



CASTLE HILL RSL SUB BRANCH



VOLUME 35 MARCH 2018



*"Lest We Forget"*

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#### Cover photographs:

Australia Day 2018 flag-planting activities at Castlebrook Memorial Park

**WEBSITE:** [www.chrslsubbranch.org.au](http://www.chrslsubbranch.org.au)

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/ch.subbranch](http://www.facebook.com/ch.subbranch)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to the New Year and I trust you have had a most enjoyable festive season with family and friends and had the opportunity to rest and recharge in preparation for what is going to be, on the sub-Branch front, a busy year as we bring the Centenary of ANZAC (and World War 1) to a close. Whilst the usual activities will be conducted, they will be slightly different, and I expect bigger affairs with larger audiences.

2018 sees 100 years on from 1918 which saw significant contributions by Australians and New Zealanders throughout. At the start of 1918 the end of the War seemed far off, with 1917 having been the most bloody in Australian history. Yet after many months of hard slog with considerable sacrifice the Allies achieved victory. 1918 saw the taking of Damascus and victory in the Middle East. The continuing hard-fought war on the Western Front with the defeat of the Spring Offensive to take Amiens and actions leading to the successful August Offensive and the end of the War - with many names to be etched in Australia History including Villers Bretonneux, Hamel, Mont St Quentin, Peronne and the Hindenburg Line.

Since my last report the main sub-Branch activity was the annual Australia Day flag planting activity which is our practical commemoration on of the

service and sacrifice of our Hills service personnel from the Navy, Army, Air Force, Merchant Navy and Allies who are memorialised in the Castle Hill Cemetery and the Castlebrook Memorial Park. It was well run, as always, by the Team headed by Jim Wilson who was ably supported by a plethora of Team Captains and many others. Of course thanks to our usual partners including John Lazanas and the Castlebrook staff, who provided considerable logistic and administrative support including, but not least, the wonderful breakfast and coffee – their ongoing support for this event is magnificent and much appreciated; the Castle Hill RSL Pipe Band for their musical accompaniment; the Air Force Cadets from 336 Squadron for the catafalque party and general attendance; Bugler Pax from the RSL Youth Band; Bunnings once again for supplying the flags; St John Ambulance for their ongoing support; and, of course, the numerous local citizens who joined us.

We have a significant ANZAC Sunday and Dawn Service planned. As previously advised, Dr Brendan Nelson AO, Director of the Australian War Memorial, will be our guest speaker at the ANZAC Sunday commemoration and lunch on 22 April. An excellent presenter and most suitable for this important occasion.

Unlike previous years, we will have a static vehicle display including the NAMBUS, some vehicles from 1/15 RNSWL Historical Vehicle Troop, to include the newly dedicated Matilda Tank "ACE" which took part in the Battle of Balikpapan with the Regiment, plus some vehicles from the Military Vehicles Association. As well as the usual support from the Lancers, HMAS Adelaide will be sending a contingent and the Commanding Officer, Captain Jonathan Earley CSC, will be in attendance. I expect a contingent from RAAF Base Richmond as well.

I encourage you to spread the word, so we can bolster attendance from the community in this Centenary of Armistice year.

Brigadier Susan Coyle CSC DSM, Commander of the 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade, has kindly accepted our invitation to speak at our ANZAC Dawn Service. She will be accompanied by her RSM, WO1 Eric Lewis. I had the honour of serving with Susan in Afghanistan in 2014 where she was the Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force 636 / Command Task Group Afghanistan based in Kabul. A most impressive soldier and I look forward to what she has to say.

The year has started off significantly for the NSW

State Branch with the release of the Bergin Inquiry Report which has significant implications on the conduct of RSL NSW business and is a damning indictment of the conduct of the State Branch and key personnel of the past. It flags that much needs to be done to get the RSL back on track.

Our President, James Brown, has been active in his communication so I encourage you to read his regular missives to keep abreast of matters. A Strategy Discussion paper has been released which provides an indication of where we need to head as an organisation, this will lead in turn to a Strategic Plan. However, priority is recasting the constitution into something simpler and more pragmatic which can underpin the way ahead. This is critical for us to regain our ability as an organisation to accept donations. Our sub-Branch, as one of the more active and financially viable, will be expected to support our brethren sub-Branches that are struggling because of their size and inability to currently generate donations to conduct the needed work of the League in their areas. Much to do and it will take some time. More to follow.

As you are aware, Invictus Games 2018 is being held in Australia in October. Brigadier Patrick Kidd, OBE came to our sub-Branch in February to provide a well-received presentation at the General Meeting and to accept an initial donation from our

sub-Branch to the charity, Australian International Military Games (AIMG) Limited, which he heads, and which organises and runs the Games. We also have a significant donation ready to go to Adaptive Sports, which administers and supports the Australian Athletes. There are some matters being sorted out between RSL National and various State Branches and the Australian Defence Force, to which Adaptive Sports belongs, and once this is done I look forward to our being able to make our donation to that worthy organisation. We are working with the Club and the State Branch regarding activities to support the Games and we will keep you informed as this progresses.

Finally, thanks to Andrew Pursey who, as the esteemed Editor of *The Veteran*, puts together this great publication. Do not underestimate the effort it takes to do this task, including corralling recalcitrant contributors (such as myself) and then editing their works to fit this publication. Andrew has flagged that he will be moving on sometime in the future, so we are looking for a similarly diligent and inspired replacement. Please speak to Andrew or myself.

All the best,

***“Lest We Forget”***

***Brigadier Phillip K.H. Bridie, AM***

## **ANZAC Sunday and ANZAC Day Dawn Service arrangements**

ANZAC Sunday and the ANZAC Day Dawn Service will be held at Centenary of ANZAC Reserve, Wrights Rd, Kellyville on 22 April and 25 April respectively.

Key timings:

- Sun 22 April: 0830 to form up inside St Angelas for the march-on.
- Wed 25 April: 0545 to form up outside St Angelas for the march-on.

There will be no public buses this year but there will be 2 buses to take the sub-Branch members and spouse/partner/carer to and from the Club to the Reserve.

**YOU MUST BOOK to guarantee a seat.**

Options are:

- Fill in the sheet at the sub-Branch April meeting
- Email [secretary@chrslsubbranch.org.au](mailto:secretary@chrslsubbranch.org.au)

- Phone sub-Branch on 8858 4809 and leave a message for Secretary and include your phone number

**ANZAC Sunday Lunch** is by invitation. Please respond quickly if you get invited and advise if later, you cannot make it. The sub-Branch pays for all meals booked.

**ANZAC Sunday morning tea** back at the Club is for all that attend the ANZAC Sunday event.

**ANZAC Day Dawn Service** is followed by breakfast at the Club for all service people and their immediate family. Buses from the Club to the Reserve need to be booked as above.

Two buses will also leave for the City. Bookings are preferred for these, but you can take your chances on the day. These buses will leave from outside the Club at 0810 and 0830.

***Mike Yeo***

## SECRETARY'S REPORT



Planning for ANZAC Sunday and ANZAC Dawn Service is well underway and we look forward to the significance of 2018 as the centenary of the end of the "War to end all Wars". We will be building on the success of previous years and expanding the options for the community to participate. This year we will be live streaming via the internet the conduct of our Dawn Service at Centenary of ANZAC Reserve. We will also be inviting a number of Military vehicles and the SES to participate in a static display for ANZAC Sunday.

Transport arrangements for ANZAC Sunday and ANZAC Dawn service will be the same as last year.

We will have buses taking sub-Branch members and a limited number of guests to ANZAC Reserve on ANZAC Sunday and return to the Club.

We will also be providing buses for ANZAC Dawn Service for the trip to and from ANZAC Reserve. Additionally, two buses will be available to transport members to the City for the Sydney March and one bus returning in the afternoon. Please ensure you put your name and contact details on the sign-up sheets.

