

Keeping in Touch

AUTUMN EDITION 2022

Goffet Park Toronto
Lest We Forget



ANZAC DAY COMMERATIONS

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DATES TO REMEMBER Page 11

Joel FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter.

(Last Column). Pages 18 & 19

ACCEPTANCE OF CAPE CLASS PATROL BOATS

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Official Newsletter of:
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Keeping in Touch

From the Presidents Desk

Hello again everyone.

Once more we have had to start the year with the threat of Covid raging among us again. One thing I find difficult is to determine what level the threat is to the public, with the medical fraternity still telling us its dangerous & both State & Federal government's giving us virtual free reign. Because it is an airborne virus the ease with which it spreads makes it exceedingly difficult to control, especially as people like to congregate & communicate. Adding to that problem, children and young adults require an education and unless parents are prepared to do that at home, which is not very practical, the contact they have in schools will lead to increased exposure to the virus. Perhaps the only thing we can do is just be careful, mindful of your own health condition and act accordingly.

The people of Ukraine have had a terrible time over the past month, many killed & many more suffering. It is difficult to comprehend in this modern day that a nation is being invaded simply to fortify another nations border. When Russia started the conflict, I immediately thought the problem would escalate and other nations would be involved. Thankfully, it has not progressed to that stage. The response from the rest of the world initially I thought was not sufficiently strong enough, although it seems the effects of reducing the means of Russia being able to trade and hitting the pockets of wealthy Putin supporters has had a noticeably significant impact. Along with the weapons that are being made available to the Ukrainians and their determination to stop the Russians' progress, all is not going to the plan Putin had in mind. The likelihood of a person with that amount of power and the state of mind he has, to use nuclear weapons is always a worry. We can only hope that will never be.



with this problem, as all public organisations are enduring similar problems and all finding it difficult to fill executive positions. The fact that those positions are unpaid doesn't help however, even organisations with paid positions are having the same problem. Most of the younger veterans have responded by saying we as an organisation are not doing enough to help them. In retrospect that may be absolutely true. Having been in an executive position within the Sub-Branch for many years the role we have has changed considerably. The major reason has been an increased requirement from authorities, monitoring our operations and the emphasis now placed on us to administer new rules placed upon us. We are spending the majority of our time responding to authoritarian requirements and the courses required. I have no doubt our Sub-Branch members interests are in doing what they can for veterans. Our younger veterans must realise almost all our members have retired from their life time work related activities. They have earned the right to reduce their previous active lifestyle because of their age, that's what retirement is. Our younger Vets must also realise that we don't have the same energy we did many years ago. If they don't step up and take our place, there is no doubt the RSL will decline to the point where it is irrelevant. In the years ahead we will not be around and then where will those in need go to. If a veteran comes to our Sub-Branch now looking for help, he or she will be looked after.

The Sub-Branch is planning for a full ANZAC day this year, both a dawn service & normal march & service. Planning has been underway for a couple of months, and all looks good for the event to take place. We cannot plan the weather so let's hope it clears up and we can get on with some normality for a change. We invite everyone attending the dawn service back to the Toronto Diggers where you will all be invited to partake in the breakfast after at the Diggers club. We have placed a cost of \$2.00 per person to attend with the Sub-Branch subsidising the remainder.

In the interests of all who have fallen, we need to get back to the activities where people have relied on the RSL in the past, to remember those who served and encourage those who are serving knowing we as a group will act in their interests.

The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

Bill Noble BEM



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w/ mashed potato, sauteed peas & onion gravy

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CHAPLAINS CORNER

Happy Easter & Abundant Blessings to you all!
How great it is to be able to Commemorate Anzac Day more fully than we have in the previous two years. Being able to gather in Remembrance on Anzac Day.



A time to honour the memory of those courageous men and women who sacrificed their lives in service to their country.

It is the day on which we remember Australians who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. The spirit of Anzac, with its human qualities of courage, friendship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.

At this time we hold in prayer all in the Ukraine and also those among us to whom this raises emotions and anxiety. We pray for the conflict to cease, for peace and comfort to the separated, and the grieving. Amen.

