

Keeping in Touch

AUTUMN EDITION 2017

EMU PARK MEMORIAL ~ QUEENSLAND AT THE BREAK OF DAWN



THE FIRST RECORDED ANZAC MEMORIAL PAGE 8

ANZAC DAY PROGRAM PAGE 25

THE STORY OF HUGH DUNCAN LUNN PAGE 12



**Official Newsletter of:
Toronto RSL sub-Branch
PO Box 437 Toronto 2283
rsl2283@bigpond.net.au
02 4959 3699**





30 The Boulevard Toronto



Lake side property professionals for over 50 years

4959 1677

www.averyproperty.com.au

NEWCASTLE ARMOURY



LICENSED FIREARMS DEALER
WANTED: EX-MILITARY AND
SPORTING FIREARMS
PHONE: 0448 032 559

E-MAIL:

sales@newcastlearmoury.com.au

PO BOX 3190

GLENDALE NSW

2285

www.newcastlearmoury.com.au

Barbara King 
Funeral Director Pty Ltd

*In a time of need turn to someone you can
trust. Ph. (02) 4973 1513*



Pre Arranged Funeral Plan in
Association with



Funeral
Planning
Australia

**THIS SPACE AVAILABLE
FOR ADVERTISING
SO IF ANYONE OUT
THERE WISHES TO
PLACE A QUARTER PAGE
ADVERTISEMENT IN-
SIDE THE FRONT COVER
WHICH IS DISTRIBUTED
TO OUR MEMBERS AND
THE COMMUNITY AS A
WHOLE
(APPROXIMATELY 1500
COPIES QUARTERLY)**



Keeping in Touch

From the president's



Here we are 3 months into 2017 and hasn't it gone fast. At least the heat has gone for the time being coming into Autumn.

We celebrated Fall of Singapore on the 15 February 2017 in Goffett Park and had a woeful turnout. We included in the service the first raid by the Japanese on Australian soil which took place on the 19 February 1942 with more bombs dropped on Darwin, North Queensland and other parts at the top end than Pearl Harbour. My father served in Darwin during those times and many years ago he told me that the Newspapers in New South Wales reported that a local butcher and postman were killed as a result of the raids. He told me there we hundreds killed after the 1st raid. The Government of the time gagged the Newspapers to print the propaganda so as not to scare the people of Australia of any type of impending land attack by the Japanese. I believe this is an important piece of Australian History and it deserves more recognition than just a handful turning up for a commemorative Service. I think I have said enough about that except next year it will be pushed further towards the public as well as our members who were quite scarce. We are in the throws of preparing for ANZAC Day getting all the invitations out and other matters which surround the event as it is only couple of days away.

There has been a lot going on in RSL (NSW) State Branch at the present time to do with a large amount of money undeclared to various authorities and the Coal Face (sub-Branches).

At present the NSW Police Fraud Squad are involved, Korda Mentha, Forensic Auditors and the Department of Fair Trading along with other various bodies to do with the control of recognised Charities. It appears that State Councillors are ducking and weaving over these issues with answers such as No Response, No Comment or Solicitors instructing them not to talk to the media. I believe that just on the prima facie evidence that has been released so far there could be some serious allegations and possible other matters that could come out during these investigations.

We were informed by RSL (NSW) State Branch that we at the Coal Face (sub-Branches) in NSW would be kept up to date as to what is transpiring over these matters in State, but as of yet little has filtered out of State Branch as to what and/or where matters are up to at this stage.

Thats about it for me this issuse. Keep safe and healthy.

The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

Ron (Mitcho) Mitcherson

Defence youth safety training—keeping young people safe

12 April 2017

Defence's commitment to improving youth safety has taken another step forward with the launch of the next element of the new youth safety training continuum.

The training continuum is a key component of the Defence Youth Safety Framework, which has been established to enhance the safety of all young people participating in Defence programs.

Defence is investing in Youth Practitioners by building their capability in Youth Safety.

The training will equip those who routinely interact with young people under the age of 18 with the knowledge and skill required to respond appropriately to youth safety risks, youth safety incidents and allegations of abuse. The new Level 2 practitioner training builds upon the Level 1 package released last year.

Defence personnel participating in this training include those involved in work experience and youth engagement activities, as well as staff interacting with young people in new-entry training establishments. In the ADF Cadets program, this training will also be delivered to officers and instructors of cadets, and adult volunteers.

Head, Reserve and Youth Division and Commander ADF Cadets, Rear Admiral Bruce Kafer said Defence was dedicated to empowering young people and keeping them safe.

“This training is focussed on ensuring adults who interact with young people under the age of 18 as part of their core role, understand what it takes for Defence to be a youth safe organisation and can apply the youth safe practices appropriate to the situation and environment,” RADM Kafer said.

For more information on Defence Youth Safety Training visit <http://www.defenceyouth.gov.au/>

\$10 LUNCH

Ollies Bistro

MONDAY-SUNDAY
11.30am - 2.00pm



250gm Rump Steak w chips & salad , Steak Sandwich w chips,
Bangers & Mash, Chicken Schnitzel w chips & salad (subject to change)

Ollies Nightly Specials



Monday & Tuesday 5.30pm - 8.30pm *** Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 5.30pm - 9.00pm

MONDAY STEAK NIGHT \$12.90

TUESDAY SCHNITZEL NIGHT From \$9.90

WEDNESDAY ROAST NIGHT \$8.00

THURSDAY SCHNITZEL NIGHT From \$9.90

FRIDAY RIB & WING COMBO \$19.90

To make a reservation phone (02) 49592411 - 41 The Boulevarde Toronto

BINGO

Every Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

@ 11.00am Books on sale @ 10.30am

Toronto Diggers

Everyone has someone in their lives



who isn't quite right in the head

Patron: Wing Commander (rtd) RAAF John Hulbert

Chaplin: Reverend Julie Turnbull

President : Ron Mitcherson

Vice Pres: Jon Handley J.P. Vice Pres: Brian Besley

Hon. Secretary: Bill Noble BEM A/Secretary: Paul Kelly

Hon. Treasurer: Garry Coleman

Welfare Officer: Bobby Horn ~ Tony Peart

Pensions Officers: Peter Keane J.P. : Ron Savage J.P.

Roger Priest

Webmaster: John Drew

KEEPING IN TOUCH EDITORIAL STAFF

Ron Mitcherson : Bill Noble BEM : Paul Kelly

Toronto Hotel



74 Victory Parade, Toronto NSW 2283

ESTABLISHED 1887

Phone: (02) 4959 1033 • Fax: (02) 4950 4804

B • I • S • T • R • O

12 at \$12 Lunch Menu

Children's Menu

Something special for everyone.

All meals are cooked to order by our qualified and passionate staff.

Open 7 Days

Lunch & Dinner

Mega Meat
Raffles
Thursdays

Beer
Garden

The Dining with a million dollar view

THE FIRST RECORDED ANZAC MEMORIAL

The first recorded ANZAC Memorial was a cottage built in suburban Perth “as a monument which should take the practical form of a house for a wounded soldier who took part in the famous landing in Gallipoli”.

The grateful citizens of Mt. Hawthorn Progress Association built the cottage, which was opened by the wife of the State Premier on April 15, 1916. Most of the cottage was built in a day from donated materials the preceding February.

