



Official Magazine of
**WODEN VALLEY
SUB-BRANCH R.S.L.**



The **SERVICEMAN**

First Published in January 1962

CHRISTMAS EDITION

NOVEMBER 2020



A special photo of the late Alex Reynolds with Sub-Branch President Jim Gilchrist and other members when the Woden Valley Sub-Branch was presented with a Canberra Gold Award from the ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr for 50 years in the ACT. Alex was a past President and a stalwart of the Sub-Branch and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

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Notice

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The SERVICEMAN

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE WODEN VALLEY RSL SUB-BRANCH (INC)
RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

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OFFICE BEARERS 2020-21

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The Sub-Branch meets on the last Tuesday of each month except April and December at the Canberra Southern Cross Club, Corinna Street, Phillip at 7.00PM. Membership Subscription is due on 1st January annually and should be posted to Grant Cameron Community Centre, 14/27 Mulley St, Holder ACT 2611.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Bob Cremer



An interesting article I happened to read was asking people back in 2015 what they expected they would be doing in five years [2020]. What has happened is something I am positive that nobody expected and am reasonably sure that all would like to forget.

Sadly, in May this year past president Alex Reynolds died before he could witness the dedication of *The Corey Room* video launch, a subject that he and Bill Smith had been working on for the past 30 years. It was a great event with a very professional video produced by David Jenkins.

On the COVID front, let us all hope that by Christmas things will be back to whatever the **new** normal is going to be and that 2021 will be a great improvement. I also hope that the extensive and regular use of the word *'unprecedented'* is dropped from news reports or whenever we are talking about COVID/drought/fires/hail, or whatever else occurred in 2020. It certainly has been a year with a difference. Lets hope that we can start 2021 and things will improve and we now have the vaccine that has been frantically worked on during the past year.

Another Annual General Meeting concluded for 2020 and it pleasing to see some new names added to the new members list. Hopefully some will volunteer to become Board members and contribute to the continued successful operation of the Sub-Branch in supporting our serving and retired veterans.

Finally, at the end of another year, I would like to thank those who contributed with articles for our magazine and am hoping for a lot more in the coming year and would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Let us hope that 2021 will be much better. Stay well and take care of each other.

FALL IN

*A warm welcome is extended to the following
new members.*



Bert Blink, Cornelis Bosch, Eugene Holzapfel,
Keith Jurd, Lenche Kazan, Frank Munday,
Matthew Griggs, Arnold Milne

President's Message

Jim Gilchrist



As we approach Christmas and the end of 2020, it's hard to imagine what an extraordinary year we have just faced as individuals and together. From a Sub-Branch perspective, our Business Continuity Plan allowed us to remain open throughout the year to continue supporting our members and others in the Veteran Community. Workloads in all functional areas continued to remain high, and, in some cases they grew. In this regard, I believe this year brought out the best in our members, volunteers and staff as all of them demonstrated levels of resilience and a willingness and ability to assist others who might be struggling for various reasons whether they were COVID-related or otherwise. These sorts of characteristics are common to those who have served and are integral to the values that are entrenched in the history of the Woden Valley Sub-Branch and that we apply in our present culture.

Although most of the issues I raise in this message have been reported as they occurred, I feel that it's worth noting some of the highlights in this edition of *The Serviceman*. Firstly, some of the initiatives we began when the pandemic started, matured during the year. Volunteers from the Eddison Day Club and others established and maintained telephone links with potentially vulnerable members. Where appropriate, volunteers reported to the Welfare Team that arranged for follow-up calls and visits to resolve any potential issues.

Activities such as the Social Arts and BeConnected Programs attracted much interest. Both of these activities were funded from Government grants and, as we have already received a grant to continue the BeConnected Program we will continue these sorts of activities into the new year. Teams from Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) supported some members with household chores and are looking to continue these programs in 2021.

While we had to cancel some of our flagship events and ceremonies, most notably the ANZAC Eve Dinner and the ANZAC and Peace Ceremony, and, while the future remains uncertain, we hope these will both return in 2021. On the other hand, we officially opened and dedicated *The Corey Room* in May. Recently, we launched a video record of this event and we dedicated that to the memory of Alex Reynolds who had been instrumental in working with another Sub-Branch stalwart and former President Bill Smith on the Corey Project. Many readers would appreciate the contributions that Alex and Bill have made to our Sub-Branch over many years, in a variety of roles including that of President. Having learned from their forebears in the Sub-Branch, they offer excellent examples for the present leadership group and members to follow.

As reported during the year, the COVID situation provided some unexpected financial relief and opportunities to engage with our members to help mitigate the adverse effects of the restrictions on social gatherings and personal interactions. This combination of grants and financial incentives provided welcome relief to our financial situation and significantly reduced the Board's need to

draw down on the AMF. While the overall situation certainly had some drawbacks that we hope will reduce significantly in the new year, the combined effects on our finances were very welcome. They provided breathing space as the Board continues to seek sustainable financial and other material support to ensure our continued sustainability and ability to meet the current and expected workloads relating to our members and others in the Veteran Community.

One such Federal Government grant requires us to introduce a specific mental health program into the ACT and region. The *Group Emotional and Relationship Skills* (GEARS) Program targets young men and women as they transition from Defence to the civilian World; or who have recently done so. We have used some of these funds to resource a training room at the Grant Cameron Community Centre (GCCC). With some welcome support from the South Canberra Veterans Shed, we acquired furniture to provide a very welcome addition to our assets at the GCCC. While the GEARS Program won't start until next year, we are now using this training room (Room 36) for general gatherings and training.

The Coffee Catchups on Friday mornings in *The Corey Room* gathered pace in the past few months and now attract a steady stream of members and visitors each week. The Carers' Group meetings have restarted and will continue on a regular basis. So too, will the Burrangiri lunches once we are allowed access to the Burrangiri facility. Bus trips to Goulburn, Yass and Cooma were funded through an ACT Government Grant and, judging by the early feedback from the participants, we will try to make these activities part of the calendar.

While we are unable to hold a Ceremony for the children, the Essay Competition attracted to good response from local schools. Many essays were of a high standard, with some being standouts. While our Secretary and coordinator of the competition, Greg Kennett only recently gained access to the schools of the winning authors, he received a good reception from the children and the schools.

Although major commemorative events were either cancelled or were held on a limited basis, Sub-Branch representatives attended the Vietnam Veterans' Day service, the Legacy Week Launch, the Victory in the Pacific service and a service to commemorate Remembrance Day. Many of you would have seen that the Secretary of DVA, Liz Cosson, and the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Matthew Anderson introduced one of our older members, Les Cook, to Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne, The Princess Royal by video link. Les regaled HRH with stories of his experiences serving in the Australian Army between 1940 and 1947.

Since July, we have held two OGMs and the AGM in the corridors of the GCCC as this provided a practical solution to the COVID restrictions. Having overcome their initial surprise at the limitations this situation required, members embraced the fact and contributed with their usual vigour. Concurrently, the Board continued to work on its organisational and management systems and is presently enhancing our computer and communications systems. As noted in many communications and meetings recently, our support services remain in constant demand from members and others. We continue to receive referrals from a wide range of sources that, together reflect the quality of assistance we provide and the manner in which we continue to meet the objects of our Constitution and of the League as a whole.

In thanking all of the staff and volunteers who provide these services and those who support the day-to-day operations of the Sub-Branch, I also thank those who assist us. Specifically, I thank senior members of DVA and those medical and other services providers without whom we could not achieve the results we do.

While I acknowledge the support and cooperation we received from several local ESOs, the Board is continuing to work on our relationship with Branch. The Branch Congress held in September left several ongoing queries unresolved. Similarly, the Branch Executive has given notice of another Extraordinary Branch Congress (EBC) to be held on 11 December. While we have received no formal advice to explain the requirement for this meeting so soon after the one held in April, the Board is assuming that the Office of Regulatory Services has required the Branch to reconvene the original meeting.

In closing, I again thank everyone for their contributions to what has been an interesting year in which our Sub-Branch met all of the challenges it faced. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas Party and I wish all of our members, their families and our friends a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.



Volunteer Information Session

Sub-Branch volunteers were invited to a Volunteer Information Session on Thursday 5 November in The Corey Room for a gentle Yoga and Mindfulness Session with Robyn Lewis from Yoga Enlightenment: enlightened Mind, Body and Spirit. For a Yoga enlightenment session, Robyn can be contacted on: www.yogaenlightenment.com.au or Mob: 0432 778 271



**WODEN VALLEY RSL SUB-BRANCH
ANNUAL REPORT
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2019**

Throughout 2019, the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch continued to provide a wide range of member-based services and other support to its members and other members of the Veteran Community in the ACT and region. Our home remains at the Grant Cameron Community Centre (GCCC) at Holder, and we worked hard to secure our present operations and continued to develop business practices that would help us prepare for a sustainable future.

As part of our normal Sub-Branch activities, we held another successful ANZAC and Peace Ceremony and Essay competition; and the Eddison Day Club continued to entertain and engage with our older members and others from the general community. We held three OGM dinners and the traditional ANZAC Eve dinner, with each attracting informative and entertaining guest speakers, and was well supported by members and their guests. We finished the year with a lovely Christmas party at the Canberra Southern Cross Club (CSCC).

