

# Bulletin Board Bulletin Board Bulletin Board



*Merchant Navy Memorial Sculpture at the Australian War Memorial Canberra.*

## Merchant Navy Day Memorial Service

The Merchant Navy Day Remembrance Service to honour those men and women who sacrificed their lives will be held on September 3 at 11am at the Mosman Cenotaph, Myahgah Road, Mosman, Sydney, adjacent to Allan Border Oval

World War II saw the estimated loss of about 11,700 merchant ships worldwide. The Australian DVA Nominal Rolls record that at least 3500 Australian Merchant Seamen in World War II and 270 in the Vietnam War lost their lives.

International, national and local community groups and citizens are welcome to lay a wreath/tribute after the official wreath-laying.

The service will be followed by a walk to Mosman Returned Services Club, where refreshments will be served.

RSVP or for further information, view the Australian Merchant Navy web site's Memorial Service announcement on the home page at [www.merchant-navy-ships.com](http://www.merchant-navy-ships.com) Postal Address: 16 Redan Street, Mosman, NSW 2088 Email: Ron Wylie [rsywylie@bigpond.com](mailto:rsywylie@bigpond.com)

## Did you know John Ashhurst Ward?

The late John Ashhurst Ward, Service Number RAAF 407 656, from Prospect, SA, enlisted in Adelaide on December 7, 1940. He attended various Australian courses: RAAF Sommers, Ballarat and Evans Head Bombing Courses. He was AC1, AC2. LAC and sergeant during Australian training, first as air gunner then as wireless air gunner.

Shipped to the UK in November 1941 he was posted at RAF Uxbridge; then Yatesbury in December 1941 and Moreton-in-the-Marsh in January 1942. He took part in European bombing missions including 1000 bomber raids. He was promoted to Flight Sergeant, Pilot Officer and Flight Officer.

He then served with RAF squadrons 104 and 148 from July 1942 in Egypt — Almaza and Cairo — and later Malta (during the heaviest bombing raids on the island).

Posted back to UK at West Kirby and Harwell in February 1943, he embar-

## Relive history and your memories

Leuralla Gardens and the NSW Toy & Railway Museum invites RSL members to pay them a visit, especially those interested in the naval and military displays, and history of war in miniature.

Leuralla is known as The Showplace of the Mountains. Its magnificent five hectares of cool-climate garden is complemented by a grand old heritage-listed Blue Mountains home dating back to 1912. The house and garden are open to the public and are home to the NSW Toy & Railway Museum.

It contains the largest and most important collection of pre- and postwar toys in the southern hemisphere, featuring tin-plate trains, planes and cars, extensive model-railway layouts, lead soldiers and figures, dolls and teddy bears with a special emphasis on the period from 1910 to 1960. The operators say that a visit to the museum will bring back many memories of your favourite childhood characters and toys.

There is a wonderful collection of NSW Railway trackside and station memorabilia including lights, trolleys, seats, signals and signs.

Elizabeth Evat, director, says; "Travel back in time and relive the romance of rail as it once was. The house is in its original condition, representing elegant yet relaxed family life in the Blue Mountains in the era when grand hotels and guesthouses were in vogue. Leuralla epitomises the mode of this period — frozen in the time-frame of the 1920s and 30s. The layout of the rooms, furnishings and effects is just as it was at this time."

Leuralla is open every day from 10am to 5pm. Group bookings and inquiries are most welcome. The museum offers a discounted rate, for groups of 12 or more people, of \$10 per person. The driver and tour leader are free.

[www.toyandrailwaymuseum.com.au](http://www.toyandrailwaymuseum.com.au)  
Email: [leuralla@bigpond.com](mailto:leuralla@bigpond.com)

## Kindred spirits come together

The ACT Kindred Organisations Committee consists of representatives of the Ex-Service Organisations in the ACT/NSW surrounding area. All ESOs are invited to be represented on the ACT KOC. The aim of the ACT KOC is to provide a joint ESO representation to both the Department of Veterans' Affairs (locally and federally) and the ACT Government with issues that are of importance to the Veteran Community and that require a strong united representation.

