



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



The SERVICEMAN

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AUGUST 2021



At the Branch AGM in May, Meritorious Service Medals were awarded to members Jack Aaron and Ross Thomas. Bill Smith and Ian Gollings were previously awarded MSMs in 2019. The MSM, the League's highest honour over and above Life Membership is awarded, on a restricted basis to preserve its prestige, to members who have given exceptional service over a sustained period and who are deserving of special acknowledgement.



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The SERVICEMAN

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RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

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Bob Cremer



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OFFICE BEARERS 2020-2021

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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 January 1st annually and should be posted to the above Sub-Branch address.

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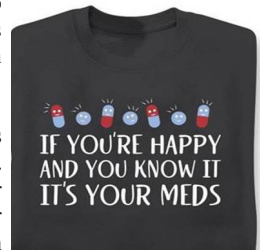
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Bob Cremer



Just when you start to think that things are improving we are back in the ongoing COVID dilemma with no certainty of things getting back to whatever the new normal is going to be. It is difficult to divorce yourself from the impact of the restrictions but at least here in the ACT, we seem to be in a relatively safer space, although it is difficult to arrange anything too far ahead as the rules are constantly changing and a lot of travel has been restricted, especially if you had any plans to travel anywhere in NSW.

At the Branch Annual General Meeting on Friday 21 May, Meritorious Service Medals were presented to Jack Aaron and Ross Thomas. Previously, Ian Gollings and Bill Smith were presented with their Meritorious Service Medals in June 2019. Congratulations to our four MSM recipients. Well deserved awards for the work and dedication by these long serving members.



T-Shirt awareness

It was a very sad occasion with the passing of Sidney Penhaligon. I visited Sid a few times in Adria Village in Stirling and he was always interested in a chat. His funeral was a very moving experience.

As I have mentioned in previous issues, I am looking for an understudy who may be interested in taking over the role as editor of this magazine. Some publishing experience is handy but certainly not essential. This is the start of my 16th year as editor and it is time for a change and some new ideas. The magazine is prepared on an iMac Computer using an Adobe Program, InDesign and printed in the Sub-Branch office.



*Memorial to HMAS Voyager
Voyager Park Huskisson NSW
'Lest We Forget'*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jim Gilchrist

Having just passed the Winter Solstice, I note that we are already halfway through the year. I hope all members are staying warm in what has been a damp and chilly winter so far, but with plenty of sunshine thrown in as well.

Since my last report, we have continued our business-as-usual approach despite the introduction of some strict COVID-19 restrictions across the ACT and surrounding areas.

Our staff and volunteers address the challenges we all face, as they support our members generally and work with those who are particularly vulnerable. Many of these activities and

achievements have already been reported in our monthly newsletters and are reflected in this edition of *The Serviceman*. For example, the Eddison Day Club continues to meet at the Irish Club each Friday for a meal, some company and, in the past few weeks, some entertainment. Concurrently, the Day Club volunteers continue to complement the Welfare Team, through their engagement with their members who remain housebound and at risk of social isolation.

As expected, many of the commemorative services, and the Annual March at the Australian War Memorial on ANZAC Day were restricted again this year. However, the Sub-Branch provided a ceremony on ANZAC Day at Eddison Park. This followed an excellent dinner the night before at which the CEO of Aspen Medical spoke of his Army career, aspects of his family situation and how these factors have affected his commitment to ANZAC Day and to the ANZAC spirit.

Having been unable to acknowledge the children who participated in the Essay Competition this year, our Secretary visited several schools to present the winners with their prizes. Hopefully, we will be able to hold the ANZAC and Peace Ceremony next year.

The *Corey Room* remains a popular venue for the coffee catch-ups each Friday, and informal gatherings such as the Carers' Friendship group morning teas. The library is continuing to evolve and to provide excellent reading opportunities. I look forward to attracting a grant that will provide some new furniture and storage options for a growing amount of memorabilia.

Similarly, our training room is being well used for briefings and information sessions including a talk on Stroke that attracted about 15 members recently. The Be Connected group also meets there regularly. While we were again unable to conduct face-to-face training for the GEARS Program, we completed another 12-week series that was facilitated remotely from Adelaide.

Having learned valuable lessons about the challenges of remotely facilitated training, we are planning to hold a full course early next year.

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The Konnekt Program continues to help people with hearing issues communicate by a mix of telephone and video technology. The Welfare Team continues to work with Legacy (ACT) to share our common interest in helping this group of people.

As noted in the ANZAC Edition of *The Serviceman*, we are now holding our OGMs and Board meetings at the Canberra Southern Cross Club. We also held our AGM there in May. In thanking our members for supporting these meetings, I specially thank them for receiving our 2020 reports so graciously and for their encouragement to the Board as it continues its present strategy. Similarly, I thank members for re-electing the directors who volunteered for another term; and, welcome two new directors, Bill Kelly and Les Bienkiewicz, both of whom bring a wealth of experience. I also note the members' support for the Board to continue to draw down on the AMF during 2022 as was proposed at the AGM. The Board is committed to maintaining our standards and levels of support to our members and to other veterans and their families, while continuing to seek the funds necessary to sustain our operations.

The Board has continued to review and enhance its governance and management processes and systems. The computer project that will enhance our communications and file management capabilities is continuing well. Three directors have been reviewing staff positions to ensure our resources are well placed and our staff are properly resourced. The staff are essential to our day-to-day operations and our continued success, albeit with a volunteer workforce.

At the June OGM Dinner, the Director of *The Vietnam Requiem*, Chris Latham, spoke of the Requiem itself, and of the AWM's ongoing project to develop a series of similar works that will honour those who were affected by various conflicts. Chris spoke passionately of his commitment to *The Flowers of War Project* and of teams that will bring these works to fruition during the next several years. Fortunately, we are attracting a small but steady number of volunteers to the compensation and welfare teams both of which continue to operate at or near their capacity. Hopefully, the recent changes to the ATDP training program will provide more flexibility and accessibility as we reinforce these critical teams.

While they were unable to hold a Congress this year, Branch held its AGM in May. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss some of the issues we believe are essential to the Branch as a whole and we look forward to a more stable year to come. Similarly, the National Office continues to rejuvenate some of its services and supports. We have liaised directly with the National President and the CEO during the past several months, and we hope the National President will be available to attend one of our dinners before the end of the year.

As reported elsewhere in this Edition, Jack Aaron and Ross Thomas were awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) at the Branch AGM. This is the League's highest award and reflects their significant work as volunteers for at least 25 years. With Ian Gollings and Bill Smith having been awarded an MSM previously, (June 2019) these four members reflect our shared commitment to the objects of the League that has been apparent since our Sub-Branch was formed in 1954, and that it has maintained since then. Having been awarded Life Membership of the League at the Branch AGM, I thank those who contributed to the work I have done during my time as President.