Seventy days laden with material had been taken to the site before dawn, and around 4,000 people cheered as 200 volunteer workmen proceeded to unload the drays and build the house. Nearby a team of women cooked 430 meals for the workmen. The cottage was handed over on April 16, 1916 to Mr and Mrs C. J. Porter. Mr Porter had been wounded at the Gallipoli landing. The only obligation in return for the “Anzac Cottage” was that at the exact hour of the landing, 4:30am every Anzac Day, he raise an Australian Flag (bearing the word ANZAC) to the top of a flagpole erected in the cottage garden. Mr Porter is reported to have faithfully carried out his duty for nearly fifty years, until he became too ill in the 1960's.

The Returned Soldiers Associations in each State, which became the Branches of The League after 1916, grew out of unit associations and soldier's father's groups in some cases. The senior service claims the privilege of turning the first sod. Commander R. S. Veale (RANR re'td) recalled“. On 7 April 1915 eighteen days before the First AIF landed at Gallipoli, Lieutenant R. G. Bowen RAN, Sub-Lieutenant R. S. Veale, Petty Officer George Palmer (later President of the Victorian Branch). Able Seamen Syd Dunslow, Theo Hoods and 30 other men of the RAN and RANR who had all fought in the capture of German New Guinea in September 1914, formed the Returned Servicemen's Association of Victoria.it was the first returned serviceman's organisation formed in World War One.

NOT SO HOT

A Digger in hospital had been very ill. The night nurse, coming around before he went to sleep, felt his forehead and said to the Digger, “You're not so hot.” To which the Digger answered, “And by the heck you're nothing out of the box either.”

TODAYS MODERN WARFARE

MODERN WARFARE:



A \$2 BILLION DOLLAR PLANE



DROPPING A \$40,000 BOMB

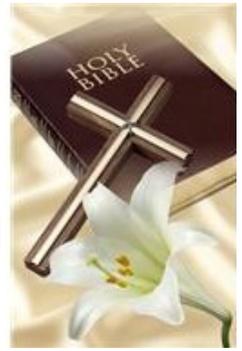


ON A \$100 TENT

Remember, women always have the last word in an argument.

Anything a man adds after that, is the beginning of a new

CHAPLAINS CORNER



I'm writing this in late March after a long day at the office.

When I got home, my beloved had prepared a sumptuous meal – Beef Stroganoff accompanied by a lovely glass of red and in front of some inane TV shows. We watched 'Hawaii Five-0' [the 2010 version] - yes, I'm well and truly old enough to remember the original series! Sad to say the modern version is not nearly as well-crafted or cast as the old one, but I watched it anyway...

The show was about a US Navy SEAL, who after several deployments in Afghanistan was suffering with PTSD...

The plot went like this: he and his wife had an argument... so following the psych's orders he went for a run to clear his head... on his return he finds her murdered... amongst other things his PTSD had brought about blackouts... Did he do it??? Why is he holding the murder weapon??? No one will believe he's innocent; so he runs, is almost caught and takes some hostages...and so the story unfolds...

This story got me to thinking about PTSD and how horrific it is for those who suffer from it.

I have first-hand experience of what PTSD can do; as a teen I experienced it in my Dad. He was never physically violent, but the verbal outbursts were devastating. Pre-Vietnam he was my teacher, friend, mentor and fishing buddy. Post-Vietnam he was distant, angry, irrational, and used alcohol to self-medicate. Our family changed; we all coped, one way or another, BUT we all paid a price. Eventually Dad died, earlier than he should have, as a result of his service related injuries [physical and emotional]. My mum, my siblings and I, still carry baggage related to Dad's PTSD and so do our kids!

What a huge price our war veterans and their families pay and continue to pay, generation after generation.

Anzac Day is only a few weeks after this KiT is published and I'm drawn to considering the impact on our military personnel of their involvement in the various wars, UN Peace-Keeping Missions, Police Actions and multi-lateral forces in WWII, Korea, Malaysia, Borneo, Vietnam, Sinai, Persian Gulf, Rwanda, Somalia, East Timor, Solomon Islands, Iraq or Afghanistan. The impact of these deployments is huge, on not only those deployed, but also on their families and friends. My But the reality is that anyone engaged in military service is potentially going to face trauma of one sort or another so today my thoughts are also for those

I pray that someone who reads this article will try just a little harder to be considerate of a defence service member or veteran and the members of their family this Anzac Day.

Lest we forget...

He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds

[Psalm 147.3]

Blessings Rev. Julie

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Phone: 4959 8108

Email: rev.julie@bigpond.com

[PS: the Navy SEAL didn't murder his wife – but he was arrested because he held numerous people hostage and inflicted injuries on some of them.]

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

DISCLAIMER: This newsletter is produced for the membership of the Toronto RSL Sub Branch and complimentary copies are also distributed to interested parties. It is written with care, in good faith and from sources believed to be accurate at the time of writing. However, readers should not act, nor refrain from acting, solely on the basis of information in this newsletter about financial, taxation or any other matter. Readers, having regard to their own particular circumstances, should consult the relevant authorities or other advisors with expertise in the particular field. Neither the Toronto RSL Sub Branch, nor the management committee or editorial staff accept any responsi-

"THE FINAL INSPECTION"

1 The soldier stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as bright as his brass.

2 "Step forward now, you soldier,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To my Church have you been true?"

3 The soldier squared his shoulder
and said, "No Lord, I guess I ain't.
Because those of us who carry guns,
Can't always be a saint.

4 I've had to work most Sundays,
And times my talk was tough.
And sometime I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.

5 But I never took a penny,
That was't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime,
When the bills just got to steep.

6 I never passed a cry for help,
Though at time I shook with fear.
And sometimes, God, forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.

7 I know I don't deserve a place,
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to clam their fears.

8 If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had to much,
But if you don't, I'll understand."

9 There was a silence all around the
Throne where the saints had often trod.
As the soldier waited quietly,
For the judgement of his God.

10 "Step forward now, you soldier,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heavens Streets,
You've done your time in Hell"

IRISH

Sean is the vicar of a Protestant parish in Southern Ireland and Patrick is the Priest at the Roman Catholic Church across the road.

One day they were seen together, erecting a sign which says, "THE END IS NEAR, TURN YOURSELF AROUND NOW BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE"

As a car speeds past them, the driver leans out his window and yells, "Leave people alone, you religious nutters. We don't need your lectures."

From around the next curve they hear screeching tyres and a big splash.

Shaking his head, Father Patrick says, "Dat's the terd one dis mornin'." "Yaa."
Sean agrees, then adds, "DO YA TINK MAYBE THE SIGN SHOULD JUST SAY

Hugh Duncan Lunn was born in 1941 in Brisbane, Queensland eventually becoming a journalist and author.

Hugh served his journalism cadetship with *The Courier-Mail* for 7 years starting in 1960. Upon completing his cadetship, he worked overseas for seven years. During 1967 and 1968 he covered the Vietnam War for Reuters.

Later in Australia he became Queensland editor of *The Australian* and over the course of the next two decades Lunn was in turn sacked and re-employed by Rupert Murdoch's newspaper a number of times. This article covers his time while a journalist in Vietnam, the quoted material taken from his book 'Vietnam A Reporters War'.

