

Keeping in Touch

SPRING EDITION 2020



***REMEMBRANCE DAY 11th OF THE 11th ~ Page 3
MRH90 TACTICAL TROOP TRANSPORT ~ ARMY ~ P 23
'TEDDY' SHEEAN TO FINALLY RECEIVE THE VICTORIA
CROSS (WW2) POSTHUMOUSLY ~ P 26~ 27
KAKODA ~P 28 ~ 32***



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





**Recovery
Station**

Veterans,

do you want to get in shape?

**Visit us at our clinic in Toronto,
we'd love to see you there!**

Your local DVA provider for:

**Physiotherapy
Occupational Therapy
Speech Therapy
Mental Health**

**58 Victory Parade, Toronto
Phone: 4959 2211**

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**

barbarakingfunerals.com.au



Arcade

Books

**60 The Boulevard
Toronto ~ 49592800**

Selling all types of
pre-loved books
and



helping adults with
reading and writing skills.

**In the arcade
opposite Toronto Diggers.**

Closed Mondays
**Tues - Fri 9:00-5:00
Sat 9:00-1:00**

Come in and buy a book



**Toronto
Dry Cleaners**

4959 1296

- All work done on the premises
- Alterations and Repairs
- Exclusive Bridal and Eveningwear Specialists
- Blankets, Quilts, Curtains



Keeping in Touch

From the president's desk..

Hello everyone.

This Virus certainly has the country rattled and proving to be very resilient. Not only has it caused grief with the loss of relatives & friends, it has also caused disruption and anxiety within the community and monetary debt to the country that will take years, maybe generations to get over. We here at the Sub-Branch have been continuing with our core business throughout, although it has been on a reduced schedule due to the restrictions imposed upon us. We are still operational, so if you need assistance or help please contact us, even if you just want someone to talk to, we will do what we can. I have reduced the days the Sub-Branch is open, the office will be manned Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 0900 to 1200Hrs. We do not have enough people available to keep it open all the week. While on that we are in desperate need of a person to take on the Secretaries duties. Ron Mitch & I are currently doing all the office work & between all the other duties we have, does not give us much time. Mitch & I will help all we can if someone will take it on.



While researching the article in this KIT on Kakoda, one of the booklets I read, written by Capt. Bill Phillips, in his introduction I noted that when Australia first landed at Gallipoli in WW1 our forces were under equipped and under trained for the task they were assigned. When they were first introduced in 1940, to the war in the Middle East and Europe in WW11 the exact same situation was evident again with our Army having to make do with what they had. Another problem arising in this period, to build up the forces, Officers & NCO's were taken from the Home defence units thus depleting them of leadership leaving our home forces vulnerable. This became increasingly evident when Japanese forces invaded our Northern neighbours in 1941. Add to this, many of our military leaders were veterans of the previous war and it was soon apparent our forces were in trouble.

.....P/1

I mention the extracts above to highlight the inquiry currently of our soldiers, mainly SAS, who are being investigated as to their involvement in Iraq/Iran. For those unfamiliar with these events, several of our soldiers are being investigated for war crimes during their service in those countries. The investigation called for by Non-military people after revision of contact reports raised by military personnel. The reason given is Australia must be seen to be acting in accordance with the associated rules. This by the way, against an army that has no uniform, uses women & children in any way they please and fights with any weapon in any way they please without reference to rules. An Australian General has spoken publicly that the Services were under staffed, ill-equipped and undertrained to take on the role they did, and blame should not be directed at the middle & lower ranks as they were doing only what they could. The SAS were given the brunt of these assignments because they had had more advanced training than the other regiments. Subsequently they had to do several tours each to make up the deficiencies. The wrong people are being investigated.

The Sub Branch is looking at having a commemoration for Remembrance Day at Goffet Park. At this stage if we ensure people keep an appropriate distance and register, we should be able to have a ceremony. State have not been clear on the matter and it looks like they have left it to the sub-Branches to make the decision **We will keep you informed.**

State has just advised us we will have to cease subsidising RSL membership unless the member is in financial hardship. The definition of such is on the State RSL website if you wish to have a look at it.

Toronto RSL sub-Branch has subsidised payments in the past and wish to continue that process, we are financially able to do so. We will however have to go by what RSL (NSW) have determined. We will not however, investigate if you tell us you are unable to afford the full payment and, we will accept the payment of \$10. Full membership will be \$35.

The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

Bill NOBLE BEM
President



REMEMBRANCE DAY ~ GOFFET PARK

Remembrance Day 2020 will be held in Goffet Park by the staff of the Toronto RSL sub-Branch.

It will commence at 1100hrs (11.00am) where a short service will be given along with wreath laying.

Members of the public are invited however are requested to adhere to the COVID-19 Restrictions and keep their distance during the service.

Once the RSL staff complete their part in the proceedings and leave the park, members of the public can further pay their respects which occurred on ANZAC DAY this year.

We apologise for the shortness of the entire event but due to the restrictions it cannot be helped. Anyone in attendance are paying their respects to our past fallen.

