



Official Magazine of
**WODEN VALLEY
SUB-BRANCH R.S.L.**



The SERVICEMAN

First Published in January 1962

ANZAC EDITION

APRIL 2016



2016 — the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

The Long Tan Cross, located in Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province, 110 km east of Ho Chi Minh City, the site of the Battle of Long Tan. Eighteen Australian soldiers were lost during this battle on 18 August 1966, making it Australia's single most costly engagement of the Vietnam War.

CONTENTS



Office Bearers 2014-15	Page 3
From the Editor's Desk	Page 4
The President's Message	Page 5
Fall In	Page 7
A Military Man with a Full Life	Page 8
Fetherston Gardens	Page 10
Canberra's War Memorials	Page 12
Visit by the Governor-General	Page 13
Eddison Day Club's 12 th Birthday	Page 14
2016 Notes for the Diary	Page 16
Lest We Forget and Last Post	Page 17
Australia Day Medallions	Page 18
Palliative Care ACT (PC ACT)	Page 20
Arthur James Bourne	Page 21
Notice of Annual General Meeting	Page 23
ANZAC & Peace Ceremony	Page 24
HMAS Moresby (I)	Page 27
ADF Motorcycle Ride for Prostate Cancer	Page 29
Pommy Nasho — A Memoire	Page 30
The Mailed Fist	Page 32
Decommissioning of HMAS Sydney (IV)	Page 33
Sub-Branch Services	Page 35
Saint George's Memorial Church IEPER	Page 36
RSL Advertising on ACT Buses	Page 37
Your RSL Chaplain	Page 38
ANZAC Commemorations 2016	Page 40

ADVERTISERS

Canberra Southern Cross Club	Page 19
RSL Money	Page 25
Grantley Perry & Sons Funeral Directors	Page 39

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The SERVICEMAN

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RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

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OFFICE BEARERS 2015-16

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The Sub-Branch meets on the last Tuesday of each month except April and December at the Canberra Southern Cross Club, Corinna St, Woden at 7.00PM. Membership subscription is due on 1st January annually and should be posted to PO Box 415 Woden ACT 2606. Telephone Number for the Sub-Branch and "The Serviceman" — (02) 6285 1931

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***FROM THE
EDITOR'S DESK***
Bob Cremer



This is a very special year for the RSL with the 100th Anniversary of the Returned and Services League in Australia and the National Centenary Congress to be held at the Sofitel Hotel in Melbourne on 6th June. 2016 is also memorable for events such as the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, the Battle at Verdun, the 75th Anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour and the 25th Anniversary of the Gulf War, and as indicated on the front cover, the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. The 1st March is also the 115th anniversary of the creation of Australia's Navy by the Federal Parliament on 1st March, 1901.

We have RSL advertising on two Canberra buses and hopefully, the result will be to encourage some new and younger members to join our organisation and become participating volunteers in the many services provided to serving and past members.

An exciting event at the Sub-Branch was a visit by the Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove on Tuesday 17th November 2015, to see the Sub-Branch office layout and to inspect the very busy Veterans' Support Centre. This provided the Governor General with a firsthand look at the work done by the advocates supporting our Veterans. On 11th March the Governor General will be visiting the Day Club with details and hopefully a photo or two in the next issue.

On 11 November 2015 the Sub-Branch was invited to the official opening of the new Gallipoli Garden in the revitalised Fetherston Gardens at Weston, [formerly the CIT School of Horticulture]. In January we had the presentations of the 2016 Australia Day Medallions, with 5 presented to deserving members at an afternoon tea in the Sub-Branch offices and attended by Mr Chris Bourke MLA, the RSL ACT President, Mr Peter Eveille and members.

It is anticipated that this year will be busy as ever with the amount of work being undertaken by Sub-Branch staff and members.

Finally, I would like to thank those volunteers offering to do proof reading of this magazine in the future. Offers are greatly appreciated although at this time I would thank Bill and Thea Smith for their continued support.



The President's Message

Jim Gilchrist

As 2016 gets into full swing, I again refer to previous messages when I hoped members had had a chance to enjoy their Christmas celebrations and holiday season with family and friends. To those for whom the festive season presented difficulties, I trust you found some peace and you will not be shy in seeking comfort and support from others within the RSL and Sub-Branch.



While we had no building or moving tasks during December and January we did assist some in the Veteran Community and I thank those who helped. As the VSC continues to develop capabilities as the service delivery arm of the ACT Branch, it is good to work with other Sub-Branches and ESOs to provide some of this much needed support.

The only advantage of being late in submitting my report is the opportunity it provides to outline some recent developments and promote some scheduled events. However, in being late, I disrupted the production of this issue and I apologise to members and other readers. I also apologise for the inconvenience and stress I caused to our editor, Bob Cremer, and his very small team of assistants who work tirelessly to produce what continues to be an excellent publication.

The most recent change at the Yamba Club is that we have new neighbours. At the end of February, RSL ACT Branch moved from RSL LifeCare Morshead at Lyneham to our premises. It now occupies what had been our office and reception area for many years. We look forward to working closely with Branch and achieving synergies in key areas; otherwise, it will be business as usual for both parties.

The Entitlements and Advocacy [E&A] Team continued to attract about one new client a day with each bringing several conditions and a range of complexity. To meet these demands, the E&A Team has developed an Induction Program that involves six three-hour sessions. Through the process, inductees will work with practising pension officers to develop their skills and assist in the overall management of the caseload. Hopefully, the six new volunteers who started on the 1st March will complete this program before they undergo DVA approved training and can accept clients in their own right. I offer my thanks to Ross Thomas and his team of about 10-12 regulars who manage an extraordinary workload. I also note the support that Andrew Properjohn provides to the team and our clients.

The Community Support team has also attracted a steady stream of clients, some of whom require significant effort to ensure they receive support. In several cases during the past months, we have worked closely with Legacy and other organisations to assist clients. It is worth noting that the VSC is providing a broader level of support and case management than that which might have previously been available from the Sub-Branch. Our Community Support Co-ordinator, Judy Friend, guides this small team, often under difficult circumstances, to achieve good outcomes.

Judy has continued to build and oversee our relationships with other service providers who together provide an optimal range of services.

As the VSC continues to develop, this capability will be able to assist other Sub-Branches develop basic welfare skills so they can offer services to support their members and others in the Veteran Community in hospital and home visits, and basic welfare support.

Although we have made little apparent progress in the development of essential policies, procedures and systems, we are well placed to address this priority task in the near future. An immediate priority will be to develop induction programs to brief potential volunteers and prepare new teams for the work ahead.

Similarly, we are continuing to work with Branch to pursue the funding necessary to secure the future of the VSC without compromise to normal Sub-Branch activities. I offer my sincere thanks to Branch for their ongoing financial support that now includes them meeting half of our rent, salaries of the E&A Administrator and the Community Support Co-ordinator and a 50% contribution to the cost of having a Receptionist available for 30 hours per week.

The Eddison Day Club recently celebrated its 12th birthday, a highlight of which was a wonderful cake provided by Mrs Pam Yonge who is a strong supporter of this endeavour. The Club still supports 35 to 45 members each week at the Irish Club for 48 weeks of the year. Peter Sutton and his team of about 10-12 regular assistants provide a great service and I commend them on their consistent efforts over many years. If you haven't been to see this group at work and play, I recommend you do visit them and see what you could do to assist the present volunteers. In noting that Max Brennan recently stood down as the Deputy Co-ordinator of the Day Club, I thank him for his efforts since he started as one of the founding members. Having completed a three-year term as Co-ordinator, Max mentored his replacement, Peter Sutton, for another year as part of a succession plan. Thank you Max.

Please note the ANZAC and Peace Ceremony is scheduled to be held at Eddison Park on Wednesday, 6th April, where the guest speaker will be the New Zealand Deputy High Commissioner, Mr Llewellyn Roberts. We are hoping for a good attendance from local schools and good weather. The guest speaker at the ANZAC Eve Dinner to be held at the Southern Cross Club on Sunday, 24th April, is Major General (Retd) Michael Crane, who is a member of the RSL Policy Advisory Committee and the President of the United Services Institute of the ACT, amongst other things. As a recent operational commander, General Crane will provide an excellent setting for the commemoration of ANZAC Day.

