

# ***Keeping in Touch***

**WINTER EDITION 2022**

**MEDEVAC ~ DUST OFF ~ VIETNAM**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

COL/67/0140/VN

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# ***Keeping in Touch***

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

Hello everyone.

Winter is with us once more and it has certainly made its presence felt. As I write this report the first cold snap for the year is telling me the outside temperature is just 4Deg, far too cold for these old bones.

ANZAC day has passed and from general comments we have received it went off without too many problems. For some reason, the organisation for this event was far more complicated than previous years. The two main contributors for making it so, COVID and Terrorism do not look like leaving so we may have to contend with them again in the future. The world we live in is becoming increasingly unsettled and the outcome will be disruption to the normal standard of living we enjoy now. The war in Ukraine has already put pressure on commodities and China's infiltration into the Pacific region will only add to the uncertainty the world faces and especially our area of the world.

While on the subject of Ukraine, as with all wars this is again proving how terrible conflict is. The deliberate destruction of buildings and services is meant to destroy the confidence of the local people and make Russia's war machine look more powerful. Ukraine is now becoming a proving ground for the rest of the world to evaluate and assess weaponry, plus develop new, outside their own territories. Putin over the years has made himself the sole leader of Russia, remarkably similar to how Hitler made himself powerful in Germany before the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. If you read the book "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" written by William L Shirer the similarity is ironic. What I believe it proves is how lucky we are as a nation to have a political system that makes it almost impossible for a single person to become a dictator, usually the sole reason conflict is initiated, and other nations need to become involved.

Our nation has had its election and a decision made to change the Government. How this will affect our Services and veterans will be the main thing of interest to us as a Veteran welfare organisation. In past years veteran welfare has been pushed aside in favour of more public welfare and this in essence means our requirements stall or decline. Let us hope this is not the case with this new Government, our veterans' needs are real and should not be overlooked.





Of interest now within the RSL is a discussion paper on the “Charitable Purpose and Donations.” The paper sets out the rules on how we operate as a Sub Branch within the district and how we spend the money we have. One contentious issue is providing refreshments to members after meetings and or working Bee’s which State says is not covered by our charitable purpose.

The object of the RSL is to look after the welfare of veterans and having members meet and socialise is a means to check on their welfare. It is also an opportunity for us as a committee to hear about veterans who do not attend meetings, because they are unable to do so, as a check on their welfare. Rewarding members who participate in Sub Branch activities is an extremely effortless way to assess the welfare of our Sub Branch members and considering the number involved very inexpensive. It also gives some incentive for them to attend meetings and maintain an interest. Many Sub Branches are finding it difficult to fill positions becoming vacant on committees and the extra burden of required administration is not helping. To be able to repay those volunteers who give many hours of their time without payment is not only rewarding but also just.

*That’s about it for this Kit, keep well, warm & safe.  
The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance*

*Bill Noble BEM ~ President*

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### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Monday ~ 11/07/21 ~ Monthly Meeting at 10.00am**

*Toronto Diggers Club*

**Monday ~ 08/08/21 ~ Monthly Meeting at 10.00am**

*Toronto Diggers Club*

**Monday ~ 12/09/21 ~ Monthly Meeting at 10.00am**

*Toronto Diggers Club*

# **‘Vietnam Veterans Day’ 18 August**

The [Vietnam War](#) was Australia's longest military engagement of the 20th Century.

The arrival of the Australian Army Training Team (AATTV) in South Vietnam during July and August 1962 marks the start of Australia's involvement in the war 60 years ago this year.

By the time the war had come to an end, almost 60,000 Australians served during a decade of conflict between 1962 and 1972. Tragically, 521 of them died and 3000 were wounded.

The [Battle of Long Tan](#) was a significant moment in Australia's war in Vietnam.

On 18 August 1966, in a rubber plantation near the village of Long Tan, Australian soldiers fought one of their fiercest battles of the war. The men of Delta Company, 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment, faced a force of some 2000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops. The battle was fought in wet and muddy conditions during a heavy tropical downpour. By the end of the day, 17 Australians had been killed in action and 25 were wounded, one of whom died a few days later. This was the largest number of casualties in a single operation since the Australian Task Force had established its base at nearby Nui Dat the previous April.

On this day, (the 18<sup>th</sup> August) we commemorate all the battles fought by Australians in Vietnam, from large-scale operations to platoon and section-level encounters. We remember the sailors of the Royal Australian Navy who supported land operations, and members of the Royal Australian Air Force who served in combat and transport roles.

It's a day when we recognise all who served in Vietnam.

We honour those veterans who: -lost their lives during battle :- returned home wounded, ill or injured :- lost their lives in the years since they returned :-still carry the physical and emotional scars of their service.

We also pause to reflect on the impact of service on our veterans' families.

**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.

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

*Last Post*

Michael Gregory PURCELL ~ ARMY ~ 1st June 2022

*Lest we forget*



**REMEMBRANCE DAYS FOR THIS QUARTER.**

**3rd July Reserves Forces Day**

**27th July Korea Veterans Day**

**15th August Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day**

**18th August Vietnam Veterans Day**

**31st August Malaya and Borneo Veterans  
Day**

**7th September Battle for Australia Day**

# **Ollie's Bistro**

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w/ mashed potato, sauteed peas & onion gravy

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Supreme - Pepperoni, capsicum, red onion, nap sauce & cheese

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Ham, cheese & tomato

\*\$16.00 for Non Members, subject to change.