Ollies Bistro

\$10 LUNCH*

MONDAY-SUNDAY 11.30am–2.00pm



Steak Sandwich w Chips

Chicken Schnitzel w Chips & Salad or Veg

Flaked Salmon Salad

**\$12 for Non Members, subject to change, Not available on Public Holidays, Mother's Day, Father's Day or any other day ad deemed by the Club.*

DATES TO REMEMBER

**MONDAY ~ 12/10/20 MONTHLY MEETING AT
1000HRS ~ TO BE ADVISED**

**WEDNESDAY ~ 11/11/20 REMEMBRANCE DAY
COMMENCING AT 11.00AM IN GOFFET PARK
TORONTO ~ COVID-9 RESTRICTIONS APPLY**

**MONDAY ~ 09/11/20 MONTHLY MEETING AT
1000HRS ~ TO BE ADVISED**

**MONDAY ~ 14/12/20 MONTHLY MEETING AT
1000HRS ~ TO BE ADVISED**

CLASS 385 GRADUATES ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

A further 123 Sailors from General Entry Class 385 Emms Division have graduated 11 Weeks initial training at HMAS Cerberus under a strict COVID-19 cohort-distanced training environment.

The Royal Australian Navy Recruit School has been an integral part of HMAS *Cerberus* for 95 Years and has trained sailors of the Australian Navy over two World Wars, in times of peace, other conflicts, for peace-keeping and now during a global pandemic.

Among the graduates was Seaman Star Aviation Technician Aircraft Michelle Grabianski who was inspired after watching Navy aircraft during Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST.

“We were in South Nowra and had to evacuate after the fire came within two kilometres. It was a lot to deal with,” Seaman Star Grabianski said.

“I hope one day soon, to be working on the aircraft they used to assist with Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST.”

**Cont.../6
Page 5**



The 39 women and 84 men graduated after undertaking Initial training designed to provide them with the skills that will prepare them for an exciting career. Commenting on her 11 weeks of initial training Seaman Star Grabianski said she feels proud of her achievements.

“I came to learn new skills and build on the ones I already had. The hardest challenge was trying to take in all the information in a short time.” “I’m a bit of a perfectionist so I like to get everything right first time.” “I also didn’t think I would make so many friends in such a short period of time and it now feels like everyone will be friends for life,” she said.

Emms Division is named in honour of Leading Seaman Francis Bassett ‘Dick’ Emms, who was posthumously mentioned in dispatches ‘For courage and devotion to duty in HMAS Kara Kara during an enemy air raid on Darwin on 19 February 1942’.

Commanding Officer of Recruit Training School, Commander Cindy Jenkins welcomed the family and friends watching via live stream and inspired the graduates; “To the families and friends of the graduating Recruits, we are delighted to share this important milestone with you, wherever you may be watching from,” Commander Jenkins said.

“A graduation parade is a significant moment in every sailor’s career, and one I know these Recruits will never forget. “The class of General Entry 385 joined the Navy on the 27th of July 2020, the journey they commenced on that day has had its ups and downs. But they have met our expectations for fitness, learning, discipline, teamwork and attitude and they have done so in the most challenging of circumstances, as evidenced by their masked faces on parade today.”

“They arrived as civilians, and today they become sailors in the Royal Australian Navy.”

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 \$13

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

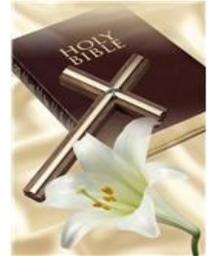
Mega Meat
Raffles
Thursdays



Beer
Garden

The Dining with a million dollar view.

CHAPLAINS CORNER



On 11 November 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after four years of continuous warfare. With their armies retreating and close to collapse, German leaders signed an Armistice, bringing to an end the First World War.

Remembrance Day brings so many emotions, the day the Western Front fell silent after 4 years of war and therefore, the end of the First World War. 330 000 Australians served during the First World War and we remember the 60 000 that died.

This year Remembrance Day will be different with COVID restrictions and remaining COVID safe.

However, we stop and pause at 11am on the 11th November may we remember them. Those who died in the War and everyone who fought for our country.

Lest We Forget.

Let us pray:

Ever-living God,

We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same place calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With current COVID restrictions allowing us to do somethings however different and others not. We pray for a meaningful and moving Remembrance Day.

Peace be with you,

Reverend Melanie Whalley

NEWCASTLE ARMOURY



*“NEWCASTLE ARMOURY IS A
LICENSED FIREARMS DEALER,
WE BUY AND SELL ~ NEW AND
USED FIREARMS, AMMUNITION,
RELOADING COMPONENTS AND
GUN RELATED ACCESSORIES”*

NSW FDL: 411930229
2/78 SEVENTH STREET, BOOLAROO NSW 2284
PHONE: (02) 4958 2378
WWW.NEWCASTLEARMOURY.COM.AU

POLICE: It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking, when I saw a little boy staring at me. “Is that a dog you got back there? he asked.

“It sure is.” I replied.

Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the back of the van. Finally he asked, “ What’d he do?”

Patron: Wing Commander (r'td) John Hulbert

Chaplin: Reverend Melanie Whalley

President : Bill Noble BEM

Vice Pres: Brian Besley: Vice Pres: Ron Savage J.P.

Hon. Secretary: Acting Secretary: Ron Mitcherson

Hon. Treasurer: Garry Coleman

Welfare Officer:

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

Roger Priest: Phil Robinson

Webmaster: Brian Staples

KEEPING IN TOUCH EDITORIAL STAFF

Ron Mitcherson : Bill Noble BEM

TRUSTEES:

Garry Coleman, Ron Savage J.P., Brian Staples J.P.

CHINESE SICK LEAVE ~ “I NO COME WORK TODAY.”

Hung Chow calls into work and says, “Hey, I no come work today. I really sick, I got headache, stomach ache and legs hurt.. I no come work.”

The Boss says, “I really need you today. When I feel like this, I go to my wife and tell her to give me sex. That makes everything better and I go to work. You try that.”

Two hours later Hung Chow calls again. “I do what you say and feel great. I be at work soon.....You got nice house.”

