

# Keeping in Touch



**WAR MEMORIAL ALBANY  
OVERLOOKING THE  
DEPARTURE POINT OF**

**REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE Pages 12 and 13  
ASSISTANCE DOGS (RE ADF PTSD) Pages 14 to 16  
CHIP HARVEY WW2 SPITFIRE PILOT Pages 23 to 25**



Official Newsletter of:  
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# Keeping in Touch

## *From the president's desk...*



This is supposed to be spring (that is from the 1st September 2018) a bit deceiving so far. I know this edition is quarterly and called the Spring Edition, however it never actually hits the printer until October with our members generally receiving it in the first week of October after Spring has been underway for about one (1) month but all I can say at this stage is I hope it warms up.

I will commence this edition by paying tribute to all our brave men and women who served; lost their lives, suffer from injuries or some type of trauma from their service in Vietnam. (However, that does not mean that I do not care for any other veterans especially present day veterans who served in such places as Timor, Rwanda, Afghanistan, etc.)

My remarks stated earlier refer to our most recent event where on the 18 August 2018 we commemorated Vietnam Veterans Day here in Newcastle at their purposely built Memorial in Civic Park Newcastle. I attended and represented our sub-Branch and also Newcastle District Council laying a tribute for both. In saying that I was also thinking of all the men and women of the ADF who have since served before and since that period in different parts of the world in a similar fashion as to how we served and are to this day still working along side our Allies in a combined effort to keep the world safe from Terrorism and other forms of violence.

We are now busy organising matters associated with the Centenary of the Armistice (Remembrance Day) on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. We are hoping for a good turn-out from members of the public seeing as this year it falls on a Sunday. We will be sending letters out to the schools in our area hoping that we get a good roll up from students within our area. Remember this is not a celebration of the day buy a Commemorative event commemorating all those who lost their lives in WW1 (60,000) virtually a whole generation back in those early days.

This year we will have a bugler to play the Last Post and Reveille Shannell Van Koeverden who is a member of the 10 Buglers (students) who were trained by Major David Thompson of the Newcastle Army Band. The program was first financed by a \$5,000 Grant supplied by Newcastle City Council following an application regarding the program submitted by The City of Newcastle RSL sub-Branch. This money went toward the purchase of the bugles, then further money was put in by various sub-Branches within the Newcastle District Council area to pay for various other equipment needed by the group such as uniforms, etc.

However a change of subject, in May this year Secretary Bill, Treasurer/Trustee Garry and I travelled to Albury for the 2018 RSL NSW Annual State Congress. Although a lot of issues were dealt with there are still some matters unattended to and there is to be an Extraordinary RSL State Congress to be called later in the year with a date and place to be fixed. (which we now find is set for the 4 December 2018 in Wesley Hall Sydney). This Congress is to address a number of matters that State withdrew due to some matters being challenged as to the wording of the motions. I am sure they are seeking legal advice on these matters.

On a lighter subject, we have not had a welfare function/trip for our members this year as I and other executives and committee members have been quite busy with RSL matters bearing in mind all the negative news and events coming out of State Branch over money issues, etc.

So members, although nothing has been planned at this stage we will be informing you of any event that we set up hopefully during this month as I believe it is paramount that these welfare functions and/or trips carry on. As anyone that has served being a veteran or an ex-service person understands and confides in each other and generally would speak freely about their experiences, which I believe is a release of whatever tension they are experiencing in the situation rather than to a member of the general public. That's about it for me this issue.

So until next time Keep safe and healthy.

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## **THE WONDERFUL BRIAN**

A man walks out into the street and caught a taxi just going by. He got into the taxi, and the cabbie said, "Perfect timing. You're just like 'Brian!' Passenger: "Who?" Cabbie: "Brian Sullivan. He's a guy who did everything right all the time. A bit like me coming along when you needed a cab. Things happened like that to Brian Sullivan, every single time." Passenger, "There are always a few clouds over everybody."

Cabbie: Not Brian Sullivan. He was a terrific athlete. He could have won the Grand Slam at Tennis. He could play golf with the pro's. He sang like an opera baritone and danced like a Broadway Star.....and you should have heard him play the piano. He was an amazing guy." Passenger: "Sounds like he was something really special."

Cabbie: "There's more. He had a memory like a computer. He remembered everybody's birthday. He knew all about wine, which foods to order and even which fork to eat with the meal. He could fix anything. Not like me, I change a fuse and the whole street blacks out; but Brian Sullivan, he could do everything right." Passenger: "Wow. Some guy then."

Cabbie: "he always knew the quickest way to go in the traffic and avoid traffic jams. Not like me, I always seem to get stuck in them. But Brian, he never made a mistake, and he really knew how to treat a woman and make her feel good. He would never answer here back even if she was wrong.....and his clothing was always immaculate ~ shoes highly polished too. He was the perfect man! He never made a mistake. No one could measure up to Brian Sullivan!" Passenger: "An amazing fellow. How did you meet him?"

