and members of veteran and community organisations.

In addition to their official representatives, the attendance of all veterans and their families is warmly invited. Public seating is provided for the ceremony in the Western Courtyard of the Australian War Memorial. If you would like to attend, you should arrive by 10.45am. AWM staff will be available to assist.

For further information contact:

Email: john.jackson@bigpond.com

or

Tel: (02) 6206 9818

or

Email: ceremony@awm.gov.au

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The ACT and Region Battle Of Britain Commemoration 2010

To be held at

**The Australian War Memorial
10.30am
Wednesday, 15 September 2010**

and

**The RMC of A Chapel, Duntroon
11.30am
Sunday, 19 September 2010**

This is the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain Commemoration and veterans and members of the public are welcome.

For more information contact:

Paddy Mahony

Email: bpmahony@velocitynet.com.au | Tel: (02) 6254 3934

or

Derek Gould

Email: drsgould@bigpond.com | Tel: (02) 6254 8666

Can you help?

Please contact me if you trained or flew with my father, **Walter James Peters**, 425962, W/O RAAF, Bomb Aimer in Bomber Command in WW2. Enlisted Brisbane, 21 May 1942.

He trained Narromine and Bradfield Park, then in Canada training in Air Observer and Bomb and Gunnery Schools.

Joined Bomber Command in the UK, December 1943; survived crash in Wellington bomber in North Sea, 17 March 1944; months of rehab followed; rejoined in 106, 630 and 44 Squadrons. Dad passed away on the Gold Coast in 1987.

Known RAAF mates – Clive Price, Garth Parkinson, Bruce Dixon, Ian Innes, Keith Mills and Albert Claire.

Thank you, Des Peters.

Email: despeters4@bigpond.com

Tel: (03) 9431 0415 (Melbourne, Australia)

From the Washington DC Sub-Branch

Gentlemen,

Just to let you all know that even from the far side of the world your heroic deeds continue to instill a sense of awe and respect. Last night our Ambassador Kim Beazley spoke for some 30 minutes to an international group of young Australians and Americans who are here under sponsorship of the Kokoda Foundation to conduct a workshop on common contemporary international security issues. He described the Kokoda campaign as amongst Stalingrad and Leningrad in importance in WWII and thought the endurance and suffering were greater as a result of the proximity of the enemy and the environmental conditions you experienced. I agree.

On the eve of this year's Kokoda Day, I wish all of you 'ragged bloody heroes' well on your day. You continue to be an inspiration to a new generation of Australian warriors who continue to march towards the sound of the guns to preserve our freedoms and remarkable way of life.

In Washington DC we will be remembering your sacrifice with a dinner here at the Embassy on the evening of 20 August, (the eve of the battle). Of course the Kokoda campaign culminated in the attacks at Buna-Gona and the bringing together of the US 32 Infantry Division and the Australian Warren force and then later LTCOL Ralph Honner's (a great West Australian)

famous words "Gona's Gone". The dinner will be very heavily supported by the US Army, USMC and one gentleman, Ed Connor who was flying in a US Army Air Corps B25 above you guys in support of Maroubra Force operations. The dinner speaker will be our own Peter Fitzsimons and George Friend will be an ambassador for you blokes of the 39th Battalion.

Happy Kokoda Day.

**Rod West, CSC
Brigadier
Military Attache and President
RSL Washington DC Sub-Branch
Embassy of Australia
Tel: (202) 797 3293
Mobile: (202) 330 1787**

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Army Apprentices Association—North Queensland

www.austarmyapprentice.org/index.htm

I have taken up the role as the North Queensland area representative for the Army Apprentice Association.

I am trying to get together contact details of any Army Apprentices in the North Queensland area (providing they want to be contactable) and promote membership of the Association.

The association website (see above) contains everything about the Association including: current projects, intake listings, Vale lists, reunion details, photo contributions, etc.

Point to note is the intake listing now includes all Apprentices, including those that did not graduate.

A reunion is going to happen in October 2011 (*Apprentices together 2011*). Details are in the December Presidents Update on the website. There is also a contact listed in that update if anybody wishes to organise an intake reunion to coincide with the main reunion. I attended the 60th reunion held in Albury/Wodonga and it was an excellent event.

I have enclosed a membership application (the more members the better the association).

