

Keeping in Touch

SUMMER EDITION 2021

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES FRANCE



**PRESIDENTS REPORT PAGES 1 & 2
MEMBERS FEES DUE ~ PAGE 3**

**NOTICE TO MEMBERS REGARDING MONTHLY MEETINGS TO BE HELD~PAGE 6
FIVE MORE BODIES IDENTIFIED K.I.A. FRANCE WW1 Pages 15 and 16
MATTERS COVERING THE BRERETON INQUIRY (ARMY) Pages 22 to 25**



**Official Newsletter of:
Toronto RSL sub-Branch
PO Box 437 Toronto 2283
rsl2283@bigpond.net.au
0249593699
www.torontorslsubbranch.com**





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**

info@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



**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...

Happy New Year everyone.

I initially thought I would be able to wish you all a Happy New Year without the worry of COVID-19 interfering with our thoughts & wellbeing. Just as I write this report another cluster has appeared in the Sydney area, and once again we have border closures with holiday makers clambering to get home before they are forced into isolation. Let's hope our authorities can get it under control quickly, they have been able to do so in the past so I assume they will continue to do the excellent job they have done so far. Different to last year, we have the hope of a vaccine coming that gives us a long term cure that will see us back to some form of normality.



In the article in the last KIT on Kokoda, the topic was misspelt throughout. We have several people check the magazine for such things before we publish however this one got through and I apologise for that. Also, the photo on page 30 depicting members of the 39th Battalion was taken long after the Kokoda battles namely, at the taking of Buna. Apparently, this has been pointed out to the Australian war Memorial before however has yet to be rectified.

The inquiry currently of our SAS soldiers, in the Iraq/Iran war has taken an ugly turn with the likelihood of several being charged with war crimes. The publicity attributed to these charges, and I point out no-one has yet to be specifically charged, plus the political nature of the charges with some countries already using it as a weapon to harm Australia, makes me believe anyone who is charged will not get an unbiased trial based on fact, not hearsay. The way our forces operate in these times is always closely supervised. For these few to have acted in the manor they have been reported without those in higher authority knowing is highly unlikely and this must be put on the same plane as those under investigation. In these times it must be questioned also why we as a nation is the only country that put ourselves through this type of scrutiny. There is nothing to be gained by doing so.

In this KIT we have published the article from our Federal Member and an article making the rounds on the internet written by a person unknown to us. The two articles show the depth of involvement within the community, the replies on Facebook, the passion and concerns some people have about the event. RSL National has passed on through State RSL, its concerns with the matter, I certainly hope it continues to fight for the rights of these soldiers and the reputation of those soldiers who did the job they were sent to do and had nothing to do with the crimes being bandied.

We were able to have an end of year gathering prior to closing up shop for the Xmas period. We held a meeting at the Diggers Club after they offered us their facilities, enabling us to hold the event and keep within the rules of COVID-19 isolation. We thank the Diggers club for their support and hopefully we can continue the close association we have with them into the future.

The Sub Branch is looking at having a commemoration for ANZAC day and we have already started to plan for the event. At this time it is still unclear what we will be able to do so we have decided to plan for a normal service and if COVID-19 keeps interfering we will have to adjust as necessary. We will keep you informed.

The first Sub Branch meeting for the year was planned for the 11th January, however, due to the current COVID 19 conditions we have decided to cancel this meeting. We will plan for the Annual General meeting in February as a likely event, even though it is not an election year, it's an important event & will be held if at all possible. You will be informed if this is the case.

That's all I have for this time, I wish you all the best for the new year, keep healthy and stay safe.

Bill Noble B.E.M. ~ President

The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

2021 SUB BRANCH FEES DUE

As and from the 31st December 2020 the Members of the Toronto RSL sub-Branch yearly subscription fell due.

It would be appreciated if all and sundry would attend the sub-Branch office and bring their membership up to date

Or

**Pay to Commonwealth Bank
BSB 062 822 Acc.008 0444**

State Branch has directed sub-Branches this year to charge the full amount of \$35.00 per member unless it puts a financial burden on them and they are unable to meet that requirement.

If that is the case then we will still accept payment from you for your membership at the old amount of \$10.00 without any questions nor will we further investigate your financial situation and accept what you can afford.

We will then subsidise you for the remaining cost of membership which was the prior arrangement.

PENSIONS REPORT ~ 2020

The Pension Office has been very busy this year.

Ron Savage, our lead Advocate is on sick leave and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

Phil Robinson (ex-Pusser ~ Navy) has joined us as a level 1 Advocate and we welcome his assistance and enthusiasm.

This year we have had 3 Veteran Review Board Hearings. 2 of these the Board found in our favour and the 3rd is under consideration as we go to paper in this report.

We are assisting in excess of 40 ex-service personnel in claims with DVA at the present time and we do not see this reducing any time soon.