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# KOOKIES MORSELS

## LAST MINUTE ENTERTAINING ~ STARTER

200g packet smoked salmon slices      ½ cup sour cream  
½ x 250 g tub spreadable cream cheese    1 tblsp salt finely chopped chives  
2 tsps drained baby capers                1 tsp finely grated lemon rind  
salt and pepper to taste                    extra baby capers and chives to  
Lebanese cucumbers quartered            garnish  
lengthways, celery sticks and crackers,  
to serve

Place smoked salmon, sour cream, cream cheese, chives and capers in a food processor ~ Process until combined and smooth ~ Season with salt and pepper. Transfer to a serving bowl. Cover ~ Refrigerate until serving. Garnish dip with extra capers and chives.

Serve with cucumber, celery and crackers.

*Bon appetit*

---

## *Ranch chicken salad*

200g chicken breast fillet, trimmed      salt and pepper to taste  
1tblsp olive oil                                250g packet microwaveable  
1 and a half cups shredded baby cos      Mexican-style brown rice  
lettuce    1 large tomato chopped  
2 x 125g cans corn kernels ~ drained    ½ cup ranch salad dressing  
1 tblsp lime juice                             ½ small avocado

Season both sides of the chicken with salt and pepper. Heat oil in a small non-stick frypan over a medium heat ~ Add chicken. Cook for about 3 to 4 minutes on each side or until cooked through ~ Remove and cut into 1 cm pieces ~ cool. Meanwhile heat the rice according to packet directions. Allow to cool.

Arrange lettuce, chicken, tomato, corn and rice in rows between two shallow airtight containers. Season with salt and pepper ~ seal, then refrigerate until ready to serve. Combine dressing and juice in a jug, whisk well ~ divide between two small containers ~ seal ~ refrigerate.



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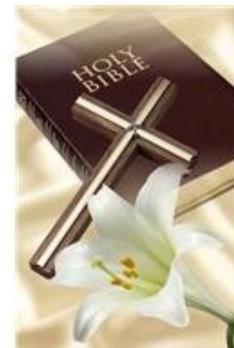
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# CHAPLAINS CORNER

## Keeping in Touch October 2018

In just over a month we commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One. I've been reflecting about what a chaplain can say about such a memorial. Certainly we give thanks for the end of the horror and hostilities; and of course we remember with gratitude those who sacrificed their lives for King and country; and definitely we acknowledge the innumerable sacrifices of so many others who lost their physical, emotional and spiritual health; and then there's the loss of husbands, fathers, sons and daughters – a whole generation of youth; and finally a nod to the way World War One changed forever the shape of our world. However with all those things in mind I can't help but think there must be more to say about this Great War – the so-called '*war to end all wars*'.



Australians certainly seemed ready for war in 1914 – just a few short years after Federation – most were still proud to be members of the British Empire and happy to defend Britain '*to our last man and shilling*'. None expected the war to be so costly – killing or injuring over 200, 000 Australians in just four years. There had never before been such a war where vast armies were massacred without any perceived victory or defeat; it must have been soul destroying; and yet the fighting went on until 11 November 1918 when the Armistice was signed – so-called victory.

*'The obvious gains... for Australia were the acquisition of German New Guinea; greater independence within the British Empire and a seat at the League of Nations; new markets... and the Anzac Legend, with its comforting affirmation of the success of the lean, resilient, and uncommunicative Australian male'*. However, these concrete gains soon seemed poor compensation beside the vast casualties, cost of compensation, loss of innocence and finally the inability to control a revived and aggressive Germany under Hitler.

---

**H. G. Wells 'Short Works of Herbert George Wells'**

**Then Labour leader, later Prime Minister, Andrew Fisher**

**Craig Wilcox – The Oxford Companion to Australian History**

We know now that the '*war to end all wars*' didn't achieve that at all. We know now that the Great War has been overshadowed in its horror and severity by many wars since. We know now that inhumanity of humanity has been superseded time and again. We know now that our world continues to face the consequences of the lust for power, greed, exploitation and abuse. What have

So I ask, to what end do we memorialise these things? True, Australia gradually developed a place on the world stage; true, the Anzac Legend, created a culture for Australia that gradually severed our reliance on Britain; true, the memory of sacrifice has helped to create a sense of community in people of every ethnicity who call this land home. But are these things enough?

**Remember.**

**Remember the history.**

**Remember the reality.**

**Remember the cost.**

**Remember the fallen.**

I pray God that as we remember this year we might just make every effort in the future to avoid the errors of the past; to avoid ultimatum and provocation; to avoid confrontation and conflict and instead to apply our hearts and minds to the ways of peace, justice and compassion.

**Lest we forget.**

***If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Romans 12.18 NRSV***

**IDIOT SIGHTING 3-4-5-6:**

The pedestrian light on the corner beeps when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an 'intellectually challenged' co-worker of mine.

She asked if I knew what the beeper was for.

I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, 'What on earth are blind people doing driving?!'