We have had several requests from local schools and retirement villages for a Veteran to participate or deliver a short speech as part of that

organisation's ANZAC commemoration. If you are available for any of these tasks, please let me know and I will see how we can assign you to one of these community events.

The sub-Branch will have a number of members travelling overseas for the centenary of ANZAC and there is a need for additional "Wranglers" and helpers for both events. Please let Mike Yeo know that you are available and willing to help

You are also aware that the Invictus Games will be held in NSW this year. The games are scheduled for 20-27 October 2018 at a number of venues around Sydney. Castle Hill and District sub-Branch is committed to supporting this event and will be providing donations to Adaptive Sports and the Athletes for the completion.

*The Australian Defence Force recognises that there are proven psychological benefits of participating in sport and have developed a rehabilitation program in conjunction with the Australian Paralympic Committee which uses adaptive sport to optimise functional independence, physical fitness and to promote positive self-image and self-esteem.*

If you want to find out more, go to [www.invictusgames2018.org](http://www.invictusgames2018.org)

I would like to thank Elizabeth Pedersen who has volunteered to provide me with support as Secretary for the sub-Branch.

Elizabeth has offered to assist with some membership data initiatives to improve the contact information of our members and will also take an active role in communicating important notices via Constant Contact.

As part of our membership data initiative some of you will find an insert sheet included in this issue of *The Veteran*; this is a request for you to provide us with updated contact information so that we may improve our communications with you. If you receive this request, please help us to help you by providing updated contact information.

**Alain Dunand**  
**Secretary**

## BAHRAIN DEPLOYMENT – Commander Paul Garai

Dear Phil and RSL colleagues,

Thanks so much for the generous care packages that I received just before Christmas. The treats from home were deeply appreciated and I shared them around the team. Tim Tams in particular are scarce here and a great currency for favours.

In particular, I would like to thank Cheryl for the very thoughtful letter and card, and the coffee mug has been put to good use.

Time is flying by, and I would actually be at half way now, but for the news that we are being extended until the end of May. The mission has been great, as well as the team I have deployed with.

To recap, I am part of a 28-strong combined Australian/Canadian staff that is manning the headquarters for Combined Task Force 150 (CTF150) based at the US Navy base in Bahrain.



*7 December – The ‘Moosaroos’ – Combined Australian / Canadian CTF150 staff with Commander US Navy, Central Command, Vice Admiral Aquilino*

The mission of CTF150 is the suppression of terrorism at sea in the western Indian Ocean and Red Sea. A significant focus is the disruption of illegal smuggling that funds terrorist groups, particularly the disruption of narcotics smuggling.

We command a multi-national force of ships and aircraft from Australia, US, New Zealand, UK, Japan, Spain, Germany and Pakistan, including the Australian frigate HMAS *Warramunga*. You may have noticed the recent media stories about her huge narcotics seizures over the last month. *Warramunga* has now exceeded AUD 1 billion in narcotics seizures and is having a huge impact on narcotics smuggling across the region.

Placing our ships to be in the right place at the right time is the job of the HQ staff, relying on analysis of historic operating patterns, intelligence and reconnaissance, and then the determination of

the boarding teams. We have disrupted narcotics smuggling from one end of the operational area to the other. I am pleased to report that it has been a highly successful deployment so far.



*22 January – New Zealand Air Force P3K Maritime Patrol Aircraft overflying a dhow far out in the Indian Ocean with almost a tonne of heroin onboard (HMAS Warramunga)*

My job is Staff Officer – Operations, or ‘N3’ in the new terminology. As the Commodore’s principal operations staff officer, I direct the tactical employment of ships and aircraft and plan and execute the 24/7 campaign plan.

I have a great team to work with who are professional, dedicated and hard-working. We work seven days a week, with a slightly lower tempo on ‘weekends’ (Friday/Saturday here in the Islamic world). The days are long and full of meetings and briefings with ourselves as well as operational partners, and operational planning never stops.

Our facilities are quite good, and Bahrain is a long-established naval base, firstly British and more recently American. Bahrain itself is a very open and tolerant society with a huge ex-patriate community. Whilst not as glitzy as Dubai or Abu Dhabi, it is growing up fast and there are construction sites everywhere. Bahrain is an ancient trading post between Arabia and India and has a far broader outlook than may be expected, which also makes Bahrainis fairly easy-going and very tolerant of other cultures. But, there is a lot of tension internally due to Iranian-led unrest amongst the majority Shia population (Sunni-led Arabic government) which has placed about two-thirds of Manama off-limits for us and there are regular bomb attacks against government facilities.

We have been able to celebrate Christmas and Australia Day, and, are making big plans for ANZAC Day.

The deployment extension now qualifies me for a mid-deployment break (minimum six months) and

I am seriously considering going to Europe and spending ANZAC Day at Ypres.

I hope that you are well, and while the deployment is going exceptionally well, and I have a great bunch of people to work with, I do miss the Hills and family

and friends. Looking forward to coming home in May.

Best regards to you all,

**Paul Garai**

## **ALBANY ANZAC MEMORIAL PARK – Margaret (text) & Colin (photos) Swindells**

As our cruise ship docked in Albany WA the first thing we noticed, after a rough ride in the Great Australian Bight, was the relentless and strong wind. Even in January we needed jumpers or jackets.

Our guide, Jon Doust, was a very knowledgeable and patriotic man and extremely proud of his hometown. The coach took us from the ship to several points of interest including The Gap, then through the main shopping centre, past the Town Hall made of stone and the road along the local beaches. Then we headed to the National ANZAC Centre.

From the moment you drive down the avenue of mahogany gums, each with a plaque showing the names of service people who were killed in action, to the museum with interactive displays and commentaries of very personal accounts from those who served the Empire and Australia, the daily 12 noon cannon blast and the uphill walk to look down on King George Sound where in 1914 41,000 servicemen and women left our shores headed for Gallipoli.

For many on board, sadly this would be the last time they would see Australian soil as they headed off to a war where so many young lives were lost. You can't help but be moved by this amazing tribute to the ANZACs.

Each of the glass presentation cases depicts a soldier from many different ranks and an Army nurse describing their lives in a hostile war zone so far from home. The harsh conditions and severe weather showed the serious reality of war which must have hit these young men, many of whom had spent their lives on farms, very hard. Some of them formed the 10th Light Horse Regiment.

The many servicemen who returned only to suffer the awful effects of Shell Shock, in some cases never to speak of the atrocities they had witnessed. A harsh reality even suffered today but now called PTSD.

There was even an acknowledgement from Ataturk, reassuring the mothers of our fallen soldiers that they would always be part of his country.

There were 122,000 horses exported from Australia during World War One.

At the end of 1918 11,037 were still in use with the Australian Light Horse units in the Middle East. These were classified by age and condition into four groups. Those not fit for further use (2,853) were destroyed. Their manes and tails were shorn as horse hair could be sold and their shoes removed. The remainder were sold to the British Army, the Indian Army and the Finnish Army. Six hundred (600) mares were sent to England for breeding purposes. Only 250 were allegedly destroyed by the rider without permission for they feared the horses would be mistreated if sold locally. With thanks from tour guide Jon Doust for his input regarding the horses.

Although the Albany community claim to have started the first ANZAC Day Dawn Service tradition, attributed to a Padre White, nobody in our group could or wanted to dispute the assertion.

I came away from this place, just a little more knowledgeable and appreciative of the enormous sacrifices made by so many young people in the pursuit of freedom of our country.

I hope that younger generations will be aware and understand the horrors of war and try everything in order not to lose so many young lives in conflict ever again but after this war to end all wars, there have been even more. So sad for those relatives, friends and colleagues left behind to grieve.

**Marg Swindells**





THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN  
AND NEW ZEALAND CONVOY  
LEFT ALBANY FOR WORLD WAR I  
ON NOVEMBER 1ST 1914.