In thanking our staff and volunteers who provide these services, and support the day-to-day operations of the Sub-Branch, I also thank those other organisations and individuals we rely upon and without whom we could not achieve the results we do.

ANZAC APPEAL PIN SALES 19-24 April 2021

Bob Cremer

Our volunteer sellers had a very busy week after an absence of two years due to the COVID restrictions. It was good to be able to conduct the sales event although I can say that when we finally packed up at about 2PM on Saturday it was a good feeling after a very busy week. I would also like to add that I believe we had a very generous response from the general public. Final numbers are not available at the moment but I am sure it will be a substantial amount even with the limited number of volunteer helpers.



At Woden Plaza with Appeal Coordinator, Jan Properjohn in the background, Jing Ting-Chan purchasing an ANZAC Day pin from Jack Aaron and right Jan Cremer with Paul Garrett and Bill Rush with Cora O'Donnell during a quieter moment at Coleman Court.



Meritorious Service Medals awarded to members, Jack Aaron, Bill Smith, Ross Thomas and Ian Gollings.



FALL IN

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members.

**Kathryn Spurling, Carol Harris, Stephen Hanrahan,
Amir Choudhary, Jeffrey Brown, Les Bienkiewicz,
Michael Mossop**

Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch Annual Report January - December 2020

The devastating bushfires in early 2020 demonstrated much of what was good in the Australian culture. Out of tragedy and sadness, people helped each other, often while exposing themselves to danger or being less mindful of their own concerns than those of others. Even as the extent of the damage to people and property was being realised, we were struck by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that changed the way we lived and related to each other; how we worked and how we dealt with further sadness and faced difficulties the likes of which few of us have ever seen. Our members, volunteers and staff played key roles in helping each other while they, too, dealt with whatever was affecting them and their families.

Having worked with DVA and elements of the ACT government to assist some evacuees from the fires and prepare for what might have been, we quickly developed and implemented a COVID safety plan to provide a safe working environment so that we could continue to support our members and others in the Veteran Community in the ACT and region. The way people worked together to establish telephone networks, safe visiting protocols for those in most need and to receive and distribute gifts was truly inspiring. Again, this demonstrated much of what the Australian culture means to us all and what we have practised for nearly 70 years at the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch.

While details of these initiatives have been reported elsewhere throughout the year, I thank all those involved in providing this support, especially the Day Club members and the Welfare team who developed the telephone networks. Our staff and advocates worked overtime in some areas as the calls for support were persistent and increased during the year. We did not miss a day's work because of the COVID restrictions! Broad data indicates that we recorded more than 1,800 visits to or through the Welfare Office, with many seeking our support with welfare matters; the Compensation team answered queries from nearly 400 people with many of these becoming new clients. By any standards, this was an extraordinary effort.

Concurrently, we worked closely with DVA on both an as required basis and by a regular telephone meeting with senior staff. This enables us to raise our concerns as new issues arose and for DVA to advise us on the initiatives they were implementing in this new world where critical services had to continue and, in some cases, be escalated. Particularly during the lead up to ANZAC Day, some people and organisations provided relief packages, while others assisted in their distribution to our members. Recipients welcomed the packages and appreciated the contact, even if it was 'through the door' rather than by direct contact.

Unfortunately, we cancelled several of our regular events, including the Day Club lunches, the ANZAC and Peace Ceremony, the ANZAC Eve Dinner and some of the gatherings the Welfare Team hosts through the year. On the other hand, the Schools' Essay Competition went ahead, and we organised a Social Art Program, a BeConnected IT Program and gradually re-introduced the coffee catchups later in the year. Two Welfare Advocates attended a mental health program for which we had received a substantial grant to introduce the GEARS Program into the ACT and region. While the COVID restrictions prevented any face-to-face training, video conferencing allowed us to test how we might introduce this program in 2021, with or without restrictions.

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While neither the ANZAC Day nor Remembrance Day appeals could be conducted, we qualified for and received the ATO Job Keeper allowance, which allowed us to retain our staff and the valuable support they provide to volunteers. We also received some financial relief from the ACT Government for our rent.

The Compensation advocates learned new skills as they conducted most of the appeals process by video or telephone links that will probably become the new norm. Gradually, the Welfare Team introduced small groups into our facility to help mitigate the adverse effects of social isolation and provide more general assistance. We recorded the attendance and temperatures of most of the volunteers, visitors and staff who entered the building and, as part of the COVID plan, asked them about their general health and possible exposures.

The establishment and opening of *The Corey Room* has proved to be a great asset and we look forward to its continued development as resources permit and demand requires. We also opened a new training room that provides space for training sessions and meetings in excellent surroundings, with both rooms having video conferencing and other IT capabilities.

We provided 17 Funeral Tributes to members and others, some of whom had been clients. With the significant restrictions on the number of people who could attend funerals, most of these were live streamed. On a happy but sad note, we filmed a eulogy and Tribute for former President, Peter MacFetters, who died suddenly soon after he had moved to Tasmania. We worked with the Devonport Sub-Branch to ensure that Peter's widow, Carol, and daughter, Jodi, received all the help they needed.

Several grants provided opportunities to enhance our IT capabilities and develop new ways of printing and distributing information electronically. We improved Bob Cremer's IT setup as he produced three editions of *The Serviceman*. Former President, Bill Smith, worked tirelessly to collate all known editions of *The Serviceman* in bound books, complete with an index that lists each article by name and author. This was a great effort, and it is proudly displayed and available for use in *The Corey Room*. Former Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson, produced a video that helped us formally open *The Corey Room* and, later in the year we launched the complete and edited video of what has been a great event. We dedicated the video to former President, Alex Reynolds, who with Bill Smith had worked for about 30 years to honour the name of Corporal Ernest Corey, Military Medal and Three Bars, who was one of our inaugural members.

Again with the COVID restrictions, we assisted members of the Descendants of the Rats of Tobruk Association as they planted several roses at Eddison Park in anticipation of the 80th Anniversary of the Siege of Tobruk. The Secretary of DVA, Liz Cosson and the Director of the AWM, Matt Anderson arranged for one of our WWII veterans, Les Cook to speak by video link to HRH Princess Anne as part of the ANZAC commemorations. They had a fine time together.