# 17Army Cadet Unit (ACU)

## 4th Quarter Report



1. Hello all. After a busy third term for 2018, we are moving into the final phases of the year.
2. July saw us participate in the NSW AAC Brigade (BDE) Promotion Courses at Singleton Military Area (SMA) where both staff and cadets concentrated with the aim of passing on skills and knowledge in lesson instruction and leadership. In addition, 21 AAC Battalion (BN) conducted staff training and Annual Field Exercise (AFX) Planning.
3. August was very busy time in which we had our Term 3 camp in VERE sector at SMA on the 10-12<sup>th</sup>. We teamed up with three other units in the BN and the cadets gained field skills in preparation for AFX. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, NSW AAC BDE Commander – COL Brendan Casey visited our Unit. Before leaving our Unit the COL Casey presented promotions to: Phillip Arthur to Unit Assistant (UA) (AAC) and our Administration Officer, Tanya Nelson to 2LT (AAC). On the 25-26<sup>th</sup> NSW AAC BDE provided and training weekend for the majority of staff and an opportunity for senior cadets to conduct a Cadet Advisory Council (CAC) in which they discuss what they see is the direction of the AAC.
4. September consisted of the 21 AAC BN Competition Day held on the 1<sup>st</sup> at Morisset High School. This is always a fantastic day and the weather held off in order to conduct all activities without much delay. 217 ACU came second overall in the Military Skills section of the day! Final preparations for AFX was conducted at Unit level and the Cadets departed the unit on 29<sup>th</sup> for the week-long camp provided and organized by NSW AAC BDE. The week consisted of navigation, first aid, radio communications, drone demonstrations, engineering techniques, visiting the School of Infantry, Live Shoot on the F89 Minimi and F88 Rifle and water activities on Lake St. Claire.
5. Future events for the end of 2018 include: Term 4 Camp – Super-boats and Treetops. Remembrance Day, End of Year Parade and Dinner and 21 AAC BN Staff Luncheon.

217 ACU is working towards achieving AAC goals and developing the next generation into the leaders of tomorrow. 217 ACU wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday and festive season.

Kind regards,

*Yvonne Fuller*

CAPT(AAC) ~ Personnel Cadet email : [yvonne.fuller1@armycadets.gov.au](mailto:yvonne.fuller1@armycadets.gov.au)

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11 NOVEMBER 2018 COMMEMMORATION  
THIS YEAR FALLS ON A SUNDAY**



The Poppy.

I am not a badge of honour,  
I am not a racist smear,  
I am not a fashion statement,  
To be worn but once a year,  
I am not glorification  
Of conflict or of war.  
I am not a paper ornament  
A token,  
I am more.

I am a loving memory,  
Of a father or a son,  
A permanent reminder  
Of each and every one.

I'm paper or enamel  
I'm old or shining new,  
I'm a way of saying thank you,  
To every one of you.

I am a simple poppy  
A Reminder to you all,  
That courage faith and honour,  
Will stand where heroes fall.

1st Shankill Somme Association

**Life in the front line  
always carried an  
element of danger. The  
threat could be from  
snipers, shellfire or from  
taking part in a trench  
raid or a major offensive.  
This rare photograph**



**Most activity in front line  
trenches took place at  
night under cover of  
darkness. During daytime  
soldiers would try to get**



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PREVIOUS YEARS IT  
WILL BE HELD IN  
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WILL THEN BE PLAYED ~ THE SERVICE WILL  
THEN CONTINUE AND SHOULD CONCLUDE  
ABOUT 11.15AM.**

**ALL ATTENDEES ARE THEN INVITED TO THE**

## Assistance dog trial to help tackle veteran mental health

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On page 25 of our last issue in Part the Government reported it was commencing a program regarding assistance dogs for mentally disturbed veterans.

The statement by the Federal Government was that they were putting veterans first with an innovative trial of assistance dogs for veterans. The La Trobe University in Victoria will partner with the Department of Veterans' Affairs in conducting a \$2 million trial of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) assistance dogs for veterans, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester announced on the 30th May 2018. Mr. Chester said, "Work would commence on the detailed design phase of the trial, including the process for veteran recruitment. Selection of participants will commence early 2019, with dog and puppy selection taking place after that." "Following the matching and suitability process, there will be a period of approximately 18 months for the initial dog training and the bonding process, prior to the placement of the dog with the participant on a permanent basis. It is expected that up to 20 participants will take part in

**ED NOTES: On reading the project being set by the Federal Government I immediately reported it to our members and the wider community as to the assistance being given to our veterans, especially the ones suffering from PTSD by reporting it in our last edition of Keeping in Touch.**

**However, I came across a Spring/Summer 2015 edition of RSB focus (Royal Blind Society for the Blind) and a story about ~ Finding strength in 'man's best friend'. A 'winning' battle for Chris. (photo and friend on opposite page)**

**On reading their RSB focus I contacted their manager Darrin Johnson who is based in their office at 245 Angas Street, Adelaide S.A. 5000. Freecall 1800 644 577.**

**Darren informed me that they rely on donations to run their operation with no funds given to them by any Govern-**

## **FINDING STRENGTH IN ‘MAN’S BEST FRIEND’**

**His confident military posture does little to harden the soft smile spread across his face but, just a short time ago, things were very different.**

“I was anxious and stressed, and couldn’t see a way out of the hole I was in,” says Chris Rapson, a member of the Australian Defence Force. (ADF) After two deployments to Afghanistan, 107 rockets with accurate precision launched at him and having three friends die over the course of the OPERATION SLIPPER campaign, the 32 year old now lives with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

While the combat tour would eventually come to an end. The battle to continue with life post-deployment had only just begun. “I returned home and things were different. My partner at the time and I broke up and I constantly felt stressed and anxious,” he says.

Chris then met Perry—one of the RSB and RSL’s Operation K9 dogs. The two-year-old Labrador cross Golden Retriever would quite literally change Chris’ life in a matter of a couple of months.