When the RMA meet they discuss many issue as far as making amendments to the Statement of Principals (SoPs) etc., all the time; so if you think you have a genuine claim for Service in the ADF you can check for any new decisions made by the RMA on their website under "What's New". <http://www.rma.gov.au>

As stated above 'Our Pension Officers' have been very busy of late with quite a few cases underway, however:

If it is felt that you have a case for Service in the ADF or believe you are entitled to a War Widow and/or Widower Pension, feel free to contact one of our Pension Officers; Advocates who will be more than happy to assist you with your claim.

Seasons greetings to all

From Toronto RSL Advocate Team

Pension Officers are on duty in these sub-Branch office's on Wednesday between the hours of 9.30am and 12 midday.

Other times by appointment ~ Phone 4959 3699

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

**Monday ~ 11/01/20 ~ Monthly Meeting at 10.00am
(CANCELLED)**

**Monday ~ 8/02/20 ~ ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING at 10.00am (BELOW)**

**Monday ~ 08/03/20 ~ Monthly Meeting at 10.00am
(TO BE ADVISED)**

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE TORONTO RSL SUB BRANCH
ON MONDAY THE 8TH FEBRUARY 2021 THE ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THIS STAGE HERE
IN YOUR RSL SUB-BRANCH OFFICE OTHERWISE YOU
WILL BE NOTIFIED.**

**I KNOW THAT IT IS NOT AN ELECTION YEAR BUT THEIR
HAVE BEEN VERY FEW WILLING TO UNDERTAKE ANY
TASK IN THE PAST AND I BELIEVE IT'S ABOUT TIME
SOME OF YOU STEPPED FORWARD AS THIS PLACE HAS
BEEN RUN BY THE SAME PEOPLE FOR SOME YEARS NOW
AND IF YOU WANT US TO KEEP OUR CHARTER AND
REMAIN A STAND ALONE SUB-BRANCH WE NEED SOME
MORE VOLUNTEERS**



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.

Page..../6

Patron: Wing Commander RAAF (r'td)
John HULBERT

President : Bill NOBLE B.E.M .

Vice Pres: Brian BESLEY

Vice Pres: Ron SAVAGE J.P.

Hon. Secretary:

A/Secretary: Ron MITCHERSON

Hon. Treasurer: Garry COLEMAN

Visitation Officer: Kerry SMART

Pensions Officers: Ron SAVAGE J.P., Roger PRIEST.,
Phil ROBINSON., Peter KEANE J.P.

Webmaster: Brian STAPLES

EDITORIAL STAFF: Ron MITCHERSON : Bill NOBLE BEM

TRUSTEES: Garry COLEMAN, Brian STAPLES J.P., Ron SAVAGE J.P.

LAST POST

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

**WE HAVE NOT LOST ANY FURTHER MEMBERS SINCE THE
LAST EDITION (SPRING) OF KEEPING IN TOUCH**

Lest we forget



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 dependent's on a continuing basis at no cost to them.

Ollies Bistro
\$10 LUNCH*
MONDAY-SUNDAY 11.30am–2.00pm



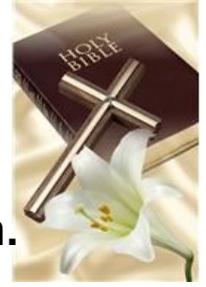
Steak Sandwich w Chips

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.*

CHAPLAINS CORNER



What a year 2020 has been. It has been incredibly difficult when we could not gather for ANZAC Day and the impact lockdown had a lot of people's mental health. Then there are our families who have lost jobs or had reduced income.

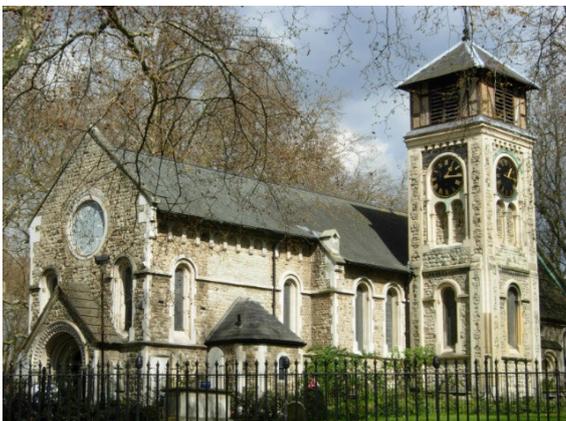
It has been a difficult and messy year for some.

That first Christmas over 2000 years ago was difficult and messy too. Jesus was born into a messy world. One that found Mary giving birth where animals are normally housed. A world that had no room for Jesus, he was born on the margins. On the margins of Bethlehem and he comes into the world on the margins of society. To give us all hope. Our hope lies with the Christ Child.

Christmas may not look like we expected this year. This year we have learnt to not take our time here on earth for granted. To make each moment count, even when we can't gather with everyone we love. Our hope lies in the love we share each other this Christmas and that right there is the works of the Christ Child within us.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Peace be with you,

Reverend Melanie Whalley ~ Office:- 49598108



OLD CHURCHES



Nasho's News

Westlake Macquarie
National Servicemen's Association



It has been a very quiet three months.