REST AND REFLECT

ERECTED BY THE GALLIPOLI ANZACS  
OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

ANZAC Spirit

Sharing the last of the water with my  
old mate, he deserves a drink as  
much as I before the charge.

Artist: Bradley Lucas



## KIA ORA PAKEHA "WELCOME EUROPEAN" – Jim Wilson

### W Coy RNZIR 50<sup>th</sup> Deployment Anniversary Reunion, Napier/Taradale New Zealand.

It was a genuine and sincere welcome Jan, my "wahine" (wife), and I received from the members of W Coy RNZIR – Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment in November of 2017.

I worked with this unit in January and February of 1968 at The Horseshoe in South Vietnam and we were invited to their 50<sup>th</sup> Deployment Anniversary Reunion.

I'd worked at their Command Post and did a couple of trips into the Long Green with 2 Platoon, because W Coy was short of Radio Operators.

Mike Perreau and his wife Margaret and daughters warmly welcomed us as we completed registration details. Within a couple of minutes of registering on the Friday afternoon, Joe Marsters saw my name badge and said, "Hey you're the Aussie Sig that worked with 2 Platoon at The Horseshoe." Joe then went on to say that he and Harry Jellick often wondered about the Aussie Sig, and if he'd turn up at their reunion. "Well I'll be blowed, here he is with his lovely wife;" Joe probably thought. Photographs were taken over the weekend with Joe, Harry and many other members of this fine group of ex-soldiers.



Over more than a couple of beers and a lot of laughs during the next few days, the memories flowed.

Here are just a few examples.

Being ready for an attack during the Tet Offensive of 1968: digging up a body at a grave site: running short of water out in the bush: being offered chewing tobacco while outside the wire (thanks but no thanks, in sign language); a large snake sliding across the end of my stretcher while off-duty one afternoon: doing spot checks at a check point into Dat Do village, not far from the famous village of Long Tan: memories of mates killed in South

Vietnam: a day's leave in Vung Tau: our one R and R out of the warzone for 5 days: a visit by my Troop Commander while I was with the Kiwis, that my much loved grandfather had died a few days before: memories of mates who have passed-on since our time in Vietnam.

One absolutely amazing coincidence was showing some photos to Maree and Graham Campbell I'd taken of the New Zealanders and in other parts of Vietnam.

In the September of 2017 on a trip with our own sub-Branch to Port Stephens, at a private war museum in Gosford, I photographed a photograph of a Sgt Graham Campbell of 4 Troop NZ SAS KIA in Vietnam 14 January 1970 aged 28 years. Our dinner companions on the Saturday night were Maree and Graham. Graham stopped, took a deep breath and said; "that's my first cousin". Graham's wife then showed us a photo on her mobile phone of the SAS Trooper's mother. All of us were staggered at such an incredible coming together of so many factors.

Sadly, of the 2 senior officers of W Coy, Major Peter Hotop is in a nursing home due to a form of dementia, and the 2IC, Barry Sinclair, passed away a few months ago. Both men treated me with courtesy when I worked with them in early 1968. Peter's wife Nelda was very kind to Jan and me and she is highly respected by all members of W Coy.

It was a pleasure to share some photos and memories of Peter with his son Blair. With Barry's son I was also able to tell him his father was highly respected by all his men in W Coy. John Brown was a Lieutenant at that time, a Platoon Commander, and we had a few interesting discussions about the NZ forces of World War 2, Vietnam and the present day.

All their officers rose to high military rank and served in various parts of New Zealand and in overseas postings.

On the Saturday night of 25 November, a memorial service was held; photographs of the men of W Coy who were killed in South Vietnam were placed on easels. Very touching indeed.



Sunday morning 26 November came as a beautiful sunny day and a full Reunion Memorial Service was held. Our service was conducted in both Maori and English, with the unit's Chaplain leading the moving religious parts of the service, also in Maori and English. New Zealand national flags were dipped in salute as the names of those members killed or have since died, were read out. Being the only Australian veteran there, I had the honour of carrying our own national flag.

After the service, attendees were thrilled to see and handle some of the catafalque party's modern-day weapons. A great job was done by these current day members of the RNZIR.

At the end of the Memorial Service, I was able to present a professionally made plaque in memory of my time with W Coy in Vietnam – and my saying a few words to this group of genuine comrades was appreciated. One of my treasured souvenirs of those days is a RNZIR Corps badge given to me by one of the diggers because the studs on the back were broken and of no use to him.

Have you ever had a "hongī," a ceremonial pressing of noses from a Kiwi? Well we all had a good laugh at my embarrassed expense at the end of the service. Needless to say, we're on their mailing list for the next reunion.

***"Kai kite Kiwis" – see you later mates.***

## NEW ZEALAND WAR MEMORIALS

These photographs were taken by Jan and Jim Wilson of memorials seen on their New Zealand trip in November of 2017: we hope they are of some interest to our readers.

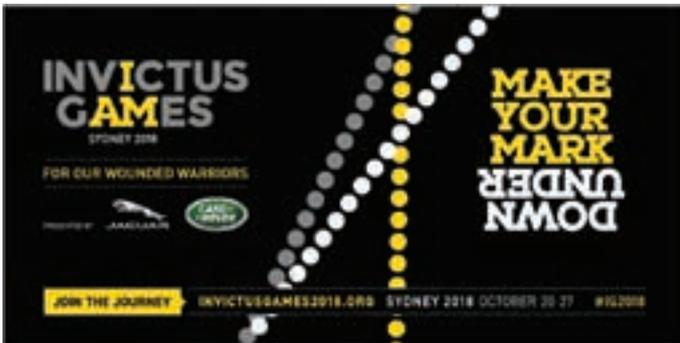


# INVICTUS GAMES 2018

It's time to "Make Your Mark Down Under".

It will be "Game On Down Under" when Australia welcomes competitors and their family and friends for Invictus Games Sydney 2018.

Sydney will host more than 500 competitors and around 1,000 family and friends for the eight-day event being held from 20-27 October 2018.



The Games will feature competition in eleven sports with events being held across Greater Sydney, including Sydney Olympic Park and on and around Sydney Harbour.



But the Invictus Games is more than a sporting event – it is a celebration of achievement, determination and resilience.



Invictus Games Sydney 2018 provides an opportunity for long-term impact for the Defence community through raising awareness of programs and services in the areas of education, health and wellbeing, employment, adaptive sport, and to encourage greater collaboration and cooperation amongst the ex-Service and serving community across the generations.

As we race towards the opening ceremony, we're encouraging you to "Make Your Mark Down Under". There is a role for everyone in Invictus Games Sydney 2018 and "Make Your Mark Down Under" enables you to get involved and show your support for our wounded warriors, no matter where you are or what you do.

"Make Your Mark Down Under" is a fantastic opportunity for veterans to support veterans. It can be as simple as inviting a mate to 'walk and talk' to celebrate the healing power of sport and the importance of connecting with your support network.

Invictus Games Sydney 2018 Ambassador Curtis McGrath OAM is asking all Australians to rise to the challenge.



"No matter where you are or what you do, there is a role for you in the Invictus Games Sydney 2018. This is a moment in time for us to all come together as a nation and actively demonstrate our support for our defence community," said McGrath who recently left the Australian Army after more than a decade of service.

"We're calling on all Australians to embrace this call to action and 'Make Your Mark'. Set yourself a goal, whether big or small, to do something tangible in your community and let our wounded warriors know we're behind them."

Find out how you can 'Make Your Mark Down Under' at [www.invictusgames2018.org](http://www.invictusgames2018.org)

## HONOUR OUR HEROES WALK 2018

With a view to providing housing for our returned service men and women who have fallen on hard times, RSL Service Clubs NSW has once again organised a fund-raising event in Parramatta Park.

The event is to be held on Sunday 6 May, commencing at 10.00 am and involves a walk through the park over a predetermined 3 km easy course. You can do as many laps as you want.

