



THE LISTENING POST

The Official Journal of The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated

APRIL 2022

New Bond in Times of Need

OARSOME MARINE CHALLENGE TO HELP TURN THE TIDE ON PARKINSON'S





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The RSL was founded in 1916 to provide comradeship and support to Australia's Veterans and their families.

That core mission has never changed but has continued to evolve to meet the needs of each generation of servicemen and women.

We have a branch network that covers Australia and any Veteran who needs help will get it - every serving ADF member and Veteran will be warmly welcomed at their local RSL Sub-Branch or club.

We advocate for the best possible conditions for our serving men and women and for those who have served the nation in the past.

We foster respect and thanks from the nation for all those who have made sacrifices in Australia's name and we will provide a strong voice on issues of national unity and security.

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Copies of *The Listening Post* are available on our website:

www.rslwa.org.au

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Publishing of *The Listening Post*:

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To all Sub-Branch Presidents and Secretaires: Send photographs (IMB plus) and a short article (in a Word document) on special activities at your Sub-Branch to *The Listening Post*.

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29 April 2022

The preferred method of receiving submissions is by email. Photographs should be attached separately and a minimum of 1 MB. This is our magazine and contributions and letters are welcome.

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Disaster Relief Australia's National Training Manager, Veteran Warwick Lugton. Warwick served 13 years in the RAAMC with active duty in Afghanistan and East Timor and special forces.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR



City of Perth

John McCourt
RSLWA
28 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear John

ANZAC DAY 2022 - THANK YOU


Thank you sincerely for your kind words. The City of Perth recognises the importance of the ANZAC Day commemorations and is honoured to support the memory of veterans and personnel who continue to serve Australia.

Sponsorship decisions are not taken lightly by our Council and administration. Funding organisations who give back to the community, work respectfully with others and bring our city to life is paramount to supporting the community and City of Perth businesses.


It is heartening to hear of the steps you are taking with respect to equity, diversity and inclusion which are important values for us at the City and we look forward to updates on your progress in this space.

ANZAC Day is a day commemorated and acknowledged by many. We look forward to attending the RSLWA services on ANZAC Day 2022.

Yours sincerely



BASIL ZEMPALIS
LORD MAYOR CITY OF PERTH
9 March 2022



MICHELLE REYNOLDS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
9 March 2022

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If you prefer more traditional means, please post to:

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The best of your submissions will be published in the next edition of *The Listening Post*.

P.S.: Nothing makes us happier than receiving all your emailed story and letter submissions. But please ensure all The Listening Post email submissions are provided on a Word document. Also, all photos must be 1MB or higher resolution in jpeg form, sent separately as an attachment.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new State President and provide a brief update on our RSL in Western Australia.

FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT



DUNCAN ANDERSON
RSLWA STATE PRESIDENT

I am a father of two young children who are eight and five who go to school in the South West of Western Australia. We live on our sheep farm just out of Donnybrook where we run a production mob of 1200 Dorper Ewes in a mixture of irrigated and normal pasture.

Prior to this, I was the Managing Director of South Regional TAFE, responsible for more than 10,000 students, with 700-plus staff, across an area of roughly 196,000 square kilometres.

Before my time in TAFE, I served in the regular Army for 15 years, including deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. I am currently a serving Army Reservist.

In what has been a very busy start to the year, I have been fortunate to have represented us at several significant commemorative events. I attended the 80th Commemoration of the Vyner Brooke Tragedy on the 13th of February, which was hosted by the Applecross Sub-Branch. Held at the Vyner Brooke Tragedy Memorial at Point Walter, Western Australia, the event was extremely well organised and held on a very hot day outdoors.

The Applecross Sub-Branch had covered every base with the hundred-plus guests being able to commemorate this tragic event in the shade with several large tents organised.

This event brought home the futility of war and how complete barbarism can be outshone by selfless heroism and lasting courage. The Cockburn Sub-Branch held a Bombing of Darwin Commemoration on the 19th of February at their premises. Another blisteringly hot day welcomed us, resulting in the event being moved inside.

A wonderfully moving service with the Australian Defence Force providing a guest speaker who did a wonderful job of painting a

vivid picture of the extensive bombing of the north of Australia.

I was fortunate to meet several members of the community and Sub-Branch, with members highlighting some wonderful initiatives to increase their local engagement with Veterans of all ages.

I joined a group of Veterans who met at ANZAC House on Friday, the 25th of February. The 'Former Army Officers' meets quarterly to network, catch up with like-minded people and of course share stories! This is a wonderful example of a Veteran group that seeks to achieve the same aims as the RSLWA, which is supporting Veterans in our community.

I would like to close with public recognition of the former State President, Peter Aspinall AM. Under Peter's leadership and guidance RSLWA is in an enviable position and has gone from strength to strength.