With what we refer to as the Woden Valley Veterans Support Centre (the VSC), we maintained an extraordinary workload in preparing and submitting claims and appeals; and delivering welfare support to our members and other veterans and their families. The weekly coffee catchups continued to attract some interest as they provided opportunities for our members and others to gather in an informal setting for a brew and a chat.

Specifically, a small but dedicated team of compensation advocates (formerly known as *pension officers and advocates*) assisted more than 400 new clients with applications to the Repatriation Commission and/or Appeals to the Veterans Review Board. While not all of these claims and appeals achieved the outcome we had hoped for, I note that we did our best for the clients we represented. Our senior advocate, Ross Thomas and I attended several forums in which the claims and appeals processes were discussed, advocates were briefed on recent and proposed developments in these areas, and we were able to air our concerns about the present system and its processes.

Our Welfare capability also continued to grow extensively, especially in relation to our older members and other clients. Most of these cases continued to come from referrals from sources such as Defence, DVA, local hospitals, former clients and others who had heard of our work and commitment. Many of these cases required extensive research and liaison with government and other agencies and providers; and a growing number were resource intensive. Sadly, and while we did our best, we did not always achieve the outcomes we hoped for and the clients did not receive all of the support they needed and deserved. However, we continued to brief DVA and others about the sorts of issues we were facing and, where possible, we suggested options for these to be addressed. Although we received a good hearing, it is fair to report that the provision of welfare services to our range of clients presents complex problems that cannot readily be fixed. Unfortunately, we could not find any channels to report, discuss and refer these sorts of issues through the League, as we would normally have done through the Branch and the National committees.

While we understand that the National Office is restructuring, this issue must be addressed promptly if the League is to retain its status as the leader of the ESO community and the primary voice that represents all veterans and their families to Government.

In thanking the small but dedicated group of volunteers who delivered most of these services, I particularly thank Peter Eveille who led the Welfare Team and provided excellent on-the-ground support to our staff and clients. Peter worked closely with the VSC staff and volunteers to consolidate processes and systems that will provide for the sustainability of these services. As in previous years, Florence Sofield applied enthusiasm, knowledge and passion as she assisted many of our older members and other clients through the maelstrom of the Aged Care system. Florence also assisted some of our younger clients obtain the assistance they needed and deserved. However, I also note that, as not all of these efforts obtained the outcomes we had hoped for, Peter and I referred a range of key issues to DVA for their consideration and, hopefully, some action.

Having celebrated its 15th birthday in February, the Eddison Day Club continued to support our older members and others from the general community who might otherwise be socially isolated. Led by Peter Sutton, a small group of volunteers provided this wonderful service despite several volunteers facing the effects of their own ageing. The Canberra Irish Club again willingly supported the Club. In calling for volunteers to reinforce this excellent capability, I also promote the information and entertainment that is on offer from the wide range of guest speakers who support our volunteers.

Due to other commitments, some of our regular schools were unable to attend the ANZAC and Peace Ceremony at Eddison Park. The Director-General of ACT Education, Ms Natalie Howson gave the opening address and presented the prizes. Lieutenant Colonel Rob Loftus provided the address on behalf of the NZ High Commissioner. The ACT Combined Schools Band provided musical support. Andre Bobets coordinated the ceremony and Greg Kennett coordinated the essay competition, the products of which continued to amaze those privileged to read or hear them. Now nearing its 30th year, this ceremony continues to provide an opportunity for our members to engage with the public, including the children and their parents, and with members of the general community.

At the ANZAC Eve Dinner, we formally welcomed our new Patron, HE the Hon Dame Annette King, who had recently taken over the reins from Mr Chris Seed as the New Zealand High Commissioner to Australia. In her address, Annette advised guests of her association with ANZAC Day, how and when she first became aware of its significance, and what the day itself and the ANZAC tradition means to her. As always, our members commemorated our friends who had passed away in the previous year and we rededicated ourselves to the objects of the Sub-Branch and the League especially as these promote the levels of wellbeing in our members and other veterans.

The three OGM Dinners attracted speakers who entertained and informed appreciative audiences comprising our members and their guests. Commodore Bob Morrison spoke of his experience as the Captain of HMAS Manoora as they accepted potential refugees from the MS Tampa and moved them to Nauru. In his last week as Chief of Airforce, Air Marshal Leo Davies spoke of his overall career and noted some of the recent developments within the RAAF.

He briefly highlighted how the three services were operating to provide the capabilities required by Government from the ADF. In our final dinner of 2019, Lieutenant Colonel Pat Cullinan spoke of his ascent of Mount Everest as part of an ADF team that had to earn the right to even start this quest, let alone to achieve that goal. These dinners continue to provide excellent opportunities to showcase our Sub-Branch and the services and support we provide to our members and the broader Veteran community in the ACT and region. They also have good recruiting potential.

Despite the potential impact of the Vietnam Veterans Federation holding its party at the CSCC at the same time as ours, we had an excellent Christmas lunch. Apart from the expected social interaction, we thanked our volunteers and staff, and inaugurated two of our senior citizens into the *Order-Of-Whatever-It-Is*. Two of our World War II veterans, Terry Colhoun and Les Cook, were surprised when they were named the 2019 recipients of this award that, while it has a light-hearted element, recognises the personal commitment of the recipients. Despite being in their mid-nineties, Terry and Les continued to support Sub-Branch activities during the year and both can readily be described as quiet but willing achievers who are an inspiration to all of us.

In January, Bill Spaven was awarded an Australia Day Medallion in recognition of his work for many years particularly with the Eddison Day Club. At the Branch Congress, in recognition of their extraordinary work with the Sub-Branch and other areas within the League, Ian Gollings and Bill Smith were presented with the Meritorious Service Medal, the League's highest award. Peter Eveille, Alec Phillips and Ross Smith were awarded 50 Year Membership Certificates.

Again, while the ANZAC and Remembrance Day appeals in 2019 provided only modest financial returns, we received some grants from DVA and the ACT Government. While falling well short of meeting our financial commitments, these funds encouraged our members to maintain their commitment to supporting our operations from our Asset Management Fund (AMF). Although members again recognised that the high level of drawdowns from the AMF are unsustainable, they agreed we needed to continue the operations of the Sub-Branch and the VSC.

Sadly, we again received no financial or other tangible support from the ACT Branch or other Branches. While the Board continued to canvass support from a variety of sources, we did not obtain any substantial or sustainable external support. We do, however, acknowledge the moral and financial support provided by the Queanbeyan and Yass Sub-Branches and from DFWA (ACT). We also note and appreciate the affirmations we received from many clients and other organisations during the year. It is worth noting that, from a total revenue pool of some \$480k, we spent more than \$240k in delivering Welfare services to our members and other clients from the broader Veteran Community.

For yet another year, Bob Cremer edited and produced four editions of *The Serviceman*. Bob continues to do an outstanding job as he also canvasses for articles and attends many events and functions from which he provided reports and photographs. We distributed *The Serviceman* to all of our members and other people and organisations who showed an interest in our activities. On behalf of the Board, I congratulate Bob and others who contribute to the preparation and distribution of this excellent magazine.

As one of our basic and important Sub-Branch tasks, we farewelled 26 of our members during the year and assisted more than 40 families with Funeral Tributes or other aspects of the bereavement process.

Throughout the year, the Sub-Branch continued to manage the Sub-Branch's business operations and governance requirements. I acknowledge the support of each director. I also highlight the support that each of our staff members provide to our members and those to whom we offer our support. Thank you, Joyce, Alex, Andrew, Lynnda, Florence and Rania; we could not have achieved as much as we did without your efforts and commitment.

In closing this report, I particularly thank the small but totally committed volunteers who supported our operations and the services we provided throughout another exciting and productive year. I note also that I expect that we will need to continue to expand the capacities of our capabilities if we are to continue to meet the demands of the Veteran Community in the ACT and region.

Land of My Forebears

Dedicated to Spr. C.A. Wright of Benalla, Victoria.

Oh! Land of my forebears, like lone beacon light
That shines unafraid in the darkness of night,
A bright gleam of hope in the black of despair -
Land of my fathers, I wish I was there.

To be there in your trouble, just so I could feel,
Your tungsten of thought that toughens your steel -
The steel of your courage - the faith never lost,
You weather the struggle, whatever the cost;
Though boughs may be broken, the trunk bears the strain,
And after the tempest they flourish again.

Land of my forebears - the downs and the wealds,
Quiet country lanes and the peaceful green fields;
The hills with their heather, the braes and the lochs -
The homeland of Taffy - have taken the shocks.
Like ramparts of granite - and tough are the Scotch.

Battles unequal you've won without stain -
And now you are fighting for freedom again.
No tyrant can conquer, no upstart displace,
The land of my forehears - the home of my race.

Written at Ferry's Post, Ismailia, Egypt
(From The Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels - and other verses...By Sapper Bert Beros)

Special Presentation to very Special Member

On Friday 25 September, Sub-Branch member Terri Lessels was presented with an “Australia Remembers 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War Certificate and Medal” for her service and contribution to the war effort and to the freedom of a Nation.



Deputy President Peter Eveille made the presentation reading from a letter written by Terri to the ‘Vets News’ about keeping in touch with Heidelberg and stating that she cannot believe it is 75 years old starting all that way back on 13 March 1941.

Terri’s nursing career commenced when she was posted to Broadmeadows Camp Hospital from RTO Liverpool in July 1944 as a VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) then transferring to 115 AGH Heidelberg under the supervision of Captain Roberts and Lt Judd, both AAMWS officers. I was as proud then as I am today being one of them. We worked extremely hard and for long hours but it didn’t matter as we were happy doing whatever we could for our boys.