Not available on Public Holidays, Mother's Day, Father's Day  
or any other day as deemed by the Club.







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

Navigating support services alone can be overwhelming for anyone in crisis, but the Beacon believe they have the **Specialised Team** and Volunteers to assist them in their work. They have formed a network of organisations, professionals, specialised staff and highly trained volunteers to support them in this work, which include social workers, welfare officers and advocates. Their combination of professional skills and lived experience enables them to meet the needs of veterans and first responders with the right resources, knowledge, skills and compassion.

**Their office is upstairs at TPI House, 76 Cowper Street, Wallsend**  
**open 9.30am to 2.00pm Monday to Friday**

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

## **THE KAKODA CAMPAIGN**

**This year marks the 80th anniversary for the fight for the Kakoda Track in 1942**

When the first Japanese troops began to push over the Kokoda Track towards Port Moresby, the only soldiers opposing them were Victorian militiamen of the 39th Infantry Battalion and the Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB). These troops engaged the Japanese at Awala on 23 July 1942 but were heavily outnumbered and withdrew soon after.

On 29 July 1942, the Japanese captured the village of Kokoda and its vital airfield. The 39th Battalion retook but failed to hold the village (9 -10 August, 1942 and fought a desperate holding action at Deniki (13 - 14 August, 1942 before falling back and digging in at Isurava. Here they waited for the 8,500 Japanese soldiers of the 144th Regiment. Australian reinforcements were sent north from Moresby to aid the exhausted militiamen. The Victorian 2/14th Battalion arrived at Isurava on 26 August 1942. These Australian Imperial Force (AIF) veterans of the Syrian campaign were the spearhead of the crack 21st Brigade and arrived just as the Japanese renewed their offensive.



The Battle of Isurava (26 – 29 August 1942) which followed was a vicious close-quarter affair where the men of 2/14th and 39th Battalions displayed extraordinary valour. Private Bruce Kingsbury (1918–1942) earned a posthumous Victoria Cross but the forward Australian units, called Maroubra Force, were forced to withdraw.

The 53rd Militia Battalion, meanwhile, was routed at nearby Alola and the 21st Brigade's other units, the 2/16th and 2/27th Battalions, were sent up the Track. The Australians made further stands at Eora Creek (31 August – 1 September 1942), Templeton's Crossing (2 September 1942) and Brigade Hill (7 – 9 September 1942) but the Australian withdrawal continued. An important supply base at Myola had to be destroyed and abandoned in early September 1942. The 25th Brigade, AIF, comprising the 2/25th, 2/31st and 2/33rd Battalions, relieved Maroubra Force at Ioribaiwa on 14 September 1942 but not even these fresh troops could stop the Japanese reaching Imitia Ridge on 16 September 1942. This was, however, as far as the enemy would get. The Japanese now came within range of Australian heavy artillery and their communication lines were stretched to breaking point. Their commander, Major General Tomitaro Horii (1890—1942) ordered a retreat.



## **EORA CREEK**

Australian militiamen of the 3rd Battalion, the 25th Brigade and the 16th Brigade, AIF, comprising the 2/1st, 2/2nd and 2/3rd Battalions, pursued the Japanese for the next six weeks. The Australians won a series of victories between Templeton's Crossing and Eora Creek (13 - 28 October 1942).

The Australian supply problems were greatly alleviated when Kokoda airfield was recaptured on 2 November 1942. The Japanese made a determined stand at Oivi-Gorari (4 - 13 November 1942) but when the Australians reached the Kumusi River on 18 November 1942 the battle for the Kokoda Track was over. The price had been high. 624 Australians were dead and 1,023 wounded. The Japanese counted their casualties in the thousands.

## **TWENTY YEARS**

A man ran home from work, pulled his wife into the bedroom, threw her onto the bed, and pulled the blankets over them.

She was shocked—he hadn't been like this for 20 years. Then her husband said, "Look! My new watch glows in the dark."

## **LAUGHTER**

Laughing at your own mistakes in life lengthens it  
Laughing at your wife's mistakes shortens it.



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## **PROGRESS REPORT ~ ROYAL COMMISSION INTO SUICIDES**

The next Hearing Block is set down to commence in Townsville on the 20 June 2022 and will be live streamed on the Royal Commission Website.

However, the Chair of the Royal Commission, Nick Kaldas, has announced that the Commonwealth Attorney General has approved an extension to them to present its Final Report which was due on the 15 June 2023 to the 17 June 2024. Further, it has also been stated that the interim report will still be released on the 11 August 2022, this report we are told will focus on urgent issues that can be addressed immediately. We are also told that further urgent recommendations may be made before the **\*\*Final Report\*\***

It has been reported that the Commission has not only received 1300 submissions and 344 requests for private sessions from across the country, but the lived experience testimony continues to inform and shape the direction of the Royal Commission. The Mental Health and Suicide among Defence Members, Veterans and families cannot be overlooked.

During the eight days of the latest Hearing Block in Canberra, the Commissioners heard testimony on a broad range of relevant issues. One issue that came to the fore was the huge amount of DVA Claims with a Processing Backlog up to 40,000 with DVA blaming workforce and budget arrangements are to blame.