Following an excellent Christmas Party in December, the Sub-Branch held an OGM Dinner in February. Nearly 80 members and guests were entertained and informed by the Department of Veterans' Affairs Principal Medical Adviser, Dr Ian Gardner, who spoke about some of the Department's machinations. Thank you to the members who supported these events and to those who organised them, especially our office staff.

At a Branch level, the President has gathered a small team to help prepare for the ANZAC Day services at the AWM. He is also working with the Branch Executive to enhance the governance arrangements across the Branch and develop policies and programs to sustain it into the future.

In thanking our volunteers for another great effort during the past several months, I also highlight some staff changes and note the contribution the staff make on a daily basis.

Firstly, Samar Thompson ended her time with us in December, prior to moving with her family to Far North Queensland. Samar was an integral part of our family for four years and provided wonderful support to members as she enthusiastically accepted several roles and developed her knowledge of the RSL and our community.

Judy Friend is also moving to Queensland to be closer to her family. For the past two years, Judy has filled the demanding position of Community Support Co-ordinator and has helped clarify and develop the role while concurrently helping many members of the Veteran Community and developing sound relationships with related organisations and service providers.

I thank Samar and Judy for their work with us and the passion that both displayed to our members, clients and our endeavours. On behalf of all members, I wish them and their families the very best as they start the next chapter of their journey through life.

I am pleased to welcome Joyce O'Brien to the role of Office Administrator and Renee Mills who will work with Florence and Lynnnda to share the Receptionist role.

I also note the passing of two long term members; Ian Porteous and Arthur Bourne, both of whom will have separate tributes. Ian was a stalwart of the Sub-Branch and made an extraordinary contribution to many facets of our work; Arthur was an original member of the Day Club and his contribution to the success of the Club and its ideals were well known. Both men had also made extensive contributions to the broad ACT community and will be sorely missed by many. I wish their families our condolences and thank them for sharing Ian and Arthur with us.

Finally, I thank the Executive and the Board for their efforts to maintain the momentum and provide the leadership to meet our objectives. The manner in which they continue to consider options, offer advice and implement plans in what can best be described as a dynamic environment is most welcome.



FALL IN

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Anthony John, Martin McKone, John Wickett,
Brian Sharp, Lynnnda Livesey, Martin Skin

A Military Man with a Full Life
Ian Guilford Porteous — 9 Nov 1933 - 2 Jan 2016
Clinton Porteous

Bravery and determination were hallmarks of how Ian lived and got the most out of life. Not a man to do things by half measures, those around him were touched by his enthusiasm and drive. Through a career in the Australian Army he witnessed action in Vietnam, and Malaya. He liked nothing more than gathering with mates from the Australian Army Training Team (the Team) each ANZAC Day to march and celebrate. With a sense of humour, he loved being around people and was very active in the community, involved with the RSL, Probus, the Canberra Hawks, the Royal Canberra Golf Club and the Canberra Bowling Club, with his wife Bev.

Brave and determined to the end, Ian asked family members to see him in hospital after a year-long battle with illness. His message was simple; he had had a good run and it was time to move on - enough was enough. It was not fair on his wife, family and friends. He died three days later.

Born and educated in Melbourne, not far from Glenferrie Oval, it was a beginning of a lifelong passion for the Hawthorn Football Club, always keen to don the brown and gold of the Hawks, he thoroughly enjoyed the past three years and three consecutive Hawthorn premierships.

At Scotch College, he developed an interest in the military and arrived in Canberra in 1951 training to be an army officer at the RMC, Duntroon. Graduating in 1954, it was the beginning of an active military career, spending two years in Malaya and three in Papua New Guinea. He saw action in Vietnam where he served with the Army Training Team experiencing the hardship of war but also forging lasting friendships. From his time in Vietnam, he was awarded several medals including the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. The ACT President of the AATTA, John Jackson said the highest tribute came from his fellow soldiers. "He was a treasured member of the Team and we loved him like a brother." Mr Jackson said.

Ian married Jan (nee Bodel) in 1959 and like many service families had numerous postings in Australia and overseas. Ian was serving in PNG when his first son, Scott was born in 1961. His second son, Clinton was born in Adelaide as Ian was serving at the Woodside Barracks in the Adelaide Hills. Third son Matthew was born in Canberra in 1968 while Ian was in Vietnam. Back in Canberra, Ian accepted a two year posting to Bangkok working for the Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO). His family enjoyed a varied and interesting life in Thailand before returning to Canberra in 1973. In 1975 Ian left the army and started working with the peak business group, Associated Chambers of Manufactures, helping develop business links in Australia and growing Southeast Asian Nations.

A new chapter of his life began when Margaret Reid, ACT Senator and President of the Senate, hosted a dinner party introducing Ian to her friend Bev Berriman. This meeting led to his second marriage that lasted 31 years, the pair a well-known and popular couple. Both had three children from previous marriages (Bev's children, David, Julie and John) they were referred to as the 'Brady Bunch' after the American TV Series.

>>>

During the 1980s, he headed the ACT Australia Day Council and in the early '90s was on the council of the ACT Branch of the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

For those who knew Ian, he was open-minded, energetic and carried himself with dignity to the end. Ian was laid to rest with his Hawthorn scarves and leaves behind a loving wife and family that includes 10 grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held at the Presbyterian Church of St Andrew in Forrest on Friday 8 January 2016 to celebrate Ian's life.

RSL Funeral Service

Peter Collas - Bereavement Officer

We are here to pay a last tribute to our comrade - ***Ian Guildford Porteous***, who served our country in war and peace. Ian joined the RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch in 1990 and was a proud and active member. On joining he was elected to the committee, serving ten terms; twice as a Vice-President and eight as a member. Additionally, he was a member of the Finance Committee for 15 years from 1994-2009.

In 2004, I was elected to the Board and soon benefited from Ian's advice and guidance. He helped me establish a Sub-Branch tertiary scholarship during 2004-05. Over our 5 years on the Board, and after as President, Ian was a source of wise counsel to me. We are indebted to him for his service to our Sub-Branch, for which he received the Order-Of-Whatever-It-Is (Wizards of Wealth) in 2000 and the RSL Certificate of Appreciation in 2001.

To his family we extend our sympathy while at the same time sharing their pride in one who was a worthy citizen of our country. Remembering Ian's many fine qualities now lost to us, we pledge to continue the tradition of unselfish service to our country and our fellows; particularly those in need of our support.

The hour has come for rest. This blood red poppy, the traditional emblem of sacrifice in war, the symbol of life given freely for one's country, a link between our comrade ***Ian Guildford Porteous***, and we who remain. It is a token of our affection and proud remembrance.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow,
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

***“They shall grow not old as we who are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them”***

‘LEST WE FORGET’



Fetherston Gardens – Weston ACT

Lesley Pattinson

Fetherston Gardens Friends

Fetherston Garden Friends, a volunteer community group, are restoring and maintaining the new Fetherston Gardens located at Weston, formerly the CIT School of Horticulture. Named after Tony Fetherston, this site has a 40 year history,

significant in Canberra, of growing and nurturing plants and people.

The Fetherston Garden Friends were given a small but precious plant, a *Quercus coccifera*, the Gallipoli Oak and a Lone Pine. The Friends' committee took up the opportunity provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program and applied for funds to build a garden area, 'The Gallipoli Garden'. We viewed this as an ideal garden space to plant the oak and pine. The Gallipoli Garden would provide a garden space where people could meet, reflect, respond, and be connected to loved ones and to our community. We would plant only Gallipoli plants.

The landscape on the Gallipoli Peninsula is rugged, wild and exposed. The plants growing there were adapted to these conditions and they left memories for many serving at Gallipoli during WWI. Letters were exchanged with loved ones and tangible reminders of home were sent with wattle sprigs and gum leaves pressed between the words. Seeds of plants and those growing at Gallipoli were sent back in letters and travelled home to Australia in pockets and parcels. These plants have been lovingly captured in paintings and memories, as in a painting by George Lambert, an Australian war artist.

The garden project was a collaboration of funding also from DVA, providing for the connecting path with Fetherston Ridge and the Gallipoli Garden space. TAMS and our volunteers have worked over many months caring for the gardens and enabled the connections between all partners involved with the project. The garden construction was created by Terry Fox, of Foxies Landscapes. Terry was Tony Fetherston's first apprentice on site. His connection to this place fits alongside Tony Fetherston's and the garden is a lasting legacy to this.