**Simple QUESTION: Where would you find a dog with no legs? Normal Answer would be; “On a hot dog roll!”
If that was your answer; it is wrong.
Go to page 15 To find the correct answer.**

BACHELOR: if you want to change the world, do it while you are a Bachelor. After marriage, you can't even change the T.V. Channel.

WEDDING: A shotgun weddingiseither wife or death.

NUDITY: A little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover.. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, “What's the matter, haven't you seen a little boy before?”

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 responsibility for actions taken by readers.



The RAAF was established in 1921. On 24 July 1922, the British Royal Air Force Ensign, a sky-blue British ensign with the RAF roundel in the fly, was approved as the ensign of the RAAF. This flag was used until 1948, when the RAAF asked to change the flag to avoid confusion.

A warrant for the new flag, which had the roundel in the lower fly of sky-blue ensign with Commonwealth Star and tilted southern cross to match the Australian national flag, was given in 1949. The RAAF adopted a distinctive roundel on 2 July 1956; a red kangaroo replacing the red circle of the British version. The old roundel remained on the ensign, however, until 1981, when Elizabeth II as Queen of Australia approved the change to the current flag.

Although the flag is only flown by the RAAF, dispensation was granted to New Lambton Public School, NSW on 18 May 1995 to fly the RAAF ensign.

This was in recognition of the school's involvement with the RAAF during World War II, when it was requisitioned by the government and used as *No. 2 Fighter Sector Headquarters*. New Lambton Public School is currently the only school in Australia with permission to fly the RAAF ensign.



PRICELINE PHARMACY

Suppliers of all your prescriptions, medical supplies, beautician products, and advice, come in and talk to our friendly staff for help

KOOKIES MORSELS

BEEF STROGANOFF

(A great meal for any time of the year)

INGREDIENT'S

750g beef stir fry strips
1 tbsp plain flour
salt and pepper
1 tbsp Dijon mustard
half a cup sour cream

500g button mushrooms, sliced
1 tbsp tomato paste
60g butter
2 medium sized onions, diced

Season beef strips in salt and pepper and toss in flour. Heat a deep frying pan to a medium heat. Using half of the butter, cook beef strips in batches until browned, then transfer into a bowl and set aside.

Increase heat to medium high and add the remaining butter, then onion and mushrooms to the pan. Cook until golden.

Stir in tomato paste and Dijon mustard to mushroom mix. Once combined, slowly add beef stock to pan, stirring constantly. Bring mixture to a boil.

Return beef to pan, add sour cream and stir until combined. Cook for 10 minutes or until meat is cooked through.

KOOKIES TIP:

You can serve your stroganoff with your choice of Rice, Pappardelle Pasta (or one of your choice) you can also jazz it up some more by adding seasonal vegetables of your choice

Kookies Morsels Cont....

BAKED LEMON AND COCONUT TART

Enjoy the fresh taste of spring with this bright Tart

200g rice cookies (See Kitchen Tips)
1 egg white
half cup (110g) raw castor sugar
(or coconut sugar)

half cup of desiccated coconut
4 eggs
half cup (125ml) lemon juice
two thirds cup (160ml) light
thickened cream

Preheat the oven to 160C (140C if fan forced).

Process cookies until finely crushed. Add coconut and egg white; process until combined. Press biscuit mixture firmly over base and side of a greased 24cm (2.8cm deep) round loose-based flan tin. Place on an oven tray and freeze for 10 minutes while preparing filling.

Lightly whisk the eggs and sugar in a medium bowl until combined. Add remaining ingredients and whisk until combined. Pour filling into biscuit crust.

Bake tart for about 30 minutes or until the filling is just set and slightly wobbly in the centre; cool. Refrigerate until cold.

NOT SUITABLE TO FREEZE OR MICROWAVE.

Kitchen Tips: Arnott's Rice Cookies were used in this recipe. You can use this base as a substitute for biscuit bases in cheesecakes and other sweet baked tarts.

Bon appetit

REGARDING THE QUESTION ON PAGE 13 REGARDING THE DOG WITH NO LEGS THE CORRECT ANSWER IS: 'WHERE YOU LEFT HIM!'

THE HON

JOEL FITZGIBBON MP

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



‘East Timor – A Debt of Honour’

We could never spend too much time remembering and commemorating those who served, including our more recent Veterans.

Twenty-one years ago the ADF deployed troops to East Timor, (now Timor-Leste) via the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force. Australia was the lead nation of the multinational International Force for East Timor or INTERFET. It was to become Australia’s largest deployment since the Vietnam War, and our largest ever contribution to a Peacekeeping or Peace Enforcement mission.

INTERFET was commanded by Major General Peter Cosgrove and deployed under a United Nations Chapter VII Peace Enforcement mandate to restore peace and security to East Timor following the violence which had ravaged the nation post the independence referendum held three weeks earlier.

At its peak INTERFET would consist of more than 10,000 troops from 22 countries. More than 5,000 ADF personnel were deployed. The next-largest contribution came from our ANZAC brothers and sisters from New Zealand.

On the morning of the 20th of September the lead elements of INTERFET arrived in East Timor and began the immediate task of restoring the security situation so that humanitarian assistance could be provided in a safe, quick and effective way.

The mission was a success and the members of the force are rightly proud of their role in bringing peace to Timor during those very dark times when most of the infrastructure had been destroyed and many hundreds of people were dead and many more injured.

P...../16

We remember those members of INTERFET and subsequent UN missions who made the ultimate sacrifice during their deployment and did not return to receive the thanks of their nations, and also to those who were forever impacted by the scenes of devastation that they saw, heard and smelled.