For the first time during the Royal Commission, the Canberra Hearing Block, heard from the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Liz Cosson, particularly on the DVA claims processing backlog and the difficulties for DVA to fulfill its obligations to veterans and their families. However, nothing was forthcoming out of the Royal Commission at this stage because of Liz Cosson's testimony. (Unless that is where the within mentioned figure regarding the backlog of claims comes from)

**With these continued extensions, let's hope that this Royal Commission comes to a halt as soon as possible, with hope of resolutions being found for the men and women of our defence forces and their families before there are more suicides and mental health issues, relating to all veterans, service personnel and their families.**

Continued...Page 13/

**IT IS ALLEGED the latest saying:- ‘DELAY, DENY, wait until I died’:-  
has been touted by injured veterans stating that they are being  
ignored by DVA as their claims go unaddressed.**

**EX service personnel claims are supposed to be processed within  
90 days, but median waiting time has blown out to 207 days.**

**However, on speaking to local pension officers this figure has at  
times taken a lot longer.**

## ***PENSIONS REPORT***

**Our Pension Officers/Advocates have remained busy with pension  
claims and inquires. Further we welcome aboard a new member to  
the Pension Office Rod Smallwood**

**Between them at present they are looking after some 35 plus  
veterans/Service people who they are representing, which in total  
refers to some 70 plus various claims.**

**All are at varying stages and with the huge backlog of claims  
(about 40,000) at present being handled by DVA as stated in the  
recent release of evidence given by the Secretary of DVA during the  
Hearing Block in Canberra Block at the Royal Commission into  
Veteran/Service Personal Suicides**

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

**For a list of any new or amended conditions and those conditions  
under review can be found on the Repatriation Medical Authority  
(RMA)**

**Web site [www.rma.gov.au](http://www.rma.gov.au) then look under “What’s New”**

**Statements of Principles (SoP) are continually being reviewed by  
members of the RMA or on request. A review of conditions can also  
be requested by those interested in a particular condition**

**Regards ~ Pensions**


**Our Advocate and Pension Officer’s are on duty in these sub-Branch  
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# **BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA**

**Every year on the first Wednesday of September, we commemorate the Battle for Australia. We reflect on the bravery of those who served on Australia's home front, and the islands, the seas and in the skies to the north. It's an important reminder of a challenging time for Australians between 1942 and 1945.**

**After Japan entered the war in December 1941, Australia's economy was fully mobilised towards defence. A generation of Australians left their homes to work or serve in defence of their nation.**

**Late 1941 and early 1942 was a dramatic time for Australia. As Germany advanced closer to European domination, Japanese forces moved swiftly south. Australian prisoners of the Japanese began their long ordeal.**

**On 15 February 1942, Singapore fell to the Japanese. This defeat prompted Australia's Prime Minister, John Curtin, to declare that the battle for Australia had begun.**

**Then Australia suffered a series of direct attacks. Cities and towns were bombed and shelled. Vessels of the Royal Australian Navy and merchant ships were sunk in the waters around the mainland and off the islands to the north.**

**On 19 February 1942, Darwin, with a population of only 2000, was raided by 188 Japanese aircraft. Japan sought to destroy Darwin's airfields before its attack on Timor. Around 250 Australians and personnel of other nationalities died.**

**Other areas of northern Australia suffered air raids throughout 1942 and 1943. When the Japanese attacked Broome on 3 March 1942, 88 people were killed, including many Dutch refugees. By November 1943, more northern Australian towns and locales, including Port Headland, Derby, Katherine, Horn Island and Townsville, had all been attacked.**

**In late May and early June 1942, Japanese Midget submarines launched a surprise attack on Sydney Harbour. They sunk HMAS Kuttabul, and 19 Australians and two British sailors died.**

**Often described as the battle that saved Australia, the Battle of the Coral Sea is the largest naval battle ever fought off Australia's shores. On 4 to 8 May 1942 in the waters south-west of the Solomon Islands and east of New Guinea, the Allies prevented a Japanese seaborne invasion of Port Moresby. No Australians were killed, but the aircraft carrier, USS Lexington, was sunk.**

**Australian service personnel also played a key role in the battles on the Kokoda Track, Milne Bay and Buna, Gona and Sanananda in Papua, and in New Guinea in places like Wau, the Huon Peninsula, Wewak and Bougainville.**

# KOOKIES MORSELS

## SOUP WEATHER

### **MINESTRONE**

*(Best-ever ~ Delish)*

1 tbsp olive oil	1 brown onion, finely chopped
1 zucchini, finely chopped	1 stick celery, finely chopped
1 carrot, peeled, finely chopped	2 garlic cloves, crushed
4 bacon rashers, cut about 1 cm square, rind removed	
400g can diced tomatoes	4 cups (1L) chicken stock
1 tbsp tomato paste	½ cup (65g) small pasta shells
400g can borlotti beans, drained and rinsed	
60g pkt baby spinach, finely shredded	
third cup of basil pesto	shaved parmesan cheese.

Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion, carrot, celery, zucchini, garlic and bacon. Cook, stirring for about 5 minutes until the onion softens. Add the tomato and stir to combine. Add the stock and tomato paste and bring to the boil. Reduce heat to low and cook for 10 minutes or until the soup thickens slightly.

Add the bean and pasta to the tomato mixture in the pan and cook for 8 minutes or until the pasta is al dente. Add the spinach and stir to combine. Season.

