



CASTLE HILL RSL SUB BRANCH



VOLUME 38 DECEMBER 2018

CENTENARY OF THE ARMISTICE NOVEMBER 2018

BOER WAR
1899 – 1902

16,173 Australian soldiers including nurses sailed to South Africa to support British troops fighting against the Boer settlers.

251 Killed in Action.
267 Died of Disease.
43 Missing in Action.
735 Wounded.
5 Victoria Crosses awarded.

Lest we forget.

WORLD WAR I
1914 – 1918

Battles included:
German New Guinea – Rabaul.
Turkey – Gallipoli.
France – Fromelles, Bullecourt, Hamel, Peronne, Villers Bretonneux, Pozieres & Hindenburg Line.
Belgium – Ypres, Messines, Passchendaele.
Middle East – Beersheba.

331,781 Australians served overseas.
61,720 Dead.
137,000 Wounded and Gassed.
4,000 Captured.
64 Victoria Crosses awarded.

Lest we forget.

WORLD WAR II
1939 – 1945

Theatres of War:
Europe, Mediterranean, North Africa.
South East Asia & Pacific.

575,799 Australians Served Overseas.
39,420 Dead.
66,563 Wounded.
30,000 Prisoners of War.
20 Victoria Crosses awarded.

Lest we forget.

KOREAN WAR
1950 – 1953

Major Battles included Kapyong, Maryang San & Hook.

17,000 Australians served.
339 Dead.
1216 Wounded.
29 Prisoners of War.
Over 600 bravery awards.

Lest we forget.

MALAYAN EMERGENCY
AUSTRALIAN INVOLVEMENT
1950 – 1960

Guerrilla warfare fought by Commonwealth Forces on the Malayan Peninsula against the Malayan National Liberation Army (MNLA), the military arm of the Malayan Communist Party.

7,000 Australians served.
51 Dead.
27 Wounded.

Lest we forget.

INDONESIAN-MALAYSIAN CONFRONTATION
1963 – 1966

Australian, New Zealand and British forces engaged in preventing Indonesia from destroying the Federation of Malaysia.

3,500 Australians served.
16 Dead.
9 Wounded.
4 Missing in Action.

Lest we forget.

VIETNAM WAR
1962 – 1973

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM 1962 – 1972
998 Australians served in the Training Team.
100 decorations awarded.
4 Victoria Crosses.

1RAR BATTALION GROUP 1965 – 1966
Under command 173rd Airborne Brigade, United States Army. Conducted numerous operations with the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE 1966 – 1973
Major Battles included:
Long Tan, Coral Balmoral, Binh Ba, Baria, Gang Toi, Hat Dich, Khan Duc, Long Khanh & Nui Le.

VIETNAM WAR OVERVIEW
49,211 Australians served in Vietnam.
521 Dead.
2,396 Wounded.

Lest we forget.

GULF WAR 1
OPERATION DESERT STORM
1990 – 1991

In August 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait oil producing country, Kuwait.

A Coalition Force under the auspices of the United Nations took action against Iraq.

Australian Defence Force conducted Operation Damask as part of Operation Desert Storm.

Over 1800 Australian Defence personnel served in the War.
No personnel killed in Action.

Lest we forget.

EAST TIMOR
1999 – 2000

12th September 1999 Indonesia accepts deployment of a United Nations Peacekeeping Force to East Timor to restore peace and security.

17 Nations contribute 9,000 TROOPS to the International Force East Timor – INTERFET.

Australia contributed 4,400 troops plus RAN and RAAF elements.

20th September 1999 – Force deploys to East Timor.

14th February 2000 – INTERFET deployment ends.

Lest we forget.

GULF WAR 2
OPERATION FALCONER
20th March – 1st May 2003

US-led Coalition invaded Iraq to locate and destroy Weapons of Mass Destruction. Australian Defence Force Involved.

OPERATION CATALYST
Army Training Team deployed to assist with the rebuilding of the Iraqi Military in 2003.

Reconstruction Task Force in Al Muthanna Province in Southern Iraq in early 2005.

Australian troops withdrawn by 28th July 2009.

No combat casualties on either operations.

Lest we forget.

AFGHANISTAN WAR
OPERATION SLIPPER
2001 – 2014

Australian Defence Force took part in combat and combat support operations as part of the International Assistance Force (ISAF).

31st December 2014 Operation Slipper concluded.

OPERATION HIGHROAD
1st January 2015

Australian Defence Force's Operation Highroad (train, advise and assist) as part of the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission began.

Over 26,000 Australian Defence Force personnel served on Operation Slipper.
40 Australians Dead.
261 Wounded.
4 Victoria Crosses awarded.

Lest we forget.

AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPING & PEACEMAKING OPERATIONS

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has been involved in peacekeeping operations since 1947. From this time the ADF has been extensively involved in both United Nations & Multinational Peacekeeping and Peacemaking Operations. The tempo of these missions has increased since the first large deployment of engineer troops to South West Africa in 1989.

Since 11 September 2001 thousands of ADF personnel have been deployed in international campaigns against terrorism in the Middle East, Afghanistan and South West Asia. ADF personnel continue to demonstrate outstanding capabilities in these often dangerous and hostile foreign environments.

Approximately 48,000 Australians involved (As at 10/11/2018).

375 Killed (As at 10/11/2018).

Lest we forget.

"Lest We Forget"

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Cover photographs:

The new Memorial at Castlebrook Memorial Park, unveiled 10 November, 2018, showing the twelve plaques representing all the conflicts Australia has been involved with since 1901.