Can you please pass this on to any Apprentices you know of in the area.

Dave Young, 30 F&T

For more information contact:

Army Apprentice's Association
Dave Young
Regional Representative,
North Queensland
Email: youngdj@bigpond.com
Mobile: 0417 639 380

Army Apprentice's Association (National)
Lucas McGann, Secretary
Email: secretary@austarmyapprentice.org

HMAS Arunta Association Reunion at HMAS Cerberus Westernoort

In November 2010 the HMAS Arunta Association will host a celebration for all former and current crew members, their families and friends to mark the 70th anniversary of the launching of HMAS Arunta. The launch was conducted in 1940 by Lady Zna Gowrie, wife of the then Governor-General of Australia. Following successful sea trials the ship was subsequently commissioned in March 1942. Often referred to as a greyhound, due to its speed, the ship saw active service between the years 1942–1956 and was then in operational reserve from 1957 to 1968. In 1998 a second Arunta, carrying on the tradition, was commissioned into the fleet as an Anzac class frigate.

To celebrate the occasion and to pay tribute to those that have and/or are serving on HMAS Arunta the Association is planning to host a lunch function at HMAS Cerberus Westernport on Sunday, 28 November 2010. This special day will include a tour of the base which I'm sure will bring back many, many memories.

Transport (most likely bus) will be provided for those needing assistance and will leave and return to a central point in Melbourne.

We would love to hear from you and to include you and your guests in this celebration.

For further information and to have your name added to the invitation list please contact Bruce Robertson Secretary HMAS Arunta Association by email: secretary@aruntaassoc.com or by phone (03) 9764 0336.



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Please also visit the Arunta Association website <http://arunta-assoc.com> for history and information as well as the Navy website for Arunta II which can be found at www.navy.gov.au/HMAS_Arunta

Both websites are loaded with information, history, newsletters and photographs. If you or your family have any pieces of history of Arunta and would like to have them considered for inclusion on the Associations' website please contact us.

Notes from the City of Canberra Sub-Branch *(Winter Edition)*

The following is a summary of major events and outcomes for 2010 to date.

Sub-Branch Appointments

At the Annual General Meeting held on 17 February 2010, the incumbent Executives were re-elected for a further term of office. Council Delegates also remained the same.

Membership

At the time of writing the current membership stood at 183.

During 2010 we have welcomed three new members: Evan Wain, Patricia McDonell and Len Ricardo to our ranks. Sadly, we note the passing of three of our long-serving members: Kevin Cook, Keith Hooper and Dick Russell — *Lest we Forget*.

It is of some concern that the majority of our members have not renewed their membership for 2010. I believe that the main reason for this is that I relied upon *Stand To* (rather than a Sub-Branch Newsletter) to remind members that their subscriptions were due.

Unfortunately, the first edition of the ACT Branch-published *Stand To* was not circulated until May 2010. **For those who wish to re-new their Membership, a Membership Subscription Form appears on page 3.**

ANZAC Appeal 2010

In April the annual ANZAC Appeal was conducted and members and volunteers manned selling points in the Canberra Centre, Dickson Shopping Centre, outside office buildings in the Parliamentary Triangle and Civic, and the Fyshwick Fresh Food Markets. This year, the Appeal achieved a total sales figure of \$10,721.95 which was approximately \$2,660 more than our previous best figure. I would like to express my thanks to the nineteen members and volunteer who participated.

During my efforts to enlist volunteers it was evident that many of our older members who have participated in past campaigns were no longer able to assist. Like all organisations, the participation of volunteers is necessary to ensure that such campaigns continue to be successful. If you are able to give a couple of hours support for the Poppy Sales Campaign in November, please contact me or our Secretary, Paul Bohun whose contact details appear on page 8 of this edition of *Stand To*. I am sure that you will find the experience enjoyable.

Canberra RSL Memorial and Citizens Club

It will be of interest to many of our more senior members that the Canberra RSL Memorial and Citizens Club is to be wound up.

The Club in Moore Street was originally the North Canberra RSL Club and was built and manned by volunteers from the North Canberra Sub-Branch in the early 1970s. However, an accident during extensions to the building placed the enterprise in jeopardy and help was sought from the ACT Branch.