I saw POWs returning, especially the Sisters. Sister Betty Jeffreys, who wrote ‘White Coolies’ and Sister Vivian Bullwinkle who later became my charge Sister. I worked in the Plastic Surgery Ward for Benny Rank, later Sir Benny Rank, Mr Wakefield and Mr G.D. Henderson (Air Force Dental), all wonderful surgeons who undertook the most amazing tasks. I remember one case, a young Airman John Gorton (horrific facial wounds) who later became Sir John Gorton, Prime Minister of Australia. Also Pte Edward Kenna VC who received his award in 1945.



Terri with Peter Eveille

It wasn’t all doom and gloom. I had the pleasure of meeting the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and years later, much to Matron Hanrahan’s delight the Queen and Prince Phillip when they visited in 1954. We also had great entertainment in the St John’s Theatre in Heidelberg. *(Terri did not provide any details of the great entertainment! Ed)*

We had many noted patients, Ivor Heal, Bill Dargie (War artist’s) Col Nelson Wellington (Lord Mayor of Essendon) and Field Marshall Sir Thomas Blamey, who, even though gravely ill received his baton on 16 September 1950, passing away in May 1951, and from whom our operating theatres take their name. This also included working in the Orthopaedics Ward nursing men in traction, burns victims and TB (Tuberculosis) cases.

>>>

Then to 113 AGH Concord and after that to Japan. In 1949, while serving at 130 AGH in Ita Jima, I was recommended by my Commanding Officer to undertake further training. This required a move back to 115 RGH Heidelberg in 1950. Training in the Nursing School, my tutor Sister (the best possible) Jean Murray, and under the very watchful eye of Matron Hanrahan MID, (ex Army) who finally retired in 1969 along with Katie Waite and Miss Critterdon.

In 1954, I completed my training with all certificates and that of various hospitals as well as that of my Army career to enter into a highly trained profession as Nursing Sister, 'My life's ambition fulfilled' a wonderful working life and a very rewarding career.

(An earlier story about Terri was in **The Serviceman**, Winter edition 2016, commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Heidelberg Hospital (1941-2016), where a commemorative plaque was unveiled by the Hon Member for the Victorian Electorate of Jagajaga, Jenny Macklin MP - Ed.)



Terri's certificate and with Sub-Branch Volunteer Lenche Kazan.



Peter Sutton, Bill Smith, Rania Kalimeris, Anthony John, Mick O'Donnell, Alex Solecka, Peter Eveille, your editor and Special Guest Terri Lessels.



Vietnam Veterans' Day 18th August 2020

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, a much revised programme for this years Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Service was held on Tuesday 18 August.

The programme was reduced in format and the number of attendees due to the pandemic and the ongoing requirement for social distancing.

However, the service was open to anyone, Veterans, Service and ex-Service representatives, family members, friends or anyone who normally attends the Service.

On completion of the Service attendees were invited to meet at the Ainslie Football Club.



Attending the ceremony on Tuesday, Peter Eveille AM with former Governor General Mike Jeffrey AC, CVO, MC and Mick O'Donnell

WO2 Matthew Rhodes GSM,
Jack Aaron OAM, Peter Eveille AM and
Mick O'Donnell





LEST WE FORGET

“The price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance”

*“They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them”.*



YE THAT HAVE FAITH

Ye that have faith to look with fearless eyes
Beyond the tragedy of a world at strife,
And know that out of death and night shall rise
The dawn of ampler life.

Rejoice, whatever anguish rend the heart,
That God has given you a priceless dower,
To live in these great times and have your part
In Freedom’s crowning hour.

That ye may tell your sons who see the light
High in the heavens - their heritage to take
“I saw the powers of Darkness put to flight
I saw the morning break”

*Lines found on a sheet of paper in the
pocket of a young Australian, who died in
the trenches at Gallipoli - evidently written
by him before he met his death.*



William Wright, Keith Sankey, Gwendoline Jackson,
Everard Cotterill, David Clinch, Rodney Gimble

Australia-Japan Reconciliation and Relationship

Mike Taylor

With reference to the marvellous work undertaken by Terry Colhoun AM, related by him at the 25 Feb 2020 OGM, and printed in the 2020 Winter Edition of *The Serviceman*, may I take the opportunity to relate similar activities by the RAN to enhance this peaceful relationship.

Terry's so worthwhile project, *Hand of Friendship*, "To effect a meaningful and lasting reconciliation between those who suffered in Australia and Japan as a result of wartime activities 1942-45" came to fruition in a ceremony at the Cowra War Cemetery in 2006. However, all Services had contributed to establishing peaceful and amicable relationships with Japan, notably through the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF) since 1945; and at supply bases in Japan for our forces during the Korean War.

Annually, from 1945, RAN warships visited Japanese ports on goodwill visits during the above operations; and then with the Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) deployments. These goodwill visits included official visits to and from local Japanese municipal dignitaries and formal onboard receptions to further reconciliation and relationships. At one such reception in Kobe (Osaka) in 1961, when serving in HMAS Vendetta, I was introduced to a Japanese Self Defence Force Naval Commander. In broken English, he happily and with pride and much gesticulation, told me that in his carrier borne aircraft, he had bombed Darwin! Speechless, and bemused, I simply requested (yet) another whiskey for the gentleman - for harmony.



More specific to the subject is the HMAS Kuttabul Memorial beside the shore at Garden Island Dockyard. This is to commemorate the 21 RAN and RN sailors who were killed when the vessel was torpedoed during the Japanese miniature submarine attack in Sydney Harbour.

The RAN also recognised the bravery of the four Japanese submariners recovered from the two submarines destroyed in the harbour. They were accorded a funeral with full naval honours

at Rookwood Cemetery, a gesture much appreciated in later years by the Japanese. The cremated remains of the submariners were returned to Japan two months later, in August 1942 as part of an arranged diplomatic exchange.

Annually, a Remembrance Ceremony takes place at the Kuttabul Memorial. Included in the group of senior civilian and military VIPs invited to the event are Japanese Consuls and Consul-Generals. They always attend and lay wreaths.

Social Arts Program 2/20 2nd Round - 16 Sep to 14 Oct

The second (very popular) Arts Program commenced on Wednesday 16 September and ran for five consecutive sessions and was attended by seven participants. This program was run by Margaret Hatfield at the Artists Shed in Fyshwick, with teachers Margaret and Julie-Anne Ure.



As previously occurred during the first sessions in March, students were taught colour mixing, drawing methods and a variety of painting techniques.



During the current COVID restrictions, social distancing dictated the number of students during this course. Due to the success of this program it is planned to hold further courses in the future.



Above, Peter Eveille addressing the gathered students with Margaret and Julie-Anne.

Artwork on display on the final day of the program and gathered students with President Jim Gilchrist, Margaret and Julie-Anne after the presentation of their certificates on completion of the course which was followed by a BBQ lunch.



When Tennant Street, Fyshwick was an Intelligence Station

With an enormous range of different businesses that call Fyshwick in Canberra home, the busy commercial hub has played a role in Australia's history since it was gazetted in the 1920s.

In 1942, what is now Tennant Street, was a naval auxiliary wireless station, which operated during part of World War II (until 1946), under Petty Officer Marion Stevens, who was the only woman in charge of a transmitting station at the time. Over its five years, 14 women from the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) operated the receivers for the strategic fixed radio links to Australia for Whitehall, Halifax and Bombay Fort.

Part of the Harman radio network, they used teleprinters when the reception was good, but during poorer radio propagation periods, morse code radiotelegraphy had to be used. After the war the Molonglo station became a dog training school before the buildings were demolished in the early '80s.

(A reprint of an article from the Canberra edition of the CityNews, July 30-August 5, 2020 and printed with the kind permission of the CityNews - Ed)



Sub-Branch Notices

Christmas Party	Wed 9 th Dec 12:00 for 12:30PM	CSCC Orion Room
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Closing date for the 2021 ANZAC Edition of 'The Serviceman' - Fri 19th Feb.

Closure of Sub-Branch Office over the Christmas/New Year Period

The Sub-Branch Office will close at Midday on Friday 18th December 2020,
reopening at 0900 on Monday 4th January, 2021.

	<p><i>Christmas Party</i> <i>Wednesday 9th December 2020</i> <i>Canberra Southern Cross Club</i> <i>Venue — "Orion Room"</i> <i>12.00 for 12.30PM - Dress Casual</i> <i>For Members & Partners Take special note of the time</i> <i>OOWII 'Gongs' should be worn.</i> Make a note in your diary for this year's Christmas event.</p>	
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***The Hon Darren Chester MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel
Media Release
Wednesday 30 September 2020***

The next step has been taken in the Federal Government's efforts to combat suicide in veterans and serving members of the ADF with the appointment of the interim National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel Darren Chester welcomed the announcement made by the Attorney-General Christian Porter today appointing Dr Bernadette Boss CSC in this important role. "The health and wellbeing of our veterans and ADF personnel is at the heart of the National Commissioner legislation and is part of the Government's commitment to putting veterans and their families first," Mr Chester said. "The appointment of an interim commissioner is a significant step forward as we work to ensure our personnel and veterans have the help they need, when and where they need it when it comes to their mental health."