On the rear face of the INTERFET Medal are the words 'Together As One For Peace In East Timor'. Peter Cosgrove said that in some ways INTERFET was part-repayment of a Debt of Honour we had to the Timorese for their assistance during the Pacific War. One of my mates in Federal Parliament, Luke Gosling OAM MP, served in East Timor with the Army in 2005 but he also made a film about this WW2 history of the Australian Commandos in Timor in 1942/3. It is a good yarn and you can watch it on YouTube – just search for 'A Debt of Honour'.

Thank you to all those members who over the last 21 years have played a role in assisting Timor-Leste on its continuing path to an independent, prosperous and peaceful future.

David Bullock – Media Advisor for and on behalf of the Office of the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP | Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Resources | Federal Member for Hunter

TEL 02 4991 1022

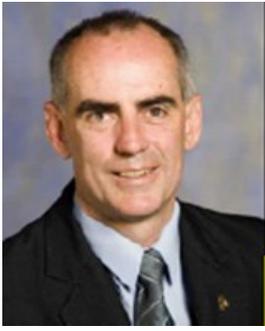
M 0405 408 871 : E david.bullock@aph.gov.au

**Electorate Office
3 Edward Street, Cessnock
(F) (02) 4991 2322
Website: www.joelfitzgibbon.com.au**

**Parliament House
R1 48, Canberra
ACT 2600**

Labor





Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie



AS WE all well know, this year marks 75 years since the end of WWII.

In Europe, the Germans surrendered on May 7 1945, just a week after the death of Adolf Hitler. Australian prisoners of war in European prison camps were liberated and Australian sailors and aircrew began returning home. Three months later, Japan finally accepted the Allies' demand for unconditional surrender and ceased fighting on August 15, thus ending the war.

Some 40,000 Australians didn't return home to their families. Over 17,000 of them lost their lives while fighting against Japan with 8000 dying in Japanese captivity.

I might echo the words of Prime Minister Ben Chifley who said on August 15, 1945: *"Let us remember those whose lives were given that we may enjoy this glorious moment and may look forward to a peace which they have won for us."*

.....

IN LOCAL news, I thank everyone who signed the petition against Centennial Coal's plans to truck a million tonnes of coal a year on public roads between Wangi and Awaba.

I'm strongly of the view that putting 62,400 coal truck movements on those roads every year is dangerous for motorists and the truck drivers, and that there are other safer ways for Centennial to move its coal, namely via the existing under-road conveyor and the private haul roads. It's not an anti-coal debate, it's a debate about using common sense and making local roads safe.

More than 1400 people signed the petition in two weeks before it was tabled in Parliament on September 15. We're now awaiting the Minister's response

P...../18

ANOTHER milestone has been reached in the long-running effort to get Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre reopened.

Like many, I'm still disappointed that the original centre was closed down, but after two independent inquiries, we have to accept that decision and move forward. We may not have won the battle to get the original centre reopened, but we'll win the war to get a new centre built nearby.

The site is a 21-hectare waterfront site at Eraring. All the original facilities will be replicated at the new one, and more. The land is owned by Origin Energy and will be transferred to the Office of Sport at no cost. Origin will fund construction of the new centre with the original site remaining in public hands.

.....

If you have concerns about any State issue, don't hesitate to contact me or my Toronto office. Finally, I hope you all stay healthy and safe while COVID19 continues to impact our community.

LEST WE FORGET.

We will remember them.

Regards



92 Victory Parade, Toronto NSW 2283

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



twitter.com/GregPiperMP

Electorate Office 4959 3200

www.gregpiper1.com

TUXEDO: A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad donning his tuxedo, she said, "Daddy you shouldn't wear that suit."

He said, "Why not darling?" She said, "You know that it always gives you a headache in the morning."



Nasho's News

Westlake Macquarie
National Servicemen's Association



A bad start to this report with the passing of Michael Auckett after a long illness. With the restrictions of Covid-19 the amount of servicemen allowed in the Chapel, Three Service People. Bill Noble, President of Toronto Sub Branch R.S.L, Gordon Maxwell and Bruce Robberds, President and Secretary of National Servicemen. Michael was a very popular member and his friendship will be missed.

During the quiet time we had our laptops updated with new hard drive. We tried to update the desktop in our office but it was too old and cannot be updated.

V.P. day was celebrated at Goffet Park with a small service of the celebration of the surrender of Japan in the Pacific, 15th August, 75 years ago. A minutes silence was held for fallen comrades including Michael Aukett. Wreaths were placed by Bruce Robberds and myself.

A lot more sickness around with members and wives, also the passing of our Padre, Paul O'Brien on 27th August 2020. Paul was highly regarded and fulfilled his duties at Services. Paul helped out so many people who needed his kind of help including my wife and myself while he also looked after a sick wife for many years.

The State Annual Meeting to be held in September will not be attended by anyone from the Newcastle Area due to concerns of Covid-19. It is to be held at Lakemba R.S.L.

Our meeting was held on 10th September at Toronto Diggers.

Wishing all members and families the best of health and hope it's soon finished with coronavirus.

Gordon Maxwell
President.

The MRH90 is one of the most advanced tactical troop transport helicopters of the 21st Century. As a multi-role helicopter, the MRH90 can undertake troop transport, search and rescue, special operations and counter-terrorism missions.



The MRH90 is one of the most advanced tactical troop transport helicopters of the 21st Century. The Commonwealth of Australia ordered 46 MRH90s from Australian Aerospace under Air 9000 Phases 2, 4 and 6 in a bid to rationalise the Defence Force's helicopter platforms.