The Branch declined to assist but the Turner–O'Connor and Canberra City Sub-Branches came to the rescue and together the three Sub-Branches raised the necessary funds and completed the extensions. It was soon realised that they were not in a position to continue the operation of the Club and the enterprise was transferred, at no cost, to the RSL Memorial and Citizens Club.

Since then the three Sub-Branches have amalgamated to form the City of Canberra Sub-Branch.

Last month the Members and Board of the Club resolved to wind up the Club, transfer the funds and memorabilia to non-profit organisations with similar purposes as those of the Club, and following the distributions, apply to de-register the Company. The details of the disbursements are yet to be determined.

With the closure and winding-up of the Club, the unfortunate situation has arisen wherein there is no longer any RSL Club in Canberra or Queanbeyan.

**Jan Paulga
President
4 June 2010**



Derek Roylance and Colin Berryman at the ANZAC Appeal 2010 Canberra Centre Stall.

UK Armed Forces Day 2010

The Celebration was held at the British High Commission in Canberra on 25 June 2010, with participants from presently serving, veteran and (hopefully) future serving generations.

The High Commissioner, HE Baroness Valerie Amos, set the tone with her warm welcome and friendly style. It seemed the whole of the BHC staff was involved in looking after the guests and creating a family atmosphere. Formality was observed in a wreath-laying ceremony and the presentation by Baroness Amos of the Elizabeth Cross to Mrs Kellie Merritt, widow of FLT Paul Pardoel RAF (formerly RAAF), who was killed in action in Iraq. A bugler from the RMC Duntroon Band sounded the Last Post. There were also presentations in a more joyful atmosphere of HM Armed Forces Veterans badges to a number of veterans from the ACT region. Disabled veterans were bussed in and took full part in enjoying a sumptuous morning tea (with a shot of rum to warm up aging bones).

The BHC media Section has posted photographs of the event on the BHC website. Go to www.ukinaustralia.fco.gov.uk then News/UK Armed Forces Day.

**Regards,
Paddy Mahony**

RAAF Ballarat Reunion planned for March 2011

Another 'final' reunion is proposed for 2011. We will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the closing of RAAF Ballarat. 2011 will also be the 90th birthday of the formation of the RAAF.

The reunion is intended for all who served at RAAF Ballarat, service or civilian, but we welcome others who may want to catch up with friends from the several musterings who trained at Ballarat.

The reunion is to be held from 23–27 March 2011 at Ballarat.

The format will be similar to previous events, happy hours, dinner and barbeque at Ballarat Uni. Precise details to be decided nearer the date. Cost should be similar to previous reunions plus inflation, travel and accommodation.

Other events we know about are:

- Avalon Air Show
1–6 March 2011
- DCS Froggnall 50th
early March 2011
- RAAF 90th at Point Cook
31 March 2011

- 7 Course Appies
March 2011
- 8 Course Reunion
7–15 April 2011

Please contact Doreen or Phillip Marsh ASAP if you are interested. We know we are all getting older and unforeseen events can put paid to plans to attend. Nominating to attend does not put you under an obligation to do so, so please let us know if you would like to come. If not currently intending to come but want to receive updates please let us know.

Now is the time to start writing your memories of your time at RAAF Ballarat. We had many good ones last time, but there must be many more!

Please advise an email address if you have one.

Email: radschl.reunion@gmail.com
Post: Radschool Reunion
17 North Avenue
Leichardt NSW 2040
Tel: (02) 9560 8486 (Doreen)

**Phillip Marsh
Reunion Convenor
Mobile: 0416 099 464**

70th Anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Waterhen

To commemorate the sinking of HMAS Waterhen in June 1941, a research project has been established. The intention is to publish a commemorative volume which includes crew lists (with service details), a diary of the ship's wartime service using official and crew diaries, and photographs of crew members. Contact is sought from anyone with possession of, or information about the location of, any diaries, letters, and photographs of personnel who served in Waterhen.

Contact CHAP Andrew Watters, HMAS Waterhen, Balls Head Road, Waverton NSW 2060. Telephone (02) 9926 2524 or 0418 979 036.