A mountain has been climbed with RSLWA stable, both from a governance perspective and financially. We are positioned to continue sustainable growth to support Veterans for many generations to come. On behalf of all of us in RSLWA, thank you Peter.

NEW BOND IN TIMES OF NEED



RSLWA has entered a landmark partnership with a relatively new Veteran-based entity that goes to the heart of community service.

When disasters strike, it is the likes of Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) that get cracking. RSLWA is helping provide DRA with a new home thanks to a local philanthropist.

The Australian Non-Government Organisation (NGO) has a mission to unite the skills and experience of military Veterans with emergency services specialists to rapidly deploy disaster relief teams Australia-wide and around the world.

In Western Australia they have already been active, including involvement in recovery efforts following the devastating bushfires in the hills east of Perth.

Established in 2016 by two determined and stubborn Veterans, Disaster Relief Australia has evolved over the past five years and grown to more than 1,300 members nationally.

DRA includes emergency service specialists, as well as like-minded individuals from the wider community who share the common values to serve communities during their worst days, while providing the Veterans with the opportunity to grow beyond their military service.

While DRA has a welcome presence in WA it was without a place to gather, plan and store vital equipment.

That's been solved, for at least three years, with RSLWA and DRA co-locating in a two-storey office and warehouse property just north of the railway line in North Perth.

RSLWA CEO John McCourt brokered the arrangement with the philanthropist who is also a Veteran Service Provider in ANZAC House Veteran Central.



"The office and welfare facility are perfect for DRA in having meeting and work facilities as well as sharing a warehouse that is vitally needed by DRA and us," he said.

"RSLWA has a motto of *doing things better together* and the facility is great news for us storing a plethora of stock and materials, while DRA needed somewhere to store a range of tools of the trade in emergency response."

Disaster Relief Australia provides Veterans the opportunity to grow beyond their military service and has already proved to be a powerful tool to help Veterans transition back into society and their local communities.

John McCourt says both organisations share a lot in common and are mutually bound by the military hallmarks of courage, mateship, endurance, service and respect.

Visit <https://disasterreliefaus.org/> for more information and imagery.

FREE LEGAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE AT ANZAC HOUSE VETERAN CENTRAL



Veterans and their families wanting to give evidence to the Royal Commission investigating Australia's rates of military suicide now have access to free legal support at ANZAC House Veteran Central.

The free, independent legal support by Legal Aid WA is available to current and former members of the Australian Defence Force, as well as their families, carers and supporters, who want to share their experiences with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

Solicitor Mitchell Caubo from the Defence and Veterans Legal Service (DAVLS) will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on Level 2 at ANZAC House Veteran Central.

Mitch said he was committed to helping Veterans and their families tell their stories in person through a trauma-informed service, rather than sharing over the phone their experiences of war and combat and the resulting trauma.

"It's not just written submissions. We can also help with video submissions and we can also support those called to give evidence to the Royal Commission with lawyers and an interpreter if necessary," Mitch said.

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide is examining systemic issues and risk factors in past deaths by suicide, including suspected suicides, and lived experience of suicide risks of Australian Defence Force members and Veterans.

RSLWA CEO John McCourt said he was pleased to have facilitated Legal Aid WA to operate from ANZAC House Veteran Central.

"This is a critical service for WA Veterans and the families of Veterans to get advice and support to make their submissions," he said.

"This is what the vision was for the new ANZAC House, to put our Veteran community at the centre of service delivery.

"Veteran Central at ANZAC House provides a suite of services and it's great to have Legal Aid WA as part of our one-stop-shop."

Having grown up as a "RAAF brat", Mitch has first-hand experience of the pressures that the ADF lifestyle can exert on Defence personnel and their family members.

He is passionate about supporting anyone who is considering sharing their experiences with the Royal Commission.

Mitch joined Legal Aid WA as a solicitor with DAVLS in February this year after making a career shift from commercial law.

In his spare time Mitch volunteers as an instructor with the Australian Air Force Cadets, an organisation he has been involved in since starting as a Cadet in 2009.

Mitch can give advice about your legal rights when engaging with the Royal Commission and support you in sharing your experiences safely through a submission or private session.

Through DAVLS he can also connect clients with other services, such as counselling, advocacy and other legal support for matters that are not related to the Royal Commission.

To arrange an appointment, call 1800 33 1800 or visit the DAVLS website for more information <https://defenceveteranslegalservice.org.au>



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ENERFLOW DRILLS DOWN ON VETERAN SUPPORT



Enerflow Director Gareth Moody, RSLWA CEO John McCourt (5th & 6th from Left) and the Enerflow Mining Services team with the RSLWA Partnership Drill Rig.

An important resource supplier has backed RSLWA in a sponsorship arrangement that will benefit Veterans as well as the resources industry.

Here's the drill. With the current high demand for drill rigs in Western Australia, Perth-based company, Enerflow Mining Services, has found it viable to rebuild used rigs.