WEBSITE: www.chrslsubbranch.org.au

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/ch.subbranch

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to the last edition of *The Veteran* for 2018. A year that has been extremely positive and very busy. We have seen out the three and a half years of the Centenary of ANZAC in suitable commemorative style. And on top of this Invictus Games "Down Under" has been successfully conducted with excellent enabling support from our sub-Branch. On the State RSL front, we have been progressing towards a new Constitution with all the associated review, discussions and an extraordinary "Extraordinary" State Congress. And of course we have continued doing all the wonderfully supportive activities for Veterans that we do so well. You should all be immensely proud of your and the sub-Branch's contribution across all of this.

Since the last *The Veteran*, the Invictus Games has been successfully and wonderfully conducted. Dee and I were lucky enough to attend the Twilight Athletics Final at Homebush on Friday 26 October on behalf of the sub-Branch. We met the Minister (David Elliott), James Brown (our RSL President) and Brigadier Pat Kidd (CEO of AIMG, the Games organisation) – all were effusive of the support from the sub-Branch. Each and every event was inspirational with stragglers cheered even more than those who crossed the line first, on the basis that all were winners, as they were. A large turnout, with two full buses from the sub-Branch, for the wonderful Closing Ceremony on the evening of Saturday 27 October. We were in the nose bleed section and just getting to our seats required oxygen and quite a bit of dexterity. However, the view was great and the event magnificent. Excellent speeches all round and a fitting close to the week-long series of events. A testament to the Games purpose was that there was no mention of which Country won how many medals. The recognition of two of the competitors; one for tenacity in the face of severe adversity and the other, a special act of simple old age chivalry on the sports field, a real demonstration of mateship, were especially emotive. Thanks to Barry Pareezer for all the organisation behind this. A special mention to our one successfully selected Games volunteer, Peter

Westwood, who carried the sub-Branch "flag" with "on the ground" support to the Games. Well done also for all the sub-Branch did to enable these special Games; our support throughout with significant donations to the Games and to the athletes and their families, our presence through several events before and during, the provision of quilts and tote bags, and, in strongly backing the State Government in bringing the Games to NSW from the very start. We can justifiably say, we did our part!

I had the honour of attending the RSL LifeCare Thankyou Lunch at the Montgomery Centre on Thursday 18 October to thank the sub-Branch for our support to Invictus Games (LifeCare was responsible for supporting our athletes on behalf of the RSL) and Homes for Heroes. Of interest, we are not permitted now to donate to LifeCare although the possible collateral damage is our ability to support the great work of Homes for Heroes.

What a fitting end to the Centenary of ANZAC with a well-attended 11 o'clock Armistice Day Commemoration held inside the Club on Sunday 11 November. The room was bursting at the seams but the service went off smoothly. A fitting oration by Brigadier Peter Connor, AM, who recently returned from Afghanistan as the Task Force Commander. Peter was supported by the sub-Branch during his deployment and we also supported his wife and family back home. Peter's speech is in this edition. The colourful remembrance poppies that lined the way to the Club and filled the room were a great touch – thanks to all those who knitted them with care.

And, of course, how brilliant was The Hills Centenary of Armistice at Bella Vista Farm? A most suitable venue, fine weather and a huge attendance from our community. The reading of the VC citations by our talented ANZAC Ambassadors, the swirling Castle Hill RSL Club Pipe Band, the superb 1/15 Royal NSW Lancers Band and Guard, the delightful Youth Orchestra, and, the guns of 9 Regiment Royal Australian Artillery. What a stirring rendition of the 1812 Overture to end it all as the guns lit up the sky and cordite smoke drifted through the trees.



Thanks to the Council for their financial and enabling support, Gareth McCray for his commentary and MC'ing, the SES, St John Ambulance, and local Police for their support (as always), and, of course, the various members of the organising committee under David Hand & Don Tait. The weather held off (third time lucky) with clear skies, and I think the previous delays were all for the best as this event was a most fitting end to our Centenary of ANZAC commemorations.

On Friday 2 November we had Senator Jim Molan, a retired Major General, visit the Hills. He and our local Member, Alex Hawke, conducted a Presentation Ceremony at the RSL Club. Presentations included Colonel Don Tait OAM formally receiving his Unit Citation for Gallantry in the presence of his wife, Noreen, and family. This Citation was for his service during the Battle of Fire Support Base Coral and Balmoral fought in 1968 in Vietnam. Certificates of Appreciation of Service were also presented to the following veterans:

- Kevin John Barnes (Navy) for Peace Operations, Malaya, Malaysia, and Vietnam service
- David Charles Buddle (Army) for Somalia service
- George Frederick Forwood (Posthumous) (accepted by his son, Brian George Forwood) (Army) for Second World War service
- Terrence James Glover (Navy) for Vietnam service
- Arthur Edgar Smith (Posthumous) (accepted by his son, Kenneth Smith) (Army) for Second World War service
- John Edward Travers (Posthumous) (accepted by his granddaughter Bronwyn Hughes) (Army) for Second World War service

Thanks to the Office of Minister Hawke for organising the Certificates of Service. If you would like one presented for a relative or yourself please contact Alex Hawke's Office (www.alexhawke.com.au).

Later that day, Senator Molan and Minister Hawke visited the Centenary of ANZAC Reserve to see the newly installed plaques for each of the major

conflicts and the NZ Flagpole around the Cenotaph. A number of sub-Branch members were in attendance and had an opportunity to have a good chat with the two politicians. These significantly add to the prime place of Remembrance in the Hills.