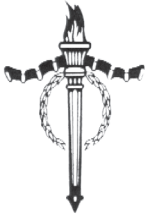
Having met informally each week by telephone conference to supplement its monthly meetings, the Board continued to develop our governance and management arrangements and systems. A major outcome from this process was an enhanced IT system that provides better connectivity and storage for all our files. While most of the costs to set this up, were provided through various grants, the Board committed an ongoing IT support contract. We look forward to continuing this process into the new year.

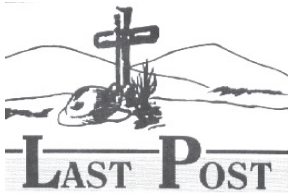
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As the COVID restrictions eased and our members became more confident in the situation, we held two OGMs and our AGM in the halls of the Grant Cameron Community Centre. These meetings were all well attended and typically led to lively discussion, while providing some form of relief for those who had been housebound for much of the year. Having been regaled by another of our WWII veterans, Terry Colhoun, at the OGM Dinner in February, we had to cancel all others. However, about 100 members and guests gathered at our Christmas lunch in what was the social highlight of the year, particularly as the costs of this lunch were offset by a COVID-related grant.

Sadly, our relationship with the ACT Branch remained tenuous and is something that all parties within the Branch must address in the coming year. Having noted that we received significant grants and other Government related financial benefits, I add that we also received generous donations from individuals and some ESOs. The Branch provided none, nor could we attract any significant financial support from other RSL Branches.

In thanking all members and others who contributed to our work outcomes during the year, I congratulate our Secretary, Greg Kennett, who was awarded an Australia Day Medallion in January; and our senior Welfare Advocate and Vice-President, Peter Eveille, who was appointed a member of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June.

	<p style="text-align: center;">LEST WE FORGET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“The price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“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.”</i></p>	
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Rodney Jaffray, Arthur Wyatt, Jack Sykes,
Frank Boyle, William Henderson, Leo Constance

Presentation of Meritorious Service Medals & Life Membership at the Branch Annual General Meeting - Fri 21 May 2021

Presentations were made during the Branch Annual General Meeting by ACT Branch President John King and RSL National CEO, Phil Winter. Life Membership was awarded to Sub-Branch President, Jim Gilchrist.

Jim joined the League in 1994 and transferred to the Woden Valley Sub-Branch in 2013. He has provided and maintained front-line leadership, commitment and dedication to the Sub-Branch since his presidency commenced seven years ago. His efforts have seen the Sub-Branch expand its responsibilities in serving the veteran community through the administration of the Sub-Branch's Veteran Support Centre. He has engaged in and completed ATDP advocacy programs and includes these duties as part of his executive responsibilities.



As Sub-Branch President, he has been the catalyst in improving governance procedures, setting policy and strategic direction and negotiating and liaising with government departments relating to the advocacy and welfare of veterans and their families. His performance has been a primary reason the Sub-Branch is held in high esteem within the veteran, medical and government spheres.

Jim has also served in the Branch executive, completing a term as Deputy President. At the National level he is a former Chair, National Veterans Affairs Committee. Jim's conduct and professionalism has brought credit to himself, the Woden Sub-Branch and the RSL organisation. He is a fine example of upholding and demonstrating the RSL's values to others.

Meritorious Service Medal

Since joining the League in 1968, Jack Aaron has been exemplary in his contributions to the veteran and general community. He has received high recognition for his service, both military and volunteer. Jack has been involved in most areas of the RSL, volunteering at the group member level and working at the executive level. He has served in numerous positions at Sub-Branch and other Ex Service Organisations. He is well known across the ACT as a person of high calibre, reliable and able to get a job done. He is often called upon



to provide advice to those who are following the volunteer path. Jack is a loyal and totally committed member. His years of volunteer service make him a worthy representative to receive the Meritorious Service Medal.

Meritorious Service Medal

Jim accepted the Meritorious Service Medal on behalf of Ross Thomas, who was unable to attend on the day. This award was finally presented by the President to Ross at the Sub-Branch AGM/OGM on Tue 25 May 2021.

Since becoming a Service Member of the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch in 1991, Ross Thomas has enthusiastically supported a wide range of events and activities that the Sub-Branch conducts in support of veterans and veteran families in the Woden Valley and beyond.

While the general involvement has been an important aspect of his membership and service, Ross completed many other roles and tasks that clearly demonstrate a commitment that is well beyond what other volunteers would normally be able to provide. Throughout his membership of the Sub-Branch, Ross has been involved in fund raising, assisting with open days, home and hospital visits, and ceremonial events that the Sub-Branch conducts or in which it participates. In many of these situations, Ross accepted leadership roles and inspired others through his dedication and commitment.

Ross was elected to the Board of Management as the Assistant Treasurer in 2002 and remained a Director until 2012. During this time, Ross was instrumental in establishing many policies and procedures that have been critical to the governance and administration that was essential to the managed growth and success of the Sub-Branch. Ross also had a role in securing the financial security through his work with the Asset Management Fund that continues to provide funds to support veterans in the ACT and region. In 2004, Ross was the editor and driving force behind the production of a history of the Sub-Branch. The magazine includes details and anecdotes that chronicles the first 50 years of the Sub-Branch story. This required extensive research, effort and leadership to reach a near professional standard. While continuing with his general support, Ross underwent training and development to become a Pensions Officer. For more than 10 years, Ross has assisted hundreds of veterans prepare and submit claims to obtain DVA entitlements. Ross also assists and mentors other volunteer advocates develop their knowledge and skills to maintain and enhance this service. The team that Ross has helped build and continues to lead, now assist some 300 veterans each year submit their claims and appeals to DVA and the VRB.

Having concurrently undergone further training and development, Ross set his priorities on the demanding role of advocacy. He has represented more than 50 veterans at the VRB during the past three years alone. These cases are often complex and require a thorough knowledge and application of policies and legislation and must be submitted in a precise and accurate format, prior to the Advocate representing the client at the VRB, itself. Ross' record in representing more than 50 clients at the VRB demonstrates his dedication, capability and commitment to this critical task. While supporting the RSL, Ross continues to support Legacy (ACT), is a senior volunteer guide at the Australian War Memorial and is an active member of the Lions Club (ACT).

Ross has provided exceptional service to the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch for about 25 years. By his consistent and professional approach, many veterans and their families have obtained support to which they should be entitled but which may well not have been provided without Ross' exemplary service, energy, dedication and commitment to their well being.

Battle of Crete Commemoration

Andre Bobets

On 20 May, the Battle of Crete Commemoration was held at the Australian Hellenic War Memorial on ANZAC Parade. The event was attended by the Greek Ambassador, George Papacostas, the Cyprus High Commissioner, Martha Mavrommati, New Zealand High Commissioner, Dame Annette King, President of the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand, Tony Tsourdalakis and other distinguished guests.