Our meetings at Toronto Diggers seem to be going okay with most members staying for lunch afterwards. At the September meeting it was decided to finish barbeques at Bunnings as it was beginning to be a major chore for most members. It was decided to sell unwanted equipment and the trailer was bought by a member, Brian Jones.

A special meeting in December had Thirty Five in attendance which was excellent for the current conditions (COVID-19 19).

Following the passing of our Padre, Paul O'Brien we were left without a person for this position. Patron, John Doig Major (Retd) moved a motion that Major Rev. (Retd) Tony Lang OAM be asked if he would accept the position; 2nd by Gordon Gardiner, Rev. Lang accepted. We are very fortunate to have him aboard as he is very experienced in the Services.

Our sick list is not good. Lots of member's wives are having troubles, Noeline Smith has been in Hospital for a while and spending Christmas in there. Our Patron John Doig is regularly in and out of hospital and is showing a slight improvement. John Sterland and Fred Fear both have sick wives at home; David Laidlaw has been in hospital for four months on and off however, he's home now. Dave Herbert's wife is now in a nursing home. We are becoming a sorry lot.

On a happier note our Secretary, Bruce Robberds looks like joining the Newcastle District Vintage and Classic Car Club, member Lyall Constable is the President of the Car Club. They have had recent trips to the Botanic Gardens at Heatherbrae, Down to Chain Valley Bay and a barbeque at Chichester Dam.

We also enjoyed a Luncheon and refreshments after the December RSL Sub branch meeting held at Toronto Diggers.

We are at present discussing next year's outing of morning teas and lunches.

Hope you all had a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.
Wishing all members a healthier 2021

Gordon Maxwell ~ President

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.

KOOKIES MORSELS

ASIAN PORK SPARE RIBS WITH ASIAN SLAW

1kg Pork Spareribs (cut into portions)	4 tbsp Barbecue Sauce
4 tpsp Brown Vinegar	4 tbsp Honey
1 tbsp Chinese Chilli Sauce (Hot or Sweet ~ Your Choice)	¼ tsp Five Spice Powder
1 Third cup Dry Sherry	2 tbsp Soy Sauce
1 Clove Garlic, crushed	2cm piece Ginger, grated

Place Pork Spareribs in a large saucepan of water. Bring to the boil ~ reduce heat and simmer covered for 20 minutes. This will help to remove excess fat.

Combine barbecue sauce, honey, brown vinegar, five spice powder, chilli sauce, dry sherry, soy sauce, crushed garlic and grated ginger; mix well.

Place pork in a baking dish pour mixture over ribs and let stand for at least one hour, turning occasionally. Then place in a moderate oven (abt 180c, fan forced 160c) and cook for one hour, or until pork is tender, baste frequently.

ALTERNATIVELY, THEY CAN BE COOKED ON A BBQ. SO LONG AS YOU CAN CONTROL THE HEAT.

ASIAN SLAW

350 gram packet of Woollies Asian Slaw mix (red cabbage, carrots, corn, etc.) Alternatively red cabbage or Chinese cabbage, shredded thinly, 1 or 2 carrots cut into thin sticks.

Then you will need whether you buy the easy pack or start from scratch, 3 or 4 eschallots, (sliced thinly) 1 capsicum red or yellow, cut into thin strips, 1 cup of pea shoot sprouts, 1 cup of bean shoots, 1 cup of mint, torn (and handful of coriander if it is to your liking) Mix together well.

On standby half a cup of roasted salted peanuts.

Dressing: Half cup of sweet chilli, 2 tbsp lemon or lime juice, 3 tsp fish sauce, mix well (best place in a jar and shake) Drizzle over salad just before serving. Sprinkle with the roasted, roughly chopped peanuts and extra torn mint (and coriander ?) *Bon appetit* Page...../12

THE NEWCASTLE BEACON

Who we are: Newcastle Beacon brings together a network of organisations, professionals and volunteers with the common goal of supporting first responders, emergency department personnel, veterans and their families in Newcastle and the Hunter.

Our specialised team of staff and high trained volunteers include social workers, welfare officers and advocates and community members with lived experience of service. This essential combination of professional skills and lived experience enables us to understand and meet needs, as we bring together resources, skills, knowledge and compassion to support those who serve and their families.

Our mission is to strengthen our community by working together to enhance the physical, mental and social well-being of those who have served in the Australian Defence Force, Emergency Services Departments and their families.

How we help: Navigating support services alone can be overwhelming for someone in crisis. Newcastle Beacon aims to simplify the process of getting help by acting as a one-step shop for support.

Services Available Include: Mental/allied help, crisis support, family/carer support, children's programs, peer support, legal/financial. education/employment, advocacy welfare, social/community engagement, yoga, tai chi and mediation groups, specialised referral pathways, men's shed, community garden and café.

