



CASTLE HILL RSL SUB BRANCH



VOLUME 28 JUNE 2016

BOMBER COMMAND COMMEMORATIVE DAY – FIRST SUNDAY IN JUNE

55,573 aircrew of RAF Bomber Command died during the Second World War



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

044167



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

UK1655



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

069819



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

069820

**Avro Lancaster "G for George" with flight crews and ground crews of 460 Squadron RAAF
The Royal Australian Air Force lost 4,089 aircrew in Bomber Command during World War Two**

"Lest We Forget"

CONTENTS

<p>Page 2 Sub-Branch contact details</p> <p>Page 2 Diary Dates</p> <p>Pages 3-5 President's Report</p> <p>Pages 6/7 Secretary's Report</p> <p>Page 8 Book Review – Brian Walters</p> <p>Pages 8/9 Boer War</p> <p>Page 9 Gym Group</p> <p>Page 10 Day Club</p> <p>Page 11 Social Secretary</p> <p>Page 11 Relay for Life</p> <p>Pages 12/13 ANZAC Sunday</p> <p>Pages 14/15 ANZAC Sunday Lunch</p>	<p>Pages 16-18 ANZAC Day Dawn Service</p> <p>Page 19 460 Squadron RAAF</p> <p>Page 19 Avro Lancaster "G for George"</p> <p>Pages 20-22 Gordon Peters – operations diary</p> <p>Page 23 Riverbank Public School</p> <p>Page 23 Welfare</p> <p>Page 24 Pensions</p> <p>Pages 24/25 Nambus</p> <p>Page 25 Membership</p> <p>Pages 26/27 Volunteers</p> <p>Page 28 From The Editor</p> <p>Page 28 DVA Gold Cards **Important**</p>
--	---

SUB-BRANCH CONTACTS

<p>President Don Tait H: 02 9838 7286 M: 0419 287 292 E: president@chrslsubbranch.org.au</p>	<p>Publicity Officer Andrew Pursey M: 0407 922 693 E: editor@chrslsubbranch.org.au</p>
<p>Vice President – Commemoration Mike Yeo W: 1300 377 736 E: VPcomm@chrslsubbranch.org.au</p>	<p>Social Secretary Barry Pareezer M: 0409 916 380 E: social@chrslsubbranch.org.au</p>
<p>Vice President – Personnel David Hand M: 0430 011 900 E: VPPers@chrslsubbranch.org.au</p>	<p>Welfare Officer Mike Lee H: 02 9894 6650 M: 0425 262 634 E: welfare@chrslsubbranch.org.au</p>
<p>Treasurer Des Brady H: 02 9809 3142 M: 0418 663 821 E: treasurer@chrslsubbranch.org.au</p>	<p>Welfare Officer (Deputy) Warren Grant M: 0412 564 702 E: rokdog@bigpond.net.au</p>
<p>Pensions Officer Ron Smith H: 02 9634 3071 M: 0421 522 309</p>	<p>Welfare (Funerals) David Cronan M: 0437 916 710 E: dcronan59@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Pensions Officer (Deputy) Graeme Banks M: 0421 522 309 E: pensions@chrslsubbranch.org.au</p>	<p>Secretary Graham Handley H: 02 9873 4573 M: 0425 349 865 Sub-Branch Office: 02 8858 4809 E: secretary@chrslsubbranch.org.au</p>
<p>Gym Coordinator Phill Evenden H: 02 8824 4030 M: 0413 715 622 E: gymgroup@chrslsubbranch.org.au</p>	<p>Assistant Secretary Chas Naylor E: asstsecretary@chrslsubbranch.org.au</p>
<p>Registrar Peter Westwood H: 02 9872 2479 M: 0408 842 823 E: registrar@chrslsubbranch.org.au</p>	<p>Sub-Branch Postal Address & Phone Postal: PO Box 2, Castle Hill, NSW 1765 Sub-Branch Office phone: 02 8858 4809</p>

MEETING AND ACTIVITY DATES FOR 2016 FOR YOUR DIARY:

General Meetings:	** Members Commemorative Lunch	Sunday 24 July
Mon 11 July	Commemoration Service: Fromelles and Pozières	Wednesday 3 August
Mon 8 August	** Tour: Vietnam/Cambodia	10-25 August
Mon 12 September	War Widows/Welfare Officers/Committee Lunch	Sunday 25 September
Mon 10 October	Remembrance Day	Friday 11 November
Mon 14 November	** Christmas Lunch	Sunday 27 November
Mon 12 December	** Booking required, via Social Sec	

PRESIDENTS REPORT



I thought that 2015 was a busy year; however, 2016 is turning out to be nearly as busy as 2015. Since the March edition of *The Veteran* the sub-Branch has been involved in a significant number of events and activities. I will briefly cover them and several general matters before looking ahead to the end of 2016.

The ANZAC Services at Centenary of ANZAC Reserve were huge successes and well attended.

- The ANZAC Sunday Service on 17 April was attended by about 3,000 people.



The sub-Branch and Services' contingents were well represented as were the youth groups. The address was given by Commodore Nick Helyer MBE (Retired).



At the end of the Service I thanked everyone on behalf of the sub-Branch for either their involvement or assistance in presenting it.

- Even though it was the end of the school

holidays and a long weekend The ANZAC Dawn Service was well attended by about 15,000 to 16,000 people.



The address was given by Captain Paul Mandziy CSC, the Captain of HMAS Adelaide.



The sub-Branch contingent was the largest that we have had for many years. The Year 11 Ambassadors were outstanding with their overviews of the battles of Fromelles and Pozieres.



Again I thanked the individuals and groups on behalf of the sub-Branch for their assistance in conducting the Service.

- These Services take a lot of planning and their conduct involves a significant number of people. There are a large number of sub-Branch members who give up their time and put much effort in to ensuring that the ANZAC Services are professionally presented to our community. I thank them for what they do for us.

After the ANZAC Sunday Service there was a morning tea followed by a commemoration lunch in the Castle Hill RSL Club.

The RSL Youth Orchestra played at the morning tea and the 1/15 RNSWL and RSL Pipe Bands entertained us during the lunch.



Commodore Nick Helyer MBE (Retired) gave the luncheon address. On behalf of the sub-Branch I have thanked the orchestra and bands for entertaining us and also thanked the RSL Club staff for their excellent service, meals and morning tea.

Following the ANZAC Services I thanked the Castle Hill RSL Group Board and the Group CEO for their continuing support to the ANZAC Services.

Shortly after the ANZAC Services the sub-Branch had a group of 21 members who participated in a relay at the Parramatta Park to raise money for Homes for Heroes. Thank you to all who took part in this activity and a big thank you to Phill Evenden for organising our group.

The Year 10 school curriculum includes the study of the Vietnam War. As was done in 2015, the NAMBUS team from the Ettalong Branch of the VVPPA together with members of our sub-Branch provided presentations to a number of students from high schools in the Hills on 2 to 4 May.