Before Hugh could receive a visa for South Vietnam he had to spend two weeks in Singapore so that he could get a new clean passport from the Australian Embassy, as he had previously done some work in communist countries. This was suggested by the Vietnamese ambassador and he would not have been allowed into the country otherwise. This small event set his mind that not all in Vietnam was on an even line and he should not see everything as it was presented. During his time in Vietnam Hugh changed from a reporter with a fanciful outlook to a hard, fact driven journalist and made an effort to prove the majority of that he reported. Not all he reported could be proven, however he took the information he received from others with a great deal of care and only from those whose background he was familiar with.

When Hugh first arrived he was lucky enough to be taken under the wing by a Vietnamese reporter by the name of Pham Ngoc Dinh, simply referred to as 'Dinh'. Dinh was not well educated like most of his peers and spoke his own version of English that took Hugh a long while to understand. What Dinh (nick named Gungadinh by the Australians) had was an uncanny way to get and understand the truth and an extremely good and large source of informants. Hugh also became good friends with English reporter Jim Pringle whom Hugh thought to be one of the best reporters in the business at the time.

Most of the news that was released from Vietnam came from two events. Each morning at 8am the American Command put out a press statement of about 3-5 pages on overnight events and at 5pm in the afternoon held a full press conference that was well known as the 5 o'clock follies. On average about 100 press reporters attended this event and Hugh was always impressed with the efficiency of the American military. He did however treat most of what was announced at these occurrences with some scepticism, mainly for what was not said as to what was said. He was also critical of the linguistic dialog the Americans used claiming it diversified the reports and unless one knew the specialist lingo made virtually useless anything that was stated. They were particularly good at hiding their 'Kill Ratio' the number of Americans dead against those of the Viet Cong. In the 12 months that Hugh was in Vietnam he saw the American casualty rate rise from 100 per week to 500 per week with the Viet Cong kill rate rated at 4 times that.

Throughout Hugh's book he often questioned these numbers and to back his reports went out into the field operations whenever he could. The press were usually the last to get to a hot spot, as they had to rely on military transport most of the time and the last to leave for the same reason. The military made full use of

Hugh's trips back from the field were made sitting on the piles of bodies as this was the only means of transport available.

From this he was able to get a good estimate of the casualty count and able to compare it to that released at the following 'Follies'.

Hugh was often in trouble with the Americans for what he reported, he always tried to report factual data which often pricked the military. He believed the Americans developed an aggressive, brusque attitude towards the Vietnamese people with an attitude that was not designed to keep them on their side. To quote his words 'they showed little of the great discretion needed when you are a guest in someone else's war'. They were losing the respect of the people they were there to defend and considering the isolation of most villages, the means to defeat the Viet cong. This was the enduring problem of the Americans, just who were the Viet Cong. Just to quote an example Hugh reported ' I was flying to the dangerous area of Dong Ha in a crowded C130 transport and flew over a supposedly friendly village which fired on the A/c seriously injuring a marine. Later on I talked to the pilot, who said with disgust: "We are always taking fire from that village but we can't shoot back – it's a friendly village". End of quote. There were an estimated 12600 hamlets in the South Vietnamese countryside. To prove the Americans were winning the war an American official divided those into 6 classifications of the people living in the hamlets and released them, not realising he had done the exact opposite to what was intended, his list quoted from Hugh's book:

Complete government control	660 000
Almost secure	3 460 000
Government clearly dominant, but perhaps half of guerrilla forces still on duty. Viet-Cong still collect taxes	4 117 000
VC terrorism, night activities. Guerrilla forces two-thirds intact	2 103 000
Minimal government presence	331 000
VC supremacy	3 989 000

The official saw items A-E as under government control and V under Viet Cong. He claimed the figures showed two-thirds of the villagers in South Vietnam were under government control and had a line drawn under item E. Hugh drew the line under item A and came to the conclusion the 500 000 plus American and 100 000 allied troops in Vietnam were in serious trouble. He was not alone as those figures confirmed to most of the Allied journalists in Vietnam what they had been thinking at the start of 1967. In the time Hugh was in Vietnam he never had the chance to report on an Australian conflict. Because he was a world news reporter he almost always reported the American war, primarily because that's where his company achieved most recognition and where it earned its money. He also did not like the Australian Associated Press (AAP) because it claimed a monopoly on all news coming into Australia and distributed it as it saw fit. In a lot of cases combining stories from a varied number of reporters working for different companies, the end result not the story from the individual reporter and not always the true event. He did however consult with his companion Dinh on a regular basis on matters concerning Australians who actually liked Australians and kept current on their progress. The Vietnamese called Australian soldiers 'Uc Dai Lor', loosely translating to 'those from the land of great interest'. They thought most Australians were descendants of criminals sent from England against their wishes making a life for themselves through hardship. This made them fascinating to the Vietnamese and one reason they were so well known. A Vietnamese writer once reported Australians as 'Con Son people', Con Son being an island used as Vietnam's biggest prison.

Hugh did report that Australians found their bit of war frustrating, and wished they could be more involved in the war than they were. Australia was in Vietnam for international political reasons, to give credit to the term 'Free World Forces'.

The Australian Government could not have withstood the political reaction to Australian forces suffering the same casualty and equipment losses to that of the Americans. In saying that Hugh said that Dinh told him (after the war had been lost) the Australian forces were held in high regard by the Viet Cong. One of Dinh's sources was a Viet Cong colonel born in Phuoc Thui province and an arch enemy of the Australians as they operated in this area. The colonel feared the Australian night ambushes and in his words stated "they never defend inside, only outside". He thought they were a clever soldier, a camping man or caravan man because they slept in the field. Their preparation was good, always ready to fight and difficult to fight because they were always on the move. The New Zealand forces included as they were considered as one to the Australians by the Viet Cong. They made life difficult to the Viet Cong because "they took the war out" (took the war to the Viet Cong) and that made it difficult for them. The Australians fought a different battle to that of the Americans, one that may have changed the outcome if the Americans had done the same. The Australian war was based on the lessons learnt in the Malaysian Confrontation against an enemy similar to that of the Viet Cong.