On Saturday 10 November, a special service was conducted at the Castlebrook Memorial Park. Twelve plinths with plaques that cover all wars, conflicts and operations undertaken by the ADF since the Boer War that had been prepared and placed in the Memorial Park Veterans' Area were unveiled and dedicated by Chaplain Colin Aiken OAM. Funding had been provided through the generosity of the Park (Invocare) and the Federal Government's Armistice Grant Program. We sincerely thank them for their generous donations and specifically highlight the great support we continually get from John Lazanas and the Team – true supporters of the sub-Branch! The weather was excellent, as was the attendance. Thanks to David Hand, Don Tait, Graham Handley and Jim Wilson for all their work in putting this together.

Affairs of the State Branch have kept the Executive & Committee extremely busy this last quarter as you are aware and I do not intend to spend much time on it, noting that Alain covers aspects in his Report. There was considerable paperwork provided for our consideration, generally at short notice, including the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Model A sub-Branch Constitution and the Constitution itself with various supporting documents. All this culminated in the NSW State RSL Special Congress held on Tuesday 4 December. The adoption of the Constitution was resoundingly voted down with 32% For & 68% Against. A number of prepared questions were asked by the Board as to why the Constitution had not been supported. Most telling was that 71% felt that they didn't have enough time to question the detail and that 84% believed the proposed Constitution gave too much control to the State Board. These were our sub-Branch's key concerns in general terms. So it is back to the drawing board, however there is no doubt that the State RSL must have a new Constitution and that we fully support. But it must be fair to sub-Branches such as ours and we must have appropriate time to consider the impact on our operations and provide comment for consideration. Anyway much more to come in the New Year, so watch this space. Many thanks to Brian Walters for being our delegate at the Congress in my absence.

At our last General Meeting of the year, Jim Wilson was elected as the Vice President Commemoration after Mike Yeo stepped down from the role to focus on his many other responsibilities. Mike has been in the role for two years through a very busy commemorative period noting it coincided with the last two years of the Centenary of ANZAC period. I

thank him for his considerable service in this crucial role and welcome Jim into the Executive fold. Mike won't be going too far and will be there to support in the transfer as required. Jim is handing over his other responsibilities with Chris Bennett taking over Funerals.

We lost a number of our sub-Branch during the year and I named 30 of them at the ANZAC Dawn Service. I thought I would mention the loss of one, at the risk of excluding the others. Cyril "Lance" Fitcher, a World War 2 Navy veteran, was laid to rest on Friday 17 August at St Alban's Anglican Church, Epping followed by a wake at the RSL Club. Lance was an active member and a regular at our General Meetings into his advanced years. There was a large attendance from the sub-Branch to see our esteemed colleague off and the service was a most fitting tribute to a highly interesting, loving and quirky individual – I am always astonished at the broad nature of the lives of our members that comes out at occasions such as this – they are always some much expansive in character than with the narrow prism we sometimes see them through. The Poppy Ceremony was greatly moving and a testament to the wonderful service our Funerals personnel of Welfare Team provide to the families of the Veterans in our community at their time of greatest need. Just over a month later, Lance's loving wife, Iris, passed away and I know we all took some comfort in their being together again.

Several members of the sub-Branch attended the Baulkham Hills Community Christmas Drinks at the Novotel on Wednesday 19 December. During the event, I was presented by David Elliott with the Minister of Veterans Affairs Ministerial Commendation for "significant contribution to the Veterans Community". As I said in response, as the terrible storms of that night provided an interesting backdrop to the proceedings: I was honoured to accept the award on behalf of the sub-Branch, as this Award was for all the great work we have done as a Team this last year. Particularly pertinent to this event, was our outstanding supporting the Invictus Games and the conduct of the Centenary of Armistice activities. But also the wide range of support we all provide to the Veteran community and indeed the wider community. Well done all.

There is much more that I could mention that we have done since the last issue of *The Veteran*, including the annual Christmas Lunch on Sunday 25 November (thanks Barry Pareezer - again), the Centenary of Armistice Commemoration, and Official Launch of Historical 'War and Peace' Tour at the Powerhouse Museum's Discovery Centre in Castle Hill on Friday 9 November (an excellent and hidden facility that we must be subject to one of our social tours), the Kellyville Primary School Armistice Service and re-dedication of the Honour

Boards on Thursday 15 November (with the sub-Branch funding the school ANZAC memorial and Dr Brendan Nelson providing a typical inspirational speech well targeted at Primary level).

Of course, behind all the more public aspects of what we have done and the kaffuffle of the State RSL challenges, our Welfare, Pensions and Funerals folk, Gym and Day Clubs, etc have quietly continued doing what we do best – the simple, empathetic support of fellow veterans and their families including the widows of comrades who have passed before us. We have provided numerous welfare packages and practical support to deployed personnel through the year. Top that with the financial support we are able to provide to various organisations that need our help, including substantial funds to other sub-Branches via the State Branch. Of course, this publication, *The Veteran*, records it all and informs us further so thanks, Andrew Pursey, for all the work in pulling it together.

As you can see there is a lot for you all to be proud of in what we have achieved during the year - I thank all of you who have contributed to the sub-Branch in the myriad of ways over the year and trust all of you have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable holiday season in preparation for what will not doubt be an eventful 2019.