I congratulate Phill Evenden and Bryan Mullan for organising the presentations that was based at the Castle Hill High School, and thank the sub-Branch members and the NAMBUS personnel for providing the students with first-hand information on the Vietnam War.

On 21 and 22 May the sub-Branch had three teams in the Relay for Life at the Castle Hill Showgrounds; these teams raised \$15,300.

Thank you and well done to the members who walked and raised this huge amount of money. I also thank Phill Evenden for organising the teams and for other support to our relay teams.

The RSL State Congress was held in the Sydney Town Hall on 23 and 24 May; it was well attended.

David Wood was presented with his Meritorious Service Medal by the Governor of NSW, The

Honourable General David Hurley AC DSC on the morning of 23 May.



Overall the Congress is an interesting forum at which the will of the NSW sub-Branches' members is exercised by their delegates and decisions in their interests are made.

In late May/early June Barry Russ with his film crew interviewed over 30 Vietnam Veterans to record their oral histories. It was done in a building in the Showgrounds provide by The Hills Shire Council and it was set up as a film studio by the team.



The interviews are being edited and once completed they will be put on CDs. These CDs will be distributed to the members interviewed, libraries and the Australian War Memorial.

Many thanks to Barry, Zen Tuszynski, Allan Hopkins and Alain Dunand for interviewing us and well done to the Vietnam Veterans who volunteered to be interviewed.

I know that it wasn't easy; however, be assured your efforts are greatly appreciated.



On 2 June over 30 sub-Branch members gathered in Parramatta to form part of an honour guard for the cavalcade of hearses carrying the remains of 33 Australians (17 Vietnam Veterans and 8 veterans from operations on Thailand/Malaya Border, 3 wives of Army personnel and five children of Army families) who were interred in the cemetery in Terendak Garrison, Malacca Malaysia and a public servant who was buried in the Changi Cemetery in Singapore.



After fifty years they are home with their family members. It was a very moving occasion and I thank all the sub-Branch members who attended.



“Lest we forget”

The Secretary and our Social Secretary have

provided information in this edition of *The Veteran* about our last morning tea and the trip to Cowra.

Several general matters follow.

The Welfare Group continues their excellent work with visits to hospitals, homes and villages. They also help with homeless veterans and assist sub-Branch members with other welfare associated matters. They need more sub-Branch members to volunteer to work with them. Please consider helping.

A recruiting plan has been developed and is being reviewed by your Executive and Committee. It will be presented to the July General Meeting. This plan proposes using all forms of media including the electronic media to tell potential members what we do and what we can offer them. Our membership remains around 550 members and the recruiting plan is designed to keep our membership at this number with the recruitment from current and ex-serving regulars and reservists.

The management team at the Castlebrook Memorial Park are renovating the centre of the Park that is dedicated to the sub-Branch where our members can either inter their ashes or where their DVA plaques can be placed in Rose Gardens. It is also where the sub-Branch holds its Flag Service and breakfast on Australia Day each year. Ten plaques, one for each of the wars, operations and conflicts that Australia has been involved in will be placed on the walls around the gravel parade ground. Negotiations are underway to finalise the plaque designs and cost. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in the short term.

For the remainder of year there are a number of activities. Some of them are covered in this edition of *The Veteran* while others will be notified through Constant Contact, the Website and Facebook, at General Meetings and in the next *Veteran*. These activities are:

- Mid-year Lunch at the Castle Hill RSL Club – 24 July – book now,
- Fromelles/Pozières Commemoration Service at the Centenary of ANZAC Reserve for sub-Branch members – 3 August commencing at 10 am,
- Life Members Lunch at the Castle Hill RSL Club – 24 September,
- War Widow/Widowers Lunch at the Castle Hill RSL Club – 25 September,
- Remembrance Day at the Castle Hill RSL Club, and
- Christmas Lunch at the Castle Hill RSL Club – 27 November.

**Colonel (Retd) Don Tait OAM
President – Castle Hill RSL sub-Branch**

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Well, ANZAC Sunday and ANZAC Day are over for another year, but things don't seem to have quietened down a lot and we find ourselves almost half way through the year with many activities completed but yet more to come.

Our usual Morning Tea was held on 14 May, with a very interesting talk from David Wood on the restoration of two WWI bayonets and the creation of a plaque.



This is now on display in the Memorabilia area of the Club.

On 7 May the FWMDC held a Congress Workshop to go through the Motions being put forward at the upcoming State Congress, which was being held at the Town Hall this Year.

The Annual State Congress was held over three days, 23-25 May, with Brian Walters and myself attending as delegates, along with the President Don Tait and some other members of the sub-Branch as visitors to see David Wood become our newest recipient of the "Meritorious Service Medal", which was presented by David Hurley, thus giving us three recipients of the MSM in our sub-Branch.

Congress went well for the sub-Branches in that many motions were defeated that would have had a profound effect on our sub-Branch and many others who had been doing a good job to keep their sub-Branch's financial status in a most positive status in order to continue our work in supporting local Veterans

and other Community Events throughout the year.

Congratulations to Barry Pareezer on his organisation and setup of the bus trip to Cowra where I believe all attendees had a very pleasant time and enjoyed all the venues visited. Some of us including myself put on a little bit of weight due to too many scones and cakes, but I am sure that those from the Gym Group will take that off very quickly.

A special mention to the Cowra Peace Bell,



Japanese Gardens,



Information Centre (with their 3D presentation, the POW site



and also to Abercrombie House just outside of Bathurst.



On 2nd June, 32 Australians who were buried at Terendak Malaysia and 1 who was buried at Singapore's Kranji Cemetery, during the conflicts in Malaysia and Vietnam, landed on-board a



RAAF C-17 transporter at Richmond Airbase, and they were finally returned home.



An official Ceremony took place.

They then took a path via Rouse Hill and Parramatta for interment in their home soil.



The sub-Branch (30+ opposite the Cenotaph) and others from FWMDC (20+) provided a Guard of Honour at the Parramatta Cenotaph, where they gave the salute.

Castle Hill & District sub-Branch - upcoming dates to remember:

sub-Branch: 24 July Mid-Year Lunch, 3 August at Centenary of ANZAC Reserve Battles of Fromelles/ Pozieres, 10 August Trip to Vietnam.

RSL Australia: 3 July Reserve Forces Day, 19 July Battle of Fromelles and 23 July Battle of Pozieres, 15 August V.P. Day, 18 August Vietnam Veterans Day. For further information contact: secretary@chrslsubbranch.org.au

Graham E Handley MBA
Honorary Secretary

ADDITION TO EVENT SCHEDULE

Sub-Branch Morning Tea on Saturday 10 September at Baptist Aminya Village, 6 Goolgung Ave, Baulkham Hills.

Details of speaker will be via *Constant Contact*.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

We use *Constant Contact* for email communications.