Serve with shaved parmesan and pesto spread on top of each bowl. Toasted sourdough loaf or Garlic Bread to accompany.

Serves: - 4

*Bon appetit*

+++++

### **CHICKEN AND VEGETABLE SOUP**

2 tbsp olive oil	1 chicken breast fillet
1 onion, chopped	1 clove garlic, crushed
1 leek, trimmed washed and sliced	
500g kumara, peeled and chopped	
3 red capsicums, roasted (see tips)	

# KOOKIES MORSELS

*Continued from page /.....14*

3 tomatoes, peeled and seeded  
1 and a half litres of chicken stock  
freshly ground black pepper

Heat oil in a saucepan, cook chicken for 4 to 5 minutes, until cooked through. Remove from pan, chop finely, set aside.

Sauté leek, onion and garlic in the same pan for 2 to 3 minutes until tender. Add kumara, capsicum, tomatoes and cook stirring for one-minute. Blend in stock and pepper, bring to the boil, reduce heat and simmer for 20 to 25 minutes or until the vegetables are very tender.

Process with a hand blender until roughly pureed, stir in chicken. Serve topped with cheesy croutons. Serves:- 4

*Bon appetit*

+++++

## TIPS

(Tip:- **To** roast capsicum, place in a moderate oven (180c) for 40 to 45 minutes or until dark and blistered. Allow to cool. Peel off skin and scrape out seeds.

**To** peel tomatoes, using a small sharp knife, place a shallow cross in the base of each tomato, then place in a heat proof bowl and cover with boiling water and let stand for 5-7 minutes, until skin starts to lift. Remove with a slotted spoon let cool and then peel skin with fingers, remove seeds with spoon.

**To** make cheesy croutons, arrange slices of a French stick on a foil lined baking tray. Sprinkle each piece with a generous amount of swill gruyere cheese or the cheese of your choice (adding some fresh chopped herbs if desired) Bake in a moderate oven (180c) for 5 to 10 minutes until the bread is crisp and the cheese has melted)

*Don't regret growing old  
It's a privilege denied to many*



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## **HMAS Supply (A195)**

**Navantia designed the navy's two Supply Class AORs, based on the Spanish navy's own Cantabria class AORs. These were built at El Ferrol and then transferred to Australia for completion by Navantia Australia.**

**The first, HMAS Supply, docked in Fremantle last year where her Saab 9LV Mk3 combat system and communications suite were completed and she was fitted with Nulka antimissile decoys, phalanx close-in weapons system (CIWS), and twin Typhoon 25mm guns. After final sea trials, HMAS Supply is now in RAN service in Sydney.**

**NUSHIP Stalwart will undergo the same process, but remain at Fremantle's HMAS Stirling, where she'll support the RAN force homeported there.**

**For a ship that was built in Spain, the Supply-class AORs have 30 per cent Australian content, Lozano says. Australian components, such as the SAAB 9LV combat management system, self-defence systems such as the CWIS and accommodation components, are already incorporated into the ships. The ship is also completely built with Australian BlueScope steel.**

**Spanish naval giant Navantia has begun establishing a significant footprint in WA. The company, which has designed 19 vessels for**

**Cont....Page/..21**

the RAN since 2006, will come under the spotlight again next month when the second of the RAN's two new supply ships, NUSHIP Stalwart, is scheduled to arrive in Fremantle from Spain.

Navantia is eyeing expansion opportunities in WA, according to its new managing director, Israel Lozano Barragán, who succeeded Alfonso Garcia-Valdes earlier this month and is based at Navantia Australia's Sydney head office. The company currently employs 180 people and expects to grow to about 250 over the next two years, many of whom will be based in Fremantle.

Navantia Australia was formed a decade ago to establish a sovereign design and engineering capability to support the maintenance and upgrading of the ships it designed for the RAN. It is now looking to the navy's Joint Support Ship project, SEA 2200, as an opportunity to develop this capability further, along with a sovereign production capability, in line with Australia's Naval Ship-building Plan.

Under this project, worth \$4-6bn, Defence plans to buy two new support and supply ships of about 16,500 tonnes each. Australia would be the launch customer for these, although New Zealand is also a potential client, and all ships would be constructed in WA. The company is committed to establishing a sovereign supply chain to be part of this major acquisition in new capacity, Lozana tells 'The Australian'.

However there is no economic sense in creating a new ship building capacity for just two or three vessels. So, Navantia Australia is considering the broader market potential for other naval and commercial ships, as well as more utilitarian products such as floating structures to support offshore wind turbines, which could represent a partway export and shape its strategy for establishing a design and construction pathway in WA.

### **Lieutenant Yvette Goldberg further reports:**

It is crucial for ships to be at sea and just as important to keep them there.

Replenishment ship HMAS *Supply* is one of Navy's key enablers for keeping the fleet in the fight.

*Supply* carries fuel, water, food, dry cargo, ammunition, equipment and spare parts to provide operational support to other ships or combat forces based far from ports for extended periods.

Completing successful replenishments at sea in varying conditions, showcases Navy's capabilities in refuelling and resupplying at sea, which is critical to extending time at sea for other ships.

*Supply's* navigation officer Lieutenant Jackie Rushford said the successful completion of a RAS was a strong indicator of the auxiliary oiler replenishment ship's criticality and versatility.