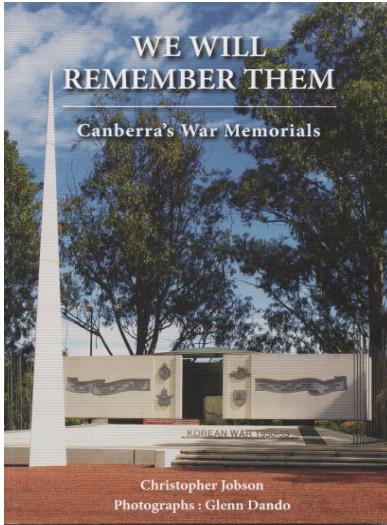
The opening in the afternoon of the new Gallipoli Garden on Remembrance Day, 2015 was highlighted by the Defence Force Army band and warm speeches from our partners and politicians. Janet Lawrence, daughter of Tony Fetherston spoke graciously of her father and his legacy, both in the gardens and as a serving member. The Gallipoli Oak given by Susan Parsons was planted by Gai Brodtmann. The Lone Pine planted nearby with the Gallipoli plants and new plaque adjacent to the Wee Jasper bluestone wall and paved area are places for conversation and reflection. The afternoon was shared by many in our community; men who have served, families and friends. It was held in a respectful and community inclusive format and will be remembered by many, as all who were involved in the project came to commemorate the day. >>>

Though garden works have been completed, this is the new beginning for the Gallipoli Garden. As all gardens change and grow, so do people. As the Fetherston Gardens Friends have chosen to highlight these significant plants from the Gallipoli Peninsula 100 years on, the Gallipoli Garden enables our community to share in this place of reflection and connection.

Tony Fetherston's uncle had served at Gallipoli during the war and Tony himself was a WWII veteran. Tony's daughter, donated a Pomegranate plant for the Garden, just as one grows on his uncle's memorial at Gallipoli today. The Fetherston family has continued a strong and loving connection with the volunteers, and their sharing of stories and family history connects us personally to the Fetherston family. This has enabled the volunteers in caring for and maintaining the gardens.



Greg Kennett, RSL Woden Valley, Janet Lawrence (Fetherston), Lesley Pattinson, FGF Convenor, Stephen Hutchinson, DHA, Gai Brodtmann, Federal Member, Shane Rattenbury, Minister for TAMS, Alistair Coe, Liberal Member and Tom Anderson, Weston Creek Community Council at the official opening of the new Gallipoli Garden in Fetherston Gardens on 11th November, 2015.



We Will Remember Them Canberra's War Memorials

We Will Remember Them, by Christopher Jobson is produced in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of the commencement of The Great War. This book identifies Canberra's relevant war-related memorials and will better enable both Canberrans and the Territory's visitors to honour and remember those Australian servicemen and women who served and those who died, in The Great War's campaigns. The book also lists the memorials that remember and honour those who served and those who gave their lives, in Australia's subsequent conflicts.

This book is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the ***ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program*** and the Woden Valley Returned and Services League Sub-Branch.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has not participated in the research or production or exercised editorial control over this book's contents, and the views expressed and conclusions reached herein do not necessarily represent those of the Commonwealth, which expressly disclaims any responsibility for the content or accuracy of the book.

Foreword by Professor Peter Stanley, University of New South Wales, Canberra, Nov, 2014

“Christopher Jobson's book fulfils a need whose lack many have long felt. He and photographer Glenn Dando, should be proud of their guide to Canberra's war memorials.

Australia arguably has more war memorials per capita than any comparable nation, and Canberra has the greatest concentration of memorials in Australia.

Our city is the location of memorials of several kinds. We have memorials dedicated to Canberrans who have served and died. As the Nation's Capital many of the memorials in this guide bear the work 'national'. Some memorials reflect other nations' relationships with Australia. We are fortunate to have in our City these reminders of our shared past.

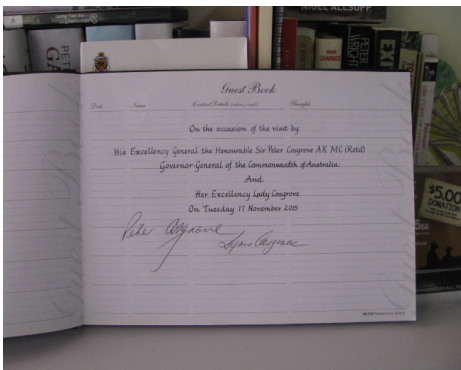
While (as the guide tells us) more memorials are planned, the only obvious gap is a memorial to those who suffered in the frontier wars that saw the Limestone Plains transformed from indigenous hunting lands to pastoral paddocks and in turn to a national capital. I hope that this book will stimulate an awareness of that absence.

These memorials reflect a common human desire to remember the past, and to commemorate war's effects, in deaths and in other sacrifices. This book offers a superb opportunity to learn more of them, and through them to reflect upon what war has meant to Australia and its people”.

This publication is available from the bookshop at the Australian War Memorial and through the Sub-Branch office and costs \$20.

Visit by Governor General

On the special occasion of the visit to the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch and Veterans' Support Centre by His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) Governor General of Australia and Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove on Tuesday 17th November, 2015.





***THE EDDISON
DAY CLUB
CELEBRATES ITS
12TH BIRTHDAY***

*Peter Sutton
Co-Ordinator Day Club*



This year marks the 12th Birthday of the Eddison Day Club.

After receiving an initial grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, support from the Sub-Branch and the Irish Club in Weston, the Day Club met for the first time in 2016 on Friday 6th February.

Ian Gollings, our first Co-ordinator was the driving force behind the initial establishment of the Club, and is still with us, along with his wife Shirley who leads us in our light exercise program. We still have many of the founding members and over 12 of the original volunteers.

We have been very lucky in having such a venue as the Irish Club which provides us with a two-course cooked lunch. Tea and coffee are provided free of charge. We have a series of theme days during the year — Australia Day, Valentine's Day, Easter, ANZAC Day, Mother's Day, Independence Day, Bastille Day, Halloween and a Christmas function on our last meeting day of the year in mid-December, before a break until mid January.

We have a core group of entertainers who give freely of their time to come to us once or twice each year and include poets, singers, dancers and musical groups. Julie Cronin, our program co-ordinator has managed to attract many wonderful, interesting guest speakers from all walks of life. We have had gardeners, academics, talks by scientists, on travel, medical professionals and members of the press. On particular Fridays we have "Home Bake Days", "Show and Tell" and "Dress Up Day" on a theme.

During the last few months we have had a talk by a lady from the Natural Dictionary Centre; His Excellency, Mr Chris Seed, the New Zealand High Commissioner to Australia and Patron of the Sub-Branch; an 'Armchair Tour of Japan'; a dance group called 'Silver Sole Cloggers', a representative of Australia Post talk on the postal changes affecting seniors. This year we have had an author speak of her book about the war-time efforts of her Father-in-Law; Australian poetry and songs by Club Members, and a bush band, and on our birthday have a choir to sing for us.

Anyone is able to come and join us at the Irish Club, Parkinson Street, Weston each Friday, (except Good Friday), between 10.00AM and 2.00PM. There is a charge of \$11.00 which covers lunch and a ticket in our raffle.



Day Club Birthday activities with the Birthday cake cutting by Patron Mrs Pam Yonge, a sing-along with the 'Young at Heart' singers and a party atmosphere enjoyed by all who attended.



2016 Notes for the Diary



Tue 29 Mar	Ordinary General Meeting	1900 CSCC Phillip
Wed 6 Apr	ANZAC & Peace Ceremony	1100 Eddison Park, Phillip
Sun 24 Apr	ANZAC Eve Dinner	1800 CSCC Phillip
Mon 25 Apr	Sub-Branch ANZAC Day Service	0800 Eddison Park, Phillip
Mon 25 Apr	ANZAC Day March	1000 ANZAC Parade
Tue 31 May	Annual General Meeting/OGM	1900 CSCC Phillip
Mon 6 Jun	RSL National Centenary Congress	Sofitel, Melbourne
Tue 28 Jun	Ordinary General Meeting Dinner	1830 for 1900 CSCC Phillip

The Plan

From 'The Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels, and other verses ... by Sapper Bert Beros

The Great Divine Draughtsman,
He once drew a plan,
In lines, contour and colours
To be followed by man

But man who is headstrong,
Thought that he knew
More of the plan than
The Draughtsman who drew

*[written at a place known as
The 17 Miles near Moresby]*

YOUR SUB-BRANCH ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Thanks to the support of the Canberra Southern Cross Club, the Sub-Branch 'home' has been expanded and consequently physical access to the various functions of the Sub-Branch have changed.