All the best,

"Lest We Forget"

Brigadier Phillip K.H. Bridie, AM

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Many volunteer organisations survive on the dedication and good will of the members who time and time again, step up to help others or their fellow mates. Our sub-Branch is no exception and I want to acknowledge and thank those of you on the Committee who have been working hard in the background to ensure we operate in an effective, timely and business-like manner for the operation of our sub-Branch. While it can be a thankless task when things just seem to happen and we can take it for granted, please accept my heart-felt gratitude for the support I have received from the Executive and members during the year. In particular, the members who gave up their time to for representational tasks in the local community for commemorative events, welfare activities and organising social events where we make such a difference at all levels.

Following on from that grass roots contribution, we have successfully supported veterans and their families through a range of events and activities that I trust will be just as successful in 2019. Those activities were:

- Veterans Health Week BBQ at Rouse Hill where we engaged with families in a relaxed atmosphere to widen our visibility to the younger veterans in our community and come together to enjoy a BBQ and learn some interesting health advice from a dietitian in the spirit of Veteran's Health Week.
- We provided support to the Invictus Games athletes and their families through a number of pathways including funding support for equipment, hospitality to athletes and their families, personal items such as laundry bags and quilts and moral support cheering them on during the games. The closing ceremony was a wonderful event and showed the true spirit of the Games and the brotherhood of warriors.
- We provided support to our serving members through our deployment care packages which were greatly received and shared with comrades and mates overseas.
- At the larger end of the scale we conducted some very significant commemorative events for ANZAC

Day and Remembrance Day which were well supported by the community and enabled through the hard work of individuals and groups over months to ensure that we maintain our promise to remember and honour past and serving members.

As an organisation we have faced challenges with the turmoil and rapid change that is required for us to transform into a more contemporary RSL organisation that is striving to assert itself as the premier support organisation for ADF members and their families. Steps have been taken but there is still much work to be done to move forward:

- to meet governance practices
- to demonstrate transparency and accountability
- to meet our charitable purpose obligations

Calendar events for 2019:

Following is a calendar of significant dates for 2019 for your diaries. Further details on Commemorative and Social events will be provided closer to the dates. Please put these in your diaries to save the dates.

General Meetings	
Month	Date
February	Mon 11 Feb 19
March	Mon 11 Mar 19
April	Mon 08 Apr 19
May	Mon 13 May 19
June	Tue 11 Jun 19
July	Mon 08 Jul 19
August	Mon 12 Aug 19
September	Mon 09 Sep 19
October	Mon 14 Oct 19
November	Mon 11 Nov 19
December	Mon 09 Dec 19

Commemorative / Social	
Event	Date
ANZAC Sunday	Sun 14 Apr 19
ANZAC Day	Thu 25 Apr 19
Mid-year Lunch	Sun 16 Jun 19
War Widows Lunch	Sun 22 Sep 19
Remembrance Day	Mon 11 Nov 19
Christmas Lunch	Sun 24 Nov 19

I trust you will have had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a new and exciting year.

Yours in service and mateship

Alain Dunand
Secretary

GYM GROUP



Members would be aware that your sub-Branch supports a gym programme for its members, operating out of the C2K Gym.

We meet twice a week for one hour on Mondays and Thursdays at 1.30pm for new members. Fun, Friendship and Fitness are the themes of the programme and the basis of all sessions.

All classes are supervised by a qualified instructress, Alma Weber, who has been with us since day one, over 15 years ago.

To anyone thinking of joining the programme, we do have vacancies and you are most welcome to contact me or pull me aside at a General Meeting and I would be happy to provide you with the details required for joining us. A doctor's certificate is required to confirm your ability to undertake an exercise programme. You do not have to be fit to start the programme, you work at a pace suitable to yourself.

Twelve months ago the program was extended to cater for members who might still be working or have commitments on our group meeting days. It is possible for members to sign up to the program and to work out on their own or with a mate. By meeting the current attendance criteria and attending one General Meeting each quarter they can qualify to have 50% of their gym fees refunded.

I hope to hear from you.

Phill Evenden
Gym Coordinator
0413 715 622

NAMBUS 2019 – HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

The Vietnam Veterans group from the Central Coast have once again offered their bus museum and crew to help your sub-Branch conduct presentations to Year 10 pupils at high schools in the Hills District. These presentations supplement the Year 10 curriculum which includes the history of the Vietnam War.

The presentations will be made over the week of 13 – 17 May and this year we will take the bus to several schools to make it easier for the pupils to attend. Discussions have already been held with potential schools and the response has been strong with some of our “regulars” still to reply.

As in past years, I am seeking the generous support of Vietnam Veterans from the sub-Branch to assist with the presentations along the same lines as we

have done in previous years. If you can spare a day or two or even a day it will be appreciated. If you don't wish to address the students you don't have to as we can only fit a maximum of two speakers per group because of time limitations.

Would any Vietnam Veteran who is willing to assist and can give up one or two days during that week please contact me directly.

Phill Evenden
Nambus Coordinator
0413 715 622

RELAY FOR LIFE 2019

Once again your sub-Branch is lending its support to the annual Cancer Council of NSW 24 hour relay to be held at the Castle Hill Showground on the weekend of 18-19 May.

We have entered two teams which you are welcome to join.

The event is NOT a race or a distance event. Each participant walks for however far or long they want with no stopwatch to beat. Most participants break up the walk to shop at the many stalls along the track or stop and chat to their friends that they meet along the way.