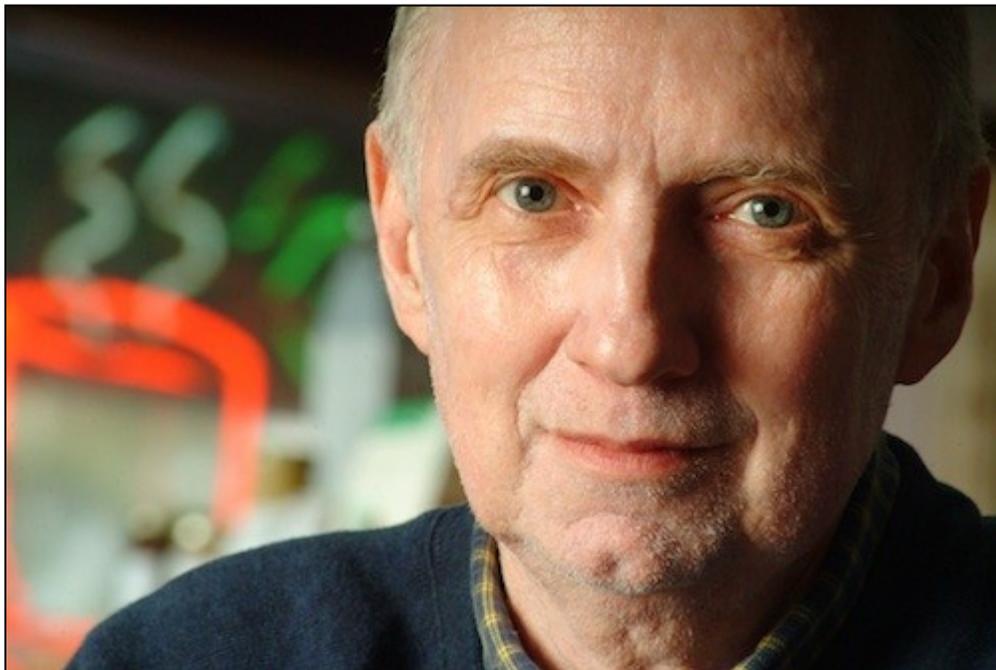
The American army operated from Base Camps spread throughout the country. Moral generally was very low and getting troops to go out on patrol from the camps was always difficult. Hugh stated only about one fifth of these troops actually did go on a patrol. For those that did go out and if wounded they received the best attention that could be offered. It was used as a physiological boost to the men to say nothing would be spared to get them to the best attention possible. An American wounded could expect to be in an American hospital ship sailing off the coast and be operated on by a specialist in 20 minutes. Quote 'An American pilot was prepared to take almost any risk in a desperate race to ensure the wounded were evacuated. This was why, by the end of 1967, the Americans had admitted losing more than four thousand helicopters in Vietnam', end of quote.

In the early to middle months of 1967 the Americans found they were being shelled from the "De-militarised Zone' (DMZ) for the first time by heavy artillery from a range of 18 miles. It was also evident the VC knew exactly the positions of most of the defences within the compounds and the important posts. It was estimated in some posts up to 35% of the Vietnamese within those posts were VC agents and reported everything back to their commands. To counteract, the Americans made a huge push into the area to try and regain control. It was a disaster, The VC had learnt the American way of fighting and planned a way to defeat it. The American's still believing "Might was right" and put everything they had into the fight, A/c, heavy artillery, tanks electronic surveillance and manpower. The VC, with prior warning had booby trapped all the access roads with the very ordinance the Americans had dropped on them that had not exploded. The Americans admitted they made a mistake by putting men in front of the tanks they were using as support as the VC let the first couple of platoons pass and then unleashed on those following making it impossible for the tanks to pass in fear of running over their own wounded. The VC then used their heavy artillery to pound the tanks and mortars on the forward troops allowed to pass earlier. The Americans tried to use electronics to determine where the shells were being fired from so that they could direct air attacks to the spot. The VC defused

It was a shock to the American's, however more was to follow when in July 67 the VC launched the first electronically fired Russian rockets into their entrenched bases in South Vietnam from a range greater than 18 miles.

These bases had a defended perimeter of 5 miles, the maximum range of the mortars the VC had at the time. The rockets, which took two VC to carry and were carried manually 1500 miles from the north, made sure there was no place safe in Vietnam for the Allies and made the Americans change tactics. Hugh questioned marine Pacific Commander General Krulak on what could be done and he replied "We are firing a thousand rounds for every hundred they fire at us but they are firing at a small target while we are firing into the countryside"

Hugh Lunn in later years



A month before Hugh's term in Vietnam was due to end he was asked to report on a battle developing, Hill 875 in the jungle north west of the city of Pleiku. The American military media machine was telling the world the hill was under their control, however the number of wounded returning from the area told a different story. Hugh for this assignment was very nervous, he distrusted the reports that were being released and the press were being warned away and finding it difficult to get to the area. Hugh eventually went in on a helicopter filled with ammunition without getting permission. Even then the closest he could get initially was 3 miles from the hill. From here he met with an American Colonel also waiting to get to the "hill" who let Hugh listen in to the radio traffic coming from those attempting to take the hill. It was eventually secured after being pounded with bombs, artillery, napalm and rockets, and the Americans found it was being held by about 60 VC prepared to give their lives for the effort. Hugh finally made it to Hill 875 as the hill was being taken and the Colonel he flew in with kept Hugh with him for the final assault. Even though the hill was in American hands it was sur-

had to be taken, however American General Westmoreland announced the hill was 'The beginning of the great defeat for the enemy'. He could not have been more wrong. Hugh's stay in Vietnam was extended into 1968 as his replacement was having trouble getting into Vietnam. He was set to leave at the start of February just after the Vietnamese celebrate the new year (TET) in late January. In previous years a truce was called in the war by all involved as this was the most important event for the Vietnamese people.

A truce was agreed to by all parties although shorter than that normally and only in Saigon did the Americans go off full alert. Hugh was warned by Dinh that something was about to happen and not to go out to the celebrations.

Dinh had been warned by the VC Colonel Pham Xuan An, who worked as a reporter for Associated Press that something was about to happen. Dinh only learned after the war had ended that An was VC and was instrumental in saving Dinh's life by protecting him from VC intelligence. Dinh missed out on leaving Vietnam with the evacuation and stayed on to report the war for Reuters and was badly treated by the North Vietnamese. An also organised to have a Visa issued to Dinh to leave Vietnam and settle in Australia.

No one would believe Hugh that the VC were going to attack Saigon except his fellow office reporters. At 2am on the 29th of January the VC attacked the city. They attacked from within rising from tunnels and other hideouts. An estimated 4500 VC regulars had infiltrated the city over the week previous and were aided by many "sleepers" living in the city. They took the American Embassy which was eventually retaken by the Americans but at a cost. Hugh and others covered the battle, always in danger and were stopped and threatened by both Allied and VC forces, always managing to talk his way out. At one point the Reuters office was the only organisation able to get news out of Saigon and was used heavily by several news agencies.

It was the final straw for the Americans in Vietnam, never recovering completely from this event. Hugh was asked to stay on by Reuters but he declined and left shortly after the TET battle. On the A/C leaving Vietnam he waited until the A/C had reached 19000 Ft and out of missile range before ordering a bottle of champagne. He stated in his book he never got over Vietnam, it has stayed in his memory.

IRISH

Paddy phones an ambulance because his mate's been hit by a car. Paddy, "Get an ambulance here quick, he's bleeding from his nose and ears and I tink both his legs are broken." Operator, "What is you location sir?" Paddy, "Outside number 28 Eucalyptus Street." Operator, "How do you spell that sir?" Silence (heavy breathing) and after a minute. Operator, "Are you there sir?" More heavy breathing and another minute later. Operator, "Sir, can you hear me?" This goes on for another minute until....Operator, "Sir, please answer me. Can you still hear me?" Paddy, "Yes, sorry bout dat.....I couldn't spell eucalyptus, so I just dragged him

KOOKIES MORSELS

AUTUMN ~ WARMER MEALS

CHAR-GRILLED PORK WITH MACADAMINA AND PEACH SALSA

4 Pork fillets or pork leg steaks

Juice of 1 lemon

SALSA

Half a cup of Roasted Macadaminas

half a red onion

1tbsp ginger or lime marmalade (optional)

freshly ground pepper to taste

olive oil

salt and pepper to taste

half a cup of diced peach

2 tbsps fresh coriander,

chopped or continental

parsley

Brush the pork fillets with oil and some of the lemon juice and season them to taste. Then cover and refrigerate until ready to cook.