The Battle of Crete lasted 10 days and the Commemoration recounted a number of interesting facts:

- it was the first time paratroops were used en masse;
- it was the first occasion where Allies made significant use of intelligence from the Enigma machine to decrypt messages and;
- for the first time during the war, German troops encountered mass resistance from a civilian population.

During and since the Second World War, close bonds of friendship have existed between Greece and Australia. Hundreds of servicemen not evacuated by the main force were helped by the Greek people, at great personal risk, to escape from the mainland and from Crete.

Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch member Les Cook was honoured as he represented the troops that fought on Crete. A mere 17 years old at the time, and now 80 years later, Les is believed to be the last remaining ACT veteran of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign, and I had the honour of being the MC.

During the course of proceedings, and just as the wreath laying ceremony was about to commence, Les experienced an unfortunate turn of dizziness and was assisted by those nearby. To the relief of all concerned, Les recovered, and with assistance



from his grandson Tom and a Major General beside him Les proceeded (in his proper turn) to lay his wreath at the Memorial. Having previously arranged for Les to recite the Ode and, when the time came, I suggested that he might wish to do so from his then seated position, but Les would have none of that. He stood upright and in full voice recited the Ode, attracting the appreciative applause from all those present.

In discussion after the ceremony, Les observed that *'with age, the body gets weak, but the emotions remain strong'*. How true.



A selection of photos from the Battle of Crete Commemorations and Greek and Australian Flags flying around the National Capital.



*ANZAC & Peace Ceremony Essay Competition
Winning Essay - 2021*

*100 Years of the Royal Australian Air Force
The contribution of the RAAF in its first 100 Years*

Emmy Cook

Year 5, Sacred Heart Primary School, Pearce ACT

For a 10-year-old Australian girl, I have been on a lot of planes in my life. But, not once when I have been on an airplane, have I felt scared or unsafe. I have never been shot at, never had to drop a bomb, or had to save someone in danger of being killed. I can only imagine how hard, scary and important that would be. You would have to be so brave to do that. I often think of my Granny and Grampa and how brave they were to work for the Royal Australian Air Force. They did go to war with the RAAF. Their courage is one of the reasons that Australia is such a lucky country, and that we are safe today.

The RAAF is the second oldest military Air Force in the world. It was formed on 31 March 1921. It used to be called the Australian Air Force (AAF), until King George V added the word Royal to its name in June 1921. As planes were new technology, and had only been flying since 1903, they had to create a special flying school. People that attended that school had the basic training in Australia, and then travelled to Canada or Rhodesia for advanced training.

In World War II, they played an important part with 53 Squadrons in the Pacific and 17 in Europe. In all battles between 1939 and 1945, 215,000 men and women served and 9,870 died. They have been involved in other wars since WWII including Korea, Vietnam, Egypt, the Middle East and Iraq. They have also helped during the emergencies such as, Cyclone Tracy, Peace keeping in Somalia, tsunamis, bush fires and the Bali bombings.

My Granny and Grampa lived a Butterworth, an Australian Air Force Base in Malaysia before and after my Dad was born. They both served in the Vietnam war. My Grampa was a helicopter mechanic in Number 9 Squadron, and my Granny was a Medical Evacuation Nurse, who flew in and out of war zones to save injured soldiers. During her Vietnam service she was also attached to the United States Air Force for three months. At this time, she flew from the Phillipines into Vietnam to evacuate injured American and Korean soldiers to Japan and South Korea. She recalled the aircraft sometimes being shot at by snipers.

My Grandparents both displayed the RAAF values throughout their lives. They were always **Respectful**, they valued **Excellence** (Granny hated it when anyone ever coloured outside of the lines), they were **Agile** and lived in a lot of different places. They were **Dedicated** and in later life involved with assisting in the work of the RSL. They had **Integrity** and were always very honest. The number of poppies placed on Granny's coffin by her RAAF friends proved the **Teamwork** that they all displayed and how important it is to always stick together.

On behalf of all Australians, I am so grateful that we have had 100 years of protection from the RAAF, and that so many people gave and dedicated their lives to keeping our country safe.

***ANZAC & Peace Ceremony Essay Competition
2nd Prize Winner - 2021***

The contributions of the RAAF in its first 100 Years

Oscar Abraham

Arawang Primary School, Waramanga ACT

In many ways, the RAAF is like a magpie. She will protect her nest with great bravery, skill and courage. Only when the nest is threatened, will she attack, and she will attack swiftly and precisely, like a RAAF pilot. A magpie is silent and calm, but powerful and strong. She would die to protect her children, her nest, which is the ultimate show of sacrifice and bravery.

As a small boy, one of my first memories was of sitting, eating a burger, when a glorious, huge fighter jet sped across the sky, emitting a metallic roar that sent many tiny children screaming out in fear for the thunderous noise.

Today, however, I am grateful for those planes, and that Australia has a strong and skilled airforce that we can rely on to help us in times of hardship. We are lucky that the children were screaming from the sounds of a jet engine, not of a war.

The RAAF's journey began during World War I, when early aircraft such as the "Auster AOP" were used for scouting. Australia's eight Australian Flying Corps Squadrons were a part of the Australian Imperial Force. They were attached to the British Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force formations, thus giving the the new name "RAAF". During the war, 2,840 pilots, and 1,800 officers served in the AFC, but sadly, 175 brave members died.

During WWII, the RAAF was charged with many important operations such as defending Australia, protecting the sea lanes to New Guinea, and conducting operations against Japanese shipping.

The RAAF went on to contribute to assisting in many places across the earth, and continued to grow stronger. By 1945, the RAAF had over 182,000 members and 6,200 aircraft, making it the 4th largest airforce in the world!

Throughout RAAF's history, it has had many amazing technological advancements. Many new vehicles, aircraft, and even dogs have assisted the RAAF in making the world a better place. A dog named Gunner had such exquisite hearing that he could distinguish the sounds of enemy aircraft from allied aircraft. Gunner even assisted in predicting the arrival of the enemy! He was loved and eventually taken in by a RAAF butcher.

In many ways, the RAAF is like a magpie. Strong, loyal, reliable and willing to die to protect her children, her nest, which is the ultimate show of sacrifice and bravery.

Eddison Day Club Report for 2021 AGM

Peter Sutton - Coordinator



The Eddison Day Club is still attracting 25-28 members and volunteers each week.

Before the closure in March last year we were averaging 35-40 and sometimes more. Since closing there have been six deaths of members, all attributed to illness and/or old age. Several were veterans or partners of veterans and three received RSL tributes at their funerals.