I would like to request that as many sub-Branch members and their friends and family join one of our teams and come along to help raise funds to enable the terrible disease of cancer be beaten. We will once again have the sub-Branch marquee erected which is the meeting place and shelter for members and their guests.

Joining a team is simple. If you are a cancer survivor you may wish to join the VETERAN RSL SURVIVORS team. Alternatively you can join the VETERAN RSL SUPPORTERS team.

You can join online by logging on to cancercouncil.org.au locate our event "Hills 2019 Relay for Life" and nominate one of the teams above then follow the registration prompts. If you have any difficulty logging on please contact me on the number or email below.

This is a fun day for a very worthwhile cause. I urge you to support the cause.

Phill Evenden
Relay for Life Coordinator
0413 715 622
gymgroup@chrslsubbranch.org.au

SOCIAL SECRETARY



Our Christmas lunch was held on Sunday 25 November 2018. The event featured a three-course traditional Christmas lunch and the guests filled the usual venue of the Phoenix Room. It was a very enjoyable and well attended event which marked the end of a very busy social year.

Our first social event for 2019 will be a visit to the recently renovated and expanded ANZAC memorial at Sydney Hyde Park. The tour of the facility will be hosted by our sub-Branch member, and State Minister, David Elliott. This should be an extremely interesting place to visit, and I recommend it to all come along. Following the tour, there will be a very

enjoyable lunch probably at a local RSL club.

Another exciting event which was only recently announced is the Royal Military Edinburgh Tattoo which will be performed in Sydney in October of this year. At this point of time I am taking deposits of \$30 per person for those interested in attending. The actual tickets and pricing are expected to be released in April, 2019. Once they are released, we will only purchase tickets for those who have paid a deposit. So if you are interested, I recommend you act quickly and make your deposit.

Known social dates for 2019:

- Sunday, 16 June – Commemorative (Mid-year) Lunch – \$20 pp;
- Tuesday 30 July – Christmas in July – Chalet Guest House, Medlow Bath – \$30 pp and
- Sunday 24 November – Christmas Lunch – \$20 pp.

Although a long way ahead, I am looking for members, or their partners, who may have a particular talent and would be interested in showcasing them at our Christmas lunch. If that is you, please let me know, and we may be able to showcase our own internal talent.

To you and yours, on behalf of my wife, Narelle and I, we wish you all the very best for the new year ahead.

Barry Pareezer
Social Secretary

DAY CLUB



Our activities have finished for the year and our members will join us again on the first Monday in February (2019). We meet every Monday from 10am to 2pm in the Friendship Room of the Wesley Uniting Church, 32 Showground Road, Castle Hill.

We have had many enjoyable days over the last three months, including two outings – one to the Blacktown RSL for lunch and on another day to the Seven Hills RSL. Our volunteer drivers help take our members to and from the Club so no one misses out on a day out.

In October, our volunteer, Bill Strutton, gave a talk on his European trip and then we learned all the special ways we can exercise to maintain good movement and balance from the Exercise Physiologist from the Vitality Club.

With the Remembrance (Day) Service, the Melbourne Cup sweeps and the Kindergarten Singers to entertain us, we kept very busy in November. In December, there was our Xmas party made memorable by the lovely songs from the Village Singers.

We have had many new members join our Club this year, so our group has grown and become a lively crowd who are very well looked after by our Kitchen Volunteers for morning tea and a two course lunch. We are looking for some more kitchen help next year and would welcome another volunteer.

Contact Jenny Kingston on 0420 440 095 or Bill Driver on 0413 455 526 if you would like to become a member or volunteer.

Jenny Kingston
Day Club Coordinator
0420 440 095

ANZAC SUNDAY & ANZAC DAY 2019 SERVICES

This ANZAC Sunday Service, will be held on Sunday 14 April, 2019 at the Centenary of ANZAC Reserve, Wrights Road, Castle Hill commencing at 09:00 hrs. Any members for the sub-Branch contingent should form up on the Reserve (Castle Hill end) by 08:45 hrs.

A morning tea will be served back at the Castle Hill RSL Club after the Service. The luncheon will follow the morning tea and is by invitation only.

The ANZAC Day Service, will be held on Thursday 25 April, 2019 at the same Centenary of ANZAC Reserve commencing at 06:00 hrs; form up time will be 05:45 hrs. More details will be made available closer to the date.



DEDICATION OF PLINTHS AND PLAQUES – 10 NOVEMBER 2018

Castle Hill & District RSL sub-Branch, in conjunction with InvoCare, the operators of Castlebrook Memorial Park (Rouse Hill), honored our veterans at their final rest in Castlebrook Memorial Park on 10 November 2018 in a very special manner.

With Federal Government assistance through the Armistice Grant Program, and particularly that of InvoCare, and our sub-Branch, twelve sandstone plinths with suitably worded plaques are the feature of the memorial. Each plaque highlights one of the major conflicts and peacekeeping deployments of Australia, starting with the Boer War up to the present day.

Our immediate Past-President, Colonel Don Tait OAM (Retired), was the main instigator for this project, along with Mr John Lazanas and staff of Castlebrook Memorial Park. Don Tait also did the research for the wording on the plaques; he was ably assisted by some sub-Branch members on this major project honoring Australia's military commitments over the years. For the record, our sub-Branch was directly involved in six projects in

our local area for Australia's Armistice Centenary Year. There are also plans to place a 25 pounder artillery piece with a water feature in the same area of Castlebrook in the near future.