Although it is organised as a relay, we traditionally walk together as a team. The significance of the relay title is that it was intended that teams of 14 would walk 3 kms for a total distance of 42 kms which represents one kilometre for each service personnel killed in Afghanistan.

It costs \$40 per person to enter and you are encouraged to get friends or family to sponsor you to provide a donation to the cause. All funds raised

go directly to the Veterans Benevolent Fund to support its veteran services.

Registration is simple:

Log on to [www.rslservicesclubs.com.au](http://www.rslservicesclubs.com.au) Find the "Honour Our Heroes" tab and then

register under our team name, Castle Hill RSL sub-Branch, quote Team Code e3RWSO.

If you have any problems registering please contact me.

This is a very worthwhile cause so please give up an hour or so to join the walkers and have a coffee with your mates to celebrate after the event.

**Phill Evenden**  
**0413 715 622**

## RELAY FOR LIFE 2018

There are not too many families who are not touched by the effects of cancer in one way or another.

You may recall that each year a hardy group of local citizens organise and conduct a wonderful fund-raising day at the Castle Hill Showground to raise funds for cancer research – The 24-Hour Relay for Life.

The name is a bit of a misnomer as it does not have to be a relay and you aren't compelled to walk any more than you feel like doing.

This year the event will be held over the weekend of 19-20 May at Castle Hill Showground. The majority of activities take place on the Saturday, the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Event timetable is:

Registration prior to 25 March is discounted to \$15 per person.

Opening Ceremony – 9.30am Saturday

Event starts - Survivors Walk – 10.00am

Candlelight Ceremony – 6.00pm Saturday.

Closing Ceremony – 9.30 am Sunday.

This is both a great community event with plenty to occupy your attention around the track and a great way to raise funds to help cancer research. We need your involvement! Bring friends, bring the family!

Once again, your sub-Branch has entered 3 teams and will have a tent for use by members and their families throughout the event.

Registration is easy, simply log on to,

- **Relayforlife.org.au**
- Event – Hills 2018
- Click Register
- Select Team,
- Input either, Veteran RSL Supporters, VeteranRSL Participants, or VeteranRSL Survivors.
- Click Join.
- Then follow the prompts.

If anyone needs help to register or wants more information, contact me as per below.

**Phill Evenden**  
**0413 715 622**

## NAMBUS 2018 – 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 7-11 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.

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.

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**

### GYM GROUP



The year for your sub-Branch gym group has started off with us in great shape – (the program I mean, not the bodies!).

Our numbers have grown by 8 new members since November and class attendances are above those experienced towards the end of 2017.

Alma has wasted no time in putting us back to work and is cracking the whip to help us shed those Christmas kilos. If interested, classes start at 1.30pm each Monday and Thursday.

The program for our younger members is also gaining momentum and we are keen to get our younger veterans involved. For those members still working but keen to keep in shape and work out in their own time we can sign you up also. This program is totally independent of the structured classes mentioned above and also enjoys the prospect of having 50% of your fees rebated if you meet our criteria.

For any of our members wishing to have a bit of fun while getting fitter please contact me for more details.

**Phill Evenden**  
**Gym Coordinator**  
**0413 715 622**

### SOCIAL SECRETARY



These past few weeks I've been busy locking in the events for 2018. As it is all fresh in my mind I thought I would send off an article for the next edition of *The Veteran*.

We are extremely fortunate to be members of a financially strong Sub Branch. This strength allows

for the provision of a subsidised social program.

I have pretty much finalised the 2018 social program. Details are as follows;

#### **Sunday 27 May.**

A coach from our Club to Circular Quay to catch a ferry tracing the movements of the Japanese submarines in Sydney Harbour during World War Two.

Apart from a cruise to various parts of the harbour, we'll visit Fort Denison and then Garden Island, where we have the opportunity to look through the museum. After the cruise we'll have lunch at Club Rose Bay. Cost \$30 pp.

#### **Sunday 17 June.**

A three course Commemorative Lunch including drinks. To be held in the Phoenix room at Castle Hill RSL Club. This is the only formal event of the year. Cost \$20 pp.

## **Tuesday 24 July.**

A coach from our club to the Waterview Restaurant at Wiseman's Ferry where we'll have a three course Christmas in July lunch and be entertained by Roland Storm. Wine and soft drinks included. Cost \$25 pp.

## **Saturday 20 October.**

I'm trying to arrange tickets to attend the Invictus Games. I expect the cost will be something like \$30 - \$40 pp, which will include a coach from our club to the venue, entry tickets and with luck, a meal.

If interested, please add your name to the expression of interest sheet which is available at our monthly meetings. By placing your name on the expression of interest sheet does not make it obligatory for you to attend. It just gives me an idea of how many tickets will be required when it comes time to book. If you're unable to attend our monthly meetings, and you're

interested in attending, please let me know. My contact details are on page two of this magazine.

## **Sunday 25 November.**

A three course Christmas Lunch, including drinks. Will be held in the Phoenix Room at Castle Hill RSL Club. Cost \$20 pp.

I hope you're able to join at least some of the above activities.

In April a small group of our members will be travelling to France to attend the dawn service of the one hundredth anniversary of the battle at Villers Bretonneux on 25 April. We'll also tour the major battlefields of the Western Front as well as the major tourist destinations that France has to offer.

**Barry Pareezer**  
**Social Secretary**

## **DAY CLUB**



Our year started on Monday 29 January with a welcome back day after our summer break. We had a very large crowd, with three new members joining us.

We have planned various activities for the year. There are our usual gentle exercises, quizzes, jokes, and Rummikub, Skipbo, Phase 10, cards, Upwords, and Scrabble and others – so plenty of choice.

We had an interesting day showing "Bring something you made" and our group showed their talents with knitting, crochet, paintings, crafts, and some lovely biscuits and cakes.

We had an outing to the Seven Hills RSL for lunch one Monday, which was a very pleasant venue and we could take our board games to play before and after lunch.

On 19 February we celebrated Chinese New Year with some wonderful Chinese cakes, slices, and biscuits for morning tea, and of course, some fortune cookies after lunch.

We are still looking for a volunteer to help in the kitchen so if you have some spare time on a Monday come along to see if you would like to join us.

We meet every Monday in the hall of the Wesley Uniting church in Showground Road between 10 and 2. The cost for the day is \$6.00 and we can provide transport.

Contact Bill Driver 0413 455 526 or myself, Jenny Kington.

**Jenny Kington**  
**Day Club Coordinator**  
**0420 440 095**

## **TO ALL KOREAN WAR VETERANS**

A ceremony will be held on site at Moore Park, for the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice.

It will be held at the Moore Park Korean War Memorial on Friday 27 July at 11 AM.

All Consuls have been invited with a good response to date.

Plenty of parking and a good bus service to ANZAC Parade bus stop.

All Nations welcome to this important occasion.

Contact Bob Auston on 0419 491 747 or email Bob@auston.com.au for details.

## 2018 AUSTRALIA DAY FLAG PLANTING – CASTLEBROOK MEMORIAL PARK



# 2018 AUSTRALIA DAY FLAG PLANTING – CASTLEBROOK MEMORIAL PARK



## HONOURS AND AWARDS – Dr Len Smith

### APPLYING FOR MEDALS AND CERTIFICATES AND OTHER INFORMATION ONLINE

This is the latest information regarding those who are seeking to apply for medals and certificates online. The system is available through the Honours and Awards Department of our Government's Defence Department.

As you will understand, and like most business today, less people are being employed and as a result much more access and information is online.

To begin, please use this link: <http://www.defence.gov.au/Medals/Content/Applications.asp>

This link will give you the 'opening' page with the necessary instructions to 'surf' the system for your medal enquiries and needs. Every application requires a form to be completed and the next step is to click onto 'Apply for awards' and then follow the links according to the medals you are sourcing.

Those who are eligible to use this system is anyone who has access to a computer or electronic device. However, to apply for medals the following criteria must be observed and this is the first page you will encounter. You will also see that there are many options available 'other than applying for medals'. Such as access to service records, etc.