Who we serve Newcastle Beacon is committed to taking care of those who serve or have served on the front line for our community, including: Australian Defence Force/Veterans, Police, Ambulance, Fire and Rescue, all other emergency services including Hospital Emergency Personnel

If needed, we look forward to seeing you at the space we proudly share with Hunter Multicultural communities between the hours of 9.30am and 2pm Monday to Friday, even its just for a chat, at:- 2a Platt Street, Waratah NSW 2298.

Other times by appointment:-
Phone: (02) 4960 8248 Mobile: 0455 120 880
Email: newcastlebeacon@gmail.com

IT'S ABOUT TIME

Future Frigate program a major win for critical Australian industry



JUNE 2020: Defence Minister Linda Reynolds and Defence Industry Minister Melissa Price have announced a major contract signing to support the prototyping of the Royal Australian Navy's Hunter Class future frigates and a critical Australian industry.

Australian company BlueScope Steel AIS has signed a contract with ASC Shipbuilding, a subsidiary of BAE Systems Australia, to deliver more than 1,500 tonnes of steel plate, which will be used to construct five ship blocks in the prototyping phase of the program.

The blocks will then test processes, systems, tools, and facilities prior to construction commencing on the first of nine frigates by end 2022.

Defence Minister Linda Reynolds welcomed the announcement, saying, "This latest contract signing demonstrates the progress being made on the Hunter Class Frigate Program, which will form the foundation of the Morrison government's \$90 billion National Naval Shipbuilding Program."

Under the \$2.6 million contract, BlueScope Steel AIS will deliver more than 1,500 tonnes of steel plate to ASC Shipbuilding.

This is the first of a number of contracts ASC Shipbuilding will award to Australian businesses in the lead up to the Hunter program's prototyping phase and realises the company's commitment to use Australian steel for the \$35 billion Hunter Class Frigate Program.

Minister Reynolds added, "Prototyping is an essential phase when building any complex warship, and will ensure employees at ASC Shipbuilding are thoroughly trained in using the state of the art digital equipment in one of the world's most advanced shipyards at Osborne South in Adelaide.

Five Australian soldiers of the Great War identified

Media Release : The Hon Darren CHESTER MP (November 2020)

On the eve of Remembrance Day, the final resting place of five previously unidentified Australian soldiers who served and died in France during the First World War have today been confirmed.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel Darren Chester said the men were originally buried as unknown Australian soldiers, but thanks to the hard work of Fallen Diggers Incorporated, the Australian Army's Unrecovered War Casualties team and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, they had now been identified.

The soldiers were identified as:

- ♦ 2027 Private George Thomas Littleboy, 42nd Battalion, of Springsure, Queensland who Died of Wounds on 26 February 1917 after being captured by the Germans near Armentieres.
- ♦ 554 Private Henry McIntosh Hopping Mills, 3rd Machine Gun Battalion, of Petersham, New South Wales was killed in action on 8 August 1918 at Accroche Wood near Hamel.
- ♦ 5985 Private Thomas Cohen, 2nd Battalion, of Stuart Town, New South Wales was killed in action on 18/19 September 1918 between Hargicourt and Jeancourt.
- ♦ 7499 Sergeant Edwin Douglas Lillie MM, 2nd Battalion, of Leichardt, New South Wales was killed in action on 18/19 September 1918 between Hargicourt and Jeancourt.
- ♦ 7520 Lance Corporal Patrick Joseph O'Neill, 2nd Battalion, of Loomberah, New South Wales was killed in action on 18/19 September 1918 between Hargicourt and Jeancourt.

Mr Chester said notations on original grave records provided some details, however, further investigation had allowed the identity of these men to be conclusively proven.

"I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work of Fallen Diggers who have helped identify 32 Australian First World War soldiers," Mr Chester said.

Cont.....P16/

Cont....from Page 15..“In consultation with the men’s descendants, the Australian Army, Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Office of Australian War Graves will make arrangements to replace the previously unmarked headstones with new ones, bearing the soldiers’ names and service details.

“It is sobering to think that more than 100 years on we are still identifying those who made the ultimate sacrifice as part of the First World War. Lest we forget.”

There are approximately 9,000 graves of unidentified Australian soldiers in Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries globally. Further information on Unrecovered War Casualties is available on the Website of the Australian War Memorial.

**A Chinese bloke comes into the Pub, stands next to me
and starts drinking**

**I said to him, “Do you know any of those martial arts like
Kung Fu, Jujitsu or Karate?”**

He says, “Why da you ask me dat, is it coz I Chinese?”

**“No.” I said, “It’s because you’re drinking my bloody
beer!”**

A young boy asks his father,

**'Is it true Dad, that in some parts of Africa
a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her?"**

Dad replied, 'That happens in every country, son.

A lady inserted an ad in the classifieds:

'Husband Wanted'.