The MRH90 is a fly-by-wire, all-composite construction, troop-lift helicopter with the highest crash-worthy standards. With a large cabin, a rear ramp, weather radar and forward-looking infra-red, the MRH90 can transport greater loads and carry more troops in adverse conditions.

Being a true multi-role machine, the MRH90 can undertake troop transport, search and rescue, special operations and counter-terrorism missions.

General characteristics:

Empty weight: 6,400kgs ~ Max weight: 10,600 kgs ~ Length 16.13 metres ~ Max Speed: 300 kph ~ Range: 800 k/s ~ Service Ceiling: 5640 m

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WW11 NOW KNOWN AS VP DAY ORIGINALLY VJ DAY

On May 8, 1945, World War II in Europe came to an end. As the news of Germany's surrender reached the rest of the world, joyous crowds gathered to celebrate in the streets, clutching newspapers that declared Victory in Europe (V-E Day). Later that year, US President Harry S. Truman announced Japan's surrender and the end of World War II. The news spread quickly and celebrations erupted across the United States.

On September 2, 1945, formal surrender documents were signed aboard the USS *Missouri*, designating the day as the official Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day).

V-J Day was especially momentous ~ the gruesome and exhausting war was officially over ~ but the day was also bittersweet for the many Americans whose loved ones would not be returning home. "More than 400,000 Americans gave their lives to secure our nation's freedom, and in the midst of exultation, there was recognition that the true meaning of the day was best represented by those who were not present to celebrate," said Robert Citino, PhD, Executive Director of the Institute for the Study of War and Democracy at The National WWII Museum.

Seventy-five years later, the National WWII Museum will pay tribute to the historic anniversaries, as well as the myriad service members and Home Front workers who helped preserve freedom and democracy.

**Japan's Emperor Naruhito
has expressed "deep
remorse" over his country's
actions during World War
Two, on the 75th
anniversary of its surrender.
Aug 15.**



AUSTRALIA'S OUTLOOK ON THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WW11

August 15 marks 75 years since World War II ended in the Pacific with Japan's surrender to a group of countries that included Australia and its new superpower ally, the United States.

As we get further away from those events, both culturally and through time, even a milestone anniversary like this can easily slip by.

But the outcomes of the war in the Pacific can still be seen and felt today.

When Japan took Britain's port in Singapore and 15,000 Australians as prisoners of war with it, it was clear the empire could no longer protect its Asia-Pacific dominions.

The events of WW11 help explain why we followed the US into conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, why we pay such close attention to what China is doing, how our economy transformed since the 1940s, and even the make-up of our multicultural population.

We asked three Australian foreign policy experts why this anniversary matters and how World War II continues to shape Australia.

Here's what they said.

'The US (ANZUS) alliance is part of our DNA'

"Right this moment in Australia, with the many rolling disasters that we've experienced from bushfires to COVID-19, Australians have never felt so unsafe," says Natasha Kassam, (Ms Kassam has contributed to Australia's foreign policies and served as a diplomat in China and the Solomons) who measures national public opinion through the annual Lowy Institute Poll.

"If you were to consider a point of national insecurity comparable to today, I think you would go as far back as World War II.

"So this anniversary is even more important than maybe it has been in the past."

PENSIONS REPORT

Our Pension Officers/Advocates have remained busy with pension claims and inquires. They still have a number of cases in progress at various stages for Veterans.

Non-liability health care is still available to Veterans under VEA and MRCA for Mental Health and Cancer plus some other conditions.

For a list of any new or amended conditions and those conditions under review can be found on the Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) Web site www.rma.gov.au then look under "What's New"

Statements of Principles (SoP) are continually being reviewed by members of the RMA or on request.

Review of conditions can also be requested by those interested in a particular condition

Regards



Ron Savage

Trustee/Advocate

Our Advocate and Pension Officer's are on duty in this sub-Branch office Wednesday between the hours of 9.30am and 12 midday. Other times by appointment only. Phone 4959 3699

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.



217 Army Cadet Unit (ACU)



1. **2020! When will it end!**
2. **The last 6 months has been a roller coaster for all of the world and Cadets was no different. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions Cadet Activities were suspended from 23 MAR 2020. In late July the Commander Australian Army Cadets (COMDAAC) released the suspension, providing we could enact an appropriate safety plan and was approved to return to parading only on the 17 AUG 2020. We have been successfully and safely operating since then and the cadets are extremely keen to stay parading.**
3. **Since returning to parade we have also been host to 229 ACU South Lakes who normally parade in Morisset however under the new safety requirements for COVID-19 are unable to parade with 1 qualified Staff member. We offered for them to parade with 217 ACU and we have been having a great time working with them.**
4. **Unfortunately, in July, we lost our newly appointed Battalion Commanding Officer, MAJ (AAC) Richard Fenn. Our condolences to his family in this tough time. Since his passing, CAPT (AAC) Gary Trinder – ex Regular Warrant Officer Class 1, has been filling in as Battalion Administrative Commander until the position can be filled.**
5. **Currently all external activities are not approved to run until the COMDAAC is happy the risk of COVID-19 is extremely minimal in the community however NSW AAC Brigade have developed a way for promotion courses to run online. We are currently hosting around 170 cadets across NSW in online training via the Zoom platform and is working well. Cadets who complete this online training will be awarded a provisional promotion, provided that they complete the face-to-face modules at Unit level.**
6. **We hope you and the community are understanding at this time that we wish to keep our youth and their mentors safe and we look forward to when we can resume our duties in supporting our local communities at various event.**

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



**Edward
'Teddy'
SHEEAN**



Painting depicting Teddy Sheean strapped to Armidale's aft Oerlikon anti-aircraft gun firing at Japanese aircraft. Sheean was observed by his shipmates to continue firing at the Japanese as the ship sank. (AWMart28160 by Daale Marsh)

The full story of Teddy Sheean was reported in the Summer edition of Keeping In Touch where this young 18 year old seaman gave his life to try and stop the Japanese planes from strafing his shipmates that had made it into rafts and the Japanese were trying to shoot them out of the water. If you haven't kept a copy of my article concerning Teddy's heroics; it is all recorded on the website.