We had to close on 15 March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Following the closure, 'a telephone tree' was established to maintain contact with members and volunteers. Seven people were each given seven others to ring each week to check on their welfare. On 24 July several people from the Day Club started meeting each Friday for lunch with those attending selecting their choice of meal from the menu. This process was maintained until we had a special Christmas lunch on 18 December.

Several members went on the bus trips organised through the Sub-Branch and financed from a grant from the ACT Government. These trips were to Goulburn, Yass and Cooma over three days from the middle of November using Deane's Coaches.

After consultation with the management of the Irish Club, the Eddison Day Club started meeting again on Friday 15 January 2021 with many changes to the format. We are no longer able to have volunteers serving meals to our guests, no urn for tea and coffee and we are no longer able to have a 'home bake' day on the first Friday of the month.

Up until the closure last year we were advised by the Club chef what meal would be served on that particular day. Those with dietary requirements were catered separately. All meals are now chosen from a choice of two and served to the table by Club staff. These menus are rotated on a four weekly basis, allowing the chef to order adequate food for that day.

We also have to log all members and volunteers on an iPad supplied by the Irish Club for those who do not have a mobile phone capable of scanning the QR Code of the Club.

We have not as yet had any entertainment or guest speakers this year although some are booked starting from June. Many of our regulars are reluctant to return until after everyone has received both of their individual COVID injections.

I do not think the Eddison Day Club will return to the status it held prior to COVID-19, but am optimistic that we will be a viable outlet for the RSL and the wider community for many more years.

***ANZAC & Peace Ceremony Essay Competition
Equal 3rd Prize Winner - 2021***

***The contributions of the RAAF in its first 100 Years
William Campbell - Chapman Primary School***

One Hundred Years! Wow! That's a long time.

Way back when my great grandparents were young children starting to go to school, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) was formed. I was surprised to read that the RAAF is the second oldest independent Air Force in the world.

The first war that the RAAF was involved in was World War II. They fought in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, over the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans and the Mediterranean. Also in Asia over India, Burma, Malaya, Singapore, Thailand, China, the East Indies, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the Philippines and Borneo. They also fought over Australia and its states and territories to protect us. So yeah they fought in so many places.

Over 215,000 men and women served between 1939-1945 and 9,870 people unfortunately died. Most of these deaths occurred in the war against Germany over Europe.

My favourite exhibition at the Australian War Memorial is 'G' for George, a Lancaster bomber. It flew from 1942 to 1944. The exhibition is a sound and light display showing what it was like when this bomber was on a bombing exercise at night over Berlin in December 1943. 'G' for George flew 90 operations and has the distinction of bringing home every crewman alive. The tally of all the operations is painted on the side of the plane in the shape of bombs.

Since World War II, the RAAF has been involved in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions throughout the world, and disaster relief in Australia, like the bushfires in 2019/20. Since 1945, over 60 RAAF personnel have died in conflict or through accidents during operations. Sadly my Mum's second cousin, Anthony Short was one of these fatalities. He was the pilot of a F-111 jet plane in 1999 that crashed in Malaysia during an exercise involving naval and air forces from Britain, Malaysia, Singapore and Australia.

It is sad that he died because I would have loved to have met him and watch him fly a F-111. The RAAF flew these jets between 1973 until 2010. Their nickname was "Pig" because they had a long snout and were good at flying close to the ground. Unfortunately, these jets got old and were expensive to maintain so they were retired early. They were replaced by the F/A-18 Super Hornet and the F-35 Lightning.

There have been more than fifty different planes flown by the RAAF in the past one hundred years. The RAAF is continually improving and changing aircraft.

I wonder how many planes the RAAF will fly in the next one hundred years? What will the students write about the RAAF in 2121?

ANZAC & Peace Ceremony Essay Competition
Equal 3rd Prize Winner - 2021
The contributions of the RAAF in its first 100 Years
Gabrielle Goldstein - Chapman Primary School

In World War II, the Royal Australian Air Force suffered 9,870 fatalities. My great-grandfather was one of 215,300 RAAF personnel who survived, and I am here to remember him and his role protecting Australia. Lest we forget his service and that of others who sacrificed so much.

My great-grandfather, Thomas King was a Flight Lieutenant in the RAAF 4 Squadron. He initially carried out anti-submarine patrols off the coast of Australia, and then, in Papua New Guinea, providing support to the Australian and American armies as they battled against the Japanese in dense jungle. 4 Squadron reported on the positions of Japanese artillery and troops to assist allied forces on the ground. They piloted Wirraways, designed for reconnaissance and surveillance, not fighter jets, and no match for the Japanese Zero aircraft. On Boxing Day 1942, a member of Tom's squadron, Officer John Archer, shot down a Zero. Archer was awarded the US 'Silver Star' for his bravery and piloting skills. It's an example of the risks faced by those in military service. I asked Tom whether he was scared he'd die during the war. He replied, "Of course. I lost many friends but we all have to die sometime. The sooner I realised that, I just got on with it."

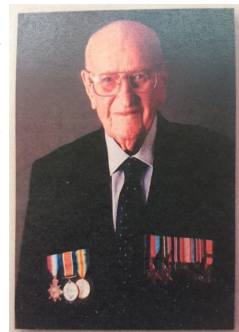
I have Tom's silk map from the war, part of his issued escape and evasion kit. I like to think of Tom wearing it or tucking it into his flying jacket pocket. It is a map of the South Pacific titled the 'North Eastern Area'. The map shows the terrain, towns and battleground. It must have been terrifying and stressful flying over unfamiliar terrain in a hot and sticky cockpit. If he was shot down but able to land his aircraft safely, the map would help Tom navigate his way to safety. At the end of WWII, 4 Squadron assisted in the search for allied prisoners of war. Tom returned home and 4 Squadron was disbanded. He was awarded service medals and marched on ANZAC Day until he was unable. On July 3 2009, 4 Squadron rebanded with new personnel and aircraft at RAAF Base Williamtown. Tom was an invited guest speaker which was a great honour.

Today, 4 Squadron supports joint operations overseas including support for our special forces operations but 4 Squadron also supports operations at home such as the bushfire relief efforts in Victoria last year. This shows that the RAAF is about more than just flying and combat. It also plays an important role in peacekeeping. Even before the RAAF, the Australian Flying Corps' Lieutenant Clifford Peel was thinking how aircraft could help deliver medical services to remote Australia.

Peel shared his ideas before leaving Australia to support the Royal Air Force's operations in WWI. Sadly, he didn't survive the war but his legacy lives on with what is now the Royal Flying Doctor Service. This is an example of the important contributions made by serving men and women of the RAAF.