IMPORTANT NOTE: ALL forms are in PDF and can be printed off and sent by post to the address as listed on each form.

**NOTE:** The information supplied by our member Dr Len Smith is current as of 15 February 2018.

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### Issuing of Medals – Online Application

Only current and ex-serving ADF members, a family member of the ADF member or a Power of Attorney may lodge an application.

If you are applying on behalf of a member, please see the policy on [Granting of Unissued Service Awards of Deceased Members](#)

If you are applying for replacement awards, please see the policy on [Replacement Medals](#).

Please have all supporting documents ready prior to applying.

Please provide as much information as possible to assist with the application process.

If you are claiming on behalf of a living member, please attach a copy of Power of Attorney or a letter giving permission to act on the behalf of the member.

To access service records, go to Accessing Service Records.

You cannot save and continue an application if you exit before completion.

You must agree to the Terms and Conditions (and provide consent to access your medical records in some instances) for DH&A to commence the assessment process.

You can navigate between tabs using the 'Previous' and 'Next' tabs.

Upon completion, your application will be forwarded to the Directorate of Honours and Awards ready for assessment. Applications are assessed in order of receipt.

*You will receive an on-screen notification with a reference number for future use. (Note: no email will be sent to you).*

### Application for ADF personnel to wear Foreign Service awards on ADF uniform.

To be used by ADF personnel who have been issued a Foreign Service award or ADF personnel who joined the ADF from a foreign Defence Force.

Documentary evidence of the award/s must be attached and certified as a true copy.

Documentary evidence may include the award certificate, citation or narrative or Certificate of Service from the foreign Defence Force.

Please include details of the award, including dates and location of service.

Defence policy concerning wearing of foreign awards is available at [Defence Honours and Awards Manual, Chapter 35](#).

### Timeframes

DH&A is experiencing delays of up to 6 months due to an increase in applications.

DH&A requires time to research historical documents, seek approval from the delegate, and to engrave and dispatch awards.

A timeframe for the [Australian Operational Service Medal Border Protection](#) cannot be given as the process is dependent on information supplied by each Service.

Once you have 'satisfied' these requirements, then click onto the green link, 'click here to start your application'. However, before you begin it is also

worthwhile to look at the additional information at the bottom of this page, including News update. Or you can go directly to this link: <http://www.defence.gov.au/Medals/News.asp>

To apply for service Certificates please refer to the following link which will give this very informative page: <https://www.dva.gov.au/commemorations-memorials-and-war-graves/honours-medals-and-awards>

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** WWII veterans, whether you served overseas or not are entitled to these Certificates. Only WWII veterans are eligible for 2 Certificates. One is easily available through \*DVA Nominal Roll on this link: <http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/> You can then immediately print the Certificate, and have it framed. Normally on an A4 page.

The other Certificate, through '**Saluting Their Service**' **MUST** be submitted by the veteran (or their applying relatives) to their local Federal Member. Two options are available for this Certificate: it can be mailed directly to the applying recipient or be presented by the nominated Federal Member at a formal ceremony which is held in the Federal member's electoral office each March and September.

### How are applications submitted?

#### Certificates of Appreciation

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) provides Certificates of Appreciation to certain people under the Australian Government's *Saluting Their Service* Commemorations program.

#### Overview

Certificates of Appreciation are available under the Australian Government's *Saluting Their Service* Commemorations program. They are a way of expressing the nation's gratitude to those who served in the defence forces or on the home front in the Second World War or in wars, conflicts and peace operations overseas since. They do not confer any eligibility for entitlements under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* or the *Safety, Rehabilitation or Compensation Act 1988*.

#### What certificates are available?

Certificates of Appreciation are available in respect of the following conflicts and events:

- Second World War, for service in the Australian armed forces or on the home front
- British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) Japan

- Korean War
- Malayan Emergency
- Indonesian Confrontation
- Vietnam War
- Gulf War
- Iraq War
- War in Afghanistan
- Peace Operations

#### Who can apply?

- Veterans and those who served in the wars and conflicts for which certificates are available
- Family members or friends on behalf of eligible persons

#### What service qualifies for a Certificate of Appreciation?

##### Second World War

- Service in the Australian armed forces or merchant navy, overseas or in Australia, between 3 September 1939 and 15 August 1945
- Contribution on the home front in war related industries, protected occupations, philanthropic organisations and other voluntary positions which assisted Australia's war efforts between 3 September 1939 and 15 August 1945

Note: Home front services qualifies for a Certificate of Appreciation for the Second World War as this was a period of national mobilisation, and there was direct and widespread civilian involvement in supporting the war effort.

##### British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) Japan

- Service with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan between 2 September 1945 and 28 April 1952

##### Korean War

- Service with Australia's armed forces in Korea between 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1953

Note: Service in Korea from 9 June 1950 until 23 June 1950 and from 28 July 1953 until the present time qualifies for the Peace Operations Certificate of Appreciation.

##### Malayan Emergency

- Service with Australia's armed forces in Malaya/ Malaysia or Singapore between 29 June 1950 and 31 July 1960
- Service in the Far Eastern Strategic Reserve (FESR) between 2 July 1955 and 31 July 1960
- Service with Australia's armed forces in the

Malaysian States of Kedah, Perlis, Perak and Kelantan from 1 August 1960 until 16 August 1964 in accordance with Schedule 2 of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* and for which the *Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975* with the clasp *Thai/Malay* has been awarded

### Indonesian Confrontation

- Service with Australia's armed forces in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei between 8 December 1962 and 11 August 1966

### Vietnam War

- Service with Australia's armed forces in Vietnam between 31 July 1962 and 11 January 1973
- Service with Australian logistics support (for example, RAN ships and Qantas charter crews carrying troops and supplies to and from Vietnam, Red Cross, Salvation Army workers, medical staff and civilian entertainers supporting Australian service personnel in Vietnam) between 31 July 1962 and 11 January 1973

### Gulf War

- Service with Australia's armed forces in the Gulf War between 1 August 1990 and 30 September 1991

### Iraq War

- Service with Australia's armed forces in Iraq or the Persian Gulf between 18 March 2003 and 28 July 2009

### War in Afghanistan

- Service with the International Coalition Against Terrorism (ICAT) in Afghanistan and other prescribed areas within Operation 'Slipper' (the Australian Defence Force contribution to ICAT) since 11 October 2001.

### Peace Operations

- Service in one or more of Australia's commitments to multinational peace operations since 1947. These include peace building; preventive diplomacy; peacemaking; peacekeeping; and peace enforcement. Definitions of these operations may be found at the ADF Peacekeeping Centre's website.

### Eligibility for Gulf War, Iraq War, War in Afghanistan and Peace Operations Certificates of Appreciation

#### Gulf War

- Evidence of service for this certificate will be the *Australian Active Service Medal* with the clasp—*Kuwait*. Care should be taken not to confuse this medal with the *Australian Service Medal*, also with the clasp—*Kuwait*. Recipients of this medal qualify for the Peace Operations Certificate of Appreciation.

#### Iraq War

- Evidence of service for this certificate will be the *Australian Active Service Medal* with clasp—*Iraq 2003*.

#### War in Afghanistan

- Evidence of service for this certificate will be the Australian Active Service Medal with the clasp—ICAT, and the Afghanistan Medal.