At this time we remember all our Australian men and women who served in War and peacekeeping operations.

I look forward to being present with you all on ANZAC Day.

Peace be with you all.

Reverend Melanie

Phone:-0488 413 186

Email:-parishpriest@torontoanglicans.org.au

CLOSING SERMON WORDS

A Preacher was completing a sermon: with great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world. I'd take it and throw it into the river" And the with even greater emphasis he said, "and if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river". And then finally he said, "If I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw into the river."

He sat down.


The choir leader, then stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, "for our closing hymn, let us sing Hymn No. 365, Shall We Gather At The River."

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED MAKING A BEQUEST OR INCLUDING THIS SUB BRANCH IN YOUR WILL

May we encourage you to think of us when making a bequest or when you are making your will. Your memorial gift will help us towards our goal; to look after the welfare needs of veterans, their widows and their dependents on a continuing basis at no cost to them.

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LAST POST

**The following members and comrades
have passed away since our last issue**

Clifford Stanley KEYWORTH ~ ARMY ~ October 2021

Walley SALZMANN ~ RAAF ~ 11/01/2022

Robert Barry FORD ~ RAN ~ 10/03/2022

Lest we forget





The Newcastle Beacon was formed about three years ago following the finding of a great need for first responders for veterans and their families, as well as other emergency department personnel across Newcastle and the Hunter, they are independent of government and employers and its formation is unique to the area.

Navigating support services alone can be overwhelming for anyone in crisis, but the Beacon believe they have the **Specialised Team** and Volunteers to assist them in their work. They have formed a network of organisations, professionals, specialised staff and highly trained volunteers to support them in this work, which include social workers, welfare officers and advocates. Their combination of professional skills and lived experience enables them to meet the needs of veterans and first responders with the right resources, knowledge, skills and compassion. Their office is upstairs at TPI House, 76 Cowper Street, Wallsend ~ open 9.30am to 2.00pm Monday to Friday

Drop in for a cuppa or a chat or ~ [email:newcastlebeacon.org.au](mailto:newcastlebeacon.org.au)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday ~ 11/04/22 ~ Monthly Meeting at 10.00am followed by refreshments

**Monday ~ 25/04/22 ANZAC Day Service's
Page ~ 3**

Monday ~ 09/05/22 ~ Monthly Meeting at 10.00am followed by refreshments

Monday ~ 13/06/22~ Monthly Meeting Cancelled Due to the Queen's Birthday falling on the same day and the following Monday being the District Council Meeting—Next meeting 2nd Monday in July.

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO DEFENCE AND VETERAN SUICIDES

It is alleged that when the Royal Commission resumed in mid-February 2022, they were to hear evidence from army nurses that following the contractor who won the ADF health services contract in 2019 that standards of mental and physical healthcare had declined.

One nurse who cannot be identified alleges in evidence, that one soldier who was suicidal was refused treatment. This nurse who is believed to have 10 years' experience, upon hearing from the soldier, how he was treated by the interviewing contract psychologist, arranged for an external psychologist off base to see him and provide immediate care and treatment. It will also be alleged that there have been instances where the contract providers were refusing to provide second opinions and are refusing imaging when it is clinically indicated.

The solicitor representing the nurses giving evidence at the Royal Commission also alleges to have clients to appear before the commission who will be giving evidence of misdiagnosis, denial of imaging, denial of treatment and not being referred to appropriate health providers.

The Royal Commission is examining the period from 2001 to 2019 following 1273 deaths by suicide among serving ADF personnel and veterans.

ED:- Although on review, this Royal Commission is long overdue and many conflicts behind. One can only watch on and hope that this brings about the relief and suffering that is and has been experienced by many ADF service personnel and/or veterans over the years.

PENSIONS REPORT

At present our Pension Officers and Advocates have been quite busy with 14 cases running for veterans and the like.

There are: 20 matters at present underway.

1 matter that is currently under review by the Department.

So as you can see our Officers have not been idle dealing with the high demand. Considering at present we only have one Advocate, one Pension Officer (full time) and one part time.

For a full list of any new conditions being investigated go to the RMA website at www.rma.gov.au and look under “What’s New”.