Combine all the salsa ingredients in a bowl, mix well and allow it to marinate for 20 minutes if possible.

Heat a grill pan or barbecue to very high and sear the pork for 2-3 minutes each side or cook it as you like it. Then serve it with the salsa ——— It's also delicious if served on a bed of mixed leaves or sauteed kipfler potatoes.

Serves 4, however if only cooking for 2 use only 2 pork fillets and leave the salsa as is.

Bon appetit

* * * * *

CHICKEN KATSU WITH CURRY SAUCE

2tbsps sunflower oil, plus extra to shallow fry

1 large carrot, peeled and thinly sliced

2 tsp garam masala

2 cups (500ml) chicken stock

4 chicken breasts

2 eggs, lightly beaten

2 cups of panko crumbs

1 onion thinly sliced

2 tbsps plain flour

3 tps curry powder

1 tsp honey

two thirds (100g) plain flour

1 tsp each of black and

Kookies Morsels Cont....

Heat 2 tbsps oil in a saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion and carrot and cook for 3-4 minutes until softened. Add 2 tbsps flour, garam masala and curry paste and stir through. Gradually add the chicken stock, stirring continuously until well combined. Add the honey and reduce heat to low.

Cook for 15 minutes until the sauce has thickened. Remove from the heat and keep warm.

Place chicken breasts between 2 pieces of baking paper, then flatten with a rolling pin. Place flour, eggs and breadcrumbs in 3 separate bowls. Coat each breast in flour, then egg and then breadcrumbs. Heat 2cm oil in a large frypan. Cook chicken on each side for 4 minutes or until crispy and cooked through. Remove from oil. Season with salt and sprinkle over sesame seeds and serve with rocket or other green salad of your choice. Serve with the curry sauce.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday ~ 10/04/17 ~ Monthly Meeting at 10.00am

**Tuesday ~ 25/04/17 ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE
6.00am GOFFET PARK NO MARCH**

**Tuesday ~ 25/04/17 ANZAC DAY SERVICE 9.00
am LAKE MACQUARIE MEMORIAL PARK RYHOPE**

**Tuesday ~ 25/04/17 ANZAC DAY MAIN SERVICE IN
TORONTO FORM UP 1045am ON THE BOULEVARDE
STEP OFF AT 11.10AM GOFFET PARK MARCH TO
GOFFET PARK WHERE THE SERVICE WILL BE CON-
DUCTED AT 11.30AM ~ AT THE CONCLUSION MARCH
BACK TO OUTSIDE THE DIGGERS CLUB AND BE DIS-
MISSED**

THE HON

JOEL FITZGIBBON MP

Member for Hunter | Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
Shadow Minister for Rural & Regional Australia | Spokesperson for Country Caucus



ANZAC Day is an opportunity for all Australians to pay tribute to the men and women who have served our nation in wars, conflicts and on peacekeeping operations. It's one of the most important dates in our commemorative calendar. We give our eternal gratitude to the sailors, soldiers, airmen and women, past and present, who have given so much for us.

It always delights me to see so many local people at our local services. I've no doubt that as the continuing centenary events of the First World War will again bolster Service attendance this year.

During 1917, 76,836 Australians became casualties in battles such as Bullecourt, Messines, and the four-month campaign around Ypres known as the battle of Passchendaele. I've had this great privilege of visiting Australia's war graves there, including that of our own Clarence Jeffries VC. This year also marks the Centenary of the Battle for Beersheba.

I have also enjoyed the very great privilege of serving as Australia's Defence Minister and in that role, the further privilege of delivering speeches at ANZAC Day services on the Gallipoli peninsula and in Afghanistan. But whether I'm overseas or at home, every service is a moving one. I encourage everyone in the Hunter electorate to attend a service this ANZAC Day. If you are unable to, you might

GET IN CONTACT:

Electorate Office

3 Edward Street, Cessnock NSW 2325
P (02) 49911022 | F (02) 49912322

Parliament House

R1 48, Canberra ACT 2600
P (02) 62774550 | (02) 62778556

Please like **Joel Fitzgibbon MP** on Facebook or follow **@fitzhunter** on Twitter
Website: www.joelfitzgibbon.com.au Email: joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au



093.010

Priceline Pharmacy Toronto

Shop 14 Toronto Town Square

63 The Boulevard, Toronto

Ph: 4950 3000

TRADING HOURS:

Monday-Friday: 8:30am-6pm

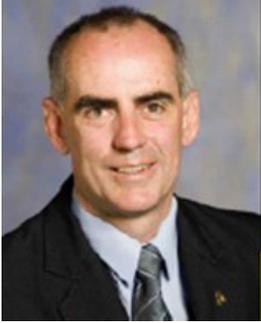
Saturday: 8:30am-4pm

Sunday: 9am-2pm



priceline
pharmacy





Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie



I am pleased to advise applications for the Community War Memorials Fund are now open and close on Anzac Day, 25 April 2017.

I welcome the new round of grants which can be used for the conservation, repair or protection of a community war memorial. Applicants have until Anzac Day to apply for a grant, and I encourage all local sub-Branches to do so. More information, including application forms and funding criteria for both grants, can be found at www.veterans.nsw.gov.au

As ANZAC Day approaches, I and my staff will endeavour to attend many functions and commemorations in the electorate. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

This year Australia recognised the 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore and Australian prisoners of war.

A national service commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore and the service and sacrifice of all Australian Prisoners of War was held on 15 February at the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial in Ballarat, Victoria. Nineteen Australian Ex-Prisoners of War travelled to Ballarat to join the National Commemorations.

A new memorial in Ballarat, the Garden of the Grieving Mother, is dedicated to the families of service men and women killed in action.

The Malayan Campaign, which ended with the Fall of Singapore, lasted from 8 December 1941 to 15 February 1942 when Allied forces in Singapore laid down their arms.

Those who surrendered were held captive, first at Changi and, as the war contin-

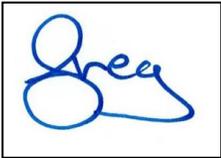
On the 75th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore we honour all those who served in South East Asia and the Pacific, including some 1800 Australians who lost their lives or were listed as missing in action in the fighting for Malaya and Singapore.

Our Second World War veterans made great sacrifices for their country and this year the 75th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore is an important opportunity for all Australians to acknowledge their service and sacrifice.

Their sacrifice was not in vain.

We will remember them.

Regards



92 Victory Parade, Toronto NSW 2283

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

Electorate Office 4959 3200

WW1 ~ HERE LIES...

Report of a monument in France which marks the last resting place of an Army mule.