"I congratulate Dr Boss on her appointment as the interim National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention who will start working to identify and understand the factors and systemic issues that may contribute to suicide risk and provide recommendations to improve prevention efforts. Dr Boss started her career as a nurse, completing a Bachelor of Science in London and later studying law. She had a distinguished military career and has held inquests and hearings into complex deaths, including suicides. As a current Magistrate and Coroner in the Australian Capital Territory, Dr Boss has the skills and expertise to examine these tragic instances of ADF and veteran suicides to understand practical actions to reduce suicide risk."

This announcement builds on the Government's ongoing commitment to support the mental health and wellbeing of veterans and their families, including funding free mental health care for any mental health condition, improvements to transition and employment support, and assistance to those veterans particularly at risk.

"The Government is providing psychiatric assistance dogs for veterans with PTSD as a supplement to clinical mental health treatment - a program that veterans and their family members are telling me is changing their lives and saving lives, and we continue to roll out a national program of more than 45 Open Arms Peer Workers who connect with veterans and family members who may be struggling with their mental health, bringing a lived experience of mental health issues and, importantly, of recovery," Mr Chester said. >>>

“We have also invested in the Coordinated Client Support program to identify veterans at risk before they transition out of service and provide them with a single point of contact as well as delivering increased employment support for ADF members looking for career development and job placement support as they set up for civilian life. In June, the Government extended the provisional Access to Medical Treatment Program, which delivers medical treatment to veterans for the top 20 most commonly accepted conditions while their claim is being considered, and the Wellbeing and Support Program, which provides intensive face-to-face case management services for highly vulnerable veterans who are transitioning or who have complex needs.”

While legislation is currently before the Parliament to establish the role permanently, the National Commissioner will begin important work to strengthen our efforts toward suicide prevention, including conducting an independent review of past Defence and veteran suicides. Following the passage of legislation, the National Commissioner will have enduring power, scope and resources to inquire into deaths by suicide, and will support future wellbeing and suicide prevention efforts, by identifying the needs for any system-wide reforms, or new approaches to support ADF members and veterans.

“The National Commissioner will make recommendations to the Government about actions and strategies to prevent future suicides, and will report publicly on their findings to Parliament each year,” Mr Chester said. “The Government will be required to report on the progress of these recommendations, and the National Commissioner will have an ongoing role in monitoring the implementation of the recommendations it makes.”

For more information on how the Australian Government is supporting veterans and their families, visit dva.gov.au.

Open Arms - Veterans & Families Counselling provides free and confidential support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Help is available 24/7 on 1800 011 046 (international +61 1800 011 046 or +61 8 8241 4546) or visit www.OpenArms.gov.au.

For further information on the National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention, visit www.nationalcommissionerdvsp.gov.au.

Media Contacts:
Rachel Tharratt: 02 6277 7820
DVA Media: 02 6289 6466



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



***Audience with Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal and
Australian Second World War veteran Mr Les Cook***

In the lead up to the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal held a video call with Second World War veteran Mr Les Cook. During the call, Les regaled Her Royal Highness with his experiences serving as a Corporal in the Australian Army from 1940 to 1947. The backdrop for the zoom call was a Second World War gallery at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Mr Cook was introduced to The Princess Royal by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Liz Cosson AM CSC, and the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Matt Anderson PSM. DVA Secretary Liz Cosson said Les was in fine form and thoroughly enjoyed sharing his experiences. "It was truly humbling to hear Les share his memories from the War with Princess Anne," Ms Cosson said. "We only have around 12,000 Second World War veterans with us today, from the one million Australians who served, and Les is truly one in a million."

AWM Director Matt Anderson said it was a privilege to place the call to Gatcombe Park from the Australian War Memorial. "Her Royal Highness is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals and she was keen to hear of Les's experiences as a Signaller during the war," Mr Anderson said, "That call took place from the War Memorial in the lead up to the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War and was truly an honour."

Born in England, Les enlisted in the 2nd AIF in May 1940 soon after his 17th birthday. Having learnt telegraphy at night-school in civil life, he was posted to the 1st Australian Corps as a signaller and sent to the Middle East. Les served in the campaigns in the Western Desert, Greece, Crete and Syria before returning to the Pacific to defend Australia as part of the Owen Stanley campaign in PNG. Les described walking the Kokoda track as a process of climbing "never ending hills with a multitude of heartbreaking false crests. When we got to the top of each one, too tired to take off our equipment, we just collapsed on the ground as we were".

After the war ended Les served in Japan for a year as a part of the Australian contingent of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF). More than one million Australians served during the Second World War and Australia owes them a great deal of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

***Vision of the call is available to download at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=londxKIC4A>***



The Corey Room Video Launch

Tuesday 27 October 2020

Bob Cremer

The launch of *THE COREY ROOM Video* was the culmination of a project commenced almost 30 years ago by past presidents, Alex Reynolds and Bill Smith. Tragically Alex did not survive to see the results of his and Bill's final efforts. A 30-minute video produced by David Jenkins (Ghetto Media) was launched by President Jim Gilchrist to the attending members and invited guests. On the video, speeches were made by Jim Gilchrist and Bill Smith with the official dedication by former AWM Director, Dr Brendan Nelson, and the blessing by the Rev Mick O'Donnell.

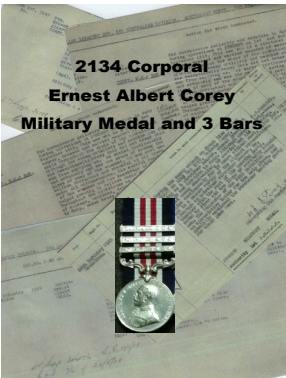


Unfortunately this opening had to be smaller than what had been originally planned due to COVID restrictions but those who attended enjoyed the very professional video. Also attending was local author and historian Nichole Overall who has been writing a history of Ernie and the Corey family which she has planned for publication in 2021. To assist with social distancing, the video was simultaneously relayed to another television in Room 36, our recently acquired 'Training Room'.





A very successful launch for the Corey Room and of significant benefit to the Sub-Branch as a meeting, relaxing room and a location for members to enjoy a coffee and a chat. Arrangements for today's event was due to The Corey Team, comprising Mick O'Donnell, Bill Smith, Anthony John, Peter Sutton and Bob Cremer with AJ also taking on the role of curator of the Corey Room library.



The publication about Ernie Corey was almost completed by Alex at the time of his death. Fortunately, his son-in-law Bob Cox took over and completed the task.

A file photo of Alex with his former RSM David Adams at the ANZAC Eve dinner in 2019.



An excellent photo of Alex with long time ago Office Manager Henda Coetzer at an ADFA Open Day in April 2013.

Alex was a Sub-Branch stalwart and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.





AIR FORCE 100 - Centenary of Air Force

On 31 March 2021, the Royal Australian Air Force will mark 100 years as an independent service. This is an important time to reflect on our enduring contribution to Australia's national security.

In 2021, Air Force will reach out to the Australian Nation with an exciting program of selected events and initiatives. There will be a specific focus on youth engagement. Our campaign will:

- honour the service and sacrifices of our people during the last 100 years
- engage the Australian community and demonstrate today's highly capable force, and,
- inspire young Australians to consider the range of opportunities in a future networked force.

Planning for the Centenary is gathering pace. To coincide with the Avalon 2019 Australian International Airshow, we released our first Centenary video which highlights our enduring support to the nation: Then. Now. Always.

What's next? Our next steps in planning for 2021 will be to:

- explore options for youth engagement activities,
- continue discussions with Defence industry on potential partnerships for initiatives,
- meet State and Territory Government tourism and major events agencies to discuss options for Air Force involvement in significant public events during 2021, and
- develop options for local activities at RAAF bases.

Air Force has come a long way in the first 100 years. Imagine what the next century will bring! Stay updated: To connect with the centenary planning team, or to sign up to receive updates: email: airforce.2021@defence.gov.au

From Humour in Uniform Jokes and Anecdotes from the War Years.

As Japanese bombs fell on Darwin in 1942, a local hospital was being hastily evacuated. The Doctor in charge was about to leave when he noticed the Matron rummaging through a drawer in her room. "Doctor! Doctor! she called in a panic, "I can't find my teeth."
"Come at once Matron!" he replied sharply. "It's bombs they're dropping - not sandwiches!"

Winston Churchill was walking among smoking ruins after a heavy air raid when an old woman greeted him. He asked how she felt after the night of horror.
"Well, there's one thing about these air raids," she replied, "They do tend to take your mind off the war."

The Unknown Soldier

Jerry Cole

This year 2020 AD marks the centenary of his entombment into the historic Westminster Abbey. We would do well to remember the sacrifice that he and countless others endured on this November 11th. The following pages are the honest gleanings from two sets of papers on the subject that I hold safe! The papers I have were intended for an actement as a tableau by a group of likeminded people 50 years ago, but for one reason or another they never performed their intentions and upon the death of one interested person, his papers came into my possession. I 'undid the tableau' and made a story of the event. I have not changed history but claim to be recognised as the Presenter of this work.

'The Unknown Soldier'

At Rest in Westminster Abbey

What claim did he have to be there?

Who decided that it should be him?

When did it happen?

How did he arrive there?

Between the Parades and Poppies, among the Promises and Prayers, there is a special casket in the ancient Abbey of Westminster. Inside, at rest, is the body of the Unknown Soldier! Of this soldier we know nothing and in the silence we reflect. The silence is profound. His symbolism is imperishable. He is the emblematic tribute given to a Nation in everlasting gratitude we accept the gift. He represents all those who lost their lives in the carnage of war. The Great War of 1914-1918 was his ending and beginning!