#### Peace Operations

- Evidence of service for this certificate will be the following medals:
- *Australian Service Medal 1945-75* with clasps:
  - Berlin
  - FESR
  - Indonesia
  - Kashmir
  - Korea
  - Middle East
  - South East Asia
  - Thailand (for service in Ubon)
  - West New Guinea
- *Australian Service Medal* with clasps:
  - Balkans
  - Bougainville
  - Cambodia
  - East Timor
  - Ethiopia/Eritrea
  - Guatemala
  - Iran/Iraq
  - Kashmir
  - Korea
  - Kuwait
  - Middle East
  - Mozambique
  - Peshawar
  - Rwanda
  - Sierra Leone
  - Sinai
  - Solomon Islands
  - Somalia
  - South East Asia
  - Special Ops
  - Timor-Leste
  - Uganda
  - Western Sahar

- Rhodesia Medal
- United Nations Medal
- Police Overseas Service Medal

## When are Certificates of Appreciation not available?

### Certificates are NOT available for:

#### Boer War and the First World War

- Certificates are designed primarily for living veterans to express the nation's gratitude for their service. The number of surviving veterans of conflicts other than the First World War is such that the primary purpose of personal recognition is maintained. All Australian First World War veterans are now deceased and cannot be personally recognised.
- Surviving First World War veterans were formally recognised with a medal specific to their service by the Federal Government under the Australian Honours and Awards system.

#### National Service

- Certificates are event-based and do not relate to forms of enlistment such as national service
- National servicemen were recognised in 2001 through the issue of the *Anniversary of National Service Medal 1951–1972* (Application is through the Department of Defence)
- National servicemen who served in Vietnam are eligible for that certificate

#### Defence Reserve Forces

- Certificates are event-based and do not relate to forms of enlistment such as reserve forces
- Reserve service may be recognised, if certain criteria are met, through the issue of the *Reserve Force Medal* (Application is through the Department of Defence)
- Personnel who served in one of the nine events for which Certificates of Appreciation are available may qualify for that certificate.

## What evidence of service is required?

- Service Record showing service in the relevant period and, for post Second World War certificates, service in the relevant country during the period of conflict, or
- Service Record showing eligibility for medal(s) for the relevant conflict, or
- Medal(s) for the relevant conflicts, inscribed with the veteran's name and service number (on the rim or reverse), or photograph(s) of inscribed medals, or
- Copies of entries from the Second World War, Korean War and Vietnam War Nominal Rolls, or,
- In the case of applicants for a Second World War certificate, evidence or a Statutory Declaration attesting to service on the home front.
- In the case of home front service, applicants may not be able to produce supporting

documentation. In these circumstances, a statement detailing their contribution should be accepted.

## How are applications submitted?

Application forms are available from Federal MPs' offices, Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Offices or can be downloaded from the DVA website: Application for Certificate of Appreciation—DVA Form: D0755 (PDF 280 KB)

Applicants should complete the application form and submit this to their Federal Member.

Eligibility is decided by the Federal Member, in accordance with the Certificate of Appreciation guidelines (DOC 47 KB).

## How are Certificates issued?

Only one certificate per conflict should be issued in relation to a person's service.

The Federal Member inserts the veteran's name and his/her own name in the spaces provided and signs the certificate. The certificate may be presented personally or posted.

Where a certificate is posted, a covering letter is to accompany the certificate.

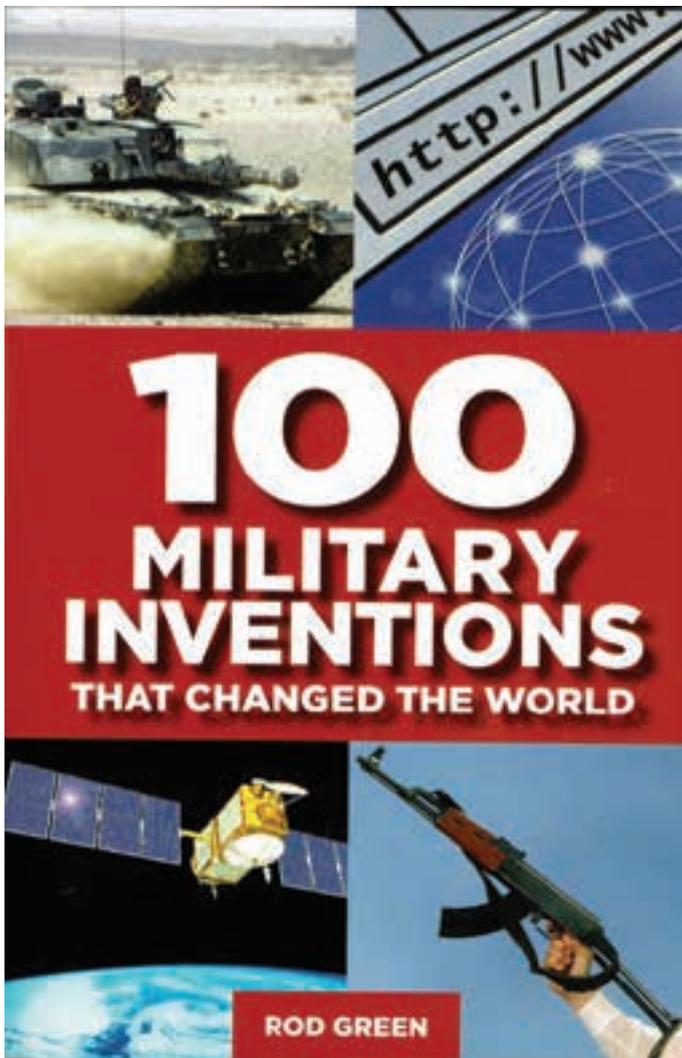
## Where can more information be obtained?

Enquiries about eligibility should be directed to the Federal Member. Enquiries from MPs' electorate offices should be directed to DVA via email to Commemorative Grants or by phone on Freecall 1800 555 254.

**100 Military Inventions that Changed the World**

**Author:** Rod Green

**Reviewer:** Jim Wilson



This book was printed in 2013, so by today's standards, it is probably a tad out of date.

Be that as it may, its an interesting read as we see the development of many of our modern weapons, food, medical advances, aircraft and ship developments, space race inventions, plus numerous other parts of our everyday lives.

The author has not set out his selection in any particular order.

The following are just a few of the inventions chosen by Rod Green.

Let's start with the old but true saying that "a soldier marches on his stomach"; canned food.

An Englishman, Peter Durand quickly expanded on

the work of a French chef, Nicolas Appert, who's work was patented in 1810. Durand, along with two colleagues founded a company in the UK which became Crosse and Blackwell.

One of their cans of food found after almost 100 years in the Arctic region was quite edible.

The bayonet, probably named after a French town reknowned for making knives and swords, was developed in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Reports show that it is still being used in the war in Afganistan where two British soldiers have won the Military Cross using the old but proven bayonet.

Cushioned-soled shoes were developed for the American moon walkers. How many variations are we able to wear today?

A life-saving fungus – Penicillin. What an incredible antibiotic this turned out to be. Discovered in 1928 by the Scot, Alexander Fleming, then developed to its full potential during WW2.

1904 saw a demonstration by German inventor Christian Hulsmeyer, of what became known as Radar. The 1920s and 1930s saw most developed nations working on variations of radar.

The Brits had the world's first Integrated Air Defence System, and put it to valuable use during WW2.

A mini tool box in your pocket – the Swiss Army Knife. This was developed by the Swiss Army in the 1880s, then accepted into full issue by the Swiss in 1890.

Originally produced by a German manufacturer: in 1891 the Swiss took over production in their own country.

There are another 94 inventions in the book which you are welcome to borrow; I'm just a phone call away.

**Jim Wilson**

# THE CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF BEERSHEBA, ISRAEL

– Brian Walters

The centenary commemoration of the Battle of Beersheba by the Australian Light Horse in October 1917, took place in Israel in October 2017 and I was very fortunate to be part of a large group that attended the service.

The actual Service was held on the 31 October 2017 at the Beersheba War Cemetery in the city of Beersheba, which is situated about 100 kilometres south-west of Jerusalem in modern day Israel, and jointly organised by the Australian and Israeli governments. This was the highlight of the whole tour of Israel and it was a real privilege to see the Israeli Prime Minister, Benyamin Netanyahu and the Australian counterpart, Malcolm Turnbull.