As Editor of the K.I.T. at the conclusion of completing the report, I wrote that Teddy's actions and what he achieved giving no thought of his own safety fell nothing shorter than being Awarded the Victoria Cross.

Now here it is after many years of lobbying by his family and others the Prime Minister (Scott Morrison) announced that 'Teddy' is to receive the Victoria Cross "Posthumously".

This decision has finally come and not too soon as at the 1st December 2020 it will be 78 years after the heroism of Teddy.



THE MEMORIAL FOR HMAS ARMIDALE 1 STANDS IN BARNEY STREET, CENTRAL PARK, ARMIDALE, NSW 2350

Toronto West Tyre Service ~ Phone (02) 4959 3738

- **All Brands of New Tyres**
- **Batteries**
- **Mechanical Repairs**
- **Authorised Inspection Station**
- **Mick and Kate LINNANE**



**31 Nicholson Street
Toronto West 2283**

OPEN: Mon to Fri 8am to 5pm ~ Sat: 8am to 12 midday

TORONTO'S OLDEST TYRE SERVICE

KAKODA

Japanese Assault Threatening Australia Rebuffed

1942

Japan entered World War Two in 1941 when it attacked Pearl Harbour and in doing so thought it had mostly eliminated the threat of the Americans stopping them from gaining superiority in the Pacific region. The surprise attack not only caught the Americans on the hop, it also caused shock waves in the Australians and to a lesser extent the British Governments. Australia after reviewing this new development, deemed the Japanese insurgence as a potential threat and asked the British if they could use some of their forces in the European region to strengthen Australia's defences. When Germany attacked Europe in 1939, Australian intelligence determined there was no immediate land threat, and we being a member of the British Empire, our paramount thought was to help our mother nation. Our forces were mobilised and sent to Europe and the Middle East, defending Australia was left to a very much depleted Army, Navy & Airforce, mostly part-time units, which were restricted by legislation to service within the Commonwealth of Australia and its mandated Territories. The British were not keen on the idea as they were hard pressed and under threat from Germany & its allies, Britain convinced the Australians its "Singapore Strategy" would stop the advance of the Japanese and to convince us to deploy ships from their fleet to supplement defences.

The Japanese out-thought the British & Australian defences, attacking from the Malay mainland in a very rapid attack over land that was deemed to be marsh and bog not suitable for land based operations. Once Singapore had fallen the might of the Japanese forces turned their attention onto the very small garrisons in the islands to the north of Australia, taking Borneo, the Celebes, Rabaul (in New Britain) New Ireland, Ambon, Timor and Java. On the 4th March 1942 the Japanese bombed Broome in Western Australia and on the 8th March landed troops in Lae, Salamaua and Rabaul in New Guinea, Baka Island in the Solomons and to the west Burma and Rangoon. The encirclement of Northern Australia was complete.

In March 1942 American, General Douglas Macarthur was appointed Supreme Commander Allied Forces in the South West Pacific and Australian General Thomas Blamey appointed Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies. American Troops were dispatched to Australia, however these units had been hurriedly assembled with little training or preparation. Prior to the beginning of the Advance of Australian troops into the European section most of the troops had not handled a grenade, and due to an ammunition shortage, had not become familiar with the weapons with which they were now issued. As on Gallipoli twenty five years earlier this new generation soldier was being thrust into war without the benefit of appropriate equipment or training.

The Japanese continued their thrust South and Allied intelligence were advised in mid-April 1942 they intended a seaborne invasion of Port Moresby and a small Australian/ American cruiser force was sent to combat this threat. They were attacked repeatedly by the Japanese but the two Australian & one American ship were able to drive the attackers off. At about this time also the Japanese bombed Townsville. In May the battle of the Coral Sea took place & two weeks later at Midway the Japanese fleet was delivered a destructive blow by the Americans. This made the Japanese change tactics to take Moresby and overrun New Guinea.

The Australian 8th division formed to defend the north had been largely overrun so left to defend Port Moresby was a small Papuan infantry battalion, the 49th AMF, the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, a field artillery regiment and a battery of heavy anti-aircraft artillery. Between them and the Japanese were two infantry companies (about 200 men) at Merauke & two similar sized independent commando companies at Wau. The 49th Battalion was a part of the 30th Brigade along with the 39th and 53rd battalions commanded at the time by Brigadier Hatton. He was a World War One veteran and had based his command activities in the area on his previous service. He was replaced in April 1942 by Brigadier SHWC Porter after it was discovered the defences in Moresby were in a shambles, the men not trained and almost in revolt and equipped with Boer war and WW1 vintage weapons. Added to that, Hatton had a complete disregard for tropical diseases which were causing concern within the medical fraternity, with their demands for change ignored. Porter set about change however he had little time to get much done. He also had the NSW 14th Brigade ordered to Moresby & held in reserve with the 30th Brigade. The Americans sent a company of engineers to Milne Bay to build an airstrip and early in June a Sqn of RAAF Kittyhawks, along with the 7th AMF brigade arrived and were soon in action. Macarthur also ordered an airstrip be built at Buna so that allied aircraft could strike at the Japanese forces at Lae and Salamaua.