Operation K9 dogs, like Perry, are provided to veterans or serving members of the ADF who have a diagnosed PTSD to provide benefits in terms of supporting independence and social interactions, as well as a range of client specific tasks.



“Before Perry, going shopping would be a ‘get in and get out’ situation. I hated crowds,” he says. “I now also often take Perry to the beach. He’s quite a strange dog; he loves the beach, loves the water, but hates baths,” Chris laughs.

With the help of RSB, Chris is now breaking the stigma attached the PTSD. “This is a program that needs to go national. I hope my story somehow helps get the message out there to fund more of these amazing dogs.”

With the support of the RSB and his unit (JMCO Adelaide), Chris says receiving Perry was a smooth process, given the ADF is still trying to work out the best way to get these dogs to members that aids both the dog and member.

After years of relieving plagued memories of harder times, Chris now manages to sit proudly, but most importantly happily-wearing his protective green camouflage, with life-long mate Perry.

**to the Federal Government for assistance none was forthcoming. It is only this year they have decided to move on such a program, however nothing is to commence until allegedly in-early 2019.**

**RSB have an Information Pack on their OPERATION K9 Assistance Dog Program and I am sure that if you are interested in the program if you write to RSB at the address earlier mentioned in this Article they will be more than happy to send one to you.**

**It contains information starting with an INTRODUCTION, then the AIMS AND OBJECTIVES of the program, the SELECTION CRITERIA regarding the Applicant and suitability as to the need for an OPK9 Dog.**

**Since the RSL provides funding for food, equipment, training, placement and follow up care, they have the final say over all applications. There is also a section on GENERAL INFORMATION and ASSESSMENT PROCESS. INQUIRIES can be contacted through VVCS. It explains a PRIVACY CLAUSE then CONTACT DETAILS VVCS: 1800 011 046 ~ Operation K9 Office: 8417 5656 ~ [assistancedogs@rsb.org.au](mailto:assistancedogs@rsb.org.au)**

**Breeding and training costs exceed \$20,000 for each dog ~ so donations are always welcome. We being the NSW RSL because of what has come out of the Royal Commission ~ by Justice Bergin about matters that were going on in RSL NSW State Branch are unable to help in any way. At one stage they, the RSB had a program running out of Newcastle (NSW) but because of the lack of funds had to close.**

**The biggest lie I tell myself is:**

## THE WIZARD

(I might get into trouble for this one ~ tongue in cheek)

An old man goes to the *Wizard* to ask him if he can remove a curse he has been living with for the last 60 years.

The *Wizard* says, "Maybe, but you will have to tell me the exact words that were used to put the curse on you."

The old man says without hesitation

"I now pronounce you man and wife.."

## **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

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Monday ~ 08/10/18 ~ Monthly Meeting at 10.00am**

**Monday ~ 12/11/18 ~ Monthly Meeting at 10.00am**

**Monday ~ 10/12/18 ~ Monthly Meeting at 10.00am**

THE HON

# JOEL FITZGIBBON MP

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



Emily Dowswell ~ Media Adviser ~ M: 0400308129 ~ E:  
[emily.dowswell@aph.gov.au](mailto:emily.dowswell@aph.gov.au)

Please don't hesitate to contact my office on 49911022 to speak with a member of my team or email:  
[joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au).

I thank all those who work hard to keep the sacrifices and memories of those who have served our country alive and to assist those still suffering the effects of war. Lest We Forget.

My office can assist you with a range of Federal Government matters including Veterans' Affairs. Please call my office if you would like a free Veterans' Information Kit which contains useful information about payments and services available to Veterans and their families. I can also provide free Pensioners and Seniors Kits which features information on pension rates, deeming rates and the income and assets tests. If you have a problem of a Federal Government nature and you think I or my office can help you, please make contact immediately, don't wait. Contact my office on 49911022 to speak with a member of my team or

## GET IN CONTACT:

### Electorate Office

3 Edward Street, Cessnock NSW2325  
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### Parliament House

R1 48, Canberra ACT 2600  
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## THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people, so they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house and reuse the grave!

When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, thread it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (*the graveyard shift*) to listen for the bell; thus someone could be, "*Saved by the Bell*" or was considered a "*Dead Ringer*". And that's the truth!



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# Greg Piper MP

## Member for Lake Macquarie



A total of \$1 million has been invested in the revitalisation of war memorials during the Centenary of Anzac, ensuring regional communities across NSW have a place to remember the service and sacrifice of defence personnel.

Minister for Veterans Affairs David Elliott has now called for applications in the latest rounds of the Community War Memorials Fund (CWMF) and the Anzac Community Grants Program (ACGP).

A total of \$175,000 is available to help protect and repair local war memorials and to support projects which commemorate or support veterans and their families.

More than 200 war memorial conservation and repair projects have already been funded across NSW, many of which honour WW1 personnel.

I again encourage local community groups, RSL sub-Branches, schools and councils to apply for those grants, particularly as we gear up for the Armistice Centenary commemorations.

The **CWMF** provides grants up to \$10,000 to protect, conserve and repair war memorials including statues, honour roles and memorial halls which commemorate the Anzac Legacy.