All members and clients seeking Entitlements and Advocacy support should enter the building through the sliding doors nearest the road and turn right past the Gym reception area through the double wood/glass doors into the 'Glasshouse'.

Support for all matters other than Entitlements and Advocacy is now located at the rear of the building, overlooking the old bowling greens. Entering through the rear double doors will bring you to reception for all administration issues and to the Community Support area for all welfare matters. The Executive also has an office in this space and a training/general use area is provided. Generally, parking is available at the side and at the rear of the basketball facility as well as those areas currently used.



LEST WE FORGET

“The price of liberty is eternal vigilance”

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



WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

The following was written by Pericles well over two thousand years ago, long before the first ANZAC Day, but only a stone’s throw from Gallipoli:

Each has won a glorious grave - not that sepulchre of earth wherein they lie, but the living tomb of everlasting remembrance wherein their glory is enshrined. For the whole earth is the sepulchre of heroes. Monuments may rise and tablets be set up to them in their own land, but on far-off shores there is an abiding memorial that no pen or chisel has traced; it is graven not on stone or brass, but on the living hearts of humanity. Take these men for your example. Like them, remember that prosperity can be only for the free, that freedom is the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it.

Engraved forever at ANZAC Cove are these words from Kemal Ataturk, the Commander of the Turkish 19th Division during the Gallipoli Campaign and the first President of the Turkish Republic from 1924-1938:

“Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives. You are now living in the soil of a friendly country therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmetts to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours. You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well”.



John Hamon, Arthur Bourne, Adrian Dennison, Major George Walker,
John Wright, Doris Buckley, John White, Ian Porteous,
Mary Lees, Angus Cameron

Presentation of 2016 Australia Day Medallions Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch.

A morning tea at the Woden Valley Sub-Branch Offices on Friday 22nd January, 2016, where Australia Day Medallions were presented to deserving members of the RSL for their tireless work in all aspects of the League.

Attending on behalf of the ACT Chief Minister, Mr Chris Bourke, MLA, presented Australia Day Medallions to the following recipients:

Brian Alabaster, Ken Tait, Dave Jeffrey and Ralph Sullivan. A 5th Medallion was retained and was later presented to Glenn Maitland, the President of the Port Moresby Sub-Branch in Papua New Guinea.



Also attending was ACT RSL President, Peter Eveille, ACT RSL CEO James Davidson along with members of the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch and invited guests.



Canberra Southern Cross Club



WODEN

92-96 Corinna St
Phillip ACT 2606
6283 7200



TUGGERANONG

Cnr Howell & Pitman Sts
Tuggeranong ACT 2900
6293 7200



YAMBA SPORTS CLUB

Irving St
Phillip ACT 2606
6283 7300



YACHT CLUB & CRUISES

Mariner Place
Yarralumla ACT 2600
6273 1784

www.csc.com.au

For the information of members and guests

Palliative Care ACT (PC ACT)

Peter Sutton

I have been a volunteer for Palliative Care ACT since 2009.

In June 2014 I began visiting Mr Jim James twice a week in his home at Gordon, under the home based visitor program run by PC ACT. After a short time I began taking Jim to the Eddison Day Club each Friday at the Irish Club in Weston.

On 1 October last year, Palliative Care ACT held a fund-raising dinner to celebrate 30 years of Palliative Care in the ACT and attempted to raise \$30,000 to fund some of their home-based programs. At that time Jim was in respite at Clare Holland House.

Asked by my supervisor at Clare Holland House if I was willing to be part of a newspaper interview with one of my clients to which I readily agreed. This necessitated bringing Jim home for a couple of hours and then returning him to Clare Holland House.

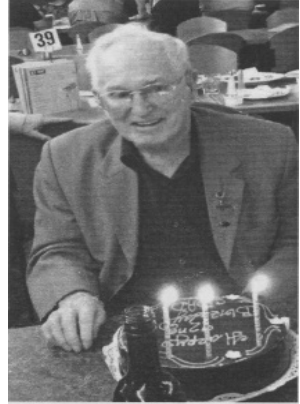
Senior Reporter, Ms Emma Macdonald and Photographer, Mr Rohan Thomson came to Jim's home to do the story which appeared on the front page of 'The Canberra Times' on 24 September, a week before the dinner. I am sure the story highlighted the work done by 136 volunteers at PC ACT, whether they attend clients at Clare Holland House, Residential Aged Care Facilities or Home-based, and may have helped in raising the target amount to assist with this vital work to improve the quality of life towards the end and allow them to die with dignity.



Jim James and Peter Sutton enjoy a coffee and a chat

Arthur James Bourne
[22 Oct 1923 - 29 Nov 2015]

The passing of a family patriarch is not simply a time to grieve, although we all do; it is also a time to celebrate a life lived long, honourably and well. I think the life and times of such a person can also be sometimes seen as a small window to the history of our young country of Australia. I am Damian Bourne, eldest son of Arthur James Bourne, and I wish to share with you a little of my father's story with snippets on the emergence of our country from his birth to present day.



Dad was born on 22 October 1923, the youngest and last surviving of seven children of Daniel and Frances Bourne, in Kadina, South Australia. Dad attended school there until necessity pushed him into the workforce. Such were the times of my father's childhood, yet he never complained about the hardships, although they must have been terrible. He often spoke, however, with great pride, about his father's skills as a boat builder and fisherman, and how, at 14, he used to go fishing with him in St Vincent Gulf, famous for its giant snapper and even bigger white pointer sharks.

Sadly he lost his father around that time. Daniel, like all country men then, and most of them still today, enjoyed a beer at the local. Riding his bicycle home from the pub one night, he was hit by a car and killed. Dad adored his father, and the loss must have been devastating for him and the whole family. He left school at 15 and joined the Postmaster General's Department as a telegram boy. He quickly worked his way up to the position of senior postal clerk, which entailed mastering the skill of Morse Code transmission.

Dad met the love of his life, my mother Muriel while working at the Stansbury Post Office. Muriel was the daughter of Malcolm and Beatrice Perkins, and was born six days after Dad on 28 October 1923, just six miles away at Moonta. They married on 16 December, 1942, the day before he was due to leave for Adelaide to join the war. He had enlisted that year after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941.

Because of his skill as a Morse Code operator, and previous experience as an Air Cadet Code operator, he was designated for training as a signals operator/gunner. His initial training was in Port Adelaide, and in January 1943 he embarked on the USS West Point to San Francisco, his ultimate destination the massive advanced flight-crew training scheme established in Canada by Great Britain aimed at producing 50,000 flight crew a year from around the 'British Empire'.

The Empire Air Training Scheme had establishments all over Canada, and Dad ended up in Calgary for advanced wireless/gunner training, and after that to No.160 Squadron, RAF. A highlight of his time in Canada was having the honour of pinning the wings on his older brother, Don, who had graduated as a fighter pilot, later to fly the legendary Spitfire.

>>>

Dad's squadron flew ultra long-range Liberator bombers on duties loosely termed 'coastal command', including fleet escort operations searching for Japanese submarines which threatened convoys of allied ships. It also included mine-laying in dangerous places like Singapore Harbour. These flights had a minimum duration of 12 hours, the longest 25 hours airborne. For part of this time he was based in Colombo in what was then Ceylon in the days of the British Raj.

He told stories about how difficult the Liberator was to fly, often overloaded with fuel, bombs and mines making it a problem on short and rough runways. One takeoff aborted as the plane failed to clear a truck, another belly landing after bombs and fuel jettisoned. During the next two years he flew two full tours of duty, which entailed 64 operations. It is sobering to note that many aircraft with all on-board were lost by 160 Squadron flying similar operations to those 64 flown by my father.

The war in the Pacific ended with the unconditional surrender of the Japanese on-board USS Missouri in Tokyo Harbour on 2 September 1945. Seven years ago, I stood on the deck of Mighty Mo where the surrender was signed and my thoughts turned to Dad, as I realised that signing meant that he could go home.

I was born less than 12 months later, and my five brothers and sisters followed at roughly two-year intervals for the next decade. Stephen in 1948, Andrew 1950, and on with Laurencia, Simone and Justin. Raising a family of six straight after the war must have been tough, and finding work even tougher. My earliest memories were of living in a little house in Port Adelaide while Dad worked on the production line at the British Tube Mills factory.