Next day she received a hundred letters.

They all said the same thing:

'You can have mine.'



PRICELINE PHARMACY

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



Joel Fitzgibbon MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HUNTER



Putting labour back into the Labor Party



www.joelfitzgibbon.com

“Don’t Judge the many by the Acts of a Few”

By Joel Fitzgibbon...As we flew into Afghanistan’s Oruzgan Province, the pilot had the C-130 hugging the mountain range to avoid surface-to-air missiles. Another in the cockpit had his trigger-finger on a red button, ready to deploy missile-distracting flares if necessary. It’s late 2007 and I’m experiencing my first visit to the failed state.

Later I was travelling along a busy road to the Presidential Palace in Kabul, and I was surprised to observe the senior and hardened military officer next to me looking a little concerned, nervous even. I knew him well and was surprised. I asked of his well-being. His response was a stern one: “there is only one road in and out Minister and they’d know we are coming”. That explained the 4WDs speeding up our flanks, carrying explosive counter measures.

Afghanistan is a dangerous place, arguably the most dangerous in the world. But on each of my visits I felt safe because I was protected by our best, soldiers of the Special Air Service and 2nd Commando Regiments. Our elite Special Forces soldiers are relatively few. But they are also many, hundreds of them deployed to Afghanistan over the long period of the war.

The relatively small number of troopers under investigation as a result of the Brereton inquiry tells us that the report should not be taken as a reflection on all who served as part of the Special Operations Task Group. Further, we need to be mindful of what governments exposed our diggers to in Afghanistan, how much we expected of them, and how much we pushed them.

When the inquiry into their actions runs its course, we should have

a separate inquiry into the decisions of those who deployed them, politicians and senior ADF leaders alike.

Of course, no mistake made in Canberra excuses or justifies the terrible things we've read about in the Brereton report. By necessity, any soldier involved in unlawful conduct will pay a high price for their actions if the allegations are proven. But how did it come to this?

Those who pass the ultra-challenging "selection" course to become a Special Forces Soldier must overcome extraordinary physical and mental tests. In effect, the Army melts them down and re-builds them into young men capable of the teamwork, mutual trust, and the mental toughness needed to deploy lethal force when necessary. In effect, they make "warriors" of them.

But as impressive and professional the Army's training and preparation processes are, and no matter how tough and skilled our frontline soldiers are, there is a limit to their mental resilience. In Afghanistan we tested that limit. As the conflict dragged-on we took them away from their families again and again for longer periods of time as our resources became more and more stretched.

They were sent to hell to fight an enemy that respects none of the rules we do. Not the laws of armed conflict, not domestic law. Unlike our boys, enemy combatants were not constrained by any rules of engagement. By far the greatest perpetrators of war crimes against the innocent were the Taliban, and they go unpunished.

The enemy wore no uniform, making it hard to be sure who was a threat and who was not. Who to trust, and who not to trust. Having risked their lives to capture them, our men in uniform too often spotted those they had recently captured roaming the streets of Uruzgan Province thanks to NATO's "catch and release" policy.

After putting their lives on the line for their country for years, our battle-fatigued soldiers started to question whether mission success was possible, despite achieving everything asked of them.

The mission objectives kept changing, strategy seemed vague, and the global community was questioning the merits of NATO's intervention. Shades of Vietnam.

Too often, medevac helicopters couldn't be found for our wounded and close air support was often unavailable. When our patrol commanders were asked to go "beyond the wire" with members of the Afghan National Army in equal number, room in the Blackhawk for our partners was created by leaving the medic at home.

All of this may explain why a small number wrongly thought it justified to take matters into their own hands

We should remember all of these things in the coming weeks and months as the next phases of this controversy play out. We need to investigate, prosecute and punish anyone found guilty of war crimes but we must maintain our respect and admiration for the many who wear, or have worn, the uniform of the Australian Defence Force. We must continue to honour them, respect them, and thank them. *Lest we Forget.*

***Joel Fitzgibbon is the Federal Member for Hunter,
and was the Minister for Defence 2007-2009***

**David Bullock—Minister Advisor for and on behalf of the
Office of the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP / Member for Hunter
TEL 02 4991 1022**

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

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

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

Labor

A SIMPLE START TO THE DAY ~ SHOULD NOT BE ANY TROUBLE THIS WILL KEEP THAT DREADED DISEASE THAT EFFECTS YOUR MEMORY AT BAY YOU ONLY NEED TO GET 4 CORRECT OUT OF 10 TO PASS

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George V's first name?
- 8) What colour is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese Gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the colour of a black box in a commercial airplane?

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS ON PAGE 28.....DON'T CHEAT!!!!

WHY MARRY?

At a cocktail party, one woman said to another,
'Aren't you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?'

'Yes, I am. I married the wrong man.'