The dedication service was held on Saturday 10 November at 11.00 am and included short addresses from the Honorable Alex Hawke MP, Special Minister of State, Mr. Martin Earp, CEO of InvoCare and our President, Brigadier Phillip Bridie AM. Rev Chris Cullen dedicated the plinths and plaques. It was very moving to have the Last Post played by Miss Natasha Williams, the Lament by Piper Bob Whitson, and our National Anthem sung by Mr David Sanders.

These plinths, along with the flags of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Merchant Marine and Australia in the Remembrance Garden near Windsor Road Rouse Hill, proudly shows passers by that The Hills Shire residents honor their veterans.

Jim Wilson
Vice President – Comm.

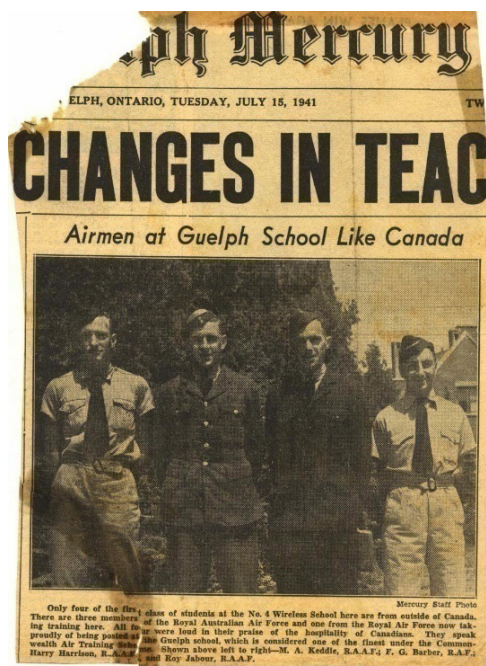


RAAF PHOTOS FROM WW2

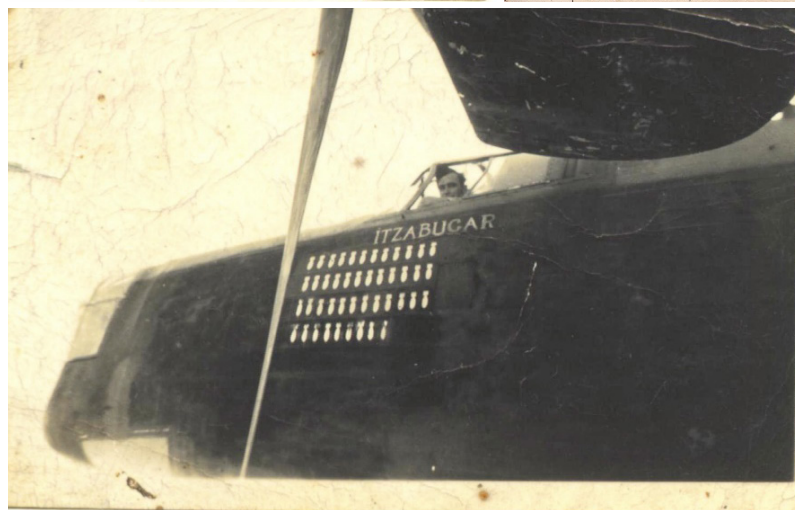
Editor: At a recent 70th birthday party, Andrew Pursey, met a visitor from Brisbane who was interested in military history.

His father (Harry Harrison) flew as aircrew with the RAAF, mainly in Wellingtons, Hudsons, and Dakotas in several theatres in WW2; and he sent me some of his father's photo records.

He trained in Canada and his first operational mission was the second 1,000 bomber raid, which was on Essen. He was subsequently moved to North Africa and, ultimately, West Pakistan.



Date	Hour	Aircraft Type and No.	Pilot	Duty	REMARKS (Including results of bombing, gunnery, exercises, etc.)	Time carried forward: 60-45	
						Flying Times	
						Day	Night
22/4/42	1430	G 1069 WELLINGTON	Sgt Wood	Wireless Op.	Circuits and landings	04-00	
7/5/42	1150	E 8709 WELLINGTON	Sgt Horn	Front Gunner	Cross Country. Airtol training 400	05-45	
18/5/42	1445	B 9695 WELLINGTON	Sgt Horn	Front Gunner	Circuits and landings (Wireless Op)	01-00	
14/5/42	1400	G 1069 WELLINGTON	Sgt Horn	Wireless Op.	Cross Country	01-00	
14/5/42	1600	K 1412 WELLINGTON	Sgt Horn	Front Gunner	Cross Country	02-30	
15/5/42	1100	A 1160 WELLINGTON	Sgt Horn	Front Gunner	Cross Country	04-00	
18/5/42	1125	A 1160 WELLINGTON	Sgt Horn	Front Gunner	Cross Country. Airtol training 400	06-30	
19/5/42	1430	A 1412 WELLINGTON	Sgt Horn	Front Gunner	Cross Country. Airtol training 800	05-00	
21/5/42	1530	K 9980 WELLINGTON	Sgt Horn	Front Gunner	Cross Country. Airtol training 800	04-30	
1/6/42	1445	H 2709 WELLINGTON	P/O Hastey	Front Gunner	Air Test.	00-30	
1/6/42	2300	H 2709 WELLINGTON	P/O Hastey	Front Gunner	ESSEN. RAID. (First Operational)	06-00	
6/6/42	2300	N 1032	P/O Rogers	Wireless Op.	Circuits and landings	04-00	
7/6/42	2300	G 1069	P/O Rogers	Front Gunner	Cross Country	05-00	
9/6/42	2300	K 9980	Sgt Horn	Front Gunner	Cross Country	04-15	
10/6/42	2300	A 1160	Sgt Horn	Front Gunner	Cross Country	05-30	
11/6/42	1400	R 10696 WELLINGTON	Sgt Horn	Front Gunner	Cross Country	04-00	
13/6/42	2300	B 9695 WELLINGTON	Sgt Horn	Front Gunner	Cross Country. crashed on landing	03-45	
14/6/42	1430	E 9617 WELLINGTON	Sgt Horn	Wireless Op.	Cross Country	01-00	
14/6/42	2315	H 2709 WELLINGTON	Sgt Horn	Front Gunner	Cross Country	03-15	
15/6/42	2300	A 1160	Sgt Horn	Rear Gunner	Cross Country	05-50	
TOTAL						39-45	37-35
TOTAL TIME...						100-30	87-35