RSL ACT Branch Office

Canberra Services Club
Manuka Circle
MANUKA ACT 2603

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CANBERRA ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6260 6344

Fax: (02) 6295 1628

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john.king@csiro.au

CEO: Mr James Davidson
ceo@actrsl.org.au

Barton—Capital

PO Box 5131
Lyneham ACT 2602

President: Mrs June Healy OAM
(02) 6247 6580 (H)(F)
0419 822 934 (M)
junehealy2@bigpond.com

Secretary: Mrs Jan Ormerod
+61 2 6248 7199 (BH)
0401 354 487 (M)
business.manager@rsl.org.au

Meeting: 1st Tues every second month
5.30pm (from Feb)
12.30pm (June & August)

Venue: Canberra Services Club

Belconnen

PO Box 147
JAMIESON CENTRE ACT 2614

President: AVM Mac Weller AM (Ret)
(02) 6262 4878
emweller@ozemail.com.au

Secretary: Mr Dennis Wilkes
(02) 6254 0609 (H)
0416 180 936 (M)
wilkesda@bigpond.com

Meeting: 2nd Tues each month
7.30pm (Oct–Apr)
11am (May–Sep)

Venue: West's Rugby Union Club

British

65 Stretton Crescent, LATHAM ACT 2615

President: LtCol BP (Paddy) Mahony (Ret)
(02) 6254 3934 (H)
bpmahony@velocitynet.com.au

Secretary: Mr Brian McGlynn
(02) 6296 1047 (H)
mcglynnfamily@grapevine.com.au

Meeting: 3rd Wed each month, 2pm

Venue: Canberra Services Club

Campbell—Russell

PO Box 1073
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

President: Mr Robin Vickery
(02) 6254 4008 (H)
ravickery1@bigpond.com

Secretary: Mr Tom Roberts
(02) 6178 5142
0409 304 572 (M)
tomroberts1@bigpond.com

Meeting: Last Thurs each month, 12.30pm

Venue: Yowani Country Club, Northbourne Ave

City of Canberra

27 Bragg Street
HACKETT ACT 2602

President: Mr Jan Paulga
(02) 6241 4965 (H)
0417 421 941 (M)
paulga@bigpond.net.au

Secretary: Mr Paul Bohun
(02) 6161 1314 (H)
0418 978 614 (M)
pbohu2@grapevine.com.au

Meeting: 3rd Wed each month, 11am

Venue: The Cottage, The Braddon Club,
Cnr Donaldson and Torrens Sts, Braddon

Gungahlin

11 Mawalan St
NGUNNAWAL ACT 2913

President: Mrs Christine Coultard OAM
(02) 6241 8587 (H)
0408 745 662 (M)
c.coultard@bigpond.com

Secretary: Mr Rod Bennett
(02) 6253 9903
rmbennett4@bigpond.com

Meeting: 1st Wed each month, 7.30pm

Venue: Lakes Community Club

Hellenic

PO Box 1063
WODEN ACT 2606

President: Mr Peter Tsikleas
(02) 6286 3341 (H)

Secretary: Mr P Taylor

Meeting: 3rd Tues each month, 7.30pm

Venue: Hellenic Club, Woden

Peacekeepers

C/- Branch HQ

President: Mr Gary Brodie OAM
0412 628 695 (M)
gbrodie@alphalink.com.au

Secretary: Position vacant

Meeting: Periodically

Venue: Canberra Services Club, Manuka

Tuggeranong

PO Box 351
ERINDALE ACT 2903

President: Mr David Knight
(02) 6291 1052
jdknight@tpg.com.au

Secretary: Mr Graeme Slattery
(02) 6291 5542 (H)
0402 313 906(M)
graemeslattery@grapevine.net.au

Meeting: 3rd Wed each month, 7pm

Venue: Erindale Rugby Union Club

Vietnamese

PO Box 7107
CANBERRA MAIL EXCHANGE ACT 2910

President: Mr Nang Do-Quang
(02) 6255 5494(H)
captrans@homemail.com.au

Secretary: Position vacant

Meeting: Periodically

Venue: Migrant Resource Centre

Woden Valley

PO Box 1637
WODEN ACT 2606

Tel: +61 2 6285 1931

Web: www.rslwoden.org.au

President: Mr Peter Collas
(02) 6161 3742 (H)
bloods@actewagl.net.au

Secretary: Mr Ross Thomas
(02) 6288 3223 (H)
0414 883 224 (M)
rthomas@netspeed.com.au

Meeting: Last Tues each month, 7pm

Venue: Yamba Sports Club, Phillip

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