How did the war come about? The flash point would seem to be June 28, 1914 when heir-apparent to the Austrian Hungarian Empire and his wife were slain the streets of Sarajevo by a Bosnian Serb. Within weeks, more than 100 declarations of war were entered into by countries or states aligned with or against each other. Britain with her Empire took the side of France against Germany and her allies. Britain immediately sent an Expeditionary Force of troops to the Flanders Salient where it was brutally mauled by a well trained German Army. How the British recovered to renew the fighting is well documented and is not part of this story.

A Prologue: Since time began Kings and Great Chiefs as well as illustrious and celebrated individuals have been laid to rest on their deaths in magnificent configurations, which exists even to this day, paying homage and respect to those within, or to their memory. That one Unknown individual might ever have been given such as honour is not recorded. That is until Captain David Railston MC, a Padre in the British Army walking through the battlefield of Armentieres in NE France came upon a newly thrown up mound of earth which he would recognise as a grave, and spied a hastily made cross with the words pencilled on it, this simple message:

"Unknown Soldier of the Black Watch"

The Black Watch is of course a distinguished Regiment within the British Army. The scene must have become engraved on the mind of this Chaplain and with the passage of time he formed the idea that one day in the future, a soldier - a British Soldier, would become the figure to represent all who died in war and perhaps symbolise the hope that it never happen again. >>>

Because of conditions and circumstances he was unable to promote this idea until 1920 when he confided his thoughts to the Dean of Westminster, The Right Reverend Herbert Boyle. Captain Railston began his interview with the Dean with determined confidence that a soldier - an unknown British Soldier, a casualty of the just concluded war, should be placed in the company of the Nations illustrious and celebrated persons and there rest in honourable dignity.

With hindsight the Chaplain could not have chosen a more supportive and sympathetic listener than the Dean who, with some eloquence was able to plead the cause to the Government of the day, who having listened then accepted the proposition and acted most promptly. A committee was formed and presided over by Lord Curzon, the Foreign Minister who immediately gave instructions that arrangements be put in place to bring out of France the body of one unknown soldier, and that the body should be then taken to Westminster Abbey. One can only now imagine what fine tuning was required to effect the happenings, and protocols needed to bring all the details to a satisfactory conclusion. There was a recommendation that His Majesty King George V be asked if, after having unveiled the newly erected Cenotaph in Whitehall, would he, as Chief Mourner follow the gun carriage bearing the body of the Unknown Soldier to Westminster Abbey? The King graciously accepted. The Government gave no indications as to what ceremonial and pageantry was to be applied in getting the body to England and it might never have become known but for Brigadier J. Wyatt DSC who had his letter to the Daily Telegraph published, describing at least the retrieval procedures of the body.

Brigadier Wyatt was the Officer in Charge of all British troops in France and Flanders in the year 1920, as well as the Director of the War Graves Commission who acknowledged that he did receive instructions from London, ordering him to organize the exhumation of 6 bodies of British/ Dominion soldiers, one from each of six Battlefield grave sites, all of whom should be unable to identify either by name or rank. The Battlefields so selected were namely: The Aisne; Marne; Arras; Cambrai; The Somme and Ypres. This recovery was carried out on the night of 8/9 November and each body individually brought to and placed at the Hut in the precincts of the Church at St Pol. The party bringing each body was immediately ordered to return to its own district from where that body had come from. This would ensure that the choice eventually made would be uninfluenced in any detail. As each body arrived by ambulance to St Pol, it was received by The Reverend George Kendall OBE. The six bodies now on stretchers were carried into a wooden building and draped with a Union Jack. A military guard secured the door. And so it was that at midnight Brigadier Wyatt accompanied by a Colonel Gell entered the hut which housed the bodies. The Brigadier was blindfolded before entry to the Hut proper, then turned toward that direction where each body lay. The first body he touched would become The Unknown Soldier. With Colonel Gell's assistance the chosen body was placed in that wooden shell structure and the lid firmly screwed down!

The Brigadier states firmly, "I had no idea from which area the body chosen came from; and no one else can know!" The remaining bodies were taken to the Military Cemetery at St Pol and reburied. A military guard was placed at the door of the Hut and no one was allowed entry. What now follows is an understanding of subsequent events of happenings and ceremonies involving the body of "The Unknown Soldier" during his last hours in France. This is not part of Brigadier Wyatt's publication in the Daily Telegraph.

>>>

The next morning, Chaplains of the Church of England, The Roman Catholic and various Non Conformist Churches held a combined meeting of prayers in the Hut. At midday, The Reverend Kendall accompanied the body to the port of Bolougne under escort. On arrival at the port the escort carried the body into the ancient Castle which was the Regional HQ of the French Army. There it was received by Colonel Bostock, Colonel Gell, Major Fitzsimmons, Major Diebold of France and Monsieur Labeau, the Sub Prefect of the district. Eight British soldiers stepped forward as bearers of the body. They included a Sergeant Major of the RASC, a Sergeant of the Royal Artillery, a NCO of the Royal Engineers, a Private from each of the Canadian Infantry and Machine Gun Corps, an Australian Lighthorseman as well as a Rifleman from the London Regiment (1st Surrey). The library to house the body had been especially adapted into a Chapel with French Gendarmes lining its corridors. These Gendarmes furnished the night vigil. The honour of keeping safe the Unknown Soldier was accorded to France alone.

At noon the next day the body, which had been laid in the rough wooden shell like structure was now placed into a stately "Hampton Oak" coffin presented by The British Undertakers Association and bore the inscription: "A British Soldier who fell during the Great War 1914-1918 for King and Country". This coffin, which was to be his for eternity had wrought iron bands through which had been inserted a Crusaders Sword from the collection housed in the Tower of London. The coffin was now placed on to a French Military wagon drawn by seven black magnificent horses and with a French escort was conducted to the Quay at Bolougne where a warship of the Royal Navy awaited. The cortege was said to have been a mile long and included a whole Division of French Troops who were paying their final respects to this unknown soldier of Britain. Marshall Foch, who represented the French Nation gave a moving speech. General Sir George MacDonagh representing the King replied. General Weygand and other distinguished French and British Officers were present.

The following describes the movement of the Unknown Soldier from France to Britain. The Admiralty had sent the Destroyer, HMS Verdun to Bolougne. The ship was named as a tribute to that city in France, to honour the complete loss of an Army in memorium! Aboard the Destroyer, the bearers of the coffin laid it on the stern deck of the gun platform protecting the Port side of the ship. Six barrels of earth, one from each battlefield were carried onboard. This earth would be placed in the tomb at interment and signify that the Unknown Soldier would in part rest on French soil. As HMS Verdun moved away from the Quay, a Guard of Blue Jackets came to the Present Arms salute while field guns of the French Army on shore delivered a volley of gunfire as a Farewell Salute. Six RN Destroyers now took station to escort HMS Verdun across the English Channel and into the harbour of Dover as 19 guns from the heights of Dover Castle fired a Welcome Salute. 6 Warrant Officers from the RN, Royal Marines, British Army and RAF now acted as bearers. They themselves were escorted by 6 Commissioned Officers from all Services. Sir George MacDonagh, the Kings Personal Representative followed the body ashore. He was attended by The Mayor of Dover and Officers of that Corporation where it was received at Dover Marine Railway Station by a Guard of the 2nd Connought Rangers as well as the Duke of York Military School.

It was more than an hour before the train moved on its journey to London. Four sentries stood guard for the journey, and in an adjoining carriage an escort of 1 Officer and 15 other ranks were assembled. The body remained on the train until dawn whilst in London. >>>

With the arrival of morning, the coffin left the train and the escort duties taken over by the 1st Battalion of the Grenadier Guards. The coffin was now draped with the Union Jack and dressed with a regulation Army steel helmet, a webbing belt and side arms. The coffin was now ceremoniously laid upon a Gun Carriage and led by a Firing Party. The combined massed Military Bands of the Coldstream Welsh and Irish Guards were in attendance. All were given the command to slow march on the journey to Whitehall and the Cenotaph in the company of Empire troops. The Pall Bearers for this procession were Sir Hedworth Meax; Earle Beatty; Lord Byron; Lord Horn; General Gatliff; Sir Henry Jackson; Sir Charles Dadden; Sir Henry Wilson; Earle Haig; Lord French; Lord Methewen and Sir Hugh Trendiard. At the Cenotaph the procession was halted. His Majesty King George V stepped forward and placed his personal wreath of mourning, consisting of Red Roses and Bay Leaves on the coffin of the Unknown Soldier. After one minutes silence the gun carriage moved off, the King as Chief Mourner took his place immediately behind. He was followed by the Prince of Wales; the Duke of York Prince Henry; the Duke of Connought; the Marquis of Milford Haven; Mr Asquith; Mr Lloyd George; Lord Curzon; Lord Byron; Dr Bonor Law and Ministers of state.