A rabid follower of the Mighty Magpies, or Port Adelaide as they were known then, I spent many Saturday afternoons at Alberton Oval with him cheering on Fos Williams and the boys in black and white. Dad's love of sport was not merely as a spectator, and he encouraged all of us to play sport. I played lower grade cricket in the same team as him in Darwin and Canberra. He got a job back in the public service and posted to Darwin in 1951. Darwin still had the scars of World War II from Japanese bombings. We lived in some old Nissen huts at East Point. Back to Adelaide for a few years, and then Dad got a job back in Darwin with Civil Aviation.

Finally back in Canberra, they bought a more modern home in Wanniasa where the traditions of family gatherings, birthdays, marriages, Christmas and all things family were celebrated. After my mother died in a vehicle accident Dad set off on his own for three months around Australia. Back in Canberra he lived with Laurencia and her husband Michael.

He initially joined the RSL in 1947 and transferred to the Woden Valley Sub-Branch in 1993. He was an active member and also a founding member of the RSL Day Club which he joined in 2004 and attended regularly enjoying the Day Club activities.

He passed away at home after a short illness on 29 November, 2015. A service for Arthur was held on Friday 4 December, 2015 at Norwood Park Crematorium, Sandford Street, Mitchell, ACT.

'LEST WE FORGET'

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH
OF THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE WILL BE HELD ON

TUESDAY 31st MAY 2016

The Rainbow Room, Canberra Southern Cross Club
commencing at 7PM

The Returned and Services League of Australia
Woden Valley Sub-Branch Inc.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 31st May 2016
AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Minutes of previous AGM [26th May 2015] – Read and Confirmed
3. Annual Report – President
4. Financial Statement – Treasurer
5. Welfare Report
6. Finance Committee
7. Motions on Notice
8. Declare all office positions vacant
9. Election of Board of Management in accordance with Section 3 of the Sub-branch Constitution
10. Installation of Sub-Branch President and Executive
11. Closure of Annual General Meeting
12. Ordinary General Meeting, for May 2016
13. Closure
14. Ode

ANZAC AND PEACE CEREMONY FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN



The annual Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch **ANZAC and Peace Ceremony** will be conducted at **Eddison Park, Phillip** on **Wednesday 6th April 2016**.

Spectators and members of the Sub-Branch assemble at 11:00AM. Schools arrive at Eddison Park about 11:15AM, with the Ceremony commencing at 11:30AM.

The Ceremony will conclude at about 12:15PM.

You are asked to help our regular core of volunteers in the following areas:

- Act as a wreath laying guide/escort for each school - about 20 needed
- At least four marshals to guide the schools on arrival to their places in the park
- A member to take charge of the flag poles and lowering and hoisting of flags
- A liaison officer for the Catafalque Party
- Assist with the placing of hired chairs from 10:00am
- Help to erect shade tents
- Help by providing a trailer to collect and return portable gear from the Sub-Branch office and Garran School.

Medals should be worn. Children look forward to meeting Veterans. Please try to attend and chat with the children and in particular those children proudly wearing family medals.

Andre Bobets is Co-ordinator. Please contact him on **0412 266 047** or by email:

andre.bobets@gmail.com if you are able to assist.

Only with your help will the ceremony be successful.

Banking that *gives back* to the RSL community



Introducing RSL Money

The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) and the Australian Defence Credit Union (ADCU) have partnered together to provide a range of low cost, high value banking products that can make a real difference to the RSL and greater Defence community.

RSL Money is Australia's only range of banking products that help support the sustained growth of the RSL movement.

A range of products to suit you

RSL Money currently offers three core products:

1. The RSL Money Low Rate Visa Credit Card
2. The RSL Money Deeming Account
3. The RSL Money Sub Branch Account

Giving back to RSL

RSL Money members can feel proud of their association to the RSL when banking with RSL Money. Every time you use your RSL Money card, you're helping to promote the RSL brand throughout the broader community.

With the RSL Money Low Rate Visa Credit Card we acknowledge your commitment to the RSL by offering you a low purchase rate, balance transfer

rate, and a low annual fee. RSL Money will donate \$24.50 (half of the annual fee) to the RSL for every credit card funded, for every year the card is held.

RSL Money will also contribute 0.20% p.a. of Deeming Account balances to the RSL National every month and at no cost to you. That means, the more you save the more we can give back to the RSL movement.

Funds raised go back to helping the Defence Community

When you invest with RSL Money, your funds will go towards providing financial assistance to serving members of the Defence. So you can feel good knowing your savings will go back to helping Defence families who are getting started financially through the provision of home, personal and car loans.

Donations and contributions raised from the RSL Money initiative go towards the RSL National Office and will help to keep RSL annual membership fees low.

Joining RSL Money

RSL Money is open to all RSL Sub Branch members and their partners. Simply let us know your Sub Branch name upon application.

The RSL Money Low Rate Visa Credit Card



0.00%
12 month balance transfer rate

10.99%
interest on purchases

Terms and conditions available on request. Fees and charges apply to the use of your Credit Card





The RSL Money Deeming Account

- ✓ No everyday banking fees
- ✓ FREE ATM cash withdrawals*




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MR A CARDHOLDER
ROCKDALE SUB BRANCH



The RSL Money Sub Branch Account

- ✓ Designed for RSL Sub Branches
- ✓ FREE cheque book facility
- ✓ Visa Debit Card access
- ✓ Unlimited Visa Debit Cards
- ✓ No monthly account keeping fees

Applying with RSL Money is easy

1. Join online at www.rslmoney.com.au
2. Call the RSL Money Contact Centre on **1300 000 775**, or
3. Make an appointment with RSL Money Relationship Manager Ann Roach
e: ahroach@rslmoney.com.au
m: 0418 400 043

*ATM providers not included in the redATM and NAB network may charge you directly for using their ATMs. The Schedule of Fees and Charges and Terms and Conditions should be considered in deciding whether to acquire the product and are available at www.rslmoney.com.au. RSL Money is a business name of Australian Defence Credit Union Limited. ABN 48 087 649 741 AFSL No. 237 988 Australian credit licence number 237 988.



HMAS MORESBY (I)

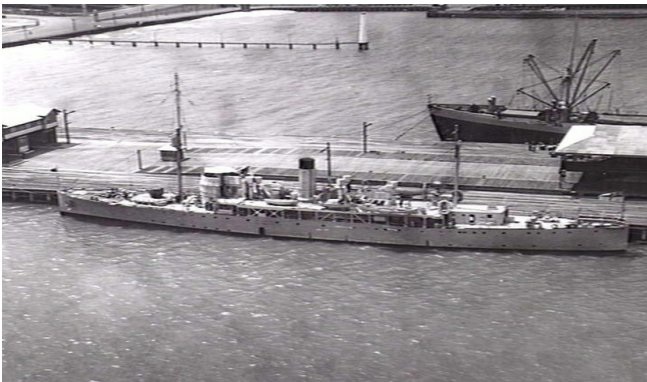
HMAS Moresby was built as one of the '24' Class of Royal Navy (RN) mine-sweeping sloops and was commissioned in the RN as HMS *Silvio* on 25 May 1918. The '24' Class, sometimes referred to as 'Racehorse' class due to the vessels being named after English Derby winners. HMS *Silvio* saw brief service during WWI performing convoy escort duties. After the war she was paid off and laid up before being refitted as a survey vessel at Pembroke Dockyard, South Wales, in 1924-25.

She was subsequently transferred to the Royal Australian Navy and commissioned as HMAS *Moresby* on 20 June 1925 under the command of Captain John A. Edgell, OBE, RN, who later rose to the rank of Vice Admiral, becoming Hydrographer to the Admiralty.

Moresby was named in honour of Admiral John Moresby, who discovered Port Moresby and Fairfax Harbour on 21 February, 1873 naming them after his father, Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Fairfax Moresby, GCB.

Moresby sailed for Australia on 28 June 1925, enroute visiting Gibraltar, Port Said, Aden, Colombo, Singapore and Thursday Island before arriving in Brisbane on 10 September 1925. She was soon actively engaged conducting survey duties on the Great Barrier Reef until, for reasons of economy, paid off into reserve in Sydney on 21 December 1929.