If you have not told us about your email address please tell Graham via Secretary@chrslsubbranch.org.au or Peter via Membership@chrslsubbranch.org.au

BOOK REVIEW – Brian Walters

Title: “*The Anglo-Boer War*”
Author: Lesley H. PERRETT
Published: 2003 (Revised)
Pages: 135 (including appendices)

The book has the sub-title – “from the Hunter Valley to the Transvaal”. It tells the story of Trooper Frederick Averd of the New South Wales Lancers – the great uncle of the author Les Perrett. The Lancers were the first overseas contingent to arrive in South Africa in 1899 to assist a struggling British army. Naturally this made them the first contingent from the colony of New South Wales in pre-Federation Australia.

But this is a broader story than just that of Trooper Averd who died of wounds in October 1900. It covers much of the Australian involvement in the last of the “civilised” wars that ended with the signing of a peace treaty in May 1902.

The book is referred to as an illustrated history as it relies on a number of photographs, documents and other lists. As such, it is very easy to read but informative at the same time. There are a number of different appendices that make the book a very good reference, especially in regards to the

Lancers’ Regiment. The historical accuracy was generally good with some the minor discrepancies to be expected in this type of work.

In conclusion, a very interesting book especially if the reader is familiar with the general events and dates of the Boer War.

(Reviewer’s Note: I have to declare a vested interest in that I knew the author when I received a copy of the book and got to know him much better over the following years – Les died suddenly in October 2015. Also, I was in the Lancers’ Regiment at Parramatta but some 90 years after the events in the book!

There are literally dozens of memorials to the Boer War scattered all over Australia as it was a major historical event for the colonies and a new country. However, there is no national memorial in Canberra. A body called the National Boer War Memorial Association was formed about eight years ago with the objective of getting this memorial built – I am also involved with this Association. The objective is coming to fruition with a planned opening in May, 2017 but there are still some funds required to complete the Memorial.)

Brian Walters

THE BOER WAR 1899-1902 – A Colonial Perspective – Brian Walters

A recent ceremony at the Hyde Park Memorial marked the 114th anniversary of the end of the Boer War in 1902. It was one of many similar ceremonies that took place around Boer War memorials that are spread literally all over Australia indicating that this was of particular historical importance to this country.

Numerous books have been written on the subject of this war, or the Anglo-Boer War as it is sometimes known, by both local and overseas authors – the following is meant as a summary of the events that took place in South Africa around the turn of the twentieth century.

The Boer War ran from the 11 October 1899 to 31 May 1902. It was a substantial military commitment for the United Kingdom at the height of the British Empire. It was also a defining historical event for the then six British colonies which became the Commonwealth of Australia in January 1901.

The War was fought in three phases:

- 1 – October 1899 to February 1900 - the conventional war;

- 2 – February to December 1900 – the British fight back;
- 3 – January 1901 to May 1902 – the guerrilla war.

In the first phase, the Boers under the leadership of Paul Kruger and Jan Smuts, had the advantage of surprise and were successful in a number of conventional military battles against the under-prepared British forces. They were well armed with Mauser rifles and Krupp artillery but were also highly motivated, resourceful and on their home territories. Initial successes at places like Mafeking, Kimberley and the so-called Black Week in December 1899 had the British forces in retreat. The British were able to land major reinforcements in early 1900 under the leadership of Lord Roberts and his Chief-of-Staff, General Lord Kitchener.

The second phase saw the British forces heavily outnumber the total Boer forces and rolled them back into their home republics, negating most of the initial successes. The Boer Republics of Orange Free State and the Transvaal Republic were invaded and apparently subdued. The defending Boers were far from finished and divided into a

number of much smaller, independent units called commandos which were an ideal structure for the hit and run tactics they used, in other words, guerrilla warfare. On the British side, Lord Roberts returned to England and left Lord Kitchener in charge.

The third phase continued as a guerrilla war. This was characterised by a scorched-earth policy on the British side and a massive series of about 8,000 fortified block-houses across the whole area of operations. Another tactic came into play – the use of concentration camps to deny assistance to the Boer commandos; these were used to confine the Boer families and their native workers which resulted in the decimation of those non-combatants. This caused great bitterness and resentment in the whole population which still exists to the present day. However debatable, it was successful in denying the Boers any assistance and they were just overwhelmed by superior numbers and resources. It became apparent to their leadership that it was a lost cause and a treaty was negotiated rather than an unconditional surrender. The Peace Treaty was signed at Vereeniging on the 31 May 1902.

The colonial forces of pre-Federation Australia were very involved over the whole course of the War. It started when a small contingent of the New South Wales Lancers landed at Cape Town in November 1899 – they were the first non-British forces to land in South Africa. The so-called “Fighting 29” as it became known was followed by numerous waves of generally mounted infantry, other arms and nurses from all the six colonies right through to 1902. The later waves included regiments of the Commonwealth Horse, the first Australian forces to be deployed overseas and some 13 years before World War I. Among the many battles that these forces took part in, the Relief of Kimberley and Elands River stand out. There were also numerous examples of cooperation with their New Zealand counterparts which became a precursor for the formation of the ANZAC on the beaches of the Gallipoli Peninsular.

All told about 23,000 Australians took part in a multitude of different units with about 1,000 deaths from various causes. This was more costly in human terms than the Korean or Vietnam Wars. There were six Victoria Crosses awarded during the War.

The other figures are even more daunting – about 21,000 deaths for the British forces (excluding Australia), about 7,100 for the Boer forces and about 61,000 local civilian deaths mainly from disease.

No story of the Boer War would be complete without a mention on the execution in February 1902 of Lieutenants Harry (Breaker) Morant and Peter

Handcock. As part of the Bushveldt Carbineers, they were accused of killing prisoners of war and a Lutheran Pastor. This was a matter of British summary justice done for political purposes with the Peace Treaty signed just three months after their execution.

The Boers did well out of the whole business – there was a lot of re-building and financial assistance from the British after the War. They were able to form their own independent Union of South Africa in 1910 with some of their war-time leaders in prominent positions. The irony of the situation can be appreciated when they fought as allies alongside the British in World War I. The Boer tactics developed during the guerrilla phase of the war were studied and copied by later insurgent groups through the century that followed.

In conclusion, the Boer War was the first military engagement Australia fought in as a nation and not Gallipoli as is popularly believed. Further, many Australian Boer War veterans played a crucial role early in World War I, usually in the important roles of senior non-commissioned and commissioned officers. Despite the obvious historical significance of the Boer War to Australia there is no national memorial in Canberra but that situation is being corrected with a new memorial planned to be opened in May 2017.

(Author's Note: I have to acknowledge the use of a presentation “The Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902)” by Les Perrett who wrote the book reviewed earlier in this publication. Also the book “Invisible Armies” by Max Boot which provides a fascinating history of guerrilla warfare over two thousand years – the Boer War got many mentions!