In Memory of Maggie

Who in her time kicked

2 Colonels

4 Majors

10 Captains

24 Lieutenants

42 Sergeants



Nasho's News

Westlake Macquarie

National Servicemen's Association



Greetings all

Well autumn is upon us and already there is that touch of coolness and snow falling down south we may be in for a cold winter, so much for Global Warming and with the rain that has fallen so much for empty dams . ONYA ProfTIM

For those that were not at the AGM the same people are back holding the reins for another year ,with a new VP Gordon Maxwell and a couple of new committee members to help us through out the coming year., also you now have to Patrons who will be introduced at the next meeting in May. Sadly only 2 postal nominations were received the vote coming from the floor from the members that attended, remember it is your sub branch and hopefully this coming year we can promote more interest and have more attending meetings. The meeting in May will have a guest speaker whom i believe will keep your interest on the subject of which he will speak re WWI, this hopefully will be the first of others that we can hopefully get to speak to all on various subjects.

Should you know of anyone willing to speak for about 20minutes or so on any subject you think may interest all please notify Bruce or me and we will see what can be arranged. Anzac day is again approaching fast and this issue of KIT will be out by then,we the Nashos will again be providing help with the Ice creams and drinks after the service, also a clean up the Saturday prior at the park time to be notified by email and also the erection of the RSL Gazebo the Morning of the service ,we will need 6/8 bodies at Goffet Park at 5am or a bit earlier to erect this and members to assist after the I Iam service to dismantle and pack away, don't be shy let Bruce or I know if able to assist with any of these chores please ,more hands make light work .

Keeping this short this time as the dead line was on the 1st and now 11th so must get away to Mitch for the autumn issue, remember please we do need your input and ideas for what you would like see being done re outings, speakers surely we have many members with hidden talents,past experiences that would be of interest to all at a meeting.

Look forward to seeing all at the Dawn Service or the March on Anzac day, this seems to be getting larger with each passing year with the public attendance. So, Polish the shoes brush off your Blazers and stand tall on the day I know all backs straighten and shoulders square up when you march as we all did in the 50s

Regards to all Andrew Macrae

President

ANZAC DAY 2017

DAWN SERVICE

6.00AM ~ GOFFET PARK

BRIGHTON AVENUE

TORONTO ~ FOLLOWED BY FULL
BREAKFAST FOR GOLD COIN

MAIN SERVICE AND PARADE

FORM UP IN THE BOULEVARDE

10.45AM TO 10.50AM ~ STEP OFF

AT 11.10AM ~ MARCH TO

GOFFET PARK ~ SERVICE COM-

MENCES AT 11.30AM CON-

CLUDES 12.30PM ~ 12.45PM

PARADE TO MARCH BACK TO

DIGGERS CLUB ~ DISMISSED



217 Army Cadet Unit (ACU)

Quarterly Report

For

Quarterly of 2017



1. Hello all, 217 is changing the shape and the major change to date is that Lieutenant (AAC) Yvonne Fuller has been promoted to Captain (AAC) and assumed the role of Officer Commanding (OC) of 217 and I am moving to the training role. I will be changing rank in the near future when I have authority from National and 2 Brigade (2BDE). In addition, a new training program has been introduced into the Army Cadets and CAPT (AAC) Fuller's planning and organising has allowed us to run the programme this year.

2. Saying that the years activities continue with the Recruit Course and a Live Firing activity occurring in March and we are preparing for the numerous ANZAC day ceremonies. Also, we are preparing for the upcoming 2BDE Promotion Assessment/Course planned for early July.

3. When we returned from holidays I had the privilege to promote our Acting Cadet Under Officer (CUO) and Company Sargent Major (CSM) from Corporals (CPL) to Sergeants (SGT). CDTSGT Caleb Watts will continue as the CUO and CDTSGT Toby Adams continues as the CSM. We have also promoted a number of Cadets to Lance Corporal (LCPL) and LCPL to CPL and we will give more detail in the next letter once we have determined the new structure of the Platoon/s and sections

Kind regards

Gordon Macey

CAPT(AAC)

217 Army Cadet Unit (ACU)

Training Officer (TRGOFFR)

Mobile: 0417 419 877

Unit email: 217acu@cadnet.gov.au

Personnel Cadet email: gordon.macey@armycadets.gov.au

Up-Coming Activities and tasks

2BDE Promotion course: Jul 17

Aug Camp – prep for AFX17

AFX17

End of Year Parade

End of Year Dinner

Term 2 Camp: June Long weekend

2017 Recruit course.

ANZAC Day Activities.

Organise long lead time activitie

Cadet of the Year Activity 17

Duke of Edinburgh Award, and

PENSIONS REPORT

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

There are: 3 matters under SRCA,.

1 under MRCA. 1 War Widow claim. 5 under VEA.

1 matter that went before the VRB.

Claims that were approved since our last K.I.T.....

The matter under the VRB. The War Widow claim.

There has also been one Non-Liability claim for a PTSD case approved and one Non-Liability claim for Cancer has been rejected.

So as you can see our Officer's have not been idle dealing with the high demand. Considering at present we only have two Pension Officer's and one Advocate.

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.

Our Advocate and Pension Officer's are on duty in these sub-Branch of-

TEA IS EVIL

Tea is an evil substance ! Tea is more Dangerous than Beer,
Please avoid drinking Tea.

I discovered last night. I had 14 beers till 3am at the pub while my wife was just drinking tea at home.

You should have seen how violent and angry she was when I got home. I was peaceful, silent and headed to bed as she shouted at me, all night and even into the next morning.

Please Ladies, if you can't handle your tea, don't drink it...

Blonde goes to Heaven

A Blonde was sent on her way to Heaven. Upon arrival, a concerned St Peter met her at the Pearly Gates. 'I'm sorry,' St Peter said; 'But Heaven is suffering from an overload of godly souls and we have been forced to put up an Entrance Exam for new arrivals to ease the burden of Heavenly Arrivals.'

'That's cool' said the Blonde, 'What does the Entrance Exam consist of?'

'Just three questions' said St Peter.

'Which are?' asked the Blonde.

'The first,' said St Peter, 'is, which two days of the week start with the letter 'T'?

The second is 'How many seconds are there in a year?'

The third is 'What was the name of the swagman in Waltzing Matilda?'

'Well then,' said St Peter, 'Which two days of the week start with the letter T?'

The Blonde said, 'Today and Tomorrow.'

St Peter pondered this answer for some time, and decided that indeed the answer can be applied to the question.

'Well then, could I have your answer to the second of the three questions' St Peter went on, 'how many seconds in a year?' The Blonde replied, 'Twelve!'

'Only twelve' exclaimed St Peter, 'How did you arrive at that figure?'

'Easy,' said the Blonde, 'there's the second of January, the second of February, right through to the second of December, giving a total of twelve seconds.'

St Peter looked at the Blonde and said, 'I need some time to consider your answer before I can give you a decision.' And he walked away shaking his head.

A short time later, St Peter returned to the Blonde. 'I'll allow the answer to stand, but you need to get the third and final question absolutely correct to be allowed into Heaven. Now, can you tell me the answer to the name of the swagman in Waltzing Matilda?'

The blonde replied: 'Of the three questions, I found this the easiest to answer.'

'Really!' exclaimed St Peter, 'And what is the answer?'

'It's Andy.'

'Andy??'