"*Supply's* key role in exercises and operations is as a combat support ship – when we operate as a task group, to keep the task group in the fight, we need fuel, we need stores and we need to be able to keep the ships at sea for as long as possible," Lieutenant Rushford said.

"We will often come together the day before and walk through the evolution. Any specific requirements the ship may encounter are discussed – the key is preparation.

"The relationship between *Supply* and the other ships is crucial – we can't do our job without them and they can't do their job without us."

A RAS involves *Supply's* various departments working together.

Both technical and non-technical expertise are required for the transfer of fuel, water and solid cargo to other ships while both ships are underway.

'Able Seaman Charlotte Collins from HMAS *Supply* keeps lookout as HMAS *Parramatta* prepares to conduct a replenishment at sea off Australia's east coast'



Lieutenant Jackie Rushford said *Supply's* crew engaged with other ships frequently to find out when they needed to be resupplied to ensure *Supply* could provide supplies in a timely manner.

"In a RAS, there are a lot of moving parts – a lot of things need to happen and come together for it to be successful," Lieutenant Rushford said.

"The way we do it on *Supply* is through regular communication and planning as well as pre-briefing all of the things we need to do.

"On the day, it really comes down to people's experience and knowledge – that's the way we build together to make sure the replenishment goes as well as possible."

Leading Seaman Percy Traill said there were many people involved in a RAS.

(Replenishment at Sea)

"The boatswains in the dump party on deck are controlling ropes and lighter duties," Leading Seaman Traill said.....Cont...23/



“My current job is in the RAS hut controlling the probe across to the other ship.

“I have also been trained to work aft of the ship. This is the secondary RAS control option for *Supply*.”

Leading Seaman Traill said a highlight of completing a RAS was seeing the look on everyone’s faces.

“It’s great knowing that the job was completed safely and it was so well done,” he said.

“My job is awesome. Sitting in the RAS hut controlling the probe to the other ships it gives me this big responsibility. That feels really cool and I love doing it.”

## **HAVE WE**

Have we reached the stage of ultimate Absurdity where some people are being held responsible for things that happened before they were born, while other people are not held responsible for what they themselves are doing today?

*Thomas Sowell*

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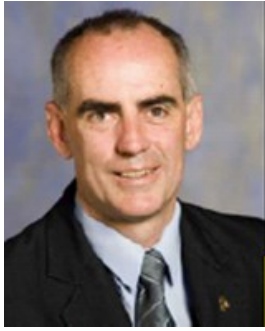
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## **DID YOU KNOW**

Water is the most essential element on earth.

~ WHY ~

‘Because without water you can’t make beer’.



**Greg Piper MP**  
**Member for Lake Macquarie**



## **ANZAC DAY CROWDS RETURN TO PRE-COVID LEVELS**

**I can't take a trick sometimes. With Covid playing havoc with Anzac Day services over the past two years, I was looking forward to things getting back to normal this year, but no, I tested positive to Covid two days before Anzac Day and had to spend the week in isolation!**

**My staff, my wife Lyn and even my granddaughter Leanna filled in for me at local services while I stayed bloody miserable in bed!**

**On a positive note, everyone reported that the marches, crowds and services were pretty much back to what they were pre-Covid.**

**It's really satisfying to see this tradition growing stronger and stronger every year, especially among younger people.**

**So, let me tempt fate and say I'll see you all at next year's services!**

**It's been a really busy year as far as the NSW Parliament is concerned. You may have heard that we were successful in our bid to introduce Voluntary Assisted Dying laws to NSW for people with a terminal illness.**

**I know social issues like this can sometimes be divisive, especially among those who have strong religious beliefs, but my experience locally has been quite the opposite. Not only did the bill receive significant local support, much of it came from people with a religious faith.**

**These laws provide a choice to people with a terminal illness. It's a voluntary process and the bill contains a lot of safeguards against abuse. It also allows for a conscientious objection by those who oppose it.**

**Sadly, there is sometimes no amount of palliative care which can relieve the suffering of some people in the final days of a terminal illness. This bill gives those people an option, and a choice to go out on their own terms when the time comes.**

**I hope none of us ever have to use it, but I strongly believe that many people will find comfort in knowing it's there if we do.**

IContinued from Page 22/.... also note that this year marks 60 years since Australia's initial involvement in the Vietnam War (1962-1975). More than 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam following an initial commitment of 30 military advisors in 1962.

Sadly, 521 Australians lost their lives in Vietnam while more than 3000 personnel were either wounded in battle, injured or became severely ill.

That war became the longest in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Our last combat troops came home in 1972, but some personnel remained there after that time, with the RAAF returning in 1975 to assist with evacuation and humanitarian efforts.

Here's hoping we never see another conflict like it.

Lest We Forget all those Australians who served in Vietnam, and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice for us.

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

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

## **LEST WE FORGET**

Best regards,



92 Victory Parade, Toronto NSW 2283

email: [lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au)   
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*A SHORT POEM  
Bloody Hell It's Cold  
The End*

# Chaplain's Corner

Greetings, how great it was to be able to gather again with all present at our Anzac Day and March to Remember the fallen.



This month marks the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. The arrival of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) in South Vietnam during July and August 1962 was the beginning of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. Australia's participation in the war was formally declared at an end when the Governor-General issued a proclamation on 11 January 1973.