Aircraft in which flown		
Type	Type	Type
	HOURS	
ANSON	30 hrs - 35 mins.	
NORSEMAN	04 hrs - 00 mins.	
TIGER. MOTH.	6 hrs - 40 mins.	
FAIRY BATTLE	10 hrs - 50 mins.	
DH 86	1 hrs - 20 mins.	
D.H. RAPIDE.	1 hrs - 45 mins.	
WELLINGTON.	339 hrs - 35 mins.	
HUDSON	333 hrs - 40 mins.	
PROCTOR	5 hrs - 35 mins.	
DAKOTA	334 hrs - 20 mins. (to DEC 31ST. 1943).	

NORFOLK ISLAND – A PRISON IN PARADISE?

What a most beautiful island we have out there in the Tasman Sea. This is nature at its best almost beyond belief, but with a tragic past during our early convict days of the 17 and 1800's. Norfolk Island was landed upon by Captain James Cook and crew and claimed for the British crown during his 1774 South Pacific voyage. Sadly the tall straight native Norfolk Pines were not very good for a sailing ship's mast – too many small knots close together it was later found out. This place has a most amazing history; much more than I can briefly relate in this small article for our readers. From a virgin land, to a convict prison of the worst imaginable treatment, to a refuge for the Pitcairners who had outgrown their own mutiny gained island. In 1856 the descendants of the Bounty mutiny were relocated to Norfolk Island which has a present day population of approximately 2,200 people.

To celebrate Wilma Naylor's birthday, Jan and I, along with Chas Naylor, flew to Norfolk Island on the 12th November, 2018 after our Centenary of Armistice Commemorations, for a week of touring and relaxing.

Relax we did at the slow island pace; absorbed the sheer beauty of it's coastal rocky shoreline; the "sacred cattle and poultry" wandering the roads were avoided; the open rolling hills and sub-tropical rainforests were a delight to both drive and walk through – though had to be very careful of the mutton bird burrows - ask Jan about that. Local restaurants were a delight and island produced ice creams went down very well, as did the island's locally made liqueurs of many different flavours from 21% to 45% strength – OK, I had to bring a couple of bottles home – just to support the local industry of course. But be warned, after 3.30 to 4.00 pm you will find it hard to find a coffee shop open – another "local custom".

For such a small population, this island has sent "way above their weight", men and women to wars from the Boer War to our present conflicts. In their own sub-Branch these veterans are honored with photographs around the walls of the club for all visitors to see and pay their respects. Many photos have a poppy attached to it. The Redfern NSW sub-Branch is involved in the badly needed updating of their conflict nameplates at the sub-Branch memorial near the front door of the combined club and sub-Branch. The island's cemetery has many veterans there with service badges indicating that here lies a man or women who served in the Australian, New Zealand or British forces during the many conflicts we have been involved in since the island was settled. Chas and I, with our wives were most impressed seeing the way the Norfolk Islanders honored and paid respects to their

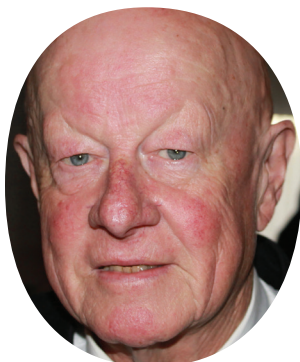
veterans who have passed on.

During WW2, Norfolk Island was used as a refuelling and staging post for US and NZ aircraft flying north during the Pacific war. In fact, it is thanks to the Americans that Norfolk got its airfield. It was also a most important radar and eaves-dropping station on Japanese radio transmissions: and it was here that the foundation for radio astronomy was discovered. One of the many tourist guidebooks has details of these interesting stories and I am willing to loan or copy the stories for any interested reader.



Jim Wilson
Vice President – Comm.

PENSIONS



Since the 2018 AGM I have made 106 visits to veterans or their widows in their homes plus another 18 people I have met up with in the Club's Pensions/Welfare Office. In several cases, multiple visits to the persons seeking to make pension related claims on the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) were involved.

There have been 42 claims, of various kinds and for various conditions, submitted to DVA over this period covering in the order of 110+ disabilities (disease and injury).

Currently there are 36 active/yet to be finalised files – all of which are either awaiting DVA decision or still in the preparatory stage.

There have been three submissions to the Veterans' Review Board which have yet to be finalised. In addition, one submission which

originated in 2017 has been successfully finalised in the veteran's favour.

Of the many disabilities claimed on DVA only seven have not been successful albeit that such was anticipated given that, using the relative RMA Statement of Principles, it was not possible to link the disabilities to the respective veteran's service.