+++++

If you want your spouse to listen

and

pay strict attention to every word you say

~ talk in your sleep ~

"There are no bad soldiers... only bad leaders"

I often don't trowel into politics or military comings and goings these days... but this one has really annoyed me. The recent events involving the Special Forces (SF) but more so the corruption from the top is all that is currently wrong with the ADF I once was in, and loved.

So did you know; Angus Campbell , this man was the task force commander of TF633 in 2011...

Honestly how was this NOT HIS BATTLEFIELD? Any ADF member past and present will understand my confusion....

A good Commander knows EVERYTHING that takes place in his AO (area of operation) and more than that, takes OWNERSHIP of everything that happens...

This man is the man now standing on the podium hanging out our most elite soldiers to dry... To say that this occurred only at the Patrol Commander level and below is to openly state that he knew nothing of what was going on... therefore was he not NEGLIGENT in his duties as a the Task Force Commander?

It's obvious to most the only other alternative is he potentially knew... and said nothing. Silence with knowledge is as sure good as consent. Therefore, he really is a part of the issue and should be judged alongside those he has condemned. In my opinion Angus Campbell is either a negligent commander at the highest level, or a co-conspirator in alleged war crimes.

Due to this he really has no place or right to be involved in the investigation; and then to clear himself and all senior leadership of wrongdoing is disgraceful beyond words.

It is twats like this and the former Chief of Army Lt Gen Morrison who are destroying our military piece by piece for no other reason than to secure a potential career in politics.

****This is not a post about what did or didn't happen and what's right or wrong... that is for the justice system to decide****

This is a post about the morale decay at the top of the ADF and the reason our military is currently in tatters.



Nine ADF suicides in three weeks

Nine serving and veteran Defence Force members dead by suicide in three weeks has the nation's veteran community asking why and when will it end?

November 2020
AUTHOR
UNKNOWN

“Further to the Unknown Author’s comments on page 22, the following is a Statement from the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Rick Burr, AO, DSC, MVO, on actions following the IGADF Afghanistan Inquiry findings.”

Chief of Army ~ Media Release ~ 19 November 2020

“Today I have been in Perth, Western Australia, at the Australian Army’s Special Air Service Regiment.

The Chief of Defence Force, General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC, has directed specific actions in response to the Inquiry. Some of these apply to individual and collective honours and awards.

As the Chief of Army, I also directed the removal of the title: 2 Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment, from the Australian Army’s Order of Battle.

Although the incidents outlined in the Inquiry occurred across the Regiment, the report has made it clear that there was a nexus of alleged serious criminal activities, in 2 Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment at a point in time. This alleged grave misconduct has severely damaged our professional standing.

This action reflects no judgement on the current members of 2 Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment, but we all must accept the wrongdoings of the past.

Current members of the squadron will be reassigned to other sub-units within the Regiment. A deliberate implementation plan will be developed to support this.

As the Chief of Army this is not a decision I have taken lightly.

The issues in the Inquiry report are so shocking that a clear message is required.

It’s important we learn from this experience and begin the healing process so we can focus on the future.

This must never be allowed to happen again, anywhere in our Army. Our profession demands we must always operate lawfully, ethically and responsibly. Even in the most complex and challenging environments.

Future generations will be reminded of this moment in our military history from the gap in our squadron numbering system.

As I continue to analyse the extensive findings, be assured that where there is evidence of misconduct individuals will be held to account. This may be through disciplinary or administrative action.

Significant reform has been underway within Special Operations Command and more broadly across our Army for the past five years. Important progress has been made and this work continues.

These reforms will be given an increased focus, emphasis and urgency based on the findings and recommendations in the Inquiry report.

I will accelerate existing plans for workforce mobility for personnel within Special Operations Command. Individuals within Special Operations Command will be expected to take postings out of the Command. This will enable respite, regeneration, broadening of perspectives and to share knowledge and skills throughout Army. This has individual and collective benefit for the entire Australian Defence Force. Independent posting oversight for the Command will ensure workforce and strategy are aligned.

We will continue to strengthen the fundamentals of governance, assurance and accountability. This includes reinforcing the importance of culture, leadership, accountability, ethics and our values through the Army's Good Soldiering initiative.

The Centre for Australian Army Leadership will be core to our training and how we conduct ourselves as ethical, capable and effective leaders at all levels in our Army.

Today we start a new chapter and commit to restoring trust with the

nation we have sworn to defend. Symbolic of this ongoing renewal is tomorrow's beret parade for new members of the Special Air Service Regiment and recent beret parade for the 2nd Commando Regiment.

I am confident that as a result of this experience we will emerge a stronger, more capable and effective Army.

I would like to thank the families, loved ones and those who support our Army during this challenging time. I strongly encourage anyone who requires welfare support to access the services available.

I commend those who had the courage to provide information to the Inquiry.

Our people past and present, have made extraordinary contributions to the defence of Australia. I remain inspired by the overwhelming majority of professional men and women who serve in our Army. Our people should continue to be proud of their service and know their commitment is valued.