When I visit my family in Newcastle we often go to the beach. I watch the planes flying overhead training and I think of Tom - always young at heart. If Tom were alive today, he'd be in his 100th year, a coincidence in the centenary year of the RAAF. Lest we forget.

[Thomas King 23 Dec 1920 - 4 Oct 2016]





The Royal Australian Air Force in its first 100 Years

AVM Mac Weller (Retd) - Belconnen RSL Sub-Branch

Copied from the Introduction of the Royal Australian Air Force
A short history by Air Vice-Marshal Mac Weller (RAAF Retired)

As the second oldest Air Force in the world to the Royal Air Force by three years, the Royal Australian Air Force celebrated its 100th birthday on 31st March 2021.

Spanning an era from the beginning of aviation with aircraft of fabric and wire to the supersonic stealth fighters of today, the RAAF has served its nation through World War II, Korea, Vietnam and more recently the Middle East. Its aircraft have operated over almost every land and sea across the world often in bitter conflict yet at times dispensing humanitarian aid.

Many air and ground crews have served their nation resolutely and courageously through this century of endeavour. Sadly many lives have been lost in both peace and war operations with some lying unmarked where they perished whilst others are at rest in Commonwealth War Cemeteries across the world.

To help Belconnen RSL Sub-Branch recognise the RAAF's service and commitment to the nation, Mac Weller produced some history summaries of the RAAF's 100 years that were included in their monthly newsletters. These have been now consolidated into a booklet.

There are tales of magnificent men and women in their flying machines; of a service of just a few thousand to one of several hundred thousand; of bravery and VC's; of superb and yet indifferent leadership at times; of mutiny and feuding amongst senior leaders; of the challenges of technological advancements; of strategic conundrums between imperial defence and protecting Australia; of political interference and perhaps the most daunting of all, the RAAF's very survival as an independent air arm.

The entire 38-page booklet was prepared by AVM Mac Weller, acknowledged as having served in the RAAF in both Active and Reserve elements for almost 50 of the years of this century enlisting as an Apprentice, becoming an Armament Fitter, completing Engineering at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and serving as a RAAF Engineer Officer for 44 years.

ANZAC Eve Dinner Saturday 24 Apr 2021 *(Due to COVID restrictions, the last ANZAC Eve Dinner was in 2019)*

A gathering of 91 members and invited guests enjoyed a special evening with our ever reliable MC Jack Aaron in charge of proceedings. Patrons were welcomed to the CSCC venue ‘Top of the Cross’ with bagpipes played by Jen Hamer, from Canberra Pipes and Drums. Our Patron, Dame Annette King, New Zealand High Commissioner to Australia and her husband and other dignitaries were also in attendance.

Sub-Branch President Jim Gilchrist introduced the Guest Speaker, Bruce Armstrong who gave a very informative speech on his career and ‘What ANZAC means to him’.

Graduating from Portsea Officer Cadet School in 1980, Bruce was posted to the Royal Australian Artillery as a section commander in 8/12 Medium Regiment. Highlights of his subsequent military career included service in the SAS Regiment, UK Intelligence Service, Command of 8/12 Medium Regiment and his final appointment as Chief of Staff International Force, East Timor prior to the UN handover in 2000.

In 2013, Bruce joined Aspen Medical as Chief of Staff. In 2015 he was appointed as Chief Executive Officer for the global operation spanning 16 countries, employing 3,500 employees. Aspen Medical is an active employer of veterans. Bruce is a Director of 12 National and International Boards, including Aspen Medical and Lifeline ACT.





Forest of Remembrance at the Arboretum

Bob Cremer

On Friday 12 Nov 2010, then ACT Chief Minister, John Stanhope joined the Governor-General Ms Quentin Bryce AC, the President of the RSL ACT Branch, Mr John King and representatives of the RSL and kindred organisations in planting 102 Turkish pines in a new forest at the National Arboretum in Canberra.

The planting of the 102 Turkish pines, (*Pinus brutia*), commemorates the 102,814 service personnel who sacrificed their lives while serving with Australian units in conflicts from 1860 to the present day.

On 9 Oct 2011, an additional 5 Turkish pines were planted in Forest 61 at the Arboretum by:

- Joan Scott, for her uncle, Thomas Ernest Davis (died Lone Pine 2 May 1915)
- Jack Aaron, Vietnam Veterans Federation
- Danny Burton, Vietnam Veterans Federation
- Geoff Burns, Submarine Association.

The *Pinus brutia* is native to the Gallipoli Peninsula, the site where the ANZAC tradition was born and where more than 8,700 Australian and 2,700 New Zealand service men lost their lives during the Gallipoli campaign between Apr and Dec 1915. The *Pinus brutia* forest will expand on the *Pinus halepensis* already planted on Dairy Farmer's Hill.

For the almost 200 present on the day, it was a particularly moving experience. Many participants remarked that they were thrilled to be part of something that would continue to grow for many years while paying tribute to those who died in the cause of freedom. Where war memorials were usually made of stone and metal, these trees would continue to be living memorials and serve as a reminder that so many died in defence of our country.



On a hill within and overlooking the Arboretum is '*wide brown land*', spelling out the description of Australia by Dorothea McKellar in her poem, '*My Country*', taken from the original manuscript in McKellar's handwriting. It is 35m in length and 3m tall.

The Arboretum has some outstanding views and an open-air stage and amphitheatre. The buildings include the Village Centre, an innovative timber structure housing a café, restaurant, gift shop and interpretive exhibition and a smaller event and ceremonial building, the *Margaret Whitlam Pavilion*. The stonework in the visitors centre is sourced from the village of Wee Jasper, NSW, on the outskirts of Canberra and the ACT.

ANZAC DAY - Eddison Park Ceremony Sunday 25 April 2021

An early ANZAC Day Ceremony at Eddison Park attracted about 50 attendees where Sub-Branch President Jim Gilchrist delivered the ANZAC Requiem and the ANZAC Day Prayer was by Chaplain Mick O'Donnell.

National Anthems of New Zealand and Australia were sung by vocalist, Drew Ashley to music by the Tuggeranong Salvation Army Band.

*Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives...
You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.
Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the
Johnnies and the Mehments to us where they lie side by side
in this country of ours ... You, the mothers who sent their
sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears,
your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace.
After having lost their lives on this land they have become
our sons as well.*

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk - 1934.

Their bodies are buried in peace; but their names liveth for evermore.





A selection of photos from the ANZAC Day Service at Eddison Park

OGM Dinner Tue 29 June 2021

Another successful and well attended dinner at the Southern Cross Club with MC Jack Aaron in charge of proceedings. Sub-Branch President Jim Gilchrist welcomed guests to the dinner which included our Patron Dame Annette King and her husband and other invited guests.