The **ACGP** provides grants up to \$2,000 to schools, community and veterans' groups to recognise Australia's war service history, educate a new generation and support the NSW veteran community.

Applications for the CWMF and ACGO are open until Remembrance Day on Sunday the 11 November 2018.

In other local news, I'm happy to have secured \$180,000 in State funding for a beach and lake monitoring program devised by Lake Macquarie City Council.

It will essentially allow the council to monitor changes to beach dunes and coastal erosion, but it will also allow them to monitor lake water quality each month at 10 different locations.

The council plans to share the results of that testing publicly in a regular 'lake health report card'. The council will provide a similar amount of project money.

Don't forget if you have concerns about any State-related issue please don't hesitate to contact me or my Toronto office. I look forward to seeing many of you as commemorate the Armistice Centenary on November 11. LEST WE FORGET .....Regards

## IRISH

Two Irishmen are hammering floorboards down in a house. Paddy picks up a nail, realises it's upside down and throws it away. He carries on doing this until Murphy says, "Why are you throwing them away?" "Because they are upside down!" says Paddy "You Daft twat," replies Murphy, "Save 'em for the ceiling."

## LEMONS

A woman was applying for a job in a Florida Lemon Grove.

"Look Miss," said the foreman, "have you any experience in picking lemons?"

"Well, as a matter of fact, yes!" she replied, "I've been divorced three times."

---

Women and cats do as they please, and men should just relax and get

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# Nasho's News

## Westlake Macquarie

### National Servicemen's Association



Welcome to spring, we hope it's a better season. On Reserve Forces day at Civic Park we had a good rollup and had a good lunch at C.B.D. Hotel and several raffles run.

We received confirmation for a barbeque at Bunnings on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018. Will need helpers.

We lost another popular Nasho, Allan Jenkins. The funeral was held at Avondale Chapel Cooranbong after a long illness. We formed a Guard of Honour from the Chapel. Approximately Twenty members attended. Refreshments was held at Lakeside Retirement Village at Morisset in the Hall.

The Catalina Comedy Dinner was held at Wangi Workers Club. We had a good rollup and everybody had a good night. We don't know where the next one will be held, depending on repairs to Rathmines Hall.

The meeting at Gosford West Lake Macquarie Sub Branch suggested to them about getting together to organise donations to the Farmers Drought Relief. This is to be brought up next week at the State meeting. Nothing was organised with the Lawn Bowls as yet.

The New South Wales National Service Meeting was held at Lakemba Diggers. It was an A.G.M. with the same people going in but only two for committee. They have suggested that they may survive another two years. Two south coast groups have closed and Western Slopes had one month to go. Any members from a folding club are welcome to join the state at the moment. The meeting was attended by myself, Bruce, Des and Alf. The Farmers Relief Fund is being run through State who put \$2000 in to start it off, we have put our donation in at the meeting.

A lot of sickness is around with our members, wives and families. Alf Sulman had a nasty fall down the stairs at his home and spent time in Hospital and still receiving rehabilitation at Toronto Hospital. Andrew McCrae's daughter, after a long wait has had a serious operation and looks like more to come. Our Padre, Paul O'Brien's wife has had multi surgery and is still very ill. We wish all a good recovery.

Until next time



## **Chip HARVEY ~ an exciting 5 years.**

Chip is now 95 years old. He lives with his wife Betty in Ocean Gardens, City Beach in Western Australia. Recently, he celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a spectacular event – he baled out of a burning spitfire. Chip was the guest of honour at a recent reunion dinner in Perth for RAAF Engineering Apprentices of the 20th intake (Squirrels) celebrating 50 years since graduation. Chip entertained the group with some of his war time experiences during the dinner however couldn't stay too long after as he had to get up early the next morning to go and play golf.

Chip grew up in Norfolk, England and, in January 1941 at the age of 18, he applied to join the RAF. WW2 was in full swing, and the Battle of Britain had given way to the Blitz, and the Battle of the Atlantic. His flying training then took place in the United States. America was not yet in the war and politically such activities had to be rather discreet. His fellow Canadian students were in air force blue, and Rhodesians were in khaki, but Chip was issued with a grey flannel suit.

with a spluttering engine. "I only bent the propeller a bit" he says. Chip had landed on a deserted beach and after all had settled decided to get out of his a/c to survey the damage. It was only after he had walked round the a/c that Chip noticed a small sign further up the beach, warning all, the beach had been mined. He decided to get back into his A/C and wait for the recovery unit to arrive.

From there it was reconnaissance in Harrogate, then operations training unit in Fraserborough, and after successfully completing all training requirements was posted to 519 Squadron based in the Murray Firth in Scotland for operations in Spitfires. This was early 1942. He and the other



new pilots noted sadly that the aircraft were not armed. "We want you to go and get the intelligence which will win this war" he was told. Prophetic words.

These spitfires were equipped with 3 cameras. Two pointing straight down from underneath the fuselage.

Pictures from these cameras were usually to be taken from an altitude of 36000 feet, - chilly stuff for the pilot. The third camera was mounted on the side of the fuselage looking out horizontally to the left side. This was for use at very low level, - even wave top height, on cloudy days. All told Chip flew about 150 missions.