A number of investigations have been finalised and SOPs determined and details of these will be published and mentioned in our Keeping in Touch as they come to hand.

. * * * * *

We welcome to the fold in our Pension Office, Rod Smallwood a new volunteer to the team undertaking and assisting with Pensions.

**Our Advocate and Pension Officers are on duty in these sub-Branch offices each Wednesday between the hours of 9.30am and 12 midday.
Other times by appointment only:-
Phone 4959 3699**

KOOKIES MORSELS

JAMBALAYA

(Louisiana Cuisine)

1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil 1 brown onion, chopped
2 capsicum, chopped 3 eschalots, thinly sliced
2 stalks of celery, diced
kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to season
1 tsp dried oregano 1 chorizo sausage, sliced
2 cloves garlic, minced 2 tbsp tomato paste
2 cups chicken stock
1 and a quarter cup long grain rice
1 can/400g crushed tomatoes 2 tsp Cajun seasoning
500g chicken breast fillet, cut into , cubes about 2cm
500g medium sized peeled green prawns, tail on,.

In a large pan deep sided, heat oil to medium, then add onions, capsicums and celery, season with the kosher salt and black pepper. Cook stirring until soft about 5 minutes.

Stir in chicken and oregano. Brown chicken for about 5 to 10 minutes. Then stir in sausage, garlic and tomato paste then cook until fragrant about 1 minute.

Add rice, chicken stock, crushed tomatoes and Cajun, stir. Reduce heat to medium/low, cover and cook until rice is tender, the chicken is cooked and the liquid is almost totally absorbed, about 20 minutes. (test the rice) Then add the prawns, stir through and cook 3 to 5 minutes until pink. Stir in eschalots just before serving.

Serves:- 4 ~ (plus)

Bon appetit

CREAMY MARSALA CHICKEN

2 Chicken breasts	Half a cup of plain flour
salt and black pepper	2 to 3 tbsp olive oil
half a cup of marsala	half a cup chicken stock
1cup thickened cream	1tsp garlic powder
1tsp mustard powder	
One and half cups of brown mushrooms, sliced	
Freshly chopped parsley to serve	

Slice the chicken breasts depending on the thickness horizontally into 3 slices. Place the flour in a wide bowl or plate and drag each piece of the chicken through dusting each side, shake off excess. Season with salt and pepper.

Place oil in large frypan or skillet, 1 tbsp each time as needed, heat to medium, add chicken and fry until golden and cooked, remove and keep warm on a plate, continue until all chicken has been cooked and removed to the plate.

Add one tbsp oil to the frypan, while heating up, scrape the bottom of the pan for bits of chicken to add flavour to the sauce, add mushrooms and saute 1 to 2 minutes, add marsala wine, bring to boil over medium too high heat for 1 to 2 minutes (This allows the alcohol to burn out) add chicken stock, thickened cream, mustard powder and garlic powder, bring to boil and simmer for about 10 minutes or until it starts to thicken.

Place chicken back into the sauce and continue to simmer for 1 to 2 minutes until reheated. Chopped fresh parsley to serve.

Serve with your choice of vegetables, rice, pasta, noodles or whatever.

Serves:- 4 plus

Bon appetit

Kookies Tip: - In place of Marsala, Dry Sherry can be used or if you wish not to use alcohol of any type. A mixture of a quarter cup of white grape juice, 2 tbsps white sherry vinegar and 1 tbsp vanilla extract, this has been recommended as a substitute.

World class hypersonics precinct to supercharge Australian defence research

25 January 2022

The Morrison Government's commitment to innovation and national security is at the forefront following the official opening of Defence's state-of-the-art, purpose built Australian Hypersonics Research Precinct at Eagle Farm in Brisbane.

The Minister for Defence the Hon Peter Dutton MP today unveiled the \$14 million Precinct which provides a location for Defence, industry, universities and international partners to advance our understanding and use of hypersonic technology through flight test vehicles.