Major general Morris was ordered to secure the Kakoda area using the 39th Battalion and the Papuan Infantry Battalion. They were designated as the "Maroubra Force" and carried their equipment and packs weighing 35Kg up the Kakoda track. On the 12th & 21st July 1942 a total of 13000, jungle trained, Japanese troops landed at Gona on the East Coast of New Guinea. Their task was to build a road over the mountain range and take Port Moresby. The battle of Kakoda had begun.

The first engagement was on the 23rd July when the Papuan Infantry Battalion met the Japanese advance at Awala. Outnumbered the Papuans withdrew until uniting with the 39th Aust, B Company. The two units strategically withdrew, ambushing the Japanese advance whenever possible and making a stand with the full company at Oivi. The experience of the Japanese showed in these small battles using a well proven tactic of encirclement and not allowing the Australians to dig in.

B company quickly picked up on the tactic and fought their way out before having their escape route blocked. They continued the ambushing and withdrawing until they reached the Kakoda Plateau, slowing the Japanese advance until fresh forces could be bought up to help. On the 29th July the Japanese main force attacked again and in this battle the 39th Battalion Commanding Officer, Lt Colonel Owen was killed. The Australians fought until they ran short of ammunition and then withdrew back to Denike joining the remainder of the 39th bringing their total number to 460 & 43 Papuans. Here they reformed and attacked the Japanese in a 3 pronged attack and re-took Kakoda.

The Japanese re-enforced, attacked continuously until again the Australians had to withdraw after supplies and ammunition were running low, back to Deniki. They held at Deniki until the 14th August when after being surrounded and sheer weight of numbers they fought their way out and withdrew to Isurava.



Members of the 39th Battalion withdrawing after the battle of Isurava

The 53rd Battalion had been ordered to counter-attack from Messima however after coming under heavy fire scattered and their commanding officer Lt Colonel Ward was killed.

The seasoned AIF 7th Division started to arrive in New Guinea throughout the month of August. The 18th brigade went to Milne Bay and the 21st to Pt Moresby with the latter immediately ordered into the mountains, reaching Insurava on the 23rd Aug. The Allies were very short of supply Aircraft so supplying these troops by air was not an option. Command recruited 600 native porters to carry supplies up the mountain and bring casualties back on the return journey. This continued until a suitable dropping ground was established at Myola and distributed when A/c were able to drop supplies.

The 2/14th Battalion joined the 39th and the 2/16th just behind them. On the 29Aug the 2/16th launched a counter attack allowing the 39th and 2/14 to withdraw and take up a defensive position at Eora Creek. The Japanese counterattacked the next day and outflanked the 2/14th causing them to withdraw again however several groups were cut off and 172 were missing.

Some found their way back several weeks later however most were captured most dying from wounds. The remainder of the 2/14th passed back through the 2/16th on the 30Aug. Along with the 39th they set up again just south of Eora Creek. The 53rd were ordered out to retrain and bring in better leadership.

On the 5th September the 2/27th replaced the 39th, 2/14 and 2/16 and they withdrew to Elogi. Their strength now down to 307, originally over 3000. The Japanese again attacked in force and moved round the flanks encircling them and also the Brigade HQ. Brigadier Potts ordered the 2/16th to clear the track behind HQ while the 2/27th attacked the front. Under cover of this action Brigade HQ was able to withdraw to a defensive position at Menari. The 2/14th and 2/16th moved to a position between Nauro and Loribiwa and waited for the 2/27th. The remainder of the 39th, 185 of them, were ordered out of the battle for rest and reinforcement. Nothing more was heard from the 2/27th until they emerged from the jungle battle weary but not broken 3 weeks later.



Mules and pack horses being led past a 25-pounder being hauled forward on the first leg of the track from Owers' Corner (AWM027023)

Brigadier Potts was relieved by his counterpart, Porter, of 30th Brigade on the 10th Sept42. Porter brought the 3rd AMF, the 2/1st Pioneer Battalions and the 7th Independent Commando company and set his HQ at Loribaiwa.

This was considered a strategic move by the Allies as they knew the Japanese had extended their supply line and was under pressure to support their army at the front. Overall command at this time was in the hands of Major General "Tubby" Allen and he told his leaders *'There won't be any withdrawal from the Imita position, you'll die there if necessary, you understand that!'*

This was the beginning of the end for the Japanese. Even though they, the Japanese had superior numbers, the Allies were beginning to learn the art of jungle warfare. With courage, determination, a better leadership and an ever improving supply chain they turned the Japanese around and forced them back to Buna.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

027017

Men of the 2/27th Battalion returned to the Australian lines at Itiki after being isolated during the Battle of Brigade Hill–Mission Ridge. (AWM027017)

'ZEST FOR LIFE'

Active Over 50's Exercise Classes

Your local sub-Branch has run one class 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 Professional Pamela Glover.

The class runs for about 40 minutes to 1 hour.

Cost: \$5.00 per session

The programme is not new and had been running for well over 10 years prior to the current events. However due to the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic it is currently cancelled.

However, who can predict the future; so watch this space and if the bans are lifted and you feel up to it you can contact the Toronto RSL sub-Branch for full details.

Phone:- 4959 3699 between 9.30am & 12md

Monday ~ Wednesday ~ Friday

PADDY GETS A LETTER THROUGH THE LETTER BOX AND IT LANDS ON THE FLOOR.