'Yes, Andy,' said the Blonde.

This totally floored St Peter, and he paced this way and that, deliberating the answer. Finally, he could not stand the suspense any longer, and turning to the blonde, asked 'How in God's name did you arrive at THAT answer?'

'Easy' said the Blonde, 'Andy sat, Andy watched, Andy waited til his billy boiled.'

And the Blonde entered Heaven...?

~ DADDY'S DAY AT SCHOOL ~

Her hair was in a pony tail,
Her favourite dress tied in a bow.
Today was Daddy's day at school,
And she couldn't wait to go.

But her mummy tried to tell her,
That she should probably stay home.
Why the kids might not understand,
if she went to school alone.

But she was not afraid;
She knew just what to say.
What to tell her classmates
Of why he wasn't there that day.

But still her mother worried,
For her to face this day alone.
And that was why once again,
She tried to keep her daughter home.

But the little girl went to school
Eager to tell them all.
About a dad she never sees
A dad who never calls.
There were daddies along the wall in back,
For everyone to meet.
Children squirming impatiently,
Anxious in their seats.

One by one the teacher called
A student from the class.
To introduce their daddy,
As seconds slowly passed.

At last the teacher called her name
Every child turned to stare.

“Where’s her daddy at?”

She heard a boy call out.

“she probably doesn’t have one,”

Another student dared to shout.

And from some where from the back,

She heard a daddy say,

“Looks like another deadbeat dad,

Too busy to waste his day.”

The words did not offend her,

As she smiled up at her Mum.

And looked back at her teacher,

Who told her to go on.

And with hand behind her back,

She slowly began to speak.

And out from the mouth of a child,

Came words incredibly unique.

“My Daddy couldn’t be here,

Because he lives so far away.

But I know he wishes he could be,

Since this is such a special day.

And though you cannot meet him,

I wanted you to know.

All about my daddy,

And how much he loves me so.

He loved to tell me stories,

He taught me to ride my bike.

He surprised me with pink roses,

And taught me to fly a kite.

We used to share fudge sundaes,

And ice cream in a cone.

And though you cannot see him,

I’m not standing here alone.

**'Cause my daddy's always with me,
Even though we are apart.
I know because he told me,
He'll forever be in my heart.'**

**With that, her little hand reached up,
And lay across her chest.
Feeling her own heartbeat,
Beneath her favourite dress.**

**And from somewhere here in the crowd of dads,
Her mother stood in tears.
Proudly watching her daughter,
Who was wise beyond her years.**

**For she stood up for the love
Of a man not in her life.
Doing what was best for her,
Doing what was right.**

**And when she dropped her hand back down,
Staring straight into the crowd.
She finished with a voice so soft,
But it's message clear and loud.**

**'I love my daddy very much,
He's me shining star.
And if he could, he'd be here.
But heaven's just too far.**

**You see, he was an Aussie Soldier
And died, just this, past year
When a roadside bomb hit his convoy
And taught, Australians to fear.**

**But sometimes when I close my eyes,
it's like he never went away.'**

And then she closed her eyes,
And saw him there that day.

And to her mother amazement,
She witnessed with surprise.
A room full of daddy's and children,
All starting to close their eyes.

Who knows what they saw before them,
Who knows what they felt inside.
Perhaps for merely a second,
They saw him at her side.

'I know you are with me Daddy,'
To the silence she called out.
And what happened next made believers,
Of those filled with doubt.

Not one in that room could explain it,
For each of their eyes had been closed.
But there on the desk beside her,
Was a fragrant long stem pink rose.

And a child was blessed, if only for a moment,
By the love of her shining star.
And given the gift of believing,
That heaven is never too far.

EDITORS NOTE: THE AUTHOR IS UNKONOWN BUT I HAVE FOUND OUT THAT IT WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN FOLLOWING THE PLANES FLYING INTO THE TWO TOWERS IN AMERICA ON THE 9/11 AND IT RELATES TO THE DAUGHTER OF A FIREMAN WHO DIED IN THAT INCIDENT.

HOWEVER, THE WAY IT WAS WRITTEN IT CAN BE USED FOR ANY

GETTING OLDER

Lying around, ponderng the problems of the world, I realised at my age I don't give a rat's anymore.

If walking is good for your health, the Postman would be immortal.

A whale swims all day, only eats fish, and drinks water, but is still fat.

A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years, while a tortise doesn't run and does mostly nothing, yet lives for 150 years. And they tell us to exercise! I don't think so.....

Now that I'm older, here's what I had discovered.

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats are mostly enjoyed with prunes and all-bran.
3. Funny I don't remember being absent minded.
4. Funny I don't remember being absent minded.
5. If all is not lost then where the heck is it?
6. It was a whole lot easier to get older, than it was to get wiser.
7. Some days, you are the top dog, some days you are the tree.
8. I wish the buck really did stop here; I sure could use a few of them.
9. Kids in the back seat cause accidents.
10. Accidents in the back seat cause kids.
11. It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
12. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.
13. It is not hard to meet expenses.....they're everywhere.
14. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth....
15. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hearafter...I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder; What I'm "here after".
16. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded.
17. Have I mentioned all this to you before or did you tell me about your thoughts?
18. **I am just too old to give a rats anymore about what I say to people . What are they going to do, send me to Vietnam. Al-**

A VERY SHORT LOVE STORY

A man and a woman who had never met before, but were married to other people, found themselves assigned to the same sleeping room on a Trans-continental train.

Though initially embarrassed and uneasy over sharing the room, they were both very tired and fell asleep quickly, he in the upper berth and she in the lower.

At 1.00am the man leaned down and gently woke the woman saying....."Ma'am, I'm sorry to bother you, but would you be willing to reach into the closet to get me a second blanket? I'm awfully cold."

The woman said, "I have a better idea, just for tonight.....let's pretend we're married."

"Wow".....That's a great idea he exclaimed."

"Good she replied, "Get you own bloody blanket."

Nothing further was said however after a few moments silence.....

Heatons ~ Toronto West Tyre

Service ~ Phone (02)

4959 3738



- **All Brands of New Tyres**
- **Batteries**
- **Mechanical Repairs**
- **Authorised Inspection Station**

NEVILLE JOHN HEATON

ADF Commences Operation Queensland Assist 17

29 March 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

ADF Commences Operation Queensland Assist 17

Following a formal request for assistance from the Queensland Government, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) has now commenced Operation Queensland Assist 17 to help the people and communities affected by Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Acting Chief of Joint Operations, Major General Stuart Smith said the ADF has committed around 1,200 personnel and significant resources to the operation.

“Operating under Joint Task Force 661 (JTF 661), the Defence response will see our sailors, soldiers and airmen undertaking a wide variety of tasks in support of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and other disaster coordination authorities,” Major General Smith said.

As well as engineering and logistics support, JTF 661 has also drawn on specialist ADF capabilities from around Australia including; Royal Australian Air Force aircraft, as well as *HMAS Choules*, a vessel ideally suited to domestic disaster relief operations.

In consultation with relevant agencies, JTF 661 will prioritise those areas and activities the ADF is best positioned and suited to support.