This is a challenging time for us all. Our Army must learn, improve, support each other and together we will get through this.

We remain, an Army for the nation, an Army in the community, we are Australia's Army."

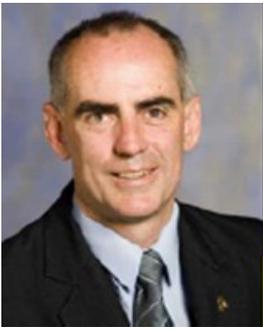
ED's NOTE: I cannot believe how the Army is handling these allegations against soldiers, which are as a direct result coming out of the Brereton report. so far, being alleged to have occurred during service. Naming 2 Squadron SAS, nothing else.

These rushed immediate actions so far by the ARMY are not giving any person if named, a chance to defend themselves and/or be heard by the judicial system as any other person would be, Soldier or Civilian.

"The Chiefs of the Army" are panicking; handling and treating the soldiers as if **GUILTY** using their own **"Kangaroo Court,"** without any thought regarding the wellbeing or current **SUICIDE** and/or **PTSD** rate amongst our current Veterans and/or past ADF Personal being so high. All I can say is: The way they are pushing the Veterans is **"WATCH THIS SPACE."** 'In the reported words stated by Senator Jacqui Lambie it could be the start of a **SUICIUDE TSUMANI'**

RJM ~~~ *Vietnam Veteran*

Page...25/



Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie



As many of you may be aware, the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in Sydney is a unique tribute to the bravery of Australian troops who fought through atrocious conditions and against vastly superior enemy numbers in the Papua-New Guinea campaign of July 1942-January 1943. With support from the US, the Australians inflicted on the Japanese Imperial Army its first defeat. It was one of the vital elements which saved Australia from invasion in the Second World War.

The Papua campaign, including the Kokoda Track, Milne Bay, Buna, Gona and Sanananda resulted in total Australian and United States casualties of 8546. More than 2000 Australians and 600 Americans were killed. During the four months of fighting in the Owen Stanley Ranges, the Australian infantry lost 607 killed and 1015 wounded.

The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway covers more than 800 metres from Rhodes Station to Concord Hospital in Sydney's inner-west, and runs along the mangrove-studded shores of Brays Bay on the Parramatta River. The centrepieces are magnificent granite walls bearing photographic images of the campaign. There are 22 stations or plaques along the walkway, each describing a significant place or engagement. It's well worth a visit if you're travelling through that area.

I'm sure none of us want a repeat of 2020 in our lifetimes. Beginning with devastating bushfires and followed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the year had a tremendous impact on all our lives. I'm pleased the Sub-Branches were still able to conduct commemorative services throughout the year but it was unfortunate that our wider community couldn't participate in a more intimate way. I look forward to seeing all of you this year as restrictions relax and, hopefully, we resume our usual way of life.

In local news, we welcome the decision to approve the \$49m plans for Costco to establish its retail warehouse and fuel station on the former Pasminco site near Boolaroo. This will create hundreds of jobs at a time when we really need them. It also brings with it enormous opportunity. I'm very grateful to the State Government for supporting us and also to Dantia (Lake Macquarie council's business development arm) which helped us get Costco over the line. All going well, Costco is hoping to open the doors in August next year.

Also, few people may have heard of Skyline Aviation Group, but they're a Cardiff company which recently acquired 11 Seahawk helicopters from the Australian Navy. Some are currently being repurposed for aerial firefighting duties. Having this sort of capacity was among the many recommendations handed down by the recent inquiry into

last year's NSW bushfires and the subsequent Royal Commission. Having these heavy-lift helicopters based here makes sense, both economically and in terms of meeting the challenges that bushfires create throughout this State and beyond. What they need is a bit of Government support to retain the assets when the fires aren't burning. I've discussed this opportunity with the Government on a number of occasions, and was pleased the Deputy Premier came up to see Skyline's local base first-hand.

If you have concerns about any State issue, don't hesitate to contact me or my Toronto office. Finally, I wish you all the best for a happy and safe 2021.

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

Toronto West Tyre Service

Phone (02) 4959 3738

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

31 Nicholson Street
Toronto West 2283

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

TORONTO'S OLDEST TYRE SERVICE



ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ ON PAGE..21

- 1) The Hundred Years War lasted 116 Years.
- 2) The country that makes Panama hats is Ecuador.
- 3) They get cat gut from Sheep and Horses.
- 4) Russia celebrates the October Revolution in November.
- 5) A Camel's Hair brush is made of Squirrel fur.
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after Dogs.
- 7) King George V1's first name is Albert.
- 8) The colour of a purple finch, is Crimson.
- 9) Chinese Gooseberries come from New Zealand.
- 10) The Black Box in a commercial airplane is Orange, of course.

“WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU FAILED!”

“ME, TOO!”