It is only with hindsight can we imagine the colour and pageantry and solumn majesty of the occasion! It was now that the Unknown Soldier could be felt to represent the Nation in its sorrow. There were no cheers, no clapping of hands, no waving of flags. This was, for everyone a reflection of War and its consequences. The gun carriage and coffin arrived at the doors of Westminster Abbey, the coffin removed by the pallbearers of Non-Commissioned officers of the Guards and borne into the Sacred Hall, passing through 2 rows of Victoria Cross holders, all under the command of Colonel Fry VC. To the rear were widows and mothers who themselves represented all families of the fallen dead! The Monarchs Queen Mary, her daughter, The Princess Royal as well as King Edwards widow Queen Alexander, the two Queens of Spain and Norway were already seated in the Abbey. The Bishop of Westminster Abbey, Bishop Boyle conducted the service. Music chosen for the service was by English composers and included Kipling's 'Recessional'. During the singing of Lead Kindly Light by the choir and congregation, the bearers of the Unknown Soldier removed the helmet and side arms from his coffin. At the completion of the singing, the Unknown Soldier was lowered into the prepared Tomb. At the commital, His Majesty King George V scattered the earth from those 6 battlefields into the Tomb. At the conclusion of a long roll of drums, the Last Post was sounded followed by Reveille played by a solitary bugler. Then the 2 lines of Victoria Cross holders filed slowly past the Unknown Soldier's Tomb. The service was the mourning of the Nation. The Honours paid to the Unknown soldier were those befitting a Field Marshall. On **ARMISTICE DAY**, We should remember him!

The Inscription on the Tomb reads:

“Beneath this stone lies the body of a British Warrior unknown by name or rank, brought here on Armistice Day, November 11, 1920 in the presence of His Majesty King George V, his Ministers of State, The Chief of His Forces and a vast concourse of the Nation, thus are commemorated the many multitudes who died during the Great War of 1914-1918 and gave the most that any man can give, life itself, for God, for King and Country, for loved ones, home and Empire, for the sacred course of justice and the Freedom of the World.

They buried him among Kings because he had done good toward God and his House”.

Lieutenant ‘Sonny’ Francis Patrick Laracy MM
1892-1918
Mick O’Donnell



On 16 October 2020 the Australian War Memorial held a Last Post Ceremony to recognise one of Australia’s heroes of World War I. This rare honour to recognise those who died during war-time situations, rather than those who returned to Australia and died of normal causes.

Lieutenant ‘Sonny’ Francis Patrick Laracy MM, my grand uncle.

‘Sonny’ was an only son, born of Irish parents at Toowoomba in 1892. He boarded at St Stanislaus College, Bathurst for his senior education, and began studies in pharmacy at Sydney University before enlisting as a Private in the AIF in 1914 with service number 121 in the 1st Field Ambulance, B Squadron, sailing from Sydney on the HMT Euripides on 20 October 1914. The ship joined the dozens of transports that carried around 20,000 troops from NZ and Australia that had assembled at Albany. They sailed to Colombo, then Aden arriving in Alexandria for assembly, assimilation and training before deployment to the Dardanelles. They landed on that infamous beach at what is now known as ANZAC Cove. Later he was promoted to Sergeant, then received a field commission for his courageous efforts.

The dedication, read at the Memorial stated that ‘Sonny’ served in Gallipoli and France for the greater part of four years, wounded three times and spent time in Le Havre in France for medical treatment and Bristol hospital in England. ‘Sonny’ survived and it would have been wonderful if he had returned to his beloved family in Australia but fate decreed otherwise. Granted leave in August 1918, he decided to visit his extended family in Ireland, and hopefully return to Australia. We know now that talk of an armistice was being drawn up to end the war.

He travelled on RMS Leinster, leaving Kingstown (now Dun Laoghaire) heading on 10 Oct 1917 for Holyhead Anglesey, Wales carrying 771 passengers, mostly military men on leave. Shortly before 10:00, about 16 miles from Kingstown, torpedoes from German submarine UB-123 struck the Leinster, sinking the ship within minutes, bow first. I am personally abhorred by this blatant use of opportunism, and can’t imagine how the UB-123 captain and his family lived with this evil in later years although there were some apologetic postings. Around 564 souls died in the following hours, sucked down by the sinking, or perished in the icy waters until help arrived. Lieutenant ‘Sonny’ Laracy’s body was never recovered. He was only 26 years old.

>>>



His mother, Joanna was presented with Sonny's Military Medal by the Queensland Governor, Sir William Birdwood in Toowoomba the following year. The citation stated that:

'His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Military Cross in recognition of his gallantry and devotion to duty in the field'.

His name is recorded on the Hollybrook Memorial at Southampton, and revered by Saint Stanislaus College who have a perpetual award for student excellence. More information is available by searching Francis Patrick Larcy online. The AWM Last Post Ceremony was attended by family friends, twelve students from Saint Stanislaus College and many family members who have not met for many years.



Students from Saint Stanislaus College Bathurst, wreath laying ceremony, the AWM Director Matt Anderson PSM with Mick O'Donnell, his wife Cora, and invited guests, and the Polish contingent honouring Sonny's schooling at St Stanislaus College, Bathurst 1908-1910. St Stanislaus is the patron saint of Poland.

Rev Mick O'Donnell's 5th novel, *The Toowoomba Belle*, which features 'Sonny' Larcy is due for publication in 2021.

See www.mickodonnellonline.com



75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War ESO Round Table (ESORT)

The 15th August 2020 marks the date of the end of the Second World War. To acknowledge this significant anniversary, as well as of all those who served during this war, the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Darren Chester MP, have launched the *#OneinAMillion* campaign.

The *#OneinAMillion* is a communications initiative to raise awareness in the community about the over one million Australians who served during the Second World War. It has two elements;

- * *#OneinAMillion; Wall of Respect* - a social media wall of photographs, and,
- * *Hearing their stories* - a series of eight compelling interviews in the form of short animated videos that share moments of inspiration and courage.

We are seeking support for the *#OneinAMillion* Wall of Respect project by encouraging members to post a photo to their social media wall of them holding a photograph of a family member who served in the Second World War, and use the hashtag *#OneInAMillion*.

Since June 2 this year, the Minister has also been posting a daily social media series, *75 days, 75 stories*, about Australians who lived through the Second World War, from those who served to the many who contributed on the home front. I would appreciate your assistance in communicating this information to your members, and encouraging their involvement in sharing an image for the '*#OneInAMillion; Wall of Respect*' and listening to the video and social media series:

www.dva.gov.au/oneinamillion.

Attached are social media graphics and the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War branding guidelines and files to assist with any promotional activities. This branding can be used with the words 'Australia Remembers' or be tailored to reflect the organisation, for example, "Braidwood RSL Remembers".

I greatly appreciate your assistance with promotion of this important anniversary.

Also of interest to your members may be the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (IGADF) Afghanistan Inquiry. Information on the Inquiry and support available to those impacted by it can be found on the new website: <https://afghanstaninquiry.defence.gov.au>.



**COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION
AND CERTIFICATE OF COMMEMORATION**



**Available to every
living veteran of the
Second World War**



**75th Anniversary
End of the
Second World War**
Australia Remembers 2020

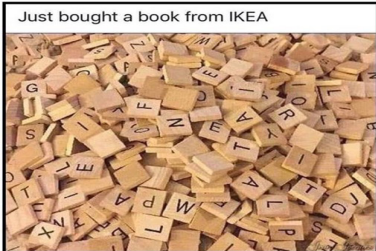
Apply now at www.dva.gov.au or call 1800 838 372. #OneInAMillion

**WALL OF
RESPECT**

#OneInAMillion

Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

75th Anniversary
End of the
Second World War
Australia Remembers 2020



**Paranoia has reached
absurd stages...**

**I sneezed in front of
my laptop and the
anti-virus started a
scan on its own**

Things that go bump in the night

Les Cook

It had been found that conventional bombs - and artillery shells, for that matter - dropped on swampland were less effective than they had been say in the western Desert. By the time the bomb or shell exploded in the soft mud it was entirely below the surface of the ground with the result that the fragmentation occurred underground and did little damage. To overcome this problem, the Americans had developed an aerial bomb they called "Parafrag". As the name implies it was a fragmentation bomb that had its descent to earth slowed down by a small parachute, which meant that it would not be buried when it exploded. Because of its slow travel speed this bomb's detonator required only a soft bump to activate it. I don't know the exact size of the bomb. I only saw one once and that was not much more than a brief glance. From memory I think it was a metal cylinder about one metre long and a 10cm diameter.

I don't know if it was officially recognized, but we did see evidence that there could be risks to the aircrew in dropping this bomb. A flight of A20s (a twin-engine American attack aircraft) came in one morning when there was a sudden flash in the sky, an explosion, and one of the aircraft disappeared. We were told that the bomb parachute had hooked on to the tailplane causing the bomb to strike the aircraft body with disastrous results. The village of Gona on the north coast of PNG was one of the places the Japanese landed in July 1942 in their overland attempt to take Port Moresby. Gona has the sea on one side and otherwise is almost surrounded by low-lying swampland. It is, therefore, the very essence of the reason for which the Parafrag bomb had been designed.

After crossing the Owen Stanley Range on the way back after the retreat from Kokoda in September 1942, we had contacted the Japanese forward defence positions at Gona, I think on 19 November. The battle for Gona raged almost continuously until 8 December when it finally fell. Such had been the intensity of the close quarter fighting that neither side had been able to bury their dead. While some of our people immediately headed west to contain the Japanese forces there, the rest of us spent the next three days burying the dead of both sides. It was a experience that none of us can ever forget. Engaged on this task, the group I was with had boiled the billy and sat down under a large shady tree to have a break. A slight yet gusty wind was blowing. We immediately became aware of a soft bumping sound above us and sought to find the cause. Prior to sitting down we had looked only at the shade provided by the tree; we had not looked up in its branches. The thing causing the sound turned out to be a Parafrag bomb. The parachute was caught in a branch of the tree leaving the bomb hanging freely close to the trunk about four metres above the ground. The bumping sound occurred as the intermittent gusts of wind caused the swaying bomb to contact the trunk.