These anniversary times can be difficult emotionally for our Vietnam vets. We remember with them the fallen, the injured both physical and mental. However, we also proudly thank our Vietnam Veterans for their Service and the Sacrifice they made to fight for freedom.

May God's Peace be with you all,

*Reverend Melanie Whalley*

Toronto Anglican Church

## **ANZAC REFLECTION**

**It was great to see this year the attendance of the general public and crowds that turned out in numbers to help commemorate the ANZAC Day services.**

**The attendance of the school students, both junior and senior years and others participating.**

**One can only hope that this is the start of a rebuilding phase to commemorate these important events and others, following our recent lockdown and restrictions due to the world wide pandemic that hit us all. ED.**





# **217 ARMY CADET UNIT WINTER EDITION**



- 1. Hello Readers!**
- 2. Term 2 is always a time for new faces and changes within the Army Cadets. We have had a great response to recruiting after ANZAC Day ceremonies in the area and are now Parading with a regular 17-20 Cadets each week which is a great sight to see and another seven awaiting enrolment for the new term.**
- 3. In the changes department, the Commander for NSW AAC Brigade has provided the Units in NSW with a Directive for Active Supervision. This means that whilst Cadets are within the organisation's care an Adult Cadet Staff (ACS) member is required to be in their presence. With this in mind, we have had to replan training and activities in order to fulfill this Directive, which has become an onerous chore as the ACS are unable to complete other duties such as submitting returns that are required by the same HQ in which the Directive was issued or planning future training and activities.**
- 4. Another change for 217 ACU has been our Relocation to Morisset High School. We are still trying to find the time to settle in and ensure our stores are in appropriate locations within the new site but Morisset High has been very accommodating with the hours that we have been on site to do this.**
- 5. In June, 217ACU was able to conduct our first Field Activity since March 2020. We were invited to Sector 8 at Singleton Military Area by 234 ACU Maitland to join them in the field environment. The two Units had a fantastic time, putting all the theory they had learnt over the last few years into practice in the field. 217 ACU thanks 234 ACU for the opportunity and we look forward to working with them again later in Term.**

**Future activities include the NSW AAC Brigade Promotion Courses being held at Holsworthy Barracks during the first week of July. 217 ACU is sending two Cadets for the Corporals Course and six staff for Instructing and Supervision. We have been invited to assist at Steam-Fest in Maitland at the end of July and another joint camp with 234 ACU in September.**

**Cont...../28**

1. Lastly we will be hosting the 21 AAC Battalion Competition Day in August, where the Units in the Battalion compete in Drill and Sports for teamwork and Cadet of the Year for individual accomplishment.

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

Kind regards

*Yvonne Fuller*

**CAPT (AAC)**

**217 Army Cadet Unit (ACU)**

**Officer Commanding (OC)**

**Mobile: 0409 310 713**

**Unit email: [217acu@armycadets.gov.au](mailto:217acu@armycadets.gov.au)**

### **MRS MURPHY**

Solicitors should never ask a Knockaberry nanny a question if they aren't prepared for the answer. In a trial in Cork (Ireland) a small time prosecuting solicitor called his first witness, a grandmotherly elderly woman to the stand.

He approached her and said, "Mrs Murphy, do you know me?" She said, "Yes I know you Mr Burke. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly you've been a big disappointment, you lie, you cheat on your wife and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their back. You think that you are a big shot when you haven't the brains to realise you'll never amount to anything more than a two-bit pen pusher. Yes I know you." The solicitor was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and said, "Mrs Murphy, do you know the defence lawyer?" She replied, "Why, yes I do. I've known Mr. Cummins since he was a youngster, too me he's lazy, snobby and he has a drinking problem. He can't find a normal relationship with anyone and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire country. Not to mention he cheated on this wife with three different women, one of them was your wife. Yes I know him." The defence lawyer nearly died. The Judge then asked both counsellors to approach the bench and in a very quiet voice said, "If either of you idiots ask her if she knows me, I'll send you both to Cork prison for ten years each."

### **BUS TRAVEL**

An old man gets on the bus but there are no seats, so he stands and leans on his walking stick. The bus brakes suddenly and he slips.

A young lad says, "Hey mister, if you had a rubber on the end of your stick that wouldn't have happened." The old man replies, "If your dad had taken the same advice, I'd have a bloody seat!"

# **MEMORY SICKNESS**

**Amongst 100 persons in the world, only 8 live or exceed the age of 65! If you are over 65 years old, be content & grateful. Cherish life, grasp the moment. If you did not leave this world before the age of 64 like the 92 persons who have gone before you, you are already the blessed amongst mankind.**

**Take good care of your own health. Cherish every remaining moment. If you think you are suffering memory loss.**

**Anosognosia, very interesting. In the following analysis the French Professor Bruno Dubois, Director of the Institute of Memory and Alzheimer's Disease (IMMA) at La Pitié-Salpêtrière - Paris Hospitals, addresses the subject in a rather reassuring way:**

**"If anyone is aware of their memory problems, they do not have Alzheimer's." • forget the names of families. • do not remember where I put some things. It often happens in people 60 years and older that they complain that they lack memory. "The information is always in the brain, it is the "processor" that is lacking."**

**This is "Anosognosia" or temporary forgetfulness. Half of people 60 and older have some symptoms that are due to age rather than disease. The most common cases are: forgetting the name of a person, going to a room in the house and not remembering why we were going there, a blank memory for a movie title or actor, an actress, a waste of time searching where we left our glasses or keys**

**After 60 years most people have such a difficulty, which indicates that it is not a disease but rather a characteristic due to the passage of years. Many people are concerned about these oversights hence the importance of the following statements:**

**1. "Those who are conscious of being forgetful have no serious problem of memory."**

**2. "Those who suffer from a memory illness or Alzheimer's, are not aware of what is happening." Professor Bruno Dubois, director of IMMA, reassures the majority of people concerned about their oversights: "The more we complain about memory loss, the less likely we are to suffer from memory sickness."**



# **Nasho's News**

**Westlake Macquarie**  
**National Servicemen's Association**



Once again, we came to our busiest part of the year.