In regards to the new Boer War Memorial, funds are still required for the final stages of the construction – donations can be made at bwm.org.au/fund)

Brian Walters

HEARTMOVES GYM GROUP



With the onset of winter, the grey nomads in our group are following the swallows and are heading north to warmer climates. As a result our numbers are slightly down.

Those who have remained are giving their best and keeping Alma, our beloved Instructress, on her toes. The new Soldier On T-shirts look great and make us look like a real team.

Thanks to all of you for buying the new uniform shirts.

We are collecting funds to buy Allan Coleman some trainer wheels for his bike after falling over and breaking his leg while out riding in Canberra. Good to see you recovering well Al. It's also good to see Ken Norris up and about after another bout of surgery.

A special THANK YOU to our members who supported the recent walking events for Cancer and Homeless veterans. Your participation and contributions are what makes this sub-Branch GREAT!

Vacancies currently exist for anyone interested in joining our gym group for a bit of fun and exercise.

We meet at 1.30pm on Mondays and Thursdays.

Please contact me if you are interested.

Phill Evenden
Gym Coordinator
0413 715 622

DAY CLUB



The club continues to provide a varied programme for our members each Monday at the Wesley Uniting Church Hall in Castle Hill. We provide morning tea and a hot lunch for all and during the day have gentle exercises, quizzes, card games and various board games.

We were sad to hear of the passing of one of our original Foundation Club Volunteers and a Patron of the Day Club, Brian Hatton. He had worked hard and contributed well to the running of the Day Club over many years.

Our guest speaker in April gave us a talk on cardiovascular problems and a demonstration on the use of our Defibrillator, which was kindly donated by our sub-Branch. We held an Anzac service later in April and also a Raffle which raised \$177.00 for our club.

We thoroughly enjoyed a visit in May by the Wesley Church Pre School who entertained us with some songs they have been learning. We also had an outing to the Castle Tavern at the end of the month.

Some of our regular members have been absent recently and we have three new members who joined us. However our numbers have been down since the start of the year and we are always trying

to reach out to some of our elderly community who may be feeling isolated in their homes and would enjoy a day out.

Further information about the Club can be obtained from Bill Driver (Assistant Coordinator) on 0413 455 526 or myself Jenny Kington on 0420 440 095.

Jenny Kington
Day Club Coordinator

SOCIAL SECRETARY



Our 2016 Social program started with a very enjoyable three day/two night bus tour. We travelled to Cowra and along the way found a great tea house that arguably served the best scones I ever tasted!

Our tour included historic military sites and buildings as well as the fantastic Cowra Gardens. All agreed that it was a fantastic trip, and I hope more will join us on future tours.

Our Christmas in July River Cruise has sold out and should be another enjoyable day out.

I encourage our membership to join us for our Commemorative Luncheon on Sunday 24 July. Tickets are just \$20 pp for a three-course lunch including drinks. Please contact me ASAP.

If you haven't already done so, please put Sunday 27 November in your diary as that is the day set aside for a gala Christmas Lunch.

I look forward to catching up with you at our next social event.

Barry Pareezer
Social Secretary



RELAY FOR LIFE – Phill Evenden

Over the weekend of 21-22 May your sub-Branch once again entered teams in the Hills 2016 fundraising event for Cancer Research.

This year's event, held at Castle Hill Showground, was conducted in mild sunny conditions and this brought out many schools and business houses to participate and raise funds for cancer research.

Approximately 110 teams entered with over 1,000 individuals registered to participate.

Your sub-Branch entered three teams with numbers down a little on previous year's attendances figures.

However, what we lacked in numbers we made up for



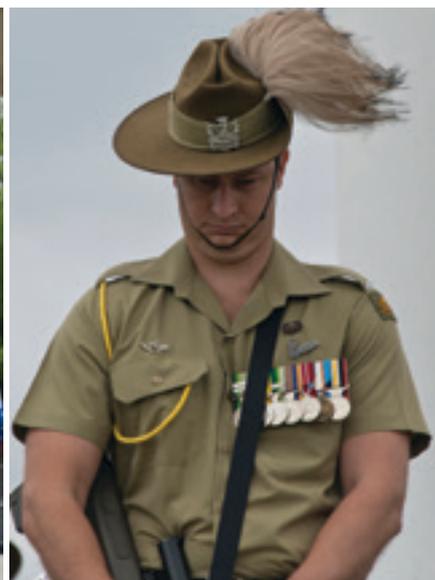
in generosity. We raised over \$15,300, with three of our entrants raising over \$1,000 – an excellent result.

Phill Evenden
Relay for Life Coordinator
0413 715 622

ANZAC SUNDAY 2016



ANZAC SUNDAY 2016



ANZAC SUNDAY LUNCH 2016



ANZAC SUNDAY LUNCH 2016



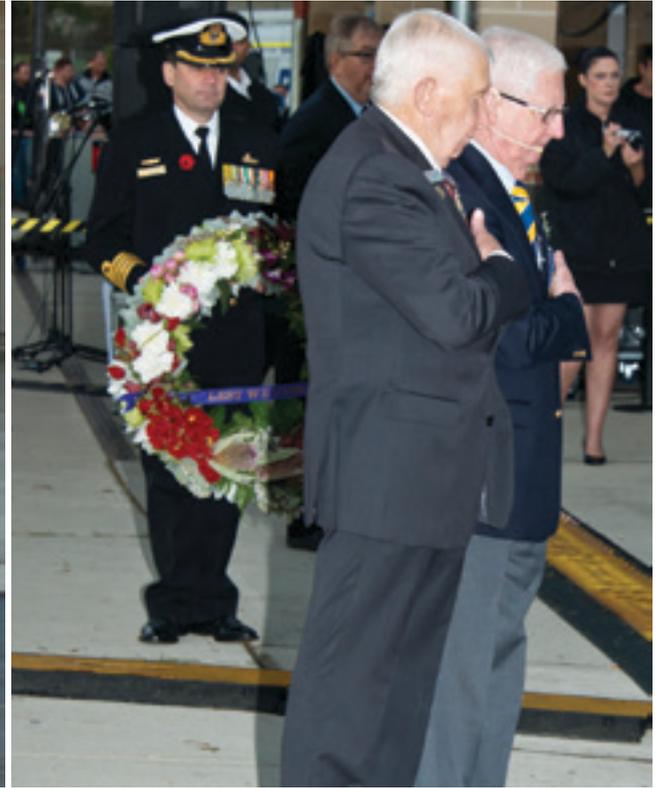
ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE 2016



ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE 2016



ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE 2016



No. 460 SQUADRON – information taken from Australian War Memorial website

“No. 460 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force, was formed at Molesworth in the United Kingdom on 15 November 1941. It was an “Article XV Squadron”, formed in accordance with agreements that implemented the Empire Air Training Scheme. The squadron became part of the Royal Air Force’s Bomber Command and joined the strategic bombing campaign against Germany. Equipped with Vickers Wellington bombers, it mounted its first raid, against the German city of Emden, on 12 March 1942.