Recommissioned on 27 April 1933 to undertake urgent strategic survey work in northern Australia and throughout 1933-34, operated in survey grounds along the northern coast of Australia visiting Bowen, Townsville, Brisbane, Melville Island and Darwin and conducted port visits to Fremantle, Goode Island and Sydney where she again paid off into reserve. During this time in reserve, *Moresby* machinery was converted to burn oil.



Recommissioned in 1935, she undertook valuable survey work and conducted hydrographic surveys off Queensland. In 1937 the eruption of volcanoes at Vulcan Island and Matupi, near Rabaul caused the evacuation of the town's inhabitants to Kokopo as a safety precaution. *Moresby*, then in the Gulf of Carpentaria was ordered to

proceed to Rabaul and render assistance. It transpired that she was only required to supply badly needed provisions. >>>

This pattern of survey work in northern waters, including those surrounding New Guinea, continued up until the outbreak of World War II in September 1939. Although often monotonous in nature, Moresby's survey work was to later prove vital to operations in the New Guinea theatre of operations. For the first year of the war Moresby served as an anti-submarine training vessel operating on Australia's eastern seaboard. In January 1941 she resumed her former duty as a survey ship and until the outbreak of war with Japan in December 1941 was engaged in survey operations in northern Australia and New Guinea waters.

Throughout 1942-43 Moresby undertook convoy escort and anti-submarine duties in eastern Australian waters and was almost constantly at sea during that time. On 11 April 1943, while escorting convoy OC86 to Newcastle, a Japanese submarine torpedoed the Yugoslav ship *Recina* which sank in less than a minute. Moresby carried out an immediate counter attack dropping seven depth charges but with no visible result. Ten survivors were subsequently recovered before the search was abandoned due to inclement weather. Japanese submarines were active during Moresby's time as an escort claiming nineteen ships with the loss of 568 lives. In November 1943, Moresby ceased escort duties and prepared to resume service as a survey vessel. From December 1943 until the end of the war she was engaged on survey operations mainly in the Darwin and Bathurst Island areas.

On 7 September, 1945 Moresby, under the command of Lieutenant-Commander D'A.T. Gale, DSC, RAN, left Darwin in support of Operation TOFO, the surrender of all Japanese forces in Timor. Embarked in Moresby were the Senior Naval Officer of the operation, Commander G.L. Cant, RAN, and Brigadier L.G.H. Dyke, CBE, DSO, who had been appointed to accept the surrender of the Japanese forces in Timor. Sailing in company with Moresby were HMA Ships *Horsham*, *Benalla*, *Echuca*, *Parkes*, *Katoomba*, *Kangaroo*, *Bombo* and the Harbour Defence Motor Launches (HDML) 1322, 1324 and 1329. Also in the convoy were the Dutch minesweeper *Abraham Crijnsen* and the transport *Van den Bosch*. En route to Timor the convoy was joined by corvettes *HMAS Warrnambool* and *Gladstone*. At 8.00AM on 11 September the convoy arrived at the appointed rendezvous off Koepang and two Japanese officers boarded Moresby for interrogation regarding the location of minefields and underwater obstructions. On completion of the interrogation the convoy entered harbour in column with *Abraham Crijnsen* sweeping ahead of the line of ships, all closed up at action stations. At 10.30AM Moresby anchored off Koepang with the other ships nearby. At 11.50AM the Japanese army and navy commanders boarded Moresby and escorted to the quarterdeck for the surrender ceremony.

Assembled on Moresby were the commanding officers of the ships of the convoy, army staff officers, Moresby's officers and press correspondents. At Noon, the Japanese army commander, Colonel Kaida, signed the instrument of surrender of all Japanese forces in Timor, a total of 3,235 men, and this was accepted by Brigadier Dyke. Two days later, Moresby sailed for Darwin to resume survey operations. On 24 September, however, she was recalled to Timor to assume the role of senior RAN ship, remaining as Headquarters Ship for Brigadier Dyke until 4 October 1945. In November 1945, Moresby carried out a final survey of Yampi Sound, Western Australia before returning to Sydney. Moresby paid off on 14 March 1946 and was sold for breaking up to Broken Hill Pty Co Ltd. She was subsequently scrapped at Newcastle, NSW.

ADF MOTORCYCLISTS RIDING TO COMBAT PROSTATE CANCER

Sixty motorcycle riders from the Australian Capital Territory, and surrounding areas, will start their engines at the Canberra Airport on Friday 8 April 2016 as part of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia's (PCFA), ***The Long Ride***. The riders will join another 365 riders from all over Australia to travel thousands of kilometres through the outback and across the Nullarbor Plain to their final destination, Margaret River in Western Australia. A large part of the ACT contingent will be made up of current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members.

The Long Ride raises funds and awareness to combat prostate cancer in Australian men and support the men and families suffering from prostate cancer. The Long Ride is an initiative of ex-RAAF Warrant Officer Chris Dunne who wanted to help raise funds to support those suffering from prostate cancer. The Long Ride jump-starts conversations about men's health in rural and regional areas, assisting men to address their health issues and seek professional help. It is the largest event of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. The first Long Ride was introduced in 2007 and raised nearly \$50,000.00 with nearly 300 riders from around Australia. In 2014 the Long Ride had over 440 participants and raised nearly \$500,000. Most importantly, in the history of the Long Ride it is estimated that over two million Australians have had their awareness raised to the issues surrounding prostate cancer.

In Australia, prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in men. More than 3,000 men die of prostate cancer in Australia every year and more men die of prostate cancer than women die of breast cancer. One in seven Australian males will suffer from prostate cancer. Men over the age of 50, or 40 with a family history of prostate cancer, should talk to their doctor about testing as part of their annual health check-up. Men should make an individual informed decision about testing based on the latest available evidence on the benefits and potential harms of testing and subsequent treatment for prostate cancer.

In 2016, the RSL has come onboard as a major sponsor of the Long Ride. All money raised goes to the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. All donations are tax deductible.

Donations to the ADF Contingent of ***The Long Ride*** can be made at:

<https://thelongride2016.everydayhero.com/au/adf>

For more information about prostate cancer visit the PCFA website: ***www.prostate.org.au***



Pommy Nasho — A Memoire

Derek Roylance AM

As an 18 year-old in the UK, like all other males of my ilk, and having registered for National Service, I was expecting the buff coloured envelope marked OHMS (On His Majesty's Service) when it dropped through my letter box. As the son of a serving RAF man (my Dad did 35 years in the pale blue uniform) I had lived on RAF Stations like Tangmere and Church Fenton, before WWII and was rather looking forward to my stint in uniform.

There was only one reservation as I had wanted to join the Royal Navy. Living near Portsmouth at one stage of my young life I thought it would be rather grand to cruise the world in those ships. The navy had other ideas. When I registered I was told they were not taking nashos in my intake (although I thought they had recognised that I would get sea sick jumping over a puddle on a rainy day!). Anyway, the official invitation to serve my country had arrived. Inside the envelope was a railway warrant, a Postal Order for one shilling (the King's shilling of an earlier age?) and a direction to report to RAF Padgate on 14 January 1948. Padgate was fine by me. A suburb of Warrington and my father's home town, I had lived there during the war and had plenty of family in the area. Almost home from home.

After a week being kitted out, needles and all that stuff we are all familiar with, came the culture shock. We were transferred, still at Padgate, to 1 Recruit Training Wing. I was allocated to 8 Flight in B Squadron, and 8 weeks of training began. It was winter in northern England and bloody freezing. Apart from the hard grind the one thing that stands out in that 8 weeks was that we took part in what our superiors (probably wrongly) described as a mutiny.

The food in those days was not what one gets in the forces today. On one day each week breakfast constituted two smallish meat balls and a spoonful of gravy! Not the kind of fare 18 year-olds facing a day's hard yakka thought as enough. A lot of muttering and plans were hatched. The next week when two meat balls were served every man in the dining room stood up when the Orderly Officer arrived and asked "Any complaints?" We thought he was going to have a fit and on the verge of apoplexy. We were told to sit down. Three guys were picked out to voice the complaint and ... we won. No more meat balls for breakfast for the rest of the training. I have to add that the riot act was read to us pretty solidly, mutiny, and being shot at dawn sprinkled the tirade.