The first event was the Anzac Commemorative Service undertaken at the Masonic Lodge Lake Macquarie. The Director of Ceremony was Alan Crowe following the program set up by Bruce Robberds. There were 60 people in attendance including Captain Yvonne Fuller 217 Army Cadets, Lt. Steve Dunn of the TS Tobruk Cadets, Catafalque Party, Sergeant John Woodward, The NSAA State Vice President George Sachse, Bugler Kye Jefferies, Piper Malcolm Newbiggen and Organist Don Smith.

Our colour party was John Taylor, Howard Trevethan, Kevin Hargrave and Lyle Constable.

It was a very successful night, which was followed by a supper, raffle and a few short speeches. All in attendance enjoyed the night and look forward to next year.

Our AGM was next on our Agenda as it had been delayed due to the Covid Pandemic. Returning Officer ~ Lyle Constable.

Resulting in the same committee as previous being voted in:-

President ~ Gordon Maxwell ~ Vice President ~ Brian Smith

Secretary ~ Bruce Robberds ~ Treasurer Des Gill

Committee Kevin Hargrave ~ John Taylor

Lyle Constable ~ Gordon Gardiner

Patron:- John Doig (Major Ret.) Padre Rev. Tony Lang (Major Ret.)

The Toronto RSL sub-Branch held the Anzac Day Service's at Toronto Goffet Park.

The Dawn Service was conducted by President Bill Noble BEM, assisted by Hon Secretary Ron Micherson.

The Eleven o'clock Service had a Parade which started from out the front of the Toronto Diggers Club with a lot of school children in the march along with a variety of others and on this occasion only one Senior School was called on to do a reading during the program.

We assisted with the Flag duties ~ via ~ Alf Sulman, Howard Trevethan and Lyle Constable.

Cont...../30



**President Bill Noble BEM introduced Kahi Puru NZ MC for the Maori Program, which includes songs, 'Po Atarau' (English - Now is the Hour) then 'E Kiwi E' (As their troops left home for War) Then the New Zealand National Anthem in Maori and English' followed by the Haka. The Haka and War Dance was well performed and enjoyed.**

**Our next project was our National Servicemen's Memorial Stone for maintenance and repair. The little garden has two new Pine trees planted with red woodchip. The Memorial Stone was cleaned and the gold lettering repaired.**

**Our bi-monthly outing was lunch at Toronto Workers Club. It was good to see Allie Miller (wife of deceased member Henry) at the luncheon . We had an attendance of 20 members at the lunch and on the whole, meals were very good.**

**The June meeting was cancelled due to Toronto Diggers Club doing alterations.**

**There is still a lot of sickness with members and their wives, I wish everybody well and hope a lot of improvement occur.**

**Best wishes for now.**

**Gordon Maxwell  
President...**

### **LITTLE JOHNNY**

**The teacher asked the class to use the word 'fascinate' in a sentence.**

**Molly put up her hand and said, "My family went to my grandad's farm, and we saw all the sheep. It was fascinating." The teacher said, "That's good, but I wanted you to use the word 'fascinate' not fascinating."**

**Sally raised her hand and said, "My family went to the City and I was fascinated. "The teacher said, "Well that was good Sally, but I wanted you to use the word fascinate."**

**Little Johnny then raised his hand, but the teacher hesitated because she had been burnt by Johnny before. Finally, she believed that there was no way he could damage the word fascinate so she relented and called on him. Johnny said, "My Aunt Carolyn has a sweater with ten buttons, but her boobs are so big she can only fasten eight!" The Teacher sat down and cried.**



## **F-35A LIGHTNING 11**

**The F-35A Lightning II is the Australian Defence Force's first fifth-generation air combat capability. It is a highly advanced multi-role, supersonic, stealth fighter which will meet Australia's requirements to defeat current and emerging threats.**

**The F-35A is at the forefront of air combat technology. Its advanced sensors and data fusion will allow it to gather more information and share it with other Air Force aircraft, Navy ships and Army units quicker than ever before. This will greatly enhance the Australian Defence Force's situational awareness and combat effectiveness. In addition, to greatly enhanced situational awareness, the F-35A provides its pilots with significantly higher levels of lethality and survivability in combat.**

**Australia has committed to 72 F-35A aircraft for three operational squadrons at RAAF Base Williamtown and RAAF Base Tindal, and a training squadron at RAAF Base Williamtown.**

**The first F-35A aircraft was accepted into Australian service in 2018, with the first arriving in country in December that year. The first F-35A squadron, No. 3 Squadron, will be operational in 2021. All 72 aircraft are expected to be fully operational by 2023.**

**The F-35A is being purchased by the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group under project  
AIR 6000 Phase 2A/2B New Air Combat Capability**

**Cont.....Page 33/**

## About the aircraft

The F-35A is characterised by:

- a low observable design
  - internal weapons and fuel carriage
  - advanced radar
  - electro-optical and infrared sensors
  - advanced voice and data link communications, and the ability to employ a wide range of air-to-surface and air-to-air weapons.
- It is the most suitable aircraft to replace the ageing F/A-18A/B Hornets.