**"It's a complex technological challenge to build vehicles capable of flying at five times the speed of sound, that skim the stratosphere, to target any location on the planet,"
Minister Dutton said.**

"The technology that is developed here will help us to better defend against the malign use of this technology and give us the ability to strike any potential adversaries from a distance and deter aggression against Australia's national interests."

"It enables Defence researchers to develop and characterise sovereign hypersonic technologies and generate 'true' hypersonic flight conditions at large scale in a classified laboratory."

This Precinct represents just one element of the Morrison Government's \$3 billion dollar capability investment across Defence innovation, science and technology over the next decade.

The centre accommodates over 60 staff and provides collaborative space for industry, academia and government teams to advance defence projects with a focus on high-speed and hypersonic flight research and technologies.



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For nearly 80 years the world has enjoyed a level of unprecedented peace. One might have thought the horrors of the Great War and its new and powerful military technologies might have guarantee and end to the senselessness of global conflict.

Sadly, despite the lessons learned and the establishment of the League of Nations, the world was at war again within three decades. Mankind learned more lessons from the death and destruction of the Second World War and despite the horrors of large conflicts in Korea, Vietnam and other parts of Southeast Asia, peace has been largely enduring.

Now, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has brought a new fragility to an already deteriorating global settlement. For our whole lives the liberal democratic system has been the pre-eminent vehicle of government. At no time during the Cold War was the success and prosperity of democracy as an organisational principle seriously challenged.

Yet now, we seem to have lost our will to maintain its dominance. We speak too often of our mistakes and sins of the past as if we should have known better. We talk ourselves down.

We are so critical of our own way of life we too often forget to sell what we get right and to boast of the good things we do and achieve. If we can't celebrate our progress, how can we win an argument with those who say they have something better to offer the developing nations of the South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Africa.

The fact is the “West” has grown lazy, stingy and complacent. For many years after the collapse of the Soviet Union the United States and its allies dominated the world absolutely. It seems no one noticed the rapid rise of China and the growing anger of Vladimir Putin as he watched NATO’s arrival on his doorstep.

His response is horrific, entirely unacceptable, and unjustifiable but were we prepared for it? It seems not.

Around the world the defence budgets of Western countries have been shrinking. The art of diplomacy seems in decline. The heavy lifting on foreign aid seems increasingly being done by China, trying to convince others their system works too. Or they might argue, works even better.

If we want our values and democratic beliefs to continue to shape the world we need to be on a journey of continual improvement. Just as we regularly exercise our bodies and our minds.

But rather, the standard of behaviour in our political systems is in decline. The emergence of Donald Trump and his style of politics was given breath by a wave of disillusionment amongst those who live in the world’s greatest democracy. Great leaders appear to be further and fewer between because many with talent are shunning politics, a vocation now seen as too unwieldy.

The real fight playing out right now is a battle for the hearts and minds of the community of nations. If we are to prevail, we must lift our game.

Tallen Howson – Media Advisor

Office of the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP

Federal Member for Hunter

TEL 02 4991 1022 | tallen.howson@aph.gov.au

Authorised by Joel Fitzgibbon ALP Canberra

GRUMPY OLD MAN

There is no such thing as a grumpy old man. The truth is, once you get old, you stop being polite and start telling the truth.

BAE Systems wins lead-in-fighter contract extension 21 February 2022

The Hawk Lead-In Fighter will continue to train Australia's frontline fighter pilots through to 2031 following a \$1.5 billion commitment by the government.

The new contract includes the continuation of the existing in-service support, providing maintenance, engineering and supply chain services to the RAAF and will be the foundation for progressive upgrades of mission systems.

A 951 Adour engine upgrade for the Australian fleet will be incorporated by 2025 and will align the aircraft with the UK Royal Air Force's T2 Hawk aircraft. Following the 2019 Lead-In Fighter Capability upgrade of the 33-strong fleet, the Hawk aircraft is today among the most capable jet trainers of its type in the world and very similar to the T2.

The mission systems upgrade will progressively update the software and hardware on the aircraft to maintain and enhance the Hawk's performance as a fast jet trainer, meeting the emerging needs of pilots preparing to fly the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter and other modern aircraft.