Knowing the history of the bomb, and its super-sensitive detonator, it goes without saying that we did not stay under that tree. Grabbing our weapons, tools, and the billycan we departed promptly and informed the officer in charge. I don't know how the bomb was disposed of, but it certainly would not just have been left hanging there. As is usually the case, it takes longer to tell a story than it does for the event to take place. I can't guarantee the accuracy of the technical details in this. Most are merely what we had been told, but they do appear to be logical.

Canberra Southern Cross Club



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For the information of members and guests

Eddison Day Club Report *Peter Sutton - Co-ordinator*

Along with most of the social activities at the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch and elsewhere, the Day Club had to cease meetings on Friday 13 March 2020.

As mentioned in the last edition of *The Serviceman*, we established a 'telephone-tree' to maintain contact with members and volunteers. Several members and volunteers were allocated up to eight others to call on a regular basis to ascertain how they were coping and find out if they needed further support. This system has been working well. Unfortunately since we ceased meeting in March we have had six of our older members die. Some of the funerals were restricted to small numbers that we were unable to attend, which was sad. An RSL tribute was performed by the Sub-Branch for two who were ex-Service veterans. One of our most loved members, Mr 'Tiddy' Wigeratne died in early July. He would have been 97 on 19 August. His son, Asoka sent a beautiful card in appreciation of what we do at the Day Club and what it means to have this outlet for so many of our members and volunteers. You can read the words at the end of this report.

Starting about ten weeks ago, several of our members and volunteers from the Day Club have been meeting at the Canberra Irish Club for lunch on Fridays. Sometimes we have 12 and on other days up to 15 participants. The Irish Club has very strict controls on hygiene, 'social distancing' and contact tracing measures in place to keep everyone safe and comfortable. The widows of two of our members have been attending the luncheon for the last few weeks. This is welcome as they both had spent a considerable amount of time as carers before the recent death of their husbands. Discussions have commenced with the management of the Irish Club in regards to the possibility of the Day Club being able to recommence meeting again from the middle of January next year. However, we will not be able to resume the way we did before the closure in March. We will have to re-think about maintaining 'social distancing', service of morning tea and lunch and various other things that have happened since things were 'normal'.

Dear Eddison Day Club Members,

A brief note to say thanks to all of you. My father, Tiddy enjoyed the meetings he attended very much. In fact, it was one of the highlights of his week. I am not certain who introduced him to your club. Whoever made the introduction, I am grateful. Today, the 19th August, Tiddy would have been 97. Next year, 2021, would have been his 50th year in his adopted country of residence.

*All through his life he did things his way. The final decision he made was no different. That decision was to stop all medication as he felt the quality of life was not what he enjoyed. Thanks again for the friendship you all provided. I shall miss him immensely
Best Wishes, Asoka (Son) 19 Aug 2020*

Memories from the past

New member Ailsa Brooke

On 10 February 1952, I signed on the dotted line and became a member of the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service, WRANS, with the Official Number of 4217. This was much against my father's WWI army tradition. My mother's comment; "the discipline will do her good".

The train trip across the Nullabor started from Perth at 6:00PM on a Monday evening and ended in Melbourne at lunch time on Friday! It was vastly different to the magnificent train of today. All the tiny settlements dotted across the line had a local pub, and those in need were off across the paddock even before the train stopped, and not returning until the supplies, the train carried for the inhabitants, had been unloaded and the engine driver blew the whistle at least three times to get them all back onboard about one and a half hours later. This happened at every stop. I'm sure a lot of them didn't remember a thing about that trip. Later, after training I was posted to HMAS Harman, so it was on to another train to reach Canberra.

There were eight of us from WA and after all these years I'm still in touch with three of them. One became a nun in a convent in South Australia, and has been there for the past fifty years. I have to say that she was no angel with many a "good night out with the girls", to remind her of her time in the WRANS. A great person and a lovely friend. Now in her 90's, she is still in touch with the ex-WRANS in Western Australia.

I finally arrived at Flinders Naval Depot, along with a group of like-minded innocents, to begin training and get kitted out. The number one shock was the 'shorts' issued for sport, very plain and easy to see why they became known as "passion killers". Most of us were to be trained as telegraphists. Learning Morse Code was another shock and a trial, but after months of training we were deemed fit to be sent to Canberra and HMAS Harman which became 'home' from then on. I had hardly settled into watch-keeping life and the Canberra winters when the Petrov Affair erupted and things became interesting. I have read books on the subject which went into much more detail than we had at the time. I had just celebrated my 21st birthday and Albert Hall had dancing. I had lots of friends and we all had a great social life. This included picnics at Old Adaminaby before it was drowned, and trips to the snow-fields to try and learn how to ski, but THAT never happened. Who cared about about a couple of Russians and their troubles when life was so good.

The Russian troubles gave you an awful shock as you walked past the Embassy on the way to Kingston! Huge black dogs, loose in the Embassy grounds rushed to the fence scaring the living daylight out of you, with great success. Not too much was relayed to us in the General Service and of course you just didn't ask your mates in 'the other lot', so a lot of it passed us by. Newsreels (no TV yet) at the movies in Kingston showed us Mrs Petrov being manhandled in Darwin. We all had sympathy for her but she was 'saved' by an Air Hostess from boarding the plane. We all hoped she managed to find her other shoe. And so, the Petrov drama passed. Books have filled in a lot for me that we never knew, or maybe we were just too young and trying to do well with our ship/shore work to be bothered too much.

>>>

I remember answering a call from Darwin to say the first Japanese ship since the war was seen in Darwin waters and 'sitreps' came regularly from Coonawarra which I had to decode for the Petty Officer of the Watch. To me, this was better and more interesting than the Petrovs! Besides, I enjoyed the decoding and even got to use the old (now) Typex Machine. I vividly remember working the Queen's ship "Gothic" on ship-shore and took great pride in getting the message RIGHT! That was a lovely memory but losing a submarine for a few hours while we hunted for a misplaced signal I had taken was not so lovely. Pure panic set in and I imagined all sorts of horror scenarios. But it was found, and so was the submarine. Life settled back comfortably again.

That was until the RNZN Ship "Pukaki" (don't laugh!!) crossed the Tasman to Brisbane on its way to the tail end of the Korean War and I hitched a ride with the RAAF to become engaged to Bill (Radio Tech onboard) and who became my husband for 61 years. We had met at a ship's company dance in Flinders and I was surprised when letters from him began to arrive and things just went on from there. With a name like "Pukaki", a Loch Class Frigate, you can imagine the ribbing and comments I got back at Harman. My mother, always insisted on referring to the ship as the "Kakipu". She never liked telling friends or the rest of the relations the real name of the ship.

Another thing that sticks in my mind about Canberra was the kindness of motorists who would always stop and give us a lift into town as buses were very few and far between. One night a friend and I were on our way to a dance at the Albert Hall, with dresses over our arms. We always had to leave and enter Harman in uniform. A van stopped and offered us a lift, so we got into the back of it and could hear them laughing. They duly delivered us to Albert Hall and we soon found out why they were laughing. We got out of the Black Maria under the very well-let portico for all to see. Great dance though.

Bill managed to get leave from the RNZN in January 1955, so my discharge was arranged, as was the rule then, and I had the very sad task of saying goodbye to so many friends. At least all the West Aussies were on Christmas leave so we had plenty of friends on our big day. Bill had to be back onboard in a few days so we flew to New Zealand a few days later and met my NZ family for the first time and knew how Bill must have felt when he was thrown into the middle of mine.

He was drafted to the NZ equivalent (at that time) of Harman, which was HMNZS Irirangi, at Waiouru, in the centre of the North Island, an area known as the White Desert, and if you think Canberra is cold in winter, do go to Waiouru to find out how wrong you are! I spent five happy years in NZ before Bill was discharged and he decided to go to Aussie to be involved in the maintenance of TV which had yet to hit NZ. Then he got into tracking stations, with firms contracted to NASA, and so began a whole new and interesting life for us and our two children while he, and the team tracked Apollo, many satellites and met NASA astronauts like Walter Shirra when they came to Carnarvon to report back to the US on actual operations. Carnarvon was really 'something else'. Someone described it as 'miles and miles of nothing', and they weren't too far wrong. Three years later it came to an end and we all moved on. I will never forget the many friendships forged in the WRANS and when there is an opportunity to get together the years between roll away and we are all back at Harman. Thank you for the opportunity to share some of my memories and I'm sure so many of you have similar ones.

A Special Tribute to the Parker Family

After the death of his wife Wendy in March, and due to COVID restrictions, Robin Parker was unable to arrange for a proper funeral service. Although a Memorial Service was planned when restrictions allow, Robin and son Malcolm built a small Memorial Garden at the rear of their Macquarie home and planted 12 Roses for Wendy.

Sadly, due to continuing ill health Robin was hospitalised and died on 28 September 2020.

A combined service for Wendy and Robin was held at Norwood Crematorium, Mitchell on Tuesday 13 October.