Capable of supersonic flight while retaining stealth, the F-35A has extraordinary acceleration, agility and 9G manoeuvrability.

### **WATER**

A fleeing Taliban, desperate for water, was plodding through the Afghan Desert when he saw something far off in the distance. Hoping to find water, he hurried towards the oasis only to find a British soldier selling regimental ties.

The Taliban said, "Do you have water?"

The soldier replied, "There is no water, the well is dry. Would you like to buy a tie instead? They are only 5 pounds."

The Taliban shouted, "You idiot infidel! I do not need an over-priced tie. I need water! I should kill you, but I must find water first!"

"OK," said the soldier, "It does not matter that you do not want to buy a tie and that you hate me. I will show you that I am bigger than that, and than I am a much better human being than you. If you continue over that hill to the east for about two miles, you'll find our Sergeant's Mess. It has all the ice cold water you need."

Cursing him, the Taliban staggers away over the hill.

Several hours later he staggered back, collapsed with dehydration & rasped: "They won't let me in without a bloody tie!"



**The KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) is a heavily modified Airbus A330 airliner, and enables Air Force to conduct air-to-air refuelling and provide strategic air lift.**

**It features advanced communication and navigation systems, and an electronic warfare self-protection system for shielding against threats from surface-to-air missiles.**

**The Air Force's six KC-30A aircraft are based at RAAF Base Amberley, operated by No. 33 Squadron.**

**In 2015, Government announced the purchase of a sixth and seventh KC-30A aircraft, and under the 2016 Defence White Paper, an eighth and ninth aircraft are under consideration.**

**Since September 2014, a single KC-30A has been deployed to the Middle East Region for Operation OKRA.**

**About the Aircraft**

**The KC-30A MRTT is fitted with two forms of air-to-air refuelling systems: an Advanced Refuelling Boom System mounted on the tail of the aircraft; and a pair of all-electric refuelling pods under each wing.**

**Cont....Page 35/..**



These systems are controlled by an Air Refuelling Operator in the cockpit, who can view refuelling on 2D and 3D screens.

The KC-30A can carry a fuel load of more than 100 tonnes, and transfer part of that load to compatible aircraft, including:

- F/A-18A/B Hornets;
- F/A-18F Super Hornets;
- E/A-18G Growlers;
- E-7A Wedgetails;
- C-17A Globemaster III; and
- Other KC-30As.

It is also compatible with refuelling P-8A Poseidon surveillance aircraft, F-35A Lightning II, and foreign aircraft such as the F-16C Fighting Falcon and B-1B Lancer.

The KC-30A MRTT can remain 1800 km from its home base, with 50 tonnes of fuel available to offload for up to four hours.

In its transport role, the KC-30A is capable of carrying 270 passengers. It comes with under-floor cargo compartments which can accommodate 34,000 kilograms of military and civilian cargo pallets and containers.

## Specifications

Manufacturer	Airbus Military
Role	Air-to-air refuelling, long range troop transport
Crew	Pilot, co-pilot, one air refuelling officer, one mission co-ordinator, up to eight crew attendants
Engine	Two General Electric –CF6-80E1A3
Airframe	Height 17.4 metres, :Length: 59 Metres
Wingspan	60.3 Metres
Weight	233 tonnes (maximum take-off weight) 180 tonnes (maximum landing weight)
Cruise Speed	860 km/ h
Range	14,000 kms
Ceiling	41,000 feet
Capacity	Up to 270 passengers, or 34,000kgs of cargo, or 111 tonnes of fuel, Electronic self protection measures



## Indonesian Army joins Australian and US forces for humanitarian response training

By [Melissa Mackay](#) ~ Posted: Thursday 19 May 2022

**'Exercise Crocodile Response' is an annual humanitarian aid training exercise carried out in remote parts of the Top End.**

*(ABC News: Michael Franchi)*

More than 600 kilometres from Darwin, in the remote East Arnhem Land community of Nhulunbuy, 130 US Marines, Australian Defence Force and Indonesian military personnel have completed a week (in mid-May) undertaking a rather extravagant game of pretend.

Key points:

**The humanitarian response training exercise takes place every year  
About 100 ADF, US Marine and Indonesian Army personnel took part  
It simulated a tropical cyclone disaster on a pacific island**

They're responding to 'Tropical Cyclone Sophia' in the fictional nation of 'Belesia'.

The three militaries have been deployed to assist a made-up community left with no running water, cut-off roads, unusable airstrips, and displaced locals, as part of training exercise, Crocodile Response.

"Under the exercise, a cyclone's hit and there's been some fairly widespread damage," Major Tim Murphy from the Australian Army said. "[There's been] damage to the hospital system, damage to the freshwater supply for the township and damage to the homes and general infrastructure, so under the exercise constraints this is a difficult place for the local population to be living and we're here to help."



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