The mission which led to his having to bale-out took place on 5 Nov 1942. The Bismark had previously (in 1941) 'escaped' into the Atlantic and had caused havoc before eventually being caught and sunk. The next 2 battleships, the Scharnhorst, and the Turpitz, were now threatening to do the same. The area which his flight was detailed to search for these ships was to the East of Northern Scotland. Unfortunately the weather was poor that day with low clouds which therefore meant low level flying, and side-on photography . Searches are carried out using a repetitive simple square flight pattern. A somewhat boring process, but requiring constant great

Chip says that at first you can't actually tell that you are being shot at. You can't hear anything and, concentrating on your flying, you can't look at the ship and see if there are flashes. But you do become conscious that the aircraft skin is encountering what seems like some light showers of hail. Having taken his photographs he turned and climbed away westward for home. All seemed fine until he noticed a smell of smoke. At the same time he could see that the oil pressure was dropping release straps, invert aircraft, and kick the control column forward as you fall out. . Eventually the engine started to lose power. It was time to get out but unfortunately, being above cloud, he could not tell whether he would end up in the sea, or on land. With no choice available he followed the steps drilled into you so well in training. Detach oxygen mask, open canopy, he landed in soft heather and soon there was a fierce looking farmer standing over him with a 12 bore shotgun. "Auch man, you're English" was the caustic comment, and then off to the railway station in a horse and cart to get back to his station, via Inverness. He was back on ops the next day (following the principle 'if you fall off a horse.....'). The Scharnhorst was sunk a year later. The Tirpitz retreated to a fjord and

survived  
a further  
year.



**A Sergeant and a General were in the barber's. They were both just getting to the end of their shaves when the barber reached for some after-shave to soothe their faces. The General shouted, "Hey! don't put that stuff on me! My wife will think I've been in a brothel!"**

**The Sergeant turned to the barber and said, "Go ahead and put it on**

## **SENIOR CITIZEN JOKE**

**A silver-haired old lady calls her neighbour and says, "Please come over and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started."**

**Her neighbour asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"**

**The little lady says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster."**

**Her neighbour decides to wander over and help with the puzzle.**

**She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle scattered over the table.**

**He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says, "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these**

**NAVY:** "Well," snarled the tough old Navy boss to the bewildered sailor, I suppose when you get discharged from the Navy, you'll just be waiting for me to die so you can come and pee on my grave."  
"Not me, Sir!" the sailor replied. "Once I get out of the Navy, I'm

**ARMY:** "Soldier, do you have change for \$10?" Soldier: "Sure, mate."  
Officer: "That's no way to address an officer! Now let's try it again! Do you have change for \$10?" Soldier: "No, SIR!"

**RAAF:** Q: How do you know if there is a fighter pilot at your party?  
A: He'll tell you.

## **PENSIONS REPORT**

At present our Pension Officers and Advocates are still quite busy with various cases still running. As well as that they are retraining under the New ADTP system which is to take over from the original TIP program.

For a full list of any new conditions being investigated go to the RMA website at [www.rma.gov.au](http://www.rma.gov.au) and look under "What's New".

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

Times that our RSL Advocate and Pension Officers are available are listed

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

**Husband and I divorced over religious differences.**  
He thought he was God, and I didn't.

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**For Sale :**  
Wedding dress, size 8.  
Worn once , by mistake.

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## Technical camp for young women, RAAF Base Williamtown

**7 September 2018**

Fifteen people attended the Technical Camp for Young Women at the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Williamtown between 27-30 August.

Participants experienced engineering and technical roles first hand, and the day-to-day routine of an Air Force base. Participants also met with Air Force members and Defence Force Recruiting specialists to discuss career opportunities

Technical Camp Officer in Charge, Flight Lieutenant Esther Suh, said Air Force was strongly committed to enhancing a more diverse and inclusive work environment, and recognised that diversity was key to capability.

“To be the strongest possible organisation, Air Force needs to be able to recruit from the entire talent pool in the Australian community, both women and men,” Flight Lieutenant Suh said.

Two Newcastle students, Hannah Newham, 17, and Lucy Goodman, 16, were among the participants.

Lucy said Air Force was appealing because of the diverse range of opportunities it offered.

She enjoyed working in the classrooms solving technical problems.

Flight and technical camps for young women have been running since 2013 and have produced positive results with 80 per cent of participants actively pursuing Australian Defence Force careers through Defence Force Recruiting. Due to the success of those camps, Air Force delivered the inaugural Aviation Camp for Women in July this year at RAAF Base Amberley, in Queensland.

Technical Camp Second Officer in Charge, Flight Sergeant Michelle Snape, said Air Force camps for women were incredibly rewarding for both participants and the personnel who delivered them.

“In addition to the education and training components of the camps, the camps provide a mentoring opportunity with participants engaging with Inspiring Air Force personnel,” Flight Sergeant Snape said.

## **POPPY PROJECT ~ FORT SCRATCHLEY**

As reported in the Newcastle Herald on Monday the 8 October 2018, Mrs. Barbara O'Brien is a volunteer and calling for more volunteers from the community of the Hunter Valley to undertake the project of donating hand knitted or crocheted poppies to Fort Scratchley so that they can be laid within the grounds of the Fort on the 100th Anniversary of Armistice (Remembrance) Day this 11th November.