At the end of training, because I wrote shorthand, I was allocated to being a Clerk GD, and despatched on a course at RAF Wythall, (near Birmingham) to learn all about admin and the myriad of forms that controlled every breath that anyone took in the RAF. Six weeks of that and we were asked to indicate where we would like to be posted. Many of my compatriots put down the RAF base closest to their homes, but 10 of us reasoned that if the King was paying the fare how far could we go, and please let it be somewhere warm! We all wrote "Japan". A week of so later we were given our course marks and postings. My marks were 79% which was a bit rough because in that trade, if you got 80% you were a corporal in six months. Posting for the 10 globe trotters were "Far East" and after inoculations went on 17 days pre-embarkation leave.

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I was to report to a PDC (Personnel Distribution Centre) at RAF Burtonwood, also near Warrington. Burtonwood was a bit ramshackle, having been an American Flying Fortress Base during WWII. A parade every morning, various fatigues, then wait until the next morning hoping we would be given a date for our draft to warmer climes. One such morning, the names of the other nine were called (my name starting with 'R' was last). They were told to get their kit, because they were heading for Germany! The change of destination because the Russians decided to blockade Berlin; the allies decided to initiate the airlift and all available RAF personnel were being rushed to Germany. "What about me?", was my plaintive wail. The Sergeant had no sympathy. "You're a bloody clerk, You'll go to Records" he said.

That evening I did what I swore I'd never do and telephoned my long-serving WO Dad and asked for help. The next morning, I was told to join my earlier draft and that night we headed for the British Zone of Germany to join BAFO (British Air Force of Occupation). A journey across the North Sea from Harwich to the Hook of Holland, (when I realised the navy would not have been a good idea), a train across Holland into Germany and we were deposited at Gutersloh and reported to 4 Missing Research and Enquiry Unit (4MREU) at RAF Sundern. The MREU was the last of five set up in Europe after WWII to trace, recover and, where possible identify, British and Commonwealth air crew missing in action in the recent hostilities. Their remains were then interred into one of the war cemeteries being established. 4MREU was responsible for the British Zone of Western Germany although we sometimes strayed into the American Zone and we still had one detachment in beleaguered Berlin.

Although HQ was at Sundern we worked through various detachments and in teams of three; an officer, a driver and a clerk. Once remains were located the officer donned rubber gloves and other protective gear and sorted through what was left of the airman. If he still had dog tags identification was easy. If not he would look for service numbers stamped in clothing, country identification (Australia, Canada, etc.) anything that would give a clue. A teeth chart was also done. All this was noted by the clerk on a large form which was then sent to the Air Ministry Casualty Branch in London and hopefully identification was realised, NOK could be advised and a grave in a war cemetery set up. It was interesting and rewarding work. The unit was disbanded in 1949 so I was posted to a RAF Regiment unit, just to smarten me up.

It was a Ground Combat Training School established at RAF Uetersen just north of Hamburg and outside Antarctica one of the coldest places on earth! A kind of mini Canungra where GD SN-COs and Warrant Officers were put through various tortures like combat courses, drill and other things. We got to Hamburg on weekends, where there was an excellent NAAFI. All this ended in December when I was back on the long train ride and stomach churning ride across the North Sea for demobilisation. Eventually it was over and home we went. On 1 January 1950 I was free ... or so I thought. A close inspection of my Release Book said in the event of a general mobilisation I was to report to RAF Station (and here was a block letter) whose designation would be published in the newspapers. It said I should not leave the UK without permission and should not join any other military force. Some years later I migrated to Australia (without permission) and a couple of years after that was commissioned into the Australian Regular Army.

I daren't go back; even at 86 they may still need me!

The Mailed Fist

Les Cook

We went to the Celebes soon after the war ended to oversee the surrender of the Japanese forces. We were in the capital, Makassar, then part of the Battalion moved north to the village of Pare Pare. In addition to rounding up the Japanese troops, preparatory to sending them back to Japan, arrangements were made to bring in the supplies that had been stored in the hills. The food was needed not only to feed the prisoners, but also the local population. It was a time of political unrest in Indonesia. A nationalist movement was growing, the more militant members preparing for the struggle to free their country from the control of the Dutch. Many had armed themselves with Japanese weapons, and were setting up camps in the hills. This was a political matter, and, as such, we were not to involve ourselves unless security was threatened. Bringing in the food supplies had been decreed a civilian responsibility; we had no direct part. It wasn't long before gangs started to steal the rice from the trucks bringing it into town. To overcome this problem, armed local guards accompanied each convoy, but this only had a temporary effect. Soon the rice, the trucks, and the guards all disappeared. Something had to be done.

A patrol under the command of the Colonel visited all nearby villages searching for the missing rice and to make it clear that the thefts were incurring our displeasure. Speaking through an interpreter, the Colonel explained the purpose of our visit and asked the chief of each village if he knew anything about it. In every case he received the same answer. The people of that particular village were honest above reproach, but the people of the next village were notorious thieves who would steal from their own grandmothers. We were no nearer to solving the problem at the end of the patrol than we had been when we started.

The Colonel then decided to invite the chiefs of the nearby villages to a party in Pare Pare. The gathering was held on a patch of grassland on the outskirts of the village. While fish was plentiful and cheap, meat of any kind had been in short supply and was much sought after by the locals. Our cooks had prepared large quantities of bully-beef stew which was eaten with great delight.

The Colonel then arranged a demonstration of Battalion arms to entertain the guests after the feast. The Vickers machine guns fired tracers so that they would be visible, the 2 and 4.2 inch mortars fired smoke and explosives, and the 6 pounder anti-tank guns fired at a target. The chiefs were visibly impressed with this demonstration of conventional arms, but the Colonel's piece de resistance was his finale with the flame-throwers.

Loaded with thin fuel, the flame-throwers discharges a flame about 25 metres long by 3 metres wide. This is accompanied by a loud roaring sound. Six of these weapons spaced at 5 metre intervals were lined up at one end of the cleared area, and, on command, all six fired simultaneously. With an impressive roar, a wall of orange/red flame and oily black smoke engulfed the whole area, leaving a carpet of burnt grass. An awe-inspiring display, even to us. Before the smoke had cleared, and while the mouths of the chiefs were still open, the Colonel thanked them for attending his party. He ended his short speech by asking for their co-operation in ensuring that the thefts of rice would stop. To the best of my knowledge, we didn't lose a grain of rice thereafter.

Decommissioning of HMAS Sydney IV Saturday 7th November, 2015

Adelaide Class Guided Missile Frigate (FFG), HMAS Sydney IV was decommissioned in Sydney after 32 years of distinguished service in the Royal Australian Navy.

During the conduct of maritime operations spanning the globe, Sydney has steamed 959,627 nautical miles and been involved in operations in the Middle East, East Timor, Fiji and the Solomon Islands, earning a Meritorious Unit Citation during the First Gulf War in 1991.



More recently Sydney had been tasked in border protection operations, several major coalition exercises and embeds and her last mission, which concluded in 2015, was the important Harbour Training Ship role.



HMAS Sydney entering Sydney Harbour flying her 138 metre long decommissioning pennant and Sydney II veteran 94-year-old John Ravenscroft with Commanding Officer HMAS Sydney, Lieutenant Commander David Murphy, RAN at the Decommissioning service at Garden Island.

The Welcome Address by Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Stuart Mayer, CSC and Bar, RAN.

Address by the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General, The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK MC (Retd) and was accompanied by Lady Cosgrove.

Address by the Minister for Defence, Senator The Honourable Marise Payne.



HMAS Sydney (IV) was the third of six Adelaide Class guided missile frigates (FFG) to commission into the RAN. She was built at the Todd Pacific Shipyards in Seattle, Washington, USA and commissioned there on 29 January 1983 under the command of Commander Paul Kable, RAN. The first four FFGs, HMA Ships Adelaide (II), Canberra (II), Sydney and Darwin were built in the USA with subsequent modifications undertaken in Australia. The last two, HMA Ships Melbourne (III) and Newcastle were constructed in Australia with all modifications incorporated.



The Adelaide Class was based upon the US designed Oliver Hazard Perry class FFG, the concept for which began in 1971 when the United States Navy initiated a programme to build 50 patrol frigates.

Sydney's commissioning crew were in Seattle on 4 January 1983 and conducted intensive training and storing of the ship and was the fourth RAN vessel to carry the name Sydney.

SUB-BRANCH SERVICES

Sub-Branch Office Opening Hours. The office is open from 9:00AM until 3:00PM Monday to Friday, except public holidays. The services of the Sub-Branch are available to all Sub-Branch members, and all serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force and overseas defence forces.