One very pleasing aspect was that I was able to achieve EDA (Extreme Disability Adjustment) status in respect of four claims. This means an automatic War Widows Pension should the veteran predecease his spouse.

All in all it has been a very busy year and expectations are that I will be just as busy during the coming year. I thank the sub-Branch Executive and the members for their strong support.

If you have any queries regarding Pensions, my contact details are mobile 0427 201 541, or email Pensions@chrslsubbranch.org.au

(Editor's Note – a lot of items in this Report will be covered at the sub-Branch AGM in March 2019 but it still provides a concise summary of the enormous amount of work done by Graeme in 2019.)

***Graeme Banks OAM
Pensions Advocate***

WELFARE



In September we held our first Veterans' Health week BBQ which was attended by 48 of our members. Our Guest Speaker was Lucy Kim, a student in her final year of Nutrition and Dietetics gave a talk on Nutrition which was very informative. We had a beautiful fine day and the children were given some footballs, soccer balls and cricket sets to play with. It has been decided to have two of these Family BBQ's per year. One in March and one in September for Veterans' Health Week.

the RSL Club, it was a magnificent display. Thank you to all who participated in making the Poppies and those who helped with the planting and taking the poppies up again.



The War Widows' Christmas hampers were delivered in December. We had 47 War Widows, 1 Widower, 2 Diet Special Hampers and 18 half hampers for Widows without Kitchens. I would like to thank all the members involved in gathering, packing, organising and delivering the packages. They are very much appreciated



November saw the Centenary of Armistice Day where the members and their wives in conjunction with the Inner Wheel Ladies of Baulkham Hill, planted poppies along the driveway leading up to



mentoring two candidates from a distance as well as our own candidates.

Our Members continue to visit Assisted Care Living Facilities, Hospitals, and Rehabilitation Facilities in the surrounding areas. These members give up their time once a week/fortnight; Chris Bennett takes his dog Trim along on these visits and the people he is visiting love Trim and give him lots of attention.

“Lest We Forget”

***Cheryl Hill
Welfare Supervisor Advocate 2
0412 297 027***

We have also been sending Care Packages to our members overseas. I am including an excerpt from two of the letters we received from LTCOL Jodie Lording and WOFF Wade Shipway.

Merry Christmas! I hope you had a good festive season with friends and family.

Thank you very much for the lovely surprise of more packages! They arrived on Christmas Eve having done a trip via Iraq. Someone must have made a mistake by diverting them there first. The team and I were thrilled with the packages and everyone in our small team has enjoyed something from them!

Letter 2

I just wanted to thank you for the welfare package I received last week.

I am currently deployed with the C130J Maintenance Team in the Middle East.

I really appreciate what you and your sub branch does for the welfare of the people over here. It really brightens everyone's day when they receive a welfare package from you.

Much appreciated,

***Wade Shipway
WOFF C130J MAINT***

We are continuing to send the packages to members, friends and family serving overseas. Please contact me if you know anyone deployed at the moment.

The Welfare Team is continuing their Professional Development. Graeme Banks and Cheryl Hill have completed their courses to keep their Advocate 2 qualifications current. Chris Bennett, Paul Harris-Walker and Dennis Foale are doing ATDP courses in Level 1 Welfare and Elizabeth Pedersen is undertaking a course in Level 1 Compensation. Cheryl Hill has completed a Mentors Course and is

From the Editor

This issue of the Veteran is a combined effort from Andrew Pursey and me. As most of the readers would know by now, Andrew is on the sick list and enjoying the hospitality of a facility in Greenwich (Sydney). Our best wishes go to him for a swift and complete recovery.

Importantly, as noted in a previous issue, Andrew will be standing down as Editor at the March 2020 AGM. The sub-Branch Executive is looking for a replacement.

Thanks to our regular contributors and special thanks to Phill Evenden, Cheryl Hill and Jim Wilson for their contributions.

Also, recognition and acknowledgement for photographs to Andrew Pursey, Australian War Memorial, Cheryl Hill, Chris Bennett and Colin Swindells. Special thanks go to Chris and Colin for covering events where Andrew was not able to attend.

Thanks are also due to Chris Bennett for proof-reading and Alison Benson for sorting out the finer points of the graphics.

Once the situation with the future Editor is resolved, more articles and/or photos will be welcome. Please note that the preferred format for reports is MS Word, whilst that for photos is JPEG as individual attachments. Please do not embed photos in articles as this can create problems with the graphics.

In regards to email addresses and phone numbers – please make sure that you inform the Secretary of any changes to your contact details.

The closing date for submissions for the next issue will be sometime in April, 2019, but this will be confirmed as soon as possible.

**Andrew Pursey
Brian Walters**

ANZAC SUNDAY & ANZAC DAY 2019 SERVICES

This ANZAC Sunday Service, will be held on Sunday 14 April, 2019 at the Centenary of ANZAC Reserve, Wrights Road, Castle Hill commencing at 09:00 hrs. Any members for the sub-Branch contingent should form up on the Reserve (Castle Hill end) by 08:45 hrs.

A morning tea will be served back at the Castle Hill RSL Club after the Service. The luncheon will follow the morning tea and is by invitation only.

The ANZAC Day Service, will be held on Thursday 25 April, 2019 at the same Centenary of ANZAC Reserve commencing at 06:00 hrs; form up time will be 05:45 hrs. More details will be made available closer to the date.