Special Guest Speaker was Christopher Latham, Director of the Flowers of War Company. Chris is a Canberra based musician, violinist, composer, creator and Director of the Flowers of War, and recently produced one of the most moving and memorable concerts, the 'Vietnam Requiem'. Chris intends to continue to demonstrate, through the power of music, that wounds can be healed from the trauma of those affected by wars.

Chris discussed the making of the 'Vietnam Requiem' and the Flowers of War's determination to provide the nation with a musical legacy for commemorative purposes.





New Board Member - Bill Kelly

The Sub-Branch has welcomed William (Bill) Kelly AM, Colonel (retd) RAAMC, as a new member of the Board of Management. Bill is a pharmacist with a strong background in military and civilian pharmacy having been both Army's Chief Pharmacist and Consultant Pharmacist to the SGADF. He has held senior management positions in a number of national pharmacy organisations and recently completed tenure as Chair of the Pharmacy Board of Australia. In addition to his pharmacy and postgraduate qualifications in health, Bill is also a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

New Board Member - Les Bienkiewicz

The Sub-Branch also welcomed Les Bienkiewicz, Lt Col (retd) RAAOC, as a new member of the Board of Management. Les graduated from RMC Duntroon in 1974 and served in the ARA for 22 years before resigning and taking up roles in the APS including Council Secretary of the NHMRC. Les has over 30 years volunteer experience with the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA), where he continues to serve in many capacities at both national and Branch level. He therefore brings another perspective to the operations of ESOs and looks forward to making a positive contribution to the operations of the Sub-Branch.

Canberra Southern Cross Club



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6283 7200



TUGGERANONG

Cnr Howell & Pitman Sts
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6293 7200



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www.csc.com.au

For the information of members and guests

Murphy's Law

Les Cook

Anything that can go wrong shall go wrong- and usually at the worst possible time - How true it is!

The Owen Sub Machine-Gun was designed and manufactured in Australia during WWII. It bears its designer's name.

It had a very simple mechanical system compared with its worldwide counterparts and therefore was much less adversely affected by dirty conditions. This made it very helpful - particularly in its resistance to stoppages.

We were to discover, however, that it did suffer from a quite dangerous defect. It was the only weapon of my experience that, when holding a loaded magazine but with the weapon uncocked and the safety-catch on, a bump could cause it to fire one shot. The shock of the bump could cause the bolt to depress the return spring far enough to enable it to pick up and fire the first cartridge. The recoil from this explosion then jammed it back on the safety-catch. The severity of the bump was critical. A slight bump would not depress the spring far enough to allow the bolt to pick up a cartridge, whereas a very severe one could drive it even further back and jam the bolt on the safety-catch thus preventing the gun from firing. This secret was not disclosed during training. It only became apparent in action when the gun is always loaded.

Our .45" calibre American Thompson Sub machine guns were replaced with the 9mm calibre Owen in 1943. I had one. We went back to Papua New Guinea - I think it was in July 1943. We were involved in the recapture of the town of Lae on the north coast, then up the Markham and Ramu river valleys to the village of Dumpu and the climb to Shaggy Ridge.

It was in the Ramu Valley that I slipped and fell. The loaded Owen gun, uncocked and with the safety-catch on, was slung over my right shoulder at the time and the butt probably hit the ground before I did. We were not then aware of the possible danger of such events so I just got up and carried on. It was some time later - perhaps a few hours - that I happened to glance at the gun and saw that the cocking piece (the bolt) was back in the slide away from its position of rest. I hastily removed the magazine, but was unable to move the bolt manually. A couple of taps on the cocking piece with a bayonet handle freed it.

In the following months we were to hear of a few accidental wounds - one resulting in death from this defect. With the wisdom of hindsight it is obvious that, in my case, the shock of the blow was such that the bolt was forced back far enough to become jammed on the safety-catch, thus preventing it from picking up and firing the first cartridge.

I am so grateful for this, and further that, in the ensuing period before I chanced to detect the problem, the continuous movement of marching did not cause the release of the jammed bolt. The alternative could have been catastrophic for someone in front of me which would have been very distressing for me.

ANZAC Day - Rutherglen 2021

Jill Kelly

Each ANZAC Day a group of nine or ten of us travel to a country town, boosting the local numbers (and the economy) of those marching in the ANZAC Day march.

This year, ten of us travelled to Rutherglen. I had been in contact with the President of the Rutherglen RSL and he very kindly invited us to march with the members of the local RSL on ANZAC Day. It was fantastic.

Although there were only about 12-15 local veterans marching on the day, the numbers were swelled by our presence and included School children, Scouts, Cubs, Joesys, Police and Rural Fire Service members.



There was no band, but there were three vintage Army vehicles - a Jeep and two trucks, the jeep equipped with a sound system providing the music, all WWII melodies, and all very emotive.

The service was held in the very beautiful Soldiers' Park, which is lovely. Apart from the massive trees, there are six Pine trees, planted from seeds from Lone Pine, gifted to the local RSL in 2015.



There is also a tank, a replica of the Long Tan Cross, Soldiers' Memorial, Memorial Wall and such a fabulous atmosphere. It was a sensational day. The town, and the ones we have previously visited are so grateful to have visitors, and we were made very welcome.

Country towns commemorate ANZAC Day as a real community event. We loved it, and the wineries were amazing!!



Australian War Memorial - Last Post Ceremony - 28 Apr 2021

Jill Kelly

Eighty years ago, on 28 April 1941, the first 14 members of the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) arrived at the Royal Australian Navy Wireless and Transmitting Station, Harman, near Canberra, as part of a trial to free up men for service at sea. The station would later be commissioned HMAS Harman.

The establishment of the WRANS was largely due to the work of Florence McKenzie who, foreseeing that the Australian military would need wireless telegraphists and signallers, formed the Women's Emergency Signalling Corps.

At the outbreak of war, Mrs McKenzie's school had trained 120 women in signalling and related subjects. The Women's Emergency Signalling Corps then offered training in telegraphic and visual signalling to men wishing to enter the defence forces and the Merchant Navy. Mrs McKenzie lobbied for women to be employed by the Navy. While the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Government were reluctant to support the idea, increased wartime demands for naval personnel saw the WRANS formally established as a women's auxiliary service in 1942.

The success of the first intake of telegraphists led to the expansion of the WRANS and the roles undertaken. By the end of the war some 3,122 WRANS had signed up. While they were not allowed to serve in ships or overseas, they were employed in roles as diverse as mechanics, telegraphists, electronics technicians, firefighters, drivers and small boat coxswains.