In the ensuing three years the squadron was heavily committed to operations over Germany, Italy and German-occupied Europe. It operated, in succession, from airfields at Molesworth (15 November 1941 - 3 January 1942), Brighton (4 January 1942 - 14 May 1943), and Binbrook (14 May 1943 - 27 July 1945). Although it had originally been planned to re-equip the squadron with Handley Page Halifaxes in September 1942, it began operating Avro Lancasters in the following month and joined Bomber Command’s 1 Group. The bulk of the squadron’s operations formed part of the strategic bombing offensive against Germany, although prior to, and during, the D-Day landings in June 1944, it was employed in support of Allied ground operations. The squadron flew its last raid, against Berchtesgarden, on ANZAC Day 1945.

The squadron is regarded as having been the most efficient of the Australian bomber squadrons. It maintained consistently higher serviceability rates among its aircraft, set numerous operational records within Bomber Command, flew the most bombing raids of any Australian squadron, and was credited with the greatest tonnage of bombs dropped - 24,856 tons. The Australian War Memorial’s Lancaster “G for George” was a 460 Squadron aircraft. The squadron, however, suffered heavily. It lost 181 aircraft on operations and suffered 1,018 fatal casualties (589 Australian) - the highest number of any of the Australian squadrons.

Following the end of hostilities in Europe in April 1945, the squadron participated in Operation Manna, which involved the air-dropping of food to Dutch civilians during the first week of May 1945. It was subsequently employed to transport liberated Commonwealth prisoners of war to Britain. With this role complete, 460 Squadron was selected to form part of “Tiger Force”, Bomber Command’s intended contribution to the strategic bombing of Japan, which necessitated a transfer to No. 5 Group and a move to East Kirby. The war in the Pacific ended, however, before “Tiger Force” was deployed. The squadron relinquished its aircraft in early October 1945, and disbanded on the 25th of that month.”

AVRO LANCASTER – “G for George”

The Australian War Memorial has on display in Canberra the Lancaster “G for George” and the following information is taken from the AWM website.

“Since it was first installed in Aircraft Hall in June 1955 Avro Lancaster, serial number W4783, “G for George” has been one of the icons of the Australian War Memorial’s collection. It is now one of only 17 Lancasters left in the world from the 7,378 originally manufactured. W4783 is a Mk I Lancaster and was built by Metropolitan-Vickers Limited in Manchester in the United Kingdom in mid-1942. It was taken on charge by the RAF on 22 October 1942 and then allocated to A Flight of 460 Squadron RAAF. The aircraft’s popular name was derived from its radio call sign - ‘G’. The word ‘George’ represented ‘G’ in the phonetic alphabets in use during the Second World War. During its 17 month operational career with 460 Squadron, W4738 flew 89 missions. The first was on the night of 5 December 1942 to attack Mannheim, and the last on the night of 20 April 1944 against Cologne. Having been identified for the purpose as early as November 1943, W4738

was flown to Australia in late 1944 to publicise the victory loans drive. It left the United Kingdom on 11 October and, flying via Iceland, Canada, the United States and various Pacific Islands, arrived at Amberley outside of Brisbane on 8 November. W4738 toured Australia during 1945 and made its last flight, to RAAF base Canberra, on 24 September 1945. W4738 spent almost ten years, most of them exposed to the elements, at RAAF Canberra before being installed at the AWM. It was the centrepiece of Aircraft Hall for 44 years before being disassembled and removed for an extensive conservation program in March 1999. In the second half of 2003 it was reassembled, and returned to display, in Anzac Hall.”

Sub-Branch member Tim Peters’ father, Gordon Peters, flew as Navigator on “G for George” on numerous bombing missions over Germany.

Tim has his handwritten diary and has typed it all up for us to read here – *thanks Tim, a true labour of love and a very interesting part of history.*

GORDON PETERS – his Operations Diary – transcribed by Tim Peters

Sat 24 July 1943

This was our first trip. We were all very eager and keen but I think we were all just a bit scared. Being summer time we had plenty of time to prepare and get everything in order. Our kite was “G for George” - a fairly new kite and pretty good.

We climbed to about 15,000ft over base and on time set course across the North Sea. The navigation was fairly easy and I worked pretty hard. The rest of the crew had settled down and there was very little talking. HAMBURG was our target and we had quite a long way to go. We soon knew when we were near the coast by the searchlights and flak but I wasn't able to see a thing being blacked out in my cabin. At last we were near our target and the boys began to get a bit excited.

They were all talking about the lights and flak, so I pulled back my curtain for a look - one glimpse was enough - flak everywhere so I ducked back into my cabin. At last the bomb aimer gave “Bombs Gone” and we set course back for home. Uneventful trip back. That was our first op and we learned quite a lot. Doug was a great help and he steered us through the lights pretty well.

Sun 25 July 1943

ESSEN our target.

Once more the Ruhr was to be visited. We didn't feel too happy about it, but almost to the target was uneventful. This time I went up front to have a good look (and almost wished I hadn't). In front of us was what appeared to be a solid wall of flak and searchlights. I was wondering how it was possible for a kite to get back through it when Lance called up and said we were short of fuel. So the skipper decided to jettison the bombs and we headed home. Actually we were only about 3 miles from the target and on thinking it over after, we decided that we could have gone through easily. Actually the fuel gauges were u/s and we had plenty of fuel - so we decided that we would always make a good effort to bomb the target.

Tues 27 July 1943

HAMBURG once more.

Had a very quiet trip across but the target was the usual hive of activity. I was getting used to the flak and searchlights and had a really good look at the target. Over the city was a huge pall of dense black smoke rising to about 25,000ft. In the city itself was a great fire and I couldn't help feeling sorry for the poor devils down below.

We saw several kites shot down about us but we had no trouble.

Learned later that Hamburg was completely wiped out and well over 20,000 people killed in our blitz. On this raid we won the bombing pool having bombed the aiming point.

After this trip we went on a very welcome spot of leave.

“G for George”

Mon 9 Aug 1943

MANNHEIM

There was nothing very interesting about this trip, which took 7 hours to complete. The target was pretty hot with searchlights and flak and night fighters were very active. Several kites were shot down round about us but our usual good luck held and we got through unscathed. Our crew was getting seasoned now and we felt very confident.

“C for Charlie”

Tues 10 Aug 1943

NUREMBERG

Another very long trip - 7 hours again. Uneventful but a hot target. Rather hard to get to and that night the attack was wide. Not a very good effort.