The upgrades will be led by BAE Systems' Australian engineers and supported by BAE Systems UK Hawk aircraft specialists.

"The contract extension reflects the world class capability of this aircraft, the teams which support the Hawk fleet at Williamtown and Pearce and our highly capable Australian supply chain," BAE Systems Australia Chief Executive, Gabby Costigan, said. "The Hawk Lead-In Fighter has a proven capability of providing high calibre aircrew to the RAAF.

"Together with RAAF, Defence and the program's supply chain, we are proud to be contributing to the delivery of the transformational training requirements for a fifth generation air force for the next decade."

The Hawk Lead-In Fighter program currently sustains a direct workforce of 350 people at BAE Systems' Williamtown (NSW) facility and at RAAF Base Pearce and an industry supply chain of
ContinuedPage 21/

180 Australian businesses, including around 90 SMEs, many of which are based in the Hunter Valley.

The Hawk Lead in Fighter has been used to prepare around 500 Australian aircrew for life in a fast jet cockpit over two decades.

The Hawk Mk 127 is a two-seater 'Lead-In-Fighter' (LIF), introduced in 2001 to train pilots for combat aircraft such as the F-35, Super Hornet and Growler aircraft.

The RAAF operates 33 Hawks at RAAF Base Williamtown, NSW and RAAF Base Pearce, WA.

MARRIED LIFE:-

A man brings his best mate home for dinner unannounced at 7.30pm after work.

His wife begins screaming at him and his friend just sits and listens

Wife:- "My hair is not done, no makeup, the house is a mess, the dishes are not done, I'm still in my pyjamas' and I can't be bothered cooking tonight! Why the hell did you bring him home?"

Husband:- "Because he's thinking of getting married and I promised him a demo!"

MARRIED LIFE:-

Husband, "My wife is blaming me for ruining her birthday. That's ridiculous! I didn't even know it was her Birthday."

* * * * *

FATHER AND SON:

Son:- "I feel like you're always making up rules and stuff and trying to trick me." Father:- "Like what?" Son:- "Like if I don't clean up my room, a porthole will open up and take me to another dimension." Father:- "Well that's what happened to your older brother." Son:- "What older brother?" Father:- "Exactly."



Greg Piper MP
Member for Lake Macquarie



We will always remember them

Like everyone else, I'm really looking forward to getting some normality back into our Anzac Day commemorations this year after several years of Covid chaos.

Having said that, the way in which we came together in new and unique ways over the past two years has been both heart warming and satisfying. The Anzac spirit, and the community's willingness to never let it fade, clearly remains as strong as ever.

To see families, many with young children, lighting their streets with candles at dawn, and with random neighbours blaring The Last Post from a bugle or speakers, is something I will never forget. I was so proud of the spirit shown by our community – a spirit derived from the original Anzacs.

We will never forget them. We will never forget any of our ex-servicemen and women. We will never forget their sacrifices, nor the efforts to keep our country safe. Thank you. Lest we forget.

"I have again produced an annual Anzac Day booklet which will be delivered to all homes in my electorate in the week leading up to Anzac Day.

This year's booklet notes some milestone events. The battle for Kokoda, the bombing of Darwin and the fall of Singapore among others, all took place 80 years ago this year.

There is also a tribute to our nurses who served in overseas conflict, and

one incident in particular which highlights a shocking waste of life, but emphasises the courage and bravery of our people when placed in dire situations.

That's the story of Vivian Bullwinkle. With the fall of Singapore to the Japanese imminent in February 1942, it was time for 65 nurses to evacuate aboard the small coastal steamer Vyner Brooke. The overloaded steamer was sadly bombed and sunk, killing 12 nurses. The remaining 53 nurses reached Banka Island which was later the scene of a horrific massacre. Captain Bullwinkle's remarkable story of survival is told in the booklet, so be sure to check it out.

I should also mention that the booklet contains a great story on the 'flying walrus'. The former RAAF flying boat base at Rathmines might be best known for its connection to the Catalina, but less is known of the Supermarine Walrus which also spent a lot of time at the base. The Walrus was originally known as the Seagull V and played an important role in the operations at Rathmines during WWII.