The ACT Kindred Organisations Committee Newsletter is on the ACT RSL web site. ACT RSL is assisting in keeping the Veteran Community informed on the issues that the ACT KOC is addressing.

Current issues being addressed by the

ACT KOC are:

**Parking** for Veterans and their families at the Canberra Hospital during the current reconstruction and redevelopment.

**Veterans' Park** redevelopment.

**Acceptance** of DVA medical cards at the new "Walk In Centre" at Canberra Hospital.

**DVA** Deputy Commissioner Consultative Forum.

**Effect** on Veterans of medical clinic closures in the ACT.

**TIP** Pension & Welfare Courses.

The chairperson of ACT KOC is Pat McCabe and the Secretary is Margaret Smith. The committee includes representatives of AATTV, Defence Force Welfare Assn, Korea & SE Asia Forces Assoc, Legacy, National Service and Combined Forces, National Servicemen's Association, Naval Assn of Australia — ACT Section, RAAF Assn - ACT, RSL - ACT, T&PI Assn, T&PI Wives' Assn, TIP Representative, VAAS Office, VAN Office - ACT, Vietnam Veterans Assn, VVF, War Widows' Guild, WRANS.

## 2CARU (RAAF) Reunion

A 50th Anniversary reunion to celebrate the formation of 2 Control and Reporting Unit, RAAF Lee Point will be held in Darwin from 18 to 26 September 2009.

details on [www.angelfire.com.au](http://www.angelfire.com.au) or email [2caruaware@gmail.com](mailto:2caruaware@gmail.com) or phone 08 89451547

## Radio Ron calling

Ron Metcalfe's radio show, focusing on veterans, is on in the ACT region on the first Thursday of every month at 9.15am and then again at 8pm on Radio One (1120 AM Band)

## Help wanted for 'trapped' veterans

The RSL has received a plea from Tom Benyon, founding trustee of ZANE: Zimbabwe A National Emergency

He writes, "As you will appreciate, the predicament of many of the World War II veterans and their widows who find themselves either through age or infirmity effectively trapped in Zimbabwe is dire. The Mugabe regime has allowed inflation to effectively destroy their pensions and their assets. Today many look to ZANE as their lifeline and providers of vital food, financial support and medicines.

"ZANE needs to raise further funds as the position in Zimbabwe worsens month by month."

As many ex Rhodesian and Zimbabwe nationals have moved to Australia, ZANE has been invited to appeal by several groups of donors and supporters who live in different states. ZANE would give Australians a way to help relatives and friends facing a desperate situation in Zimbabwe.

Please send donations by post to: **ZANE, PO Box 451, Witney OX28 9FY England with cheques payable to ZANE: Zimbabwe A National Emergency**

More information:

[www.ZANE.UK.com](http://www.ZANE.UK.com)

## Longreach Reunion

55AESS/EWPS will be holding their bi-annual reunion at Longreach, Queensland on August 16-20, 2009

**For more details contact  
Sel Christie 0409 374 638 or  
Frank Bates 0400 556 804 or  
John Jesser 07 3356 9297**

## Reunion of 101 Field Battery, RAA

**Malaya 1959 to 1961 Tour  
50th Reunion**

18th to 20th Sept 2009,  
Coffs Harbour

**Contact David Troedel  
36 Murphys Creek Road  
Toowoomba, Qld, 4350  
(07)4630 8787**

Email: [davidpat@bigpond.net.au](mailto:davidpat@bigpond.net.au)

## Korean War ceremony

The President and Members of the ACT Branch of the Korea and South East Asia Association of Australia invite all veterans of the Korean War to the Korea Veterans' Day Commemorative Ceremony at the Australia National Korean War Memorial, ANZAC Parade, Canberra ACT on Monday 27 July 2009 at 11.30am — seated by 11.15.

**Dress:** lounge suit/uniform, with decorations and medals. Inquiries to Ceremonial Officer (02) 62418587, 11 Mawalan Street, Mawalan ACT 2913.