“C for Charlie”

Thurs 12 Aug 1943

MILAN

It was a full moon and with full tanks we knew there could only be Italy. Taking off at about 10.30 still in daylight we set course for the S of England, where we arrived just as it was getting dark - crossed the Channel and into France. For a wonder the fighters were down and we struck no trouble. The sky was as bright as day and we could see other Lancs about us. On and on we stooged till at last we came to Lake Bourget just South of Switzerland. To the North we could plainly see the lights of the Swiss town and it was here that my Gee (*radio navigation system*) faded and now it was to be straight navigation.

Very soon Cherry (*Pilot*) called up to say that the Alps were coming up ahead, so I packed up and went up front for a look-see. The mountains were practically clear of cloud and as we sailed over the top of them, we could see almost every rock and crag. Being summer, only the tops of the mountains were snow covered and very impressive. We passed quite close to Mt Blanc and it seemed that one could almost step from the wing to the mountain-top although we were almost 4,000ft above it.

Almost abruptly it seemed, we were across and stooging on above a light mist and after about another 1/2 hour came to the target. PFF (*PathFinder Force*) boys had an MC (*Master of Ceremonies*) on and he told us to go in and bomb - opposition was negligible. A few feeble searchlights waved about and a few ack-ack threw up some flak. But the target was very tame compared with others we had been to. The MC was a chap who flew round and round the target telling the main force where to bomb.

Once again we crossed the Alps and we all had another good look. Eventually after 8 1/2 hours airborne we arrived back at base very tired but well content with our trip.

“G for George”

Sun 15 Aug 1943

MILAN

Still full moon so Italy again. This trip was much the same as last. The Alps were still as impressive, but I think more beautiful, as there was no cloud at all and we could see for miles. The target still as quiet as ever and the trip became monotonous.

Some bright boy must have perched himself on a mountain because, as we crossed coming back, .303 tracer started coming up in our general direction but, apart from that and the usual activity on the French coast, we saw nothing.

“D for Dog” (the old “G for George” renamed because the original “G” was out for maintenance after being in the explosion when the cookie went up). (*the aircraft next door was bombing up when one was accidentally dropped*)

Tues 17 Aug 1943

PEENEMUNDE

This was a special low-level do. Keene is a small isolated spot in Northern Germany. Actually a small peninsula with no town or village. It was the scene of great activity of experimental works in RDF (*Radio Direction Finding*) and it was there that most of Jerry's new RDF equipment was made. We were to do a low level attack at 8,000ft.

The target was divided into 3 parts. (1) Sleeping quarters (2) Laboratories (3) Factory.

1st phase was to attack (1)

2nd “ “ “ “ (2)

3rd “ “ “ “ (3)

We were on the 3rd phase.

Apart from a bit of flak and a few fighters over

Denmark we had no trouble going in. It was brilliant moonlight and we could almost map read our way from island to island. However, we arrived early at the target and had to orbit and wait for our correct time. The attack was going well and we could plainly see the fires although a strong smoke screen was in action. While we were circling we saw several kites shot down. The defences were really hot. We went in and were very relieved when our bombs were finally dropped. That was no place to linger. Kites were being shot down all about us and we didn't waste any time leaving. In contrast, our trip back was as quiet and peaceful as any cross country over England, coming back.

Wiped out Peenemunde.

6 hrs 55 mins airborne and “D for Dog” the kite.

Sun 22 Aug 1943

LEVERKUSEN

Once again back to the Ruhr and as usual the place was pretty hot. Searchlights in the thousands and flak everywhere. However, we got through and I'm glad to say actually got the target.

For this trip our kite was “G for George” (W4783). The old “G” which had done 47 trips. She's a good kite and is ours now. We are hoping to finish our tour in the old veteran.

Fri 27 Aug 1943

NUREMBERG

Once more back to this place. Nothing very important about this trip - a good trip which they all are when you can get back from them. Target still pretty hot and fighters bad.

7 hours 10 mins airborne in “G for George”.

Mon 30 Aug 1943

RHEYDT

Never heard of this place before but it is a Ruhr town and so deserves hitting. Ruhr a bit quieter this time. The only thing about this trip was that my 23rd birthday commenced just after we left the target on our way home.

4hrs 40 mins airborne in “G for George”.

Tues 31 Aug 1943

BERLIN

What a birthday - commenced with a trip to the Ruhr - spent most of the day in bed and now they want me to finish it on Berlin. This was our first trip to the big city and I think it was with “fear & trepidation” that we set out on it. However, all went well to the target, but I've never seen anything since to compare with the searchlights and flak at that place.

The city was walled with searchlights and seemed to have a roof of flak. Cherry put the nose down and we went through the defences as fast as we could. Seemed ages from the time we first met the searchlights till we got through the other side. We were all unanimous in our claim that we "didn't want to go there again". However, we pulled through.

7 hrs 30 mins airborne in "G for George".

This ended our ops for August with a record of 9 trips for the month. Actually 10 but we missed one.

Fri 3 Sep 1943

BERLIN

After not wanting to go back we are sent again on the first op. On this trip we had good cloud cover all the way. As we were sailing over one place we were hit by flak. The first time for us and it was rather shaking. Three bursts almost on us and Cherry putting the nose down probably saved us from more.

After that we were not a bit keen on the target. It was as hot as ever but we sailed through with the help of plenty of speed and a lot of luck. Came back via Sweden and North of Denmark and across the North Sea. We had 17 holes in the kite when we landed and so thought ourselves very lucky.

The mid-upper gunner, Doug, was very lucky as a piece of flak went through his perspex in the turret. The bomb-aimer, Keith, had a splinter of perspex lodged in the corner of his eye. Only small and hardly made a mark although at the time he and we thought he'd lost his eye. The flash of the bursts had temporarily blinded him and he certainly made plenty of noise. However, we all arrived back hale and hearty.

8 hrs 5 mins airborne in "G for George".

© Tim Peters 2016

(Tim Peters' Note: There are no further operational comments apart from "26th Nov. Press interviews and photos. Berlin that night" located at the back of the diary. I presume this relates to his award of the Distinguished Flying Cross. 29 trips were flown in total ending 24/12/1943 - of these 24 were flown in "G for George".)

(Editor's Note: whilst searching the AWM website I found the following photo taken on 27 November 1943 – which links to the diary comment about the Berlin raid on 26 November.



Female Intelligence Officer at the Royal Air Force Station receiving a report from members of the crew of G George, Avro Lancaster of 460 Squadron RAAF, after an attack on Berlin, Germany 26 November 1943. This was G George's 71st successful operation over enemy territory. Identified are (left to right) 421030 Flying Officer (FO) Gordon Peters, RAAF Navigator (later awarded DFC); FO J Howarth, RAF, (DFM) Mid-Upper Gunner; 413528 Warrant Officer (WO) Harold George "Cherry" Carter, RAAF, Pilot; Sergeant (Sgt) L Regan, RAF, Flight Engineer; 430734 Flight Sergeant (Flt Sgt) Keith Harris, RAAF, Bomb Aimer; 412914 Pilot Officer Robert Charles Coveny, RAAF, Wireless Operator, Air Gunner; Sgt L Burrows, RAAF, Rear Gunner. I also found this photo of "G for George" airborne in Australia after flying in from Europe.