If you don't get your booklet in the mail, or if you'd like additional copies, just call my office on 4959-3200 or send an email to lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au and I'll get some out to you.

As always, I hope this newsletter finds you all in good spirits and good health.

If you require any assistance with State-related issues such as housing or health or any State department, don't hesitate to give me a call on 4959-3200.

Best regards,



LEST WE FORGET

92 Victory Parade, Toronto NSW 2283

email: lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au 
facebook.com/GregPiper1MP

Electorate Office 4959 3200
www.gregpiper1.com

A ROMANTIC DINNER

A man and a woman were having a quiet, romantic dinner in a fine restaurant.

They were gazing lovingly at each other and holding hands. The waitress, taking another order at a table a few steps away, suddenly noticed the man slowly sliding down his chair and under the table but the woman stared straight ahead.

The waitress watched as the man slid all the way down his chair and out of sight under the table. Still, the woman stared straight ahead.

The waitress, thinking this behaviour a bit risqué and that it might offend other diners, went over to the table and, tactfully, began by saying to the woman "Pardon me, ma'am, but I think your husband just slid under the table."

The woman calmly looked up at her and said, "No, he didn't. He just walked in the door."

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TORONTO'S OLDEST TYRE SERVICE

The Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association ~ Weekly Magazine

The NSW Government and Recognition of Widows from the War in Afghanistan (Ian LINDGREN ~ 21 February 2022)

Most veterans and veteran families eligible for concessions in NSW are required to prove once that they are eligible.

However, widows from Australia's longest war have the traumatic experience of reliving their loss every three months when the NSW Department of Families and Community Service and Sydney Water advise by letter that "The Department of Veterans Affairs has recently advised that you no longer qualify for a pensioner rebate" which is not the case.

Calls to resolve this end with "the NSW Government does not yet recognise widows from the Afghanistan War". We expect that this is as a result of public servants not knowing the answer and instead of taking the time to provide the right answer; just take a guess.

We will be taking this up with the Minister for Family and Community Services and the NSW Minister for Veterans. We will also advise other Ex-Service Organisations that assist in this area, so we all have visibility. Inequities in Funeral Costs

Where dependants are eligible for payments to assist with funeral costs the Veterans' Entitlements Act provides a payment of \$2,000 and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004, provides up to \$12,603.88. We believe all veterans and their dependants are equal in this situation and have found recommendations going back many years have made the case for the payments to be the same at the higher amount. With advice from an independent advocate, Andrew Sloane, we have found that righting this inequity is "a matter for consideration by the Australian Government," so we will approach the Minister for Veterans' Affairs.



Nasho's News

Westlake Macquarie

National Servicemen's Association



Welcome to summer at last but it looks like a big wet is coming in a big way.

Our next outing for 2022 was to Club Macquarie for lunch, 8 members turned up as the covid scare was on. I was told the meals were very good and the atmosphere light and airy. February, we had a small meeting to plan for future upcoming events. Our AGM was put off until April the 14th. Our National Servicemen's Day put back to the 19th of March. Our next outing was lunch at the Royal Motor Yacht Club Toronto where we had 18 for lunch with a beautiful setting, looking out of the windows. The lake was like a mirror with no breeze and a big variety of yachts and cruises moored around the Club foreshore. Lobsters were a very popular meal. All were very satisfied with their meal and their choice of deserts

The National Servicemen's Day was on the 19th March was held at Toronto Digger's Club due to rain as Goffet Park was far to wet to walk or stand on, Bruce Robberds, Secretary and Janice Hargrave did the organizing with the club, with:-

Master of Ceremonies being Major John Doig (R'td) Patron

Catafalque Party 'Australian Armed Forces Heritage Re-Enactment Unit'

Parade Commander"- Lieutenant David Herbert ED (RTD)

Introduction:- Lyle Constable

Prayer of Remembrance Squadron Leader Paul Moro CO 316 Air Force Cadets

Prayer for ADF:- Captain Yvonne Fuller CO 217 Army Cadets-

Pastoral Address:- Major Rev Tony Lang OAM Chaplain Westlake Macquarie NSSA

'Lord's Prayer and the Benediction'

Honour our Departed Members:- Howard Trevethan

Laying of Tributes:- Alf Sulman-Allan Black – Bruce Robberds

RSL ODE:- Alwyn Crampton

PIPER:- Malcolm Newbiggen ~ BUGLER:- Kye Jeffries

National Servicemen's ODE:- President Gordon Maxwell

It was a sad loss to lose our State President Ron Brown OAM recently, and as a result sent flowers and a sympathy card to the family.