Keep Calm And Oh Stuff It Enjoy

In big bold letters on the front it says:

‘DO NOT BEND’

**PADDY’S STILL THERE WONDERING HOW HE IS GOING
TO PICK IT UP!**

HOW COME HUMANS ARE ON EARTH: A boy asks his father, “Dad, how did humans come to be on earth?” His father then explains that humans evolved from apes that would swing through the trees. The boy then asks his mother, “Mum, how did humans come to be on earth?” His mother explains that God created the first two humans. The boy then says, “But Dad says that humans evolved from apes.” His mother explains, “Your Dad only told you about his side of the family.”

LAST POST

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

Kevin John PERCEVAL ~ 11th April 2020

(Informed by wife on 13th July 2020)

Micheal AUCKETT ~ ARMY ~ 24th June 2020

Paul O’BIEN ~ ARMY ~ 27th August 2020

Wesley Gordon CARRET ~ ARMY ~ 23rd September 2020

Elaine Daphne (nee WOOD) COUSINS ~ W-ARMY

20th September 2020

Lest we forget



ELDERLY: While working for an organisation that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheel-chairs. One day I found her staring at a set of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, “The tooth fairy will never believe this!”

NUDITY: I was driving with my three young children one warm summer evening when a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reelin from the shock, I heard my five year old shout from the back seat, “Mum, that lady isn’t wearing a seatbelt!”

REJECTION: My wife pointed to a man across the street and said, “Look at that drunk guy.” Husband; “Who is he?” Wife, “10 years back he proposed to me and I rejected him.” Husband, “Oh My God, He’s still celebrating.”

A BIT OF INFORMATION DIFFERENT TO WHAT IS THE NORM THAT IS USUALLY PRINTED IN K.I.T. IT STARTS WITH THIS ADVERTISEMENT

I WANT YOU FOR PEEL’S POLICE c.1839 THE NECESSARY CRITERIA

You Must be aged between 23-40 years old

You will be paid the following rate:

Constable	17s (shillings) per week (\$1.70)
Sergeant	1 pound 1 shilling per week (\$2.10)
Superintendent	3 pounds 10 shillings per week (\$6.10)
Chief Constable	13 pounds 19 shillings per wk (\$27.90)

.....Cont P/36

- Your working hours will be eight, ten or twelve hour shifts seven days a week. Every encouragement will be given to officers to grow beards as shaving is regarded as unhealthy. However, beard must not exceed two inches in length.
- Uniform will be worn all the time, to prevent accusation of spying on the public, whilst in ordinary cloths. A duty band will be required to be worn to indicate whether you are on duty or not.
- You are not allowed to vote in elections.
- You must not gossip with the public. In particular avoid conversations with female servants or other women on duty. Do not walk or converse with your comrades, merely exchange a word and pass on.
- You walk about 20 miles per shift. ~ (Approximately 30 plus kilometres)
- No rest days allowed and only one week holiday per annum, unpaid.
- No meal breaks are allowed. The top hat maybe used to hold a snack. You must inform the Superintendent before you associate, eat or drink with any civilians.
- Before attending for medical examination and interview to join the Police, it is advisable to bath.
- You are NOT allowed to sit down in public houses at any time.
- You must expect a hostile reception from all sections of the public and be prepared to be assaulted, stoned or stabbed in the course of your duties.

I CAN JUST SEE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC RUSHING TO JOIN THE POLICE FORCE WITH THESE c.1839 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY



Hunter Nursing Pty Ltd

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

4959 6711



PO Box 1028 Warners Bay 2282



The Lucky Charm 
Newsagents

**66 The Boulevard
Toronto 2283**

**Andrew Fennell
Sharyn Fennell
Proprietors**

**Phone (02) 4959 1092
Fax (02) 4950 5089**

**toronto@the luckycharm.com.au
www.theluckycharm.com.au**



Heritage Listed
WWII Seaplane
Base 1939-61

**Group Tours of the
base and our
memorabilia can be
arranged by
appointment**

**3 different sized function
rooms for hire for any
function.**

- *Club Meetings
- *Engagements *Weddings
- *Reunions *Birthdays
- *Seminars

**Fully air-conditioned ~ Licensed Bar
~ Sporting Lounge with
2 pool tables, darts, video games and Jukebox.
Bistro open Tuesday - Sunday
Lunch 11:30-2pm Dinner 5:30-8pm**



CATALINA

Former Officer's
Mess of the RAAF

**Weekly Raffles and
Members Draw**

Friday on sale 6pm
drawn 7pm
Sunday on sale 5pm
drawn 6pm

Bowls Activities

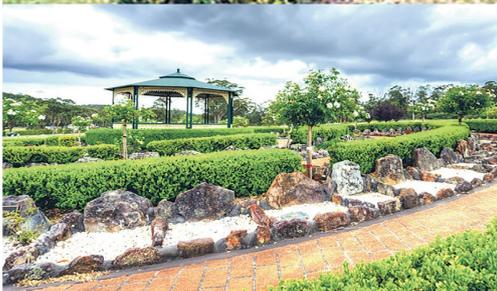


**Mens, Ladies &
Mixed Bowls**



www.rathminesbc.com.au

1 Stilling St, Rathmines NSW 2283 Ph:49751955



**A beautiful cemetery and crematorium for our community
A dedicated Veteran, Services and Family Remembrance Garden
A special place for ex-service men and women to lie at peace with their families**

For further information, call into our office or telephone for an appointment.



**405 Cessnock Road, Ryhope NSW • Phone 02 4950 5727
www.lakemacqauriememorialpark.com.au**