With the most recent rebuild, Enerflow Director Gareth Moody wanted to do something different and reached out to RSLWA with the proposal to support Veterans.

Mr Moody proposed that a percentage of monthly revenue from the RSLWA partnership rig would be donated towards Veterans for the term of the drills' next contract.

The donation will enable RSLWA to continue to do what it does best – improve services to, and support for, Veterans and their families. RSLWA CEO, John McCourt, said the proposal was a very generous one.

“Many of our Veterans transition to work in the resources sector through a variety of jobs, so it is great to be part of a project like this that will provide a very generous donation to programmes to support Veterans and their families, in particular, employment programmes to help them upskill and build confidence and transition into civilian life,” he said.

Enerflow Mining Services recently purchased a D65 Drill Rig from a mining company in the Pilbara Region of WA.

The drill rig was transported back to Enerflow's main workshop in Perth where it was stripped back to a bare chassis and a ground-up rebuild then commenced.

The rebuild took three months with all major components being replaced with either new or service exchange parts.

Mr Moody said Enerflow Mining Services was excited with their new partnership with RSLWA and were looking forward to working together on future projects.



AUSTRALIA DAY & CADET AWARDS



The Returned & Services League of Australia WA State Branch (RSLWA) awarded eight Australia Day Council Achievement Medallions at its annual Australia Day Awards event at ANZAC House.

RSLWA hosts the awards ceremony to recognise the efforts of RSLWA members who have excelled in their dedication and commitment to the organisation.

The event included the Annual Cadet of the Year Awards 2021 recognising the past year's commitment and excellence of our Australian Defence Force Cadets in Western Australia.

RSLWA CEO John McCourt said it was important to recognise the efforts of our Cadets, their mentors and their families in shaping the adults, and leaders of tomorrow.

"The ADF Cadets is a community-based youth development organisation focused on Defence customs, traditions and values, through which our young people learn leadership, team building and survival skills that will set them up for life," he said.

"I congratulate all of the award recipients and thank them once again for the tremendous work they do within their Sub-Branches, Units and the broader community," Mr McCourt said.



'Spirit of ANZAC' Cadet of the Year Award Winners CDT PO Edwards Kammermann (TS Canning), CDT CPL Bethany Doyle (SQNHQ WA AAC BDE) and CUO Jaxon Broad (HQ WA AAC BDE).



RSLWA Trustee Doug Simpson with CDT CPL Grace Harding of 701 SQN, one of the Trustees Award for Cadet Individual Proficiency winners.



2022 AUSTRALIA DAY COUNCIL MEDALLIONS

Mark Weldon – City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch for his tireless efforts with the local Commemorative Services and rebuilding memorial walls.

Paul McGuinness – North Beach for his continued efforts to improve the Sub-Branch's social and Commemorative events.

Clarence Cole – City of Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch for ongoing support and dedicated work.

David Thomas – City of Claremont for building the Sub-Branch to a more viable entity

Mr Ron Gwynne (Posthumous) – City of Belmont for developing the Belmont RSL bowling green through which lasting relationships were fostered with the Belmont City Council.

North Beach RSL Sub-Branch for the continued support of community-based organisations and their members.

City Of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch – Belmont Keep Fit Group for promoting wellness and fitness for veterans and the community.

Mt Hawthorn Primary School for ongoing support and engagement with Mount Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch.



The RSLWA State President Duncan Anderson with members of the 58 ACU Carine Australian Army Cadet Unit, winners of the RSLWA Army Cadet Unit Efficiency Shield 2021.

RSLWA CADET UNIT EFFICIENCY SHIELD 2021

Australian Navy Cadets – **TS MORROW** from Geraldton
 Australian Army Cadets – **58 ACU Carine**
 Australian Air Force Cadets – **711 SQN** from Geraldton
 Cadets WA – **Ellenbrook Police Rangers**

RSLWA TRUSTEES AWARD FOR CADET INDIVIDUAL PROFICIENCY

Australian Navy Cadets – **Cadet Leading Seaman April GOMM** of TS Marmion
 Australian Army Cadets – **CUO Dominic Adriano** 50ACU Midland
 Australian Air Force Cadets – **CDT CPL Grace Harding** of 701 SQN
 Cadets WA – **CDT Benjamin Fuller** from Subiaco Police Rangers

RSLWA “SPIRIT OF ANZAC” CADET OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

Australian Navy Cadets – **CDT PO Edward Kammermann** of TS Canning
 Australian Army Cadets – **CUO Jaxon Broad** of HQ WA AAC BDE
 Australian Air Force Cadets – **CDT CPL Bethany Doyle** of 710 SQN
 Cadets Western Australia – **CDT Thomas Offer** of Christ Church Grammar School Surf Lifesaving.



Australia Day