“These tasks will include: evacuation; aeromedical transport; search and rescue; assisting to restore critical infrastructure; road and route clearance; emergency food, water, fuel and shelter delivery and distribution; as well reconnaissance, surveillance and damage assessments,” Major General Smith said.

The ADF will review its support in consultation with Queensland and Australian Government agencies and will continue to scope options for assistance as the situation evolves.

Australian Defence Force Joint Task Force completes Operation Queensland Assist 2017 Mission

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has commenced reducing its support to Queensland emergency services in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Units assigned to Joint Task Force 661 are gradually returning to their home bases as the clean-up and reconstruction situation in North Queensland moves into its next phase.

The rapid ADF response following Tropical Cyclone Debbie saw more than 1,600 ADF personnel working to assist affected communities and the state emergency services.

The Navy, Army and Air Force provided personnel, equipment and specialist capabilities on the ground to support the needs of people affected in North Queensland.

Chief of Joint Operations Command, Vice Admiral David Johnston, said ADF personnel had successfully completed the tasks civilian authorities requested of them, including providing specialist support to emergency services personnel.

“The Queensland disaster recovery effort in the Whitsunday region will see a transition from a Defence supported emergency response to a Queensland Government led recovery with employment opportunities for local people and businesses,” Vice Admiral Johnston said.

“Emergency services and public utilities have future restoration tasks well in hand for those areas hardest hit by the cyclone.

“Sailors, soldiers, airmen and women have welcomed the chance to assist communities, emergency services and volunteers during Operation Queensland Assist 2017,” he said.

“Provision of clean drinking water, clearance of major routes, transport of Ergon power workers to remote locations and medical staff and supplies forward, as well as assistance to isolated communities were just some of the ways Defence was able to assist.

“Our response teams appreciated the warm welcome they received for the duration of the mission,” Vice Admiral Johnston said.

While many of the ADF assets have commenced transition from the region, the Engineer Support Regiment (65 personnel, 40 vehicles) will remain in the Rockhampton area until further notice to support possible requests for assistance as flood waters in the Rockhampton area recede. The decision to draw down the ADF assistance came after close consultation with the Queensland Government, Emergency Management Queen-

EMQ continues to provide assistance to the communities devastated by the cyclone, and ADF specialist support will remain at local bases to assist emergency services if required.

As North Queensland transitions from the emergency response to the recovery phase, Defence is now realigning its emergency response posture to Rockhampton where engineering support, Naval, amphibious and aviation assets are available assist.

Joint Task Force 661, comprising of personnel and engineering equipment from the Townsville based 3 Brigade, was established to provide Defence assistance to state disaster response options in support of the Queensland Government to Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

HOW TRUE IT IS

“It’s the soldier, not the minister, who has given us freedom of religion.”

“It’s the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.”

“It’s the soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.”

“It’s the soldier, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.”

It’s the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protesters to burn the flag.”



LEST WE FORGET

LAST POST

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

Jan ZEIJA ~ RAF ~ 2016

Barry WELLINGS ~ ARMY ~ December 2016

Gordon BURRIDGE ~ RAN ~ 4/01/2017

Cornelious ANDREWS ~ ARMY ~ 12/03/2017

Lest we forget



'ZEST FOR LIFE'

Active Over 50's Exercise Classes

Your local sub-Branch runs two classes per week under its
"Zest for Life Program"

A light exercise program at 8.00am on Tuesday of each
week under the watchful eye of Advanced Exercise Pro-
fessional Pamela Glover.

The class runs for about 40 minutes to 1 hour.

Cost: \$5.00 per session

So if you feel that a little "Exercise" can help with your
overall health, improving things, such as balance,
strength, etc., come along and sign up. You will also get
to meet new friends who have social outings, cups of
coffee together., etc. Open to all if you are **Over 50.**

The programme is not new and has been running for over
7 years. So, if you feel up to it, contact the Toronto RSL
sub-Branch for full details.



**Hunter Nursing
Pty Ltd**

*Qualified staff for all your
Nursing and Home care
needs provided in your
home.*

4959 6711



TORONTO NEWSAGENCY

GIFTWARE AND STATIONARY SUPPLIES

**66 The Boulevarde
Toronto 2283**

**Andrew and Sharyn Fennell
Proprietors**

Phone (02) 4959 1092

Fax (02) 4950 5089

toronto.newsagency@outlook.com

PO Box 1028 Warners Bay 2282

Rathmines Memorial Bowling Club

Stilling St. Rathmines 2283 Phone 4975 1955 Fax 4975 1953

Administration Phone 4975 1711

Email: rathminesbc@bigpond.com Website www.rathminesbc.com.au

Home of the WWII Catalina Flying Boats

Our Club is the ex-officers Mess of the RAAF Base

GROUP TOURS

**of the Base and Cata-
lina Memorial with
guide and lectures in
your bus
Morning Tea & Lunch
included**

**Or visit yourself and pick up
a visitors guide to the base**

CATALINA BISTRO

**Open for Lunch & Dinner
Thursday to Sunday
Australian Cuisine
Dine in or Take away
Functions Catered for
\$10 lunch specials
Daily specials**

CLUB ACTIVITIES

**Daily Bowls Activities
Disabled Bowls
Bingo
Raffles
Entertainment
Membership Draws**

Members new Lounge open ~ Pool Table ~ Juke Box



LAKE MACQUARIE MEMORIAL PARK



A beautiful Cemetery and
Crematorium for our community
A dedicated Veteran, Services and
Families Remembrance Garden
A special place for ex-service men and
women to lie at peace with their
families

For further information call in our
office or telephone for an appointment

**405 Cessnock Road,
Ryhope NSW 2283
Phone: 02 4950 5727**

www.lakemacquariememorialpark.com.au



(02) 4959 2411

torontodiggers.com.au
41 The Boulevard, Toronto



Call in and have a drink at the friendliest club on the lake

"Your Home Away from Home"

VISITORS WELCOME
Excellent Food - Icy Cold Beer

Club Opening Hours

Sunday, Monday & Tuesday 9.00am - 10.00pm
Wednesday & Thursday 9.00am - 11.00pm
Friday & Saturday 9.00am - 12.00am

Ollie's Bistro Opening Hours

Lunch - Daily 11.30am - 2.00pm
Dinner - Sunday, Monday & Tuesday 5.30pm - 8.30pm
Wednesday - Saturday 5.30pm - 9.00pm

ATM - AVAILABLE



Toronto Diggers promotes responsible
gaming practices

IS GAMBLING A PROBLEM FOR YOU? CALL G-LINE
(NSW) A CONFIDENTIAL AND FREE COUNSELLING
SERVICE - FREECALL G-LINE 1800 633 635



Membership Draws

Thursday & Friday Night at 6.00pm
Bonus Draw Thursday Night 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Sunday at 12.30pm

Raffles

Thursday & Friday
(Tickets on sale 5.00pm, drawn 6.30pm)
Sunday
(Tickets on sale 11.15am, drawn 12.30pm)

Bingo

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 11.00am
(Aussie) Wednesday 7.30pm

Members' Courtesy Bus

Thursday & Friday Pick-up Service 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Saturday Pick-up Service 5.30pm - 7.30pm
Thursday & Friday Drop Off from 7.30pm
Saturday Drop Off from 8.30pm