Office Administrator. Joyce O'Brien administers the Sub-Branch Office and is responsible to the Executive for the efficient day-to-day routine of the office. She is usually the first contact on the telephone and will attend to all Sub-Branch matters including membership, correspondence, functions and access to Sub-Branch services.

Veterans' Support Centre (VSC). The office is open from 9:00AM until 3:00PM Monday to Friday, except public holidays, and at other times by appointment. The services of the VSC are available to all Sub-Branch members, and all serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force and overseas defence forces.

Entitlements and Advocacy (E&A). A team of highly trained advocates and entitlements/pension officers, both male and female, is available to provide assistance with applications for disability and pensions under the Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986 (VEA), the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA), and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA). We also provide support and advice to war widows and widowers in regards to pensions. Andrew Properjohn, the E&A Administrator, will assist you with your enquiries.

Community Support. The Community Support Co-ordinator arranges community support for Sub-Branch members and their families. Advice is available on matters such as DVA Gold and White Cards, travel, Veterans Home Care, residential and transitional care, HACC services, DVA Housing and financial information.

Hospital Visiting. Every Thursday one or two volunteers visit each of the three southern hospitals, Canberra, John James Memorial and Canberra Capital Private. They aim to visit every veteran, RSL member and Legacy widow.

Hospice Visiting. Visits can be arranged for Sub-Branch members in Clare Holland House.

Christmas Visits. In December each year, all Sub-Branch members 80 years of age and over, and all Sub-Branch widows and widowers receive a home visit and a gift.

Health and Fitness Program. The arrangements in place between the Southern Cross Health Club (SCHC) and the Sub-Branch, whereby the Sub-Branch subsidised gym attendances for financial Sub-Branch members has been discontinued. The Executive has decided that the Sub-Branch will subsidise each financial member who enters into a casual weekly or annual arrangement with the SCHC in the amount of \$100pa. Members will need to make their own membership arrangements with SCHC and then seek payment of the subsidy from the Sub-Branch when that has been done. Contact the Sub-Branch office with any enquiries.

Sub-Branch Publication. The Sub-Branch publication, *'The Serviceman'* is published three times per year and distributed free to all Sub-Branch members and widows. A special edition is also published for schoolchildren attending the annual ANZAC and Peace Ceremony at Eddison Park.

Eddison Day Club. Sponsored by the Sub-Branch, the Day Club caters for retired members, their spouses, widows, widowers and the general community. It meets every Friday from 10:00AM to 2:00PM (except Good Friday) from mid-January to mid-December at the Irish Club, Parkinson Street, Weston.

If you know of any member who would benefit from any of these services, but is reluctant to apply, please let our office know.



Saint George's Memorial Church IEPER Belgium

Bob Cremer

At the end of World War I, Field Marshal French appealed for an Anglican Church to be built in Ieper as a permanent memorial to the dead but also as a meeting place for the visiting relatives. A search of land began and through the help of the Imperial War Graves Commission, a suitable plot was found and purchased.

The Ieper League contacted Sir Reginald Blomfield (the architect of the Menin Gate) to draw plans for a Memorial Church.

In the spring of 1927, Blomfield's plans were completed. He had designed a simple space that would be able to accommodate 200 people. The interior furnishings were to be provided by families of the fallen. The school attached to the church would be paid for by donations made by the Old Etonians. The foundation stone was laid on 24th July, 1927.

The Bishop of Fulham opened the church and the school on 24th March, 1929, Palm Sunday. The school opened its doors to receive the first pupils on 9th April 1929.

Every item in the church, the plaques on the walls, the chairs, the windows, the banners and the church furniture are all in memory of someone who gave their lives for freedom.



RSL Advertising

This year, 2016 is the 100th Anniversary of the Returned & Services League in Australia. Two Canberra buses will be advertising the RSL until later in the year. The photo from right to left is RSL ACT President, Peter Eveille, Gerard Pratt (Gungahlin) with his wife Bernadette and children Lucia and Isabel and Garth O'Connell, (Gungahlin).

This advertising will no doubt be seen by a lot of Canberra residents (although after checking lots of buses, I still haven't spotted one). Thanks to RSL Marketing for the attached photo.



Humour in Uniform — Anecdotes from the War Years.

Winston Churchill was walking among smoking ruins after a heavy air raid when an old woman greeted him. He asked how she felt after the night of terror.

“Well, there’s one thing about these air raids,” she replied, “they do take your mind off the war”.

Canadian soldiers sleeping in an English camp were awakened by a terrific crash nearby.

“What was that - thunder or bombs?” asked one.

“Bombs,” was the laconic answer.

“Thank heavens!”, said the man. “I thought we were going to have more rain!”

Your RSL Chaplain
Reverend Mick O'Donnell

In my years with the Australian Federal Police, the Commissioner 'charged me' with the task of 'loitering with intent'. As humorous as that might sound, it certainly did cover much of my activities - that is, simply being with the men and women, being readily available to them, being a listening and a compassionate ear.

My 20 years with the RAN taught me that there is a unique ADF understanding of life brought on by their particular employments, deployments and exposure to things that most civilians would never encounter.

Since my ordination at St Christopher's Cathedral almost 25 years ago I have travelled a lot within Australia and overseas, particularly in South Asia and the Pacific Islands with peace keeping activities. These were special times with men and women who were responding to civil unrest, riots, bombings, and the trauma of being away from their loved ones for many months. I was proud to regularly accompany them into missions that seem almost unbelievable now.

My wife Cora and I recently celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. These years of family life that see us now with 11 grandchildren, have given me a more relaxed and wise perspective on the real, and constantly changing world in which we live.

I brought all this background to the RSL over 3 years ago. Assisting with and advising members on their DVA entitlements is a whole new area of outreach; visiting veterans at home, in facilities and in hospital situations gives me a more compassionate understanding of what the RSL means in the local communities, and how our Sub-Branch interacts with allied veteran assistance organisations.

My day to day pastoral ministry of course includes Baptisms, Weddings, and these days a lot of funerals that often start when the veteran becomes ill, through to the hospital stage, supporting the



next of kin, and in some cases walking that difficult journey with them when someone passes away. You'll see me 'loitering' at many of the RSL functions, saying Grace or a Prayer for a particular occasion, or simply just 'being there' as one of the invaluable and essential arms of the Welfare Committee.

I can be contacted through the Sub-Branch office on 02 6285 1931 mobile 0423 798 737.

[left] - At the funeral of the late
Stan Augustyszczak RAN



Bottled Canadian air selling in China

Shenzhen: A Canadian company is bottling fresh air from the Rocky Mountains and selling it to the citizens of increasingly polluted Chinese cities.

Vitality Air from Edmonton began selling in China less than two months ago. "Our first shipment of 500 bottles of fresh air were sold in just 4 days," said co-founder Moses Lam.

Most of another 4,000 bottles en route to China are already sold. A 7.7 litre can of crisp air from Lake Louise in Banff National Park sells for roughly 100 yuan (\$22).

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I am explaining why you are wrong"

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PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE VETERAN COMMUNITY

ANZAC COMMEMORATIONS 2016

ANZAC AND PEACE CEREMONY.

THE SUB-BRANCH NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT.

Wednesday 6th April 2016 at Eddison Park.

Schools in Woden Valley and Weston Creek invite members of the Sub-Branch to attend their wreaths and flags ceremony,

11:00AM for 11:15AM. Medals to be worn.

Convenor Andre Bobets — Phone 0412 266 047

Canberra Hospital ANZAC Service

Wednesday 20th April - 10:15AM for 10:30AM start
Veterans' Remembrance Garden, Canberra Hospital

ANZAC PINS

Volunteers are required to sell ANZAC Pins at Woden Plaza and Cooleman Court during the week prior to ANZAC Day
Names to Sub-Branch Office 6285 1931.

ANZAC EVE DINNER

Sunday 24th April – 6:00 for 6:30PM – Orion Room CSCC
Guests welcome.

Tickets available from Sub-Branch Office.

ANZAC DAY SUB-BRANCH SERVICE.

Monday 25th April – **8:00AM** Eddison Park Memorial

ANZAC DAY MARCH

ANZAC Day – Monday 25th April – 10:30AM
The President will lead the Sub-Branch Contingent in the ANZAC Day March. Assemble at 10:00AM.

HOSPITALISATION

Members without DVA entitlements are asked to let our Sub-Branch Office know of impending hospitalisation for themselves or their partner so that they can be included on our hospital visiting lists.