Lancaster G for George, soon after arrival in Australia. Photograph taken in circuit area at No. 2 OAS Mount Gambier, 14 March 1945. Returning from a photographic mission, 431179 Flying Officer David Hamilton Hume identified G for George in the circuit area of the aircraft he was flying in. Indicating his camera to those in the cockpit of the Lancaster, the pilot of G for George slowed the bomber down for Hume to photograph it.

RIVERBANK PUBLIC SCHOOL – MEMORIAL STONE – Phill Evenden

Members would recall that they approved the funding of a Memorial Stone to be installed at the local Riverbank Public School through your Grants Committee. With acceptable quotes from Gosford Quarries and Cuneen Signs and the cooperation of the School Principal, Mrs Jeanie Brown, the stone was installed and ready for unveiling for the combined The Ponds / Riverbank Schools' ANZAC Service on 28 April.



The full Riverbank School attended the service with the Dedication speech delivered by our Vice President, Mike Yeo.

WELFARE TEAM – Mike Lee

The active welfare group of net 13 volunteers continued normal action during May. During the month we visited 220 veterans from the local area that included current locations of:

1. The San Hospital
2. Norwest Private
3. Westmead Private
4. Baulkham Hills Rehab Hospital
5. Brian King Gardens
6. Donington Court
7. Farrar Brown
8. Warrina
9. Wirreanda Village
10. Donald Coburn Centre

There are three new volunteers from the March meeting and I have added them to the list to attend the training course when it is scheduled later in the year. They are Nev Smith, Michael Douglass and Frank Peterson. Many thanks to these gents; we will certainly use them in the future.

We have had a number of calls for assistance for homeless veterans that have come into our area via the St. John of God facility. Mainly picked up by Veteran360, we have been called upon to assist with



Parents and teachers expressed their appreciation to the seven sub-Branch members who supported the service on the day.

This project was another example of your sub-Branch supporting the community and helping to educate the young children in our local schools.

Phill Evenden
Chairman, Grants Committee

a number of things regarding homeless veterans:

1. Emergency crisis accommodation
2. Emergency food vouchers (Woolworth vouchers)
3. Immediate one to one assistance until they are relocated to a more permanent facility

A special request was made by Veteran360 to provide transport only to a homeless Navy veteran. Thanks to Robert Holmes for his assistance with transport.

Veterans suicides is an issue that has come to light during the last couple of months which I feel should be put forward to the sub-Branch on an information basis: Veterans suicides for 2015 = 34 and Jan-May 2016 Veterans Suicides = 11.

This is a strong call for help and if you come across or hear anything on this issue from a Vet (or anyone) please let the Welfare Team know.

I am working with Granville Vets to obtain a list of medical helpers in our area we can contact and hopefully prevent these numbers from growing.

Mike Lee
Welfare Officer

PENSIONS – Graeme Banks

I reported to a recent meeting of the sub-Branch that anyone who may be considering – or may not having previously had any thoughts in this regard – a claim on the Department of Veterans Affairs for Pension/Compensation/Rehabilitation is encouraged to contact me so that arrangements can be made for us to have preliminary discussions, with follow-up action as and if appropriate.

I must stress that it is important to note that for the DVA to be able to accept a claim there has to be a causal connection between service and incapacity/death.

In this regard DVA is guided by Statements of Principle (SoPs) issued by the Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) which outline factors which must, as a minimum, exist in respect of the specific medical condition/s for which a claim is being made. At least one of the SoP factors must apply to the specific condition and to be accepted a claim must satisfy all of the elements in that relevant SoP factor.

No matter how detailed a supporting medical report may be or how eminent is the medical practitioner who provides the evidence, if it does not show full compliance with at least one of the factors in the particular SoP, it will not provide the necessary causal connection between service and incapacity/death. Where the claim includes more than one medical condition all, some or none of the conditions may be accepted by DVA. It is one of the roles of Pensions Officers to assist in relating specific

NAMBUS – Phill Evenden

This year Castle Hill High School agreed to make their auditorium available to the sub-Branch for the Nambus presentations. This enabled volunteers from your sub-Branch to work with the Nambus Team from the Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association from the Central Coast to provide a Prime Source learning experience to local high schools to supplement their Year 10 studies.

The Nambus is a converted government bus which operates as a travelling museum. Volunteers from VVPPA take the bus all over the state to provide a learning experience to interested parties on the Vietnam War. Subjects covered include, Conscription, Australian Politics at that time and the Moratorium protestors as well as the role taken by the Australian Defence Force.

The presentations begin with a rundown on Conscription followed by a role play on the ballot system. School children are called out based on their date of birth by a friendly Nambus volunteer

medical conditions to the relevant RMA SoPs.

It should however be noted that SoPs are fluid documents and are subject to changes over time – sometimes in quite considerable ways as medical/scientific knowledge changes. In this regard a claim which was rejected initially by DVA may subsequently be able to be resubmitted if there has been a pertinent advantageous change to the relevant SoP covering the medical condition involved.

Some sub-Branch members may have had over recent years a claim rejected by DVA due to the inability to relate SoP factors to the specific claim. If you have had a condition, or conditions, rejected in the past it may well be opportune for us to have a discussion to see if there has been a potentially beneficial change to the relevant SoP since the initial claim - which will justify revisiting the claim and submission of a new claim to DVA. Please do not hesitate to contact me in this regard if you feel this provision may relate to your circumstances.

Also if in doubt about any aspect of Pensions/Compensation/Rehabilitation please do not hesitate to contact me. My contact details are 9686-3119, 0427 201 541 or you can leave a message (with your name and phone number) at the front desk of the Club.

***Graeme Banks OAM
Pensions Officer***

who once they are lined up, becomes a scowling Sergeant Major. One minute a civilian, next minute a soldier! After a run through of events at that time and some personal anecdotes from veterans, the group is broken up into three groups to have a guided tour of the Bus, a collage of photos or a hands-on experience with army equipment from that era.

At all times our volunteers make themselves available to talk to the students and answer their questions.

On completion of the 2 – 2/12 hour session, the students are invited to ask questions and I, on behalf of the sub-Branch, indicate to the teachers that members of the sub-Branch will visit the school later in the year if they wish to revisit any aspect of our presentation or ask questions relevant to their studies.

Feedback from both teachers and pupils has been positive and the team from the Nambus have indicated that they would be happy to conduct sessions next year to interested schools.

Special mention and my expression of appreciation also goes out to regular sub-Branch supporter, retired school principal, Bryan Mullen for his representations to the schools on behalf of the sub-Branch and his contribution to sessions with his introductions. A big THANKS Bryan; your support is greatly appreciated for the many functions you support on our behalf.