Mrs. O'Brien reported that there were 2176 Hunter Valley Servicemen who died during the Great War and the main aim of the project is to have one poppy for each and everyone of them in remembrance. As of the date this story went to print there had been approximately 212 poppies collected so far.

Co-ordinator Michelle Thompson said, “We should all get involved with our history.” Mrs. Thompson Grand-Father Lieutenant Colonel Mott, was one of the first people behind the restoration of the site back in the 1980's. Fort Scratchley was just in ruins. He rescued it with many of his ex-army mates and found where the guns were,” Mrs. Thompson said.

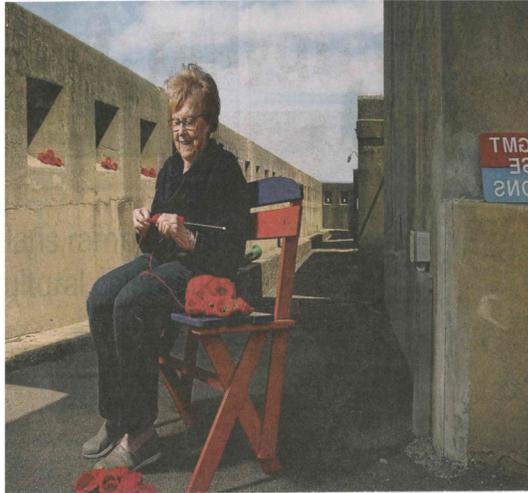
Many of the volunteers there are now well over their 80's and work tirelessly to preserve the site to honour its military history.

Knitting groups are being invited to contact the fort (phone: 4974 2166) if they are looking for a venue to get together and collection points as well as

## **POPPY PROJECT ~ FORT SCRATCHLEY~ CONT...**

and Fort Scratchley, as well as on the '5000' poppies website.

“Just turn up, shake the hands of those in uniform or volunteer, and come see the poppies,” Mrs. Thompson said..



### **Mrs. Barbara O'Brien hard at work knitting poppies within the grounds of Fort Scratchley**

Just prior to Remembrance Day 2017 a lady attended our sub-Branch and donated a box of hand knitted poppies. Inside the box it had the name Ina GOODSIR, 40/305 Main Road, Fennell Bay NSW 2283.. The Poppies in the box totalled 146 and up until this stage we have not used them. So after reading the story in the Newcastle Herald about the

### **DIET TIP:**

**IF YOU THINK YOU ARE HUNGRY, YOU MIGHT JUST BE THIRSTY. HAVE A BOTTLE OF WINE FIRST AND**

**FUNERALS:** Three friends from the local congregation along with others were gathered around the casket of one of their friends who had died. When one of the three asked, “When you’re in your casket, and friends of the congregation are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?”

Artie said: “ I would like them to say that I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader and a great family man.”

Eugene commented: “I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a difference in people’s lives.”

Al said: “I’d like them to say, “Look, he’s moving.”



## **CHANGE OF COMMAND IN TASK GROUP AFGHANISTAN**

### **18 SEPTEMBER 2018 ~ MEDIA RELEASE**

The sun was shining in Kabul when Brigadier Peter Connor officially handed over command of Australia's Task Group Afghanistan to Brigadier Jane Spalding on September 1.

At the end of his 10-month tenure, Brigadier Connor reflected on the achievements of the Task Group's hundreds of sailors, soldiers, airmen and public servants.

"Task Group Afghanistan has taken on more responsibilities this year, with the addition of adviser teams at the Afghan National Army Sergeant Major Academy and Command Staff Academy," he said.

"Our Australian advisers are heavily engaged and making progress in these new Academies and across a broad range of Afghan institutions including the Air Force, Special Forces and Kabul Garrison Command."

Around 300 personnel make up the Australian Task Group deployed to Afghanistan under Operation Highroad, working as trainers, advisers and combined headquarters staff alongside NATO and allied nations.

Task Group members also perform critical force protection, medical, logistics and intelligence roles.

Brigadier Connor reflected on the dedication and professionalism dis-

Brigadier Connor reflected on the dedication and professionalism displayed by Australian Defence Force personnel, particularly the force protection elements from the 3rd and 6th Battalions, Royal Australian Regiment. “With a constant positive and understated approach, they have the right tone,” he said.

“Personally, the highlight of my deployment has been working with a team of committed Australians, driving hard to support the Afghan people and each other on this multinational NATO-led mission to train, advise and assist Afghan security forces and institutions. “We learn from the coalition countries and each other in a fairly complex space. It is a humbling experience.”

Task Group Afghanistan will continue to evolve under the command of Brigadier Jane Spalding, with a recently announced commitment of



## Counter insurgency assistance

4 SEPTEMBER 2018

An Australian Army officer embedded with Train Advise Assist Command - South is helping maximise

the efforts of Afghanistan National Defence and Security Forces counter-insurgency operations in southern Afghanistan.

Since May 2018, Future Plans Officer, Captain Patrick Walton, has been based at Kandahar Airfield while deployed on Operation Highroad, which is Australia’s commitment to the NATO-led Resolute Support mission.

The Command covers the provinces of Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul and Daykundi and consists of troops from Bulgaria, Romania and the USA with a small team of Australians working alongside them.

Forces train, advise assist and enable the Afghans through security force integration of effects to develop long-term sustainability and posturing of the force.