This was just part of a tour brilliantly organised by a local (NSW) organisation called Military History Tours which ran for 12 days and covered many parts of Israel at a very hectic pace. While the main motivation of the tour was the Commemorative Service on the 31 October, the country offered a lot more from various military, cultural and historical perspectives that stretched back many thousands of years. Finally, Palestine/Israel is the birthplace of three of the world's major religions, so it was hard to ignore places like Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth – the old city of Jerusalem was a piece of living history and another highlight of the tour. The other enduring memory of Israel was the number of people who carried guns – military assault rifles – but more on that later.



The actual charge at Beersheba (B'ersheva in Hebrew) took place late in the afternoon of 31 October 1917. It involved two regiments of the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Light Horse Brigade, the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> that, with some stragglers, comprised about 300 men mounted on some very thirsty horses and carrying bayonets used as swords. The objective was to capture the town but more importantly – the (water) wells for both the horses and the men! They

were pitched against entrenched Turkish soldiers lead by a small contingent of German officers; the enemy were equipped with modern machine guns and artillery pieces.

Despite the apparent lack of planning the charge was successful and resulted in the capture of the town and the wells with relatively light casualties probably because of surprise and a lot of good fortune. It was considered as an Australian operation and regarded as the last great, successful cavalry charge of the modern era although there were later cavalry charges even during final phases of the Sinai-Palestine Campaign.

A full day was devoted to exploring the surrounding areas of Beersheba and the city itself a few days before the actual Service which was a great idea as it avoided a lot of the crowds. Even today, the area looked very dry and the climate was warm to hot – it was very reminiscent of the terrain and climate of Far Western New South Wales which a lot of the light horsemen would also have known. There were a couple of hills in the area including Tel el Saba, which were critical to the eventual success of the charge but relatively low in height and not much above the surrounding country. Despite the passage of about 100 years, it is still possible to see the landscape of desert and wadis that faced the charging light horsemen.

The group was also able to see the city of modern Be'ersheva including the War Cemetery which is a Commonwealth War Grave (CWG) and the Park of the Australian Soldier with its monument to the Australian Light Horse; the park and the monument were donated by the Australian Pratt Foundation with the face of (Major General) Digger James copied on the charging horseman.



The Commemorative Service was held on Tuesday 31 October 2017 at the Beersheba War Cemetery

starting about 9:00 in the morning; it was organised the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) in cooperation with various local authorities including the local police and the Israeli Defence Force (IDF). The grounds of the Cemetery were converted to a suitable venue by the addition of some tiered seating for about 1,000 guests and a contingent of about 100 official guests and assistants. Israeli PM Netanyahu was the highlight of the Service with a powerful speech delivered in a statesman-like manner – even mentioned the role that the Australian and British forces played in driving the Ottoman Turks from the then Palestine which laid the foundation for modern Israel. Australian PM Turnbull also delivered a strong speech but the references to the horse, Bill the Bastard, may have been lost on the locals! Even our own NSW Veterans' Affairs Minister, David Elliot, laid a wreath later in the Service.

At the completion of formalities, the cemetery was reopened, and I was able to see the grave of Lance Corporal Harold Williams, a local from Dural who was killed during the campaign – even better to see that some distant descendant had left a card on the grave. The service was telecast later in Australia during the evening.



Around midday on the same day, there was a military parade through the streets near the CWG with a numbers of Australian light horse groups represented; also, around 3:00pm, there was a re-enactment of the charge comprised of about 50

mounted participants, but this was a disappointment.

The day concluded with a barbeque-style dinner in the Park of the Australian Soldier organised and funded by the Australian government which was well attended but, unfortunately, the tour group had to leave early to get back to Tel Aviv after a very long and satisfying day.

There were other military sites scattered throughout the country relating not just to the 1914-18 period but up to very recent times. In the south there was the Gaza Strip which is a restricted area as it comes under the Palestinian authorities; this is near several battlefields including Romani. Jerusalem has been fought over for millennia – the Australian troops rode into the city in December 1917. In the north, the Golan Heights is currently in Israeli hands but still surrounded by live minefields; the Heights had a commanding view over an area close to the Syrian and Lebanese borders.



Haifa in the north-west corner of the country was captured in September 1918 by a British force that included the Honourable Artillery Company, the Indian Lancers (supposedly carrying lances) and the Australian Light Car Patrol – a true “commonwealth” effort.

Some of various religious and cultural sites have been mentioned but should also include such significant ones as the Sea of Galilee, Jordan River (more like a creek), Jericho, Masada and the Dead Sea (lowest point on the earth's surface).

Another feature of modern Israel was the role of the kibbutzim which are a very successful form of agricultural co-operative that have become very successful judging by the range of recreational facilities they own such as the Olympic-sized swimming pool in one place. The kibbutz system is one of the reasons for the very successful agricultural sector that the country now has, and which produces the great fresh food and local wines that was another very pleasant memory of the tour.

Another feature of modern Israel is their compulsory national service program. The universal system catches all the young people for a period of three years military service and while it is possible to defer, it cannot be avoided except for a very small percentage exempted on religious grounds.

It was hard to miss all the young service men and women doing their various military tasks as they were in the green uniform of the IDF and they usually carried their automatic assault rifles – mainly M4s or M16s – on long shoulder slings. This added to the fact that most police and even railway station guards also carried these weapons meant there were a lot of guns about!

In conclusion, Israel was a very interesting and fascinating place to visit but this was only a

fraction of what was covered in whole tour. The complexity of their internal and international politics is bewildering when compared to the relatively simple and stable situation in an island continent like Australia. Hence all the guns which were meant to make for a safe but unnerving environment; fortunately, there were no major incidents while the group was there on the ground.

It was a privilege to have been able to take part in the Commemorative Service and be able to do this with a pretty good bunch of like-minded Australians.

**Brian Walters**  
(Copyright February 2018)

## TRAVELLERS TALES – Andrew Pursey

Last issue I left you with us being in the Tomakin and Canberra area, before heading up to Forster/ Tuncurry for a couple of weeks. We then hit the road back to Sydney for a while to spend some time with our younger daughter and family on the Northern Beaches. Then it was back to Canberra to spend Christmas with our elder daughter and family. After that, we stayed at their house looking after the dog and the house.

We then went south to Jindabyne for a week, including taking the Forester for fang on the dirt/gravel Barry Way.

In Jindabyne I visited the local cemetery, which featured a memorial to local service personnel who lost their lives in WW1, WW2, and Vietnam.



When viewing the names I noticed those of several families who featured in the early settlement history of the region that I had been reading about during our stay. Given the small population of the region in the earlier periods it becomes apparent how large an impact the loss of these locals would have had on the area – a not uncommon situation throughout regional Australia.

This is in contrast to the sheer enormity of the scale of overall losses which you see on the walls of the AWM galleries or the serried ranks of gravestones in the war cemeteries in Europe.

Then we headed north again, making our way to Hervey Bay via Port Macquarie and Brisbane. In Brisbane we stayed at Kangaroo Point, adjacent to a ferry wharf. This allowed us access to the free hop on / hop off ferry service on the Brisbane River (are you listening Sydney), with stops at places such as South Bank and the Maritime Museum. Having attended Expo in Brisbane back in the 80s it was great to see the area still being used as a family recreation facility.

The Queensland Maritime Museum [www.maritimemuseum.com.au](http://www.maritimemuseum.com.au) was most interesting, with the main feature being HMAS Diamantina, sitting in the dry dock. A very enthusiastic young tour guide took us for a comprehensive walk through the vessel. I was intrigued to discover that it was one of several ships that had been built in Maryborough (more on Maryborough later).

Leaving Brisbane to head for Hervey Bay we took a diversion into Buderim to catch up with David and Lisa Cronan at their new home. They send their regards to all their friends in Castle Hill. During the walk around the house David showed us a plaque of ceramic poppies that he had found in Eumundi Market.