The WRANS were disbanded in 1947, then re-established in 1951 in response to Cold-War related manpower shortages. In 1959, the WRANS became a designated and permanent part of the Australian military.

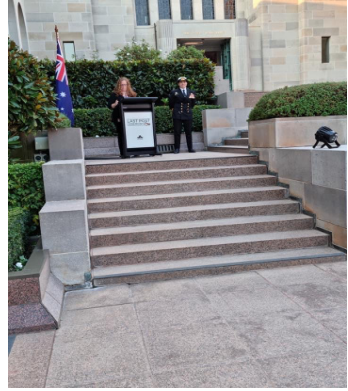
It continued to operate until 1984 when female personnel were integrated into the RAN. In 1985, limited billets were made permanently available for women at sea, and by 1990 the RAN deployed the first Australian women into combat-related duties in the Middle East on Operation Damask. In 1998, women were authorised to serve in submarines. Today, all Navy ranks, roles and categories are open to personnel regardless of gender.

The six WRANS members listed on the Roll of Honour at the AWM are:

- Petty Officer Cook Maude Veronica Hebson,
- Writer Edna Florence Marjason,
- Writer Margaret Hall,
- Motor Transport Driver Nellie Boswell Moreton,
- Cook Hilda Maud Stone,
- Stewardess Betsy McLeod Dunk.

We remember the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service and pay our respects to the service women and men commemorated here on the Roll of Honour, and to the survivors who returned home.

>>>



The 1st Australian Horse & Australian Light Horse

Murrumburrah NSW Memorial

Bob Cremer

The first muster and enrolments of the 1st Australian (Volunteer) Horse took place in Harden Murrumburrah in 1897. About 30 of these recruits went off to the Boer War. The 1st Australian Horse was absorbed into the Australian Light Horse in 1905.

The permanent memorial to honour these volunteers as well as the Light Horse was created following the successful celebrations for the Centenary of the first enrolments to the 1st Australian Horse (1897-1997). The Memorial includes a free standing 20 tonne granite block with a bronze statue of Corporal William Bradford of the 1st Australian Horse.

- The western side face is a diorama depicting the charge of Beersheba
- The eastern side a scene taken from the South African campaign
- The southern side a relief of Colonel Kenneth McKay

>>>

The Kimberley Rose random stone paving reminds us of the spilling of blood in war, the black granite of the horse trough symbolises death in war and the water running over all sides is a life renewal. The stone wall contains bronze plaques which feature the names of most of the original recruits to the 1st Australian Horse in 1897. It also signifies a wall, so easily created by intolerance, which can lead to conflict.

Behind the wall the garden planting consists of Australian natives, together with plants native to South Africa and the Middle East. Peace is symbolised by the planting of Peace roses and a “Lone Pine” - an Aleppo Pine from Turkey.

Bill The Bastard

A bronze sculpture of the 16 hand Chestnut known as ***Bill the Bastard*** stands on the lower western side of the Memorial Garden.

Bill the Bastard gained his title as a result of his habit of bucking whenever he was saddled but was also noted for courage, strength and staying power.

At the battle of Romani on 4 Aug 1916, Major M Shanahan DSO, 2nd Australian Light Horse, heard that four men, having lost their horses, were left out in the field at the mercy of the Turks.

Riding Bill, Major Shanahan returned to the scene under heavy enemy fire, collected the stranded men and galloped back across the thousand yards of sand carrying the additional four light Horsemen (two on his back and one hanging on to each stirrup).

For his services in carrying these men to safety, Bill the Bastard was retired with honour the following day and served the remainder of the war as an officer’s packhorse.



The bronze statues of Corporal William Bradford, and Colonel Kenneth McKay and the bronze statue of Bill the Bastard carrying soldiers to safety.

The statue of Bill is currently located in a hall during renovations to the land outside being prepared for Bill’s relocation to a permanent site.



Corey relations

Bob Cremer

With the Corey story well established and the Corey Room dedication completed we have established a connection with the Cooma RSL so that future visits may take place to see any Corey memorabilia held by their Sub-Branch.

We have also been contacted by other Corey family members so there will, no doubt be more to add to the ongoing story for future editions. We have already established that there is a Corey Granddaughter, as well as two cousins, one in Queensland and another in Wagga Wagga NSW.

On a visit to Maleny to visit my 89-year-old sister Lorraine, (in the care of Queensland RangeCare), Jan and I visited the Maleny cousin, Elizabeth Corey in a local retirement village. During an afternoon tea with Elizabeth, I presented her with a copy of 'The Corey Papers' as well as previous copies of *The Serviceman* containing stories about Ernie Corey for which she was very happy to receive. She is also keeping in touch with other Corey relatives.



Elizabeth Corey



Password variations

A visitor to the Sub-Branch office told me she had requested an older member tell her his password for internet access.

He said, "Grumpy, Dopey, Happy, Bashful, Sneezzy, Sleepy, Canberra".

When asked why he had such a long/complicated password he explained that the computer had said that the password had to be at least *six Characters and a Capital*.

Makes complete sense to me!!

Notes for the Diary in 2021

OGM - Tue 27 Jul at 1900 - CSCC Rainbow Room
OGM - Tue 31 Aug at 1900 - CSCC Rainbow Room
OGM - Tue 28 Sep at 1900 - CSCC Rainbow Room
OGM Dinner - Tue 26 Oct - CSCC Corinna Room 2 - 1830 for 1900
OGM - Tue 30 Nov at 1900 - CSCC Rainbow Room
Poppy Appeal - 5-10 Nov - Remembrance Day Appeal
Christmas Lunch - Wed 15 Dec - 1200 for 1230 - CSCC Orion Room
Closing date for Christmas edition of *'The Serviceman'* - Fri 22 Oct



The Alex Reynolds Library Collection (Catalogued by Bill Kelly)

Following a very generous donation from the family of the late Alex Reynolds, Alex's wonderful collection of some 216 military history books has now been catalogued and is located in the Corey Room at the Sub-Branch. The books are available for borrowing and a list is located at both the Welfare Office and with the collection itself in the Corey Room.

There are also around 1000 other military history books and materials available in the Corey Room, extensively covering all campaigns and Services. Feel free to come visit and browse the shelves, stay for an hour or two and/or borrow any of interest.
A loan book is available to sign out/sign in any books borrowed.

Donations of relevant military history books, CDs, DVDs or papers are always welcome to enhance the collection.

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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, 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 in regards to 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. The arrangements in place between the Southern Cross Health Club and the Sub-Branch 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 per 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 held 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.