Gordon Maxwell

President



Acceptance of first evolved Cape class patrol boat

23 March 2022

Defence has formally accepted its first evolved Cape class patrol boat. This will strengthen Australia's naval capability while providing greater reliability and effectiveness to the Royal Australian Navy's patrol force to keep our borders safe.

Minister for Defence, the Hon Peter Dutton MP said this is another significant milestone in the overall contract with Austal Ships to deliver a total of six evolved Cape class patrol boats to the Royal Australian Navy.

"The six vessels will boost Navy's current patrol boat capability as we await the introduction into service of the newer and larger Arafura class offshore patrol vessels. We are now one boat closer to establishing that vital capability.

"The evolved Cape class patrol boat project is one of three active naval shipbuilding projects underway in Western Australia. Worth approximately \$343 million, it directly supports around 550 Australian jobs.....Cont/..Page 27

“The new patrol boats will also be the first vessels to be maintained at Regional Maintenance Centre North East, in Cairns. This further develops sovereign sustainment capability and promotes Australian industry involvement,” Minister Dutton said.

To coincide with the acceptance of the first evolved Cape class patrol boat, Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, revealed the names of the six new vessels.

“They will be named Australian Defence Vessels (ADV) *Cape Otway, Cape Peron, Cape Naturaliste, Cape Capricorn, Cape Woolamai* and *Cape Pillar*.

“Each name continues the lineage of the Cape class patrol boats, all named after significant Capes around Australia.

“The first boat, Australian Defence Vessel *Cape Otway*, will be home-ported at HMAS *Cairns* by mid-2022. It will be joined by another evolved Cape class patrol boat and four Arafura class offshore patrol vessels by the end of 2028,” Vice Admiral Noonan said.

The second of the six evolved Cape class patrol boats will be formally accepted by Defence in July this year. The remaining boats are under construction at Henderson shipyard in Western Australia and the final boat is expected to be delivered by May 2023.

PEACHES

I asked a supermarket worker where they kept the tinned peaches. He said, “I’ll see,” and walked away. I asked another worker and he also said, “I’ll see,” and walked away. I then just gave up and went to find them myself, in Aisle “C”.

FEMALE INTUITION

My wife’s female intuition is so highly developed; She sometimes knows I’m wrong before I’ve even opened my mouth.



217 ARMY CADET UNIT (ACU) KEEPING IN TOUCH REPORT FOR AUTUMN 2022



1. Hello Readers!
2. I hope you all had a lovely time over the Summer and the New Year is treating you all well.
3. In the previous report, it was advised that we might have a new location at Edgeworth. Unfortunately, due to some business restructure, Hunter Care are no longer able to assist us with a new location. We have had to revert to our back-up of returning to Morisset High School for the time being and they are welcoming us back warmly. This means from Term 2 (2 MAY 22) we will be operating out of Morisset for the rest of 2022 at the very least.
4. While the relocation liaison has been occurring, LT (AAC) Phillip Arthur and 2LT (AAC) Caleb Watts have been holding the Unit together by ensuring our Training Program is being delivered for the attending Cadets.

The activities 217 ACU has been involved with so far this year is the West Lake Macquarie National Servicemen's Day where both Staff and Cadets were involved in the Service. We post photos of our activities to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/217ACU> if you want to check out any of our previous activities

1. Future activities at this time of the year increase due to ANZAC commitments and due to staffing levels, we are only able to support one activity at any one time. If you wish to see the Cadets in the Unit at any of the services we are supporting we will be at the Speers Point Dawn Service, Teralba Morning Service and Toronto March and Service. Further details can be found in most local papers for Service times and exact locations.