Captain Walton said his role was to combine all available coalition assets to support ongoing operations.

“These assets include close air support and surveillance aircraft, attack helicopters and fires effects,” he said.

“My skills as a Tiger helicopter pilot set me up for success in this role because planning for the integration of these effects is what I’m trained to do.”

Captain Walton said the mission began at the Security Force Advisory and Assistance Team level who advised the Afghan National Army 205th Corps, Provincial Governors and Afghan National Police on conducting deliberate operations.

“With the Expeditionary Advising Packages a group of advisors 'fly to advise' the four brigades in the region, and sometimes the kandaks, for train, advise, assist and enable missions of a limited time (usually five to 30 days),” he said.

“I support the advisors as they support the Afghanistan National Defence and Security Forces in their fight against the Taliban.” The Plans is led by an Australian lieutenant colonel and includes a US Army major, two US Army captains and Captain Walton.

“It’s a rather small cell to do a divisional current planning effort, which means it can be busy and we can have some long nights,” he said.

“A lot of my effort involves short-notice deliberate planning which can be turned around in an hour or two to achieve a tactical effect on the same night.”

Captain Walton said he was proud of the recent work he did to facilitate the evacuation of Afghan soldiers from the battlefield at short notice.

“The Afghan Air Force fly Mi-17 helicopters to and from the battlefield for evacuations and to resupply troops,” he said.

“By planning for the employment of the AH-64 Apache attack helicopters of US Task Force Panther, combined with the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft and fires assets I was able to support the task.”

Captain Walton said although there were only a few Australians embedded in the 10,000 coalition personnel and contractors at Kandahar Airfield, they made a strong impact in key areas of the coalition’s headquarters.

“We’re involved in most of the major operations and are given a lot of respect from our US counterparts,” he said.

“Apart from our high level of professionalism, we bring a candid approach and honest assessments, even at the junior officer level, where we are confident to say our piece in front of the colonels and Commander.

“It’s been a highly rewarding deployment and a fantastic opportunity to work

### IDIOT SIGHTING 1:

I went through the McDonald's driveway window and I gave the cashier a \$5 note.

Our total was \$4.25, so I also handed her 25c. She said, "you gave me too much money." I said, "Yes I know, but this way you can just give me a dollar coin back.'

She sighed and went to get the manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the 25c, and said "We're sorry but we don't do that kind of thing."

The cashier then proceeded to give me back 75 cents in change.

Do not confuse the people at McD's in Shepparton Vic

### IDIOT SIGHTING 2:

I live in a semi rural area. We recently had a new neighbour call the local council to request the removal of the WOMBAT CROSSING sign on our road.

The reason: 'Too many wombats are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.'



**RESCUE  
MISSION  
BY  
HMAS  
HMAS  
BALLARAT**

HMAS *Ballarat* has returned to port after participating in a search and rescue mission for two solo round-the-world yachtsmen.

HMAS *Ballarat*'s MH60 Romeo Seahawk helicopter recovered Irish national Mr Gregor McGuckin from a French scientific research station on Amsterdam Island after he was transported there by French fishing vessel *Osiris*.

The other sailor, Indian Navy Commander Abhilash Tomy, had suffered a back injury and is being picked up by Indian Navy frigate INS *Satpura* for return to India.

Mr McGuckin has paid tribute to *Ballarat* and the many other agencies who helped him survive. "I will be forever indebted for your efforts," Mr McGuckin said. "The real heroes are the professionals that coordinate and execute such missions. All were tested to their limits and they excelled."

Australia's Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mike Noonan, also praised the quick response of *Ballarat's* Ship's Company.

"With *Ballarat* about to deploy to the Middle East, the crew had literally proceeded on their first day of pre-deployment leave," VADM Noonan said.

"For the team to respond to a recall at such short notice, and from all corners of Australia, is a tribute to their professionalism and dedication to fellow mariners.

"When sailors are called upon to assist someone in distress at sea, we never hesitate. We are very pleased that both yachtsmen are now safe and sound."

Mr McGuckin's partner Barbara O'Kelly was among those waiting to welcome him to Australia.

Mr McGuckin and CMDR Tomy were taking part in the Golden Globe solo round-the-world yacht race when they were de-masted by mountainous seas in the southern Indian Ocean, around 1900 nautical miles south-west of Perth.

Members of HMAS *Ballarat's* Ship's Company will now resume their pre-deployment leave to ensure all personnel are well rested and able to spend time with their loved ones prior to deployment to the Middle East

## *LAST POST*

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

**Allen Ernest JENKINS ~ ARMY ~ 08/08/2018**

**John Gladstone Westley (Jack) CORNISH ~ RAAF ~ 23/08/2018**

**AO CBE LVO AFC**

**Norman Charles KING ~ ARMY ~ 29/08/2018**

**Alwyn John BRIDGE ~ ARMY ~ 01/09/2018**

**William John DEVEY ~ ARMY ~ 28/09/2018**

*Lest we forget*



## 'ZEST FOR LIFE'

### *Active Over 50's Exercise Classes*

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"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

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

The programme is not new and has been running for many years. So, if you feel up to it, contact the Toronto RSL sub-Branch for full details. A program to people where exercise is difficult to access at low or no cost to the wider community for a minimum of (12) twelve months



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