Robin and Malcolm, Robin and Wendy on the Nepean Belle river cruise, Penrith, April 2018 and the Rose garden.



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The Loss of Submarine AE1 - A Mystery of the Pacific

Bob Cremer

Australia was proud of her two submarines. They had accomplished a record voyage round the world. They were of the latest type, built at Vickers' Yards, Barrow, at a cost of £100,000 each. They left Portsmouth on an unprecedented voyage of 12,500 miles, on the last day of February 1914, and arrived safely in Sydney Harbour on May 24. Within 12 months they had met their fate, under widely different circumstances and almost at opposite ends of the globe. The loss of Submarine AE2 in the Dardanelles has already been told. The mystery surrounding the fate of her sister ship, AE1, will never be fathomed.

While the Australian fleet was operating in the Pacific, seizing Germany's possessions and seeking out the German Pacific squadron, Submarine AE1 quietly disappeared from view, last seen at 15:30 hours on September 15, 1914, while returning from patrol. The weather was fine, and no enemy ship was in the vicinity. She may have struck a pinnacle of rock, but no wreckage could be found, evidently sinking in deep water before any of the crew had a chance to escape. Officially, the loss of the vessel was put down to accident, and no doubt this finding was the correct one. It was the first serious loss sustained by the Australian Navy. Thirty five gallant officers and men went to their doom, entombed together on the ocean floor. Most of them had been with the submarine throughout her brief but venturesome career.

(Extract from 'The All-Australian Memorial - Published in 1917 - Ed)

Note: In December 2017, a collaborative team comprising researchers and specialists from the Silentworld Foundation (SWF), the Australian Maritime Museum (ANMM) and the RAN, identified the final resting place of HMAS AE1, off the Duke of York Islands in PNG, culminating in more than a century of efforts to solve the riddle of its disappearance in September 1914.

Bus Trip to Goulburn

The first of three bus trips was arranged by Peter Sutton for members on Thursday 12th November. This trip was to Goulburn. With the restrictions on travel and requirement to keep a safe distance it was nice to have the opportunity to get out for the day and enjoy the sunshine and pleasant company.



On completion of the mandatory temperature checks, we departed from the Grant Cameron Centre Sub-Branch office at 9:00am and proceeded to Goulburn for morning tea in Belmore Park. Then a sight-seeing tour of Goulburn before visiting the Arts Centre, then the Goulburn Soldiers Club for a delicious lunch.

We then headed for home via Tarago with a stop in Bungendore to look through the always impressive Woodworks and other local shops before returning to Canberra. A very pleasant day that I am sure was enjoyed by all those who attended.





HMAS Harman Dedication

Jill Kelly

The WRANS Memorial was dedicated on 1 July 2003, recognising HMAS Harman as the birthplace of the WRANS. It is dedicated to women who served in the WRANS, and to women who have served in, or are currently serving in the RAN. During World War II, more than 2,000 women served in the WRANS in shore establishments known as “stone frigates”, which is why the memorial is in the shape of a building.

To show that the focus of the work of the WRANS was in support of those at sea, the stones of the “stone frigate” are covered in tiles of a colour that evokes the sea. In the foreground of the memorial are two bollards to represent the “ties to the shore” of those at sea. The top of the memorial is sandstone with three distinct capping pieces, one each for the two service periods of the WRANS, 1941-1946 and 1951-1984, and the third to represent the ongoing contribution of women to the RAN. The sandstone represents the seabed and the seashore.

At the rear are two flagpoles from which fly the Australian White Ensign, introduced by the RAN in 1967, and the White Ensign, which the RAN flew from its inception until 1967. The White Ensign recognises the period in which the WRANS first served.

The July 2003 dedication of the WRANS Memorial at HMAS Harman brought together for the first time in many years former serving members of the WRANS, the Royal Australian Naval Nursing Service and serving women of the RAN. The significance of this occasion led to the formation of a Naval Women’s Association in Canberra. On 20 October 2003, the Naval Women’s Association was formally established and became affiliated with the ACT Section of the Naval Association on 2 June 2004. On 11 February 2013, the Naval Women’s Association changed its name to “WRANS - Naval Women’s Association (ACT)” to better reflect some members who have served or are still serving in the RAN and that some members did not serve in the WRANS.

In October each year a memorial service is held at HMAS Harman. This year on 10 October, the Service was very well attended. The guest speaker was David Dufty, author of the book, “Radio Girl”, the story of Mrs Florence Violet MacKenzie - the beloved Mrs Mac - an Australian wartime legend. Mrs Mac was Australia’s first female electrical engineer and founder of the Women’s Emergency Signalling Corps (WESC) and lifelong promoter for technical education for women. She campaigned successfully to have some of her female trainees accepted into the all-male Navy, thereby originating the Womens Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS).



David spoke about the research of the book and acknowledged Jean Neysen, who served from 1942-1945, and although she lives in Sydney, was present on the day as one of the original WRANS. Also present on the day was our very special Merle Hare, a WWII Wran, serving from 1942-1948 and who is now 100-years-old. It was a fabulous day.

Merle Hare, ex-WRAN aged 100-years-old, pictured with author David Duffy and TS Canberra Cadets who formed the Catafalque Party for the event.



Also attending was Merle Rand. She joined the Australian Army Medical Womens' Service at age 18 and served in the Psychiatric Hospital, Kenmore in Goulburn. After the war she was stationed at AGH 101, Hearne Bay and served for 3 years.

Merle is 95-years-old and is sharp as a tack. She said she was embarrassed to be receiving the award (75th Anniversary of the end of WWII - Australia Remembers 2020 - A grateful Nation expresses its sincere thanks to: **Merle Rand**)



We assured her that she had no reason to be embarrassed as she provided a sterling service to all Australians, in incredibly difficult and trying conditions.

She was presented with her Certificate and Medallion at her new home in Baptist Care, Griffith, on Friday 23 October 2020. Previously she had been living independently in Yarralumla.

Merle is pictured on right with Jill Kelly and Rania Kalimeris and after presentation of her Certificate and Medal with her son, Richard.



The Corey Team

A lot has been spoken recently about *The Corey Room* and events that have led to its fruition and eventual dedication. Under the guidance of the late Alex Reynolds and Bill Smith, their efforts of over 30 years resulted with the *Team* coming together to provide the final result.

This will be an ongoing process with further research and history produced by author Nichole Overall and Corey descendants making themselves known over time and providing their contribution to the Corey history. All learned information of Ernie Corey and related memorabilia will be finally displayed in The Corey Room, a fitting contribution to our own local Hero;

Ernest Albert Corey MM and 3 Bars.



The Corey Team

At rear, The Corey Room Curator, Anthony John (AJ) and Sub-Branch Chaplain Mick O'Donnell and in front your Editor, Bill Smith and Peter Sutton.

Another Team member not shown is the producer of the Corey Video, David Jenkins, writer/producer from Ghetto Media who did a fantastic job in producing and editing the Corey video.



SUB-BRANCH SERVICES

Sub-Branch Office Hours. The office is open from 9:00AM until 3:00PM Monday to Friday, except public holidays. The services of the Sub-Branch are available to all Sub-Branch members, and all serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force and overseas defence forces.

Office Manager. Joyce O'Brien administers the Sub-Branch office and is responsible to the Executive for the efficient day-to-day routine of the office. Joyce will supervise all Sub-Branch matters including membership, correspondence, functions and access to Sub-Branch services.

Veterans' Support Centre (VSC). The office is open from 9:00AM until 3:00PM Monday to Friday, except public holidays, and at other times by appointment. The services of the VSC are available to all Sub-Branch members, and all serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force and overseas defence forces.

Entitlement and Advocacy (E&A). A team of trained advocates and entitlements/pension officers, both male and female, is available to provide assistance with claims under the Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986 (VEA), the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA), and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA). We also provide support and advice to war widows and widowers regarding pensions. Andrew Properjohn, the E&A Administrator, will assist you with your enquiries.

Community Support. The provision of welfare to Sub-Branch members and their families can be arranged through Community Support. Advice is available on a case by case basis to access services through DVA, My Aged Care, Centrelink and the ACT Government. Contact the Sub-Branch office on 6285 1931 for details.

Hospital Visiting: We no longer visit the three Southside hospitals automatically but, working with the Veteran Liaison Officers (VLOs) in these hospitals, volunteers visit hospital patients on a case-by-case basis.

Hospice Visiting: Visits can be arranged for Sub-Branch members in Clare Holland House.

Christmas Visits: In December each year, all Sub-Branch members 80 years of age and over, and all Sub-Branch widows and widowers receive a home visit and a gift.

Health and Fitness Program. Arrangements between the Southern Cross Health Club (SCHC) and Sub-Branch members relating to gym use have changed. For details call the office on 6285 1931.

Sub-Branch Publication. The Sub-Branch Publication, *'The Serviceman'* is published three times each year and distributed free to all Sub-Branch members, widows and widowers. A special edition is also published for schoolchildren attending the annual ANZAC and Peace Ceremony at Eddison Park.

Eddison Day Club. Sponsored by the Sub-Branch, the Day Club caters for members, their spouses, widows, widowers and the general community. It meets every Friday from 10:00AM to 2:00PM (except Good Friday) from mid-January to mid-December at the Irish Club, Parkinson Street, Weston.

If you know of any member who would benefit from any of these services, but is reluctant to apply, please let our office know.