**(AND IF YOU TRY TO TELL ME THAT YOU PASSED,
YOUR LYING)**

SOUVENIR HUNTER ~ A.I.F. ~ WW11

Bluey was reckoned as being the best souvenir hunter in the A.I.F. All reinforcements are inflicted that way for a fortnight. Over his sector there was a ding-dong aerial battle in progress. A lucky burst from an allied plane set the German plane afire, and thousands of diggers stopped to watch the blazing machine crash. Two thousand feet from the ground a shrill ran through the spectators as the pilot jumped out. Down he came frog fashion.

The souvenir King got excited. A hundred feet from the ground, he bellowed to the poor devil, “Turn on your back you cow, or you'll break your bloody wrist watch!”

There is a medical distinction between “Guts” and “Balls”.
We've heard male colleagues referring to people with
“Guts”, or with “Balls”.

Do they, however, know the difference between them?

Here's the official distinction; straight from the British Medical
Journal: Volume 323; page 295.

GUTS - Is arriving home late, after a night out with the lads, being
met by your wife with a broom, and having the “Guts” to ask: “Are
you still cleaning, or are you flying somewhere?”

BALLS - Is coming home late after a night out with the lads, smell-
ing of perfume and beer, lipstick on your collar, slapping your wife
on the bum and having the “Balls” to say: 'You're next, Chubby.'

I trust this clears up any confusion.

Medically speaking, there is no difference in the
outcome: —both are fatal.

'A Woman's Prayer:

Dear Lord, I pray for: Wisdom, to understand a man ,
to Love and to forgive him

and for patience, for his moods.

Because Lord, if I pray for Strength !!

'I'll just beat him to death'.

Just think, if it weren't for marriage, men would go through life think-
ing they had no faults at all.

A little boy asked his father,

“Daddy, how much does it cost to get married?”

Father replied, “I don't know son, I'm still paying.”



217 ARMY CADET UNIT



1. 2021! It's here!
2. The last 12 months has been difficult with Bushfires in early 2020 and the virus making a huge impact on the world. Cadets have risen to the challenge and successfully implemented training pathways to allow for social distancing in a face-to-face environment or online through isolation measures.
3. Spring came quickly and feels like it became summer all too quickly. Both 217ACU and 229ACU continued parading together for the remainder of the year and were able to hold a Remembrance Service at our Unit location on the Sunday prior to Remembrance Day. Our last parade night was the 7th December and we conducted a March-Out Parade. The Cadets performed their drill fantastically and many received well deserved awards. The most prestigious Award - Cadet of the Year - was presented to newly promoted CDTSGT Cooper Smith from 217ACU and CDT CPL Phoenix Ianna for 229ACU. These Cadets worked hard throughout the year to ensure the AAC values were upheld - Respect, Courage, Excellence, Integrity and Service. Congratulations to all award winners and we will look forward to everyone's effort for next year.
4. 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. We are still planning a few face-to-face training activities and hope we can provide the full experience of the organisation to the Cadets.
5. 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 events.

Have a safe and happy festive season and thank you for your continued support and patience.

Kind regards

Yvonne Fuller

CAPT (AAC)

217 Army Cadet Unit (ACU)

Officer Commanding (OC)

Mobile: 0409 310 713

Unit email: 217acu@armycadets.gov.au

Dec 2020

Page.....30/

'ZEST FOR LIFE'

Active Over 50's Exercise Classes

Your local sub-Branch ran an exercise class each week under its

"Zest for Life Program"

PRIOR TO COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS AND IF AND WHEN WE MANAGE TO COME THROUGH THIS PANDEMIC; THEY WILL RECOMMENCE

The light exercise program ran 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

So if we ever manage to start up again and you feel that a little "Exercise" that 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 they have been running for the past 10 years, so, if you feel up to it, contact the Toronto RSL sub-Branch for full details.

Phone:- 4959 3699 between 9.30am & 12md



Hunter Nursing Pty Ltd

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

4959 6711

PO Box 353 Toronto 2283



The Lucky Charm



Newsagents

**66 The Boulevarde
Toronto 2283**

**Andrew Fennell
Sharyn Fennell
Proprietors**

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

toronto@theluckycharm.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



www.rathminesbc.com.au

1 Stilling St, Rathmines NSW 2283 Ph:49751955

**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**



**Former Officer's
Mess of the RAAF**

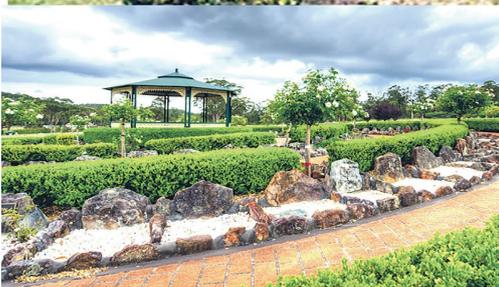
**Weekly Raffles and
Members Draw**

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

Bowls Activities



**Mens, Ladies &
Mixed Bowls**



**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**