Please keep safe and thank you for your continued support and patience.

Kind regards *Yvonne Fuller ~ CAPT (AAC)*
217 Army Cadet Unit (ACU) ~ Officer Commanding (OC)
Mobile: 0409 310 713
Unit email: 217acu@armycadets.gov.au

A WARM DESERT

APPLE BREAD AND BUTTER PUDDING

1 cup milk	2 tsps. Margarine
1 egg	2 tbsps. Sultanas
2 tsps. Sugar	quarter cup 410g can pie apples
1 tsp vanilla essence	half tsp cinnamon
quarter tsp nutmeg	

Spread bread with margarine, cut into quarters and place in a small greased ovenproof dish. Sprinkle sultanas, apples and cinnamon between layers.

Combine milk, egg, sugar and vanilla in a bowl, beat and pour over bread. Sprinkle with nutmeg and bake at 180c for 30-40 minutes or until custard has set. Serve Hot.

HINT. Remaining apple pie can be used in fruit strudel or on top of breakfast cereal. Remaining Fruit loaf can be frozen, this makes a delicious snack when toasted.

Bon appetit

FREE DOG

I need to re-home a dog. It's a small terrier, quite friendly and tends to bark a lot. If you're interested let me know and I'll jump over my neighbours' fence and get it for you.

A TUNNEL

A **PESSIMIST** sees a dark tunnel.

An **OPTIMIST** sees light at the end of the tunnel.

A **REALIST** sees a freight train.

The **TRAIN DRIVER** sees three idiots standing on the track.

Special Day for Army

01 March 2022 - 2:52pm

Army marked its 121st year on March 1 with music and cake at Blamey Square near Army HQ in Canberra. One of the main activities on the day was the recognition of the Jonathan Church Good Soldiering Award recipients

The day kicked off with a welcome to country by Ngunnawal woman Selina Walker, before an address from Chief of Army Lt-Gen Rick Burr.

“Today we celebrate Army’s 121st birthday. On this special occasion we take the opportunity to recognise and reflect on the accomplishments of our Army, of those who have served and sacrificed in defence of our national interests,” Lt-Gen Burr said.

“Today our Army continues to do extraordinary work, doing what is asked of us at home and abroad, making a difference.

“As we celebrate our birthday we look ahead.

“We live in extraordinary times and our Army must continue to be Ready Now and Future Ready, with people at the centre of all we do.

“Our mission focus is strengthened by our proud history of service and sacrifice, our values and rich traditions forged through war, defending Australia and serving the Australian people.

“I thank you all for what you do – building and strengthening Army’s story every day,” Lt-Gen Rick Burr said.

The Australian Army Band from RMC Duntroon provided a soundtrack for the festivities.

AIR FORCE CENTENARY MEMORIAL



The Royal Australian Air Force Roulettes conduct an aerobatic display during the Air Force Centenary of a new Memorial Dedication Ceremony at RAAF Base Williams in Point Cook, Melbourne on Wednesday 30 March 2022 to honour the 350,000 Australians

who have worn the Air Force uniform since 1921, and, in particular, the 11,191 who have died serving the nation and 3,143 Air Force members have no known grave. The new memorial is made of sandstone and features a simple yet meaningful design that includes officer and enlisted rank insignia and a semi-circular shape that completes the circle formed by the Australian Flying Corps Memorial on the opposite side of the parade ground. The new memorial is a special place to pause and reflect on what Air Force personnel have contributed to Australia throughout the past century and will undoubtedly achieve in future. It features the words 'Then, Now, Always' as a tribute to all Air Force personnel who have shown enduring support for national interests. The memorial is a permanent legacy of the Centenary of Air Force program (Air Force 2021).

NOTES TO MYSELF, AGING GRACEFULLY:-

Stop spending money to get free shipping.

Your coffee is still in the microwave.

Don't throw the box with the directions away until it's 100% done.

Glasses are on top of your head.

Wearing headphones does not make your farts silent.

Just because it pops into your mouth doesn't mean it should come out of your mouth.

Don't use your phone flashlight to look for your phone.

You're never going to remember to do that thing later. Do it now.



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