Of course, the show could not go on without the volunteers who support the Nambus Team. All involved in the programme asked me to pass on their thanks for giving up time with family to assist our programme. A job well done!

Phill Evenden
Nambus Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP – Peter Westwood



We have had three significant membership status recognitions in the past month. David Wood has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, whilst Geoffrey Nelson and David Bruce Robertson (known as Bruce) have both been awarded 50-year certificates.

Dave Wood (photo courtesy of Niki Burnside – Fairfax Media) was presented with the Meritorious Medal at the recent NSW State Congress of the RSL; this award is the highest honour which can be bestowed upon a member of the League. David joined the League in 1984 after having served ten years in 1/15 RNSWL. Over the years David has held the following positions in this sub-Branch; Secretary, Vice President, Publicity Officer, and, Memorabilia Officer; and also attained recognition in 2000 with Life Membership.

Geoff Nelson, up until recently, was active in our sub-Branch going on our organised outings and participating in activities at C2K Gym. Geoff was

discharged from the Army as a Corporal with 2/6 Australian General Hospital on 21 October 1946. After moving around the State and Country in his various roles in the banking industry he now lives at Epping.

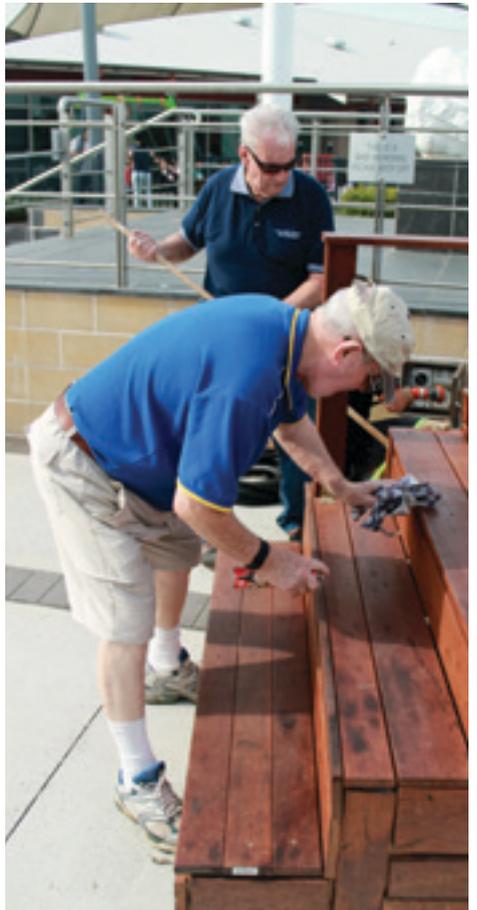
Bruce Robertson started his military service in the Army before the outbreak of WW2, then joined the Royal Australian Air Force as a Wireless Operator in 30 Squadron. Bruce is very active in his retirement, particularly with research and documentation of the history of the RAAF.

(Editor's Note: I have been fortunate to have a read of two of Bruce's booklets – the history of RAAF Richmond and the account of 30 Squadron's Beaufighters involvement in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea. They are both a truly interesting and informative read, and, a great historical record.)

Peter Westwood
Registrar

Volunteers – Andrew Pursey

Some of the volunteers who worked on planning, set-up and delivery for ANZAC Sunday and ANZAC Day:



Volunteers – Andrew Pursey

Some of the volunteers who worked on planning, set-up and delivery for ANZAC Sunday and ANZAC Day:



From the Editor – Andrew Pursey

This issue includes the final instalment of Gordon Peters' diary, covering his time with 460 Squadron in Lancasters, especially "G for George".

To supplement Gordon's diary I went on to the Australian War Memorial website (www.awm.gov.au) to gather additional information. This website is a real treasure trove of articles, photographs and collections – a perfect reference site – and I acknowledge AWM for the provision of this wonderful facility.

Another great reference site is that of the UK's Imperial War Museum – www.iwm.org.uk – which is well worth a visit if you are conducting serious research.

The response to Gordon's initial diary instalment has been most interesting, with a number of people telling me about relatives who served in 460 Squadron and/or with the RAAF in Europe in World War 2.

Brian Walters tells me that his uncle (John Brennan) was a member of 460 Squadron ground crew, based at Binbrook.

At Eastern Creek a couple of weekends ago I caught up with Frank Binding, who races the original Army Reserve Ford Falcon in Group C; yes, I am researching an article – but then his wife told me that her uncle was a Rear Gunner on "G for George" but was transferred to another aircraft which was shot down over Germany with the loss of all the crew.

The Police Sergeant on the previous page told me that his grandfather was on HMS Hood – but was fortunate to be transferred to another ship

one voyage prior to HMS Hood being sunk by the German ships Bismarck and Prinz Eugen. Only three of her ship's company of 95 officers and 1,324 men survived.

I've now heard of another couple of diaries covering the New Guinea campaign – and can only hope that we can have an opportunity to share these personal historical records.

Thanks to our regular contributors and book reviewers, and, special thanks to Brian Walters and Tim Peters for their inputs. Also, it is good to have columns on Membership, Pensions and Welfare from Peter Westwood, Graeme Banks and Mike Lee respectively. Thanks also to Don Tait, Graham Handley, Phill Evenden, Niki Burnside (Fairfax Media), and, Margaret Fraser-Martin and Robert Shelberg of CHRSL Photography Club for their photographs.

On the subject of submissions for *The Veteran*; they are very welcome, so anything that you can provide by way of coverage of social and commemorative activities, or book reviews, is much appreciated. If you have any reports or photos that you would like to send me, I'll be happy to include them in the September or later issues.

Please use my sub-Branch email address editor@chrslsubbranch.org.au to send reports, or, call me on 0407 922 693 to discuss prior to submission.

I can't always get to every event, so if you have a camera with you please take some photos (jpg format, please) that can be used in *The Veteran*.

Andrew Pursey

DVA VETERAN AND WAR WIDOW/ER GOLD CARDS

****IMPORTANT****

Pensions Officer, Graeme Banks, made available to sub-Branch members attending the 11 April General Meeting a copy of a summary paper covering entitlements available to DVA Gold Card holders.

Specific reference was made in the paper to the importance of not only the DVA Gold Card holder being fully aware of the range of entitlements that come with the Gold Card but also that close family members have awareness in this regard as well – so as to avoid expenditures, which can be significant, which could have been avoided if the Gold Card had been produced initially.

There is anecdotal evidence that there have been instances where families have had to seek hospital/medical assistance for a relative (a Gold Card holder) without having any knowledge of the existence of, or the importance of, the relative's Gold Card – or that costs involved could have been covered by DVA if the Gold Card had been produced when seeking the assistance.

Members who did not attend the April General Meeting, but who would like a copy of the paper, should contact Graeme directly on 9686-3119, mobile 0427 201 541 or by email to pensions@chrslsubbranch.org.au