We stayed in Hervey Bay for two weeks with an ex-colleague of mine. On the one day when the weather turned damp we drove down to Maryborough to explore the Heritage Precinct situated beside the Maryborough River. This was a good move as there were some really interesting buildings and display areas.

The Customs House has an excellent history of the early European settlement; a good piece of learning for us as we hadn't realised just how important Maryborough had been as an entry port into Australia.

However, saving the best until last; the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum [www.maryboroughmuseum.org](http://www.maryboroughmuseum.org). In the March 2017 issue I mentioned that Arthur Skinner had given

me a flyer for the Maryborough Military & Colonial Museum. Well, I got there – and it is brilliant.

Judith was impressed by the display of early costumes and associated social history items.

I was totally overwhelmed by the huge array of military history items – and was sorry that I couldn't devote more than a few hours to the visit (next time!).

The Museum has a superb Gallipoli gallery containing profiles of individual soldiers and their medal groups, plus details of the action itself and the involvement of soldiers from the Maryborough region. In a larger room there is a display profiling local service men and women, and their service in various theatres of operations. If you are seeking reference material, the Museum has one of the largest military libraries in Australia.

I was fortunate to meet the Museum's founder and Managing Director, John Meyers. We had a lengthy conversation about the Museum and the various collections – and I am hopeful that for the June issue John will provide an article and photos covering this really interesting museum. We also had a discussion about the Military History Society of Australia – and John gave me copies of their magazine as I gave him a copy of *The Veteran* (and he is now on our mailing list). Some subsequent email activity linked me up with Russell Linwood, who some of you may know from his time in 1RAR and now as Registrar RAR Association History Bibliography. The Museum visit has provided some great contacts – and some really interesting sources of information. If you have the opportunity, visit the Museum – but do allow plenty of time.

After Hervey Bay we had a very wet drive down to Coffs Harbour, where we spent six days before returning to Sydney. We are now staying in a rental apartment overlooking Mona Vale Beach; great views. Unfortunately, we have already had to extend our stay by at least another month as our new home continues to be "almost there".

It was good to have the time travelling around ACT, NSW, and QLD; and between the beginning of November and the first week in February we covered 10,000 kilometres. The Forester drove well and didn't miss a beat; the only issues being punctures in Tuncurry and Jindabyne – all fixed very efficiently on a 'while you wait' basis by Jax Tyres and Tyrepower respectively. This has reconfirmed my view that it is essential to have a vehicle fitted with a full-size spare.

Travelling was fun, but it will be good when we can finally move into our new home.

**Andrew Pursey**

## PENSIONS



My apologies for non-attendance at the sub-Branch AGM. In respect of my role as Pensions Officer I am pleased to report as follows.

Since the 2017 AGM I have made 97 visits to veterans or their widows in their homes plus several I have met in the Club's Pensions/Welfare Office. In several cases multiple visits to the persons seeking to make pension-related claims on DVA were involved.

There have been 32 claims, of various kinds and for various conditions, submitted to DVA over this period covering of the order of 120+ disabilities (disease and injury). Currently there are 28 active/yet to be

finalised files - all of which are either awaiting DVA decision or still in the preparatory stage.

There has been one submission to the Veterans' Review Board and a successful outcome is anticipated at a Hearing mid-April.

Of the 120+ disabilities claimed on DVA only 5 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 5 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 phone 9686 3119, mobile 0427 201 541, or email [Pensions@chrslsubbranch.org.au](mailto:Pensions@chrslsubbranch.org.au)

**Graeme Banks OAM**  
**Pensions Officer**  
**0427 201 541**

## WELFARE



On 2 December all our War Widows Christmas Hampers were delivered, all the hampers were very much appreciated, and we have received numerous cards thanking us for them. Thank you to all who made up the hampers, Elizabeth Pedersen who arranged delivery runs, and those who participated in the delivery - the ladies love to see you.

We sent 30 care packages to our troops overseas. We have had a great response from the men who received them. I was not given names of any ladies serving overseas. Apparently, the Tim Tams are used as currency, so the ones we sent were very welcome. We will be sending a few more packages shortly.

On 10 January (International Inner Wheel Day) we held a Socialise and Poppy making morning with the Inner Wheel Club of Baulkham Hills. It was a very

productive morning and we have made and collected many poppies to send to the ladies preparing them in Melbourne. These poppies will be mounted on thin metal stakes and planted in front of the War Memorial in Canberra for 11 November 2018. Thank you to the wives of members and members who have supported this event by making poppies. They do not need any more poppies, but we may ask you to make some more as we would like to place some at our own remembrance ceremony.

Thank you to all our members who have resumed their Hospital and Aged Care visits after the Christmas break. Your visits are always welcome.

We had two members of our team in hospital over the Christmas period, they are both on the mend and we look forward to seeing them in the near future.

I would like to welcome two new members to the Welfare Team; Dr Leonard Smith and Nigel Evans. We are always looking for new members.

Vale: Roy Beale Gilchrest, Raymond Richard Wagner, William Blain, Charles Nichols, Frank Aldred, Oswald John Napier, Vincent Gerald Foley.

**"Lest We Forget"**

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

## VOLUNTEERS

Socialise and poppy-making day, in conjunction with Inner Wheel Club of Baulkham Hills



Most of the Welfare Team at the latest Team Meeting on 14 March



## From the Editor

The production of this issue presented the same interesting challenges as for the December issue; more “on the road”, coupled with abysmal internet connectivity.

This (March) issue has been produced at a rental apartment on Mona Vale Beach – great views but no internet connectivity. Once again, a library came to the rescue and I connected my laptop to the public network at Mona Vale Library; great service.

Again, a security reminder – when using public networks consider installing a network security overlay to protect your system.

Thanks to our regular contributors and special thanks to Brian Walters, Jim Wilson, Len Smith, and Margaret Swindells for their contributions.

Also, recognition/acknowledgement for photographs to Andrew Pursey, Brian Walters, Chris Bennett, Colin Swindells, and Jan Wilson. I'd particularly like to thank Chris and Colin for covering events that I wasn't able to attend.

Thanks, are also due to Brian Walters for proof-checking and Alison Benson for sorting out the finer points of the graphics.

I can always take more articles and/or photos – so maybe you can pass on something of interest to our readership. Please note that the preferred format for reports is MS Word, whilst that for photos is JPEG as individual attachments.

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

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

I'm hopeful that when the time comes for the June issue, Judith and I will no longer be “ageing Rovers” but will finally be in our new home – with excellent internet connectivity courtesy of the NBN (says he, ever the optimist).

**Andrew Pursey**

### ANZAC Sunday and ANZAC Day Dawn Service arrangements

ANZAC Sunday and the ANZAC Day Dawn Service will be held at Centenary of ANZAC Reserve, Wrights Rd, Kellyville on 22 April and 25 April respectively.

Key timings:

- Sun 22 April: 0830 to form up inside St Angelas for the march-on.
- Wed 25 April: 0545 to form up outside St Angelas for the march-on.

There will be no public buses this year but there will be 2 buses to take the sub-Branch members and spouse/partner/carer to and from the Club to the Reserve.

**YOU MUST BOOK to guarantee a seat.**

Options are:

- Fill in the sheet at the sub-Branch April meeting
- Email [secretary@chrslsubbranch.org.au](mailto:secretary@chrslsubbranch.org.au)

- Phone sub-Branch on 8858 4809 and leave a message for Secretary and include your phone number

**ANZAC Sunday Lunch** is by invitation. Please respond quickly if you get invited and advise if later, you cannot make it. The sub-Branch pays for all meals booked.

The morning tea back at the Club is for all that attend the ANZAC Sunday event.

**ANZAC Day Dawn Service** is followed by breakfast at the Club for all service people and their immediate family. Buses from the Club to the Reserve need to be booked as above.

Two buses will also leave for the City. Bookings are preferred for these, but you can take your chances on the day. These buses will leave from outside the Club at 0810 and 0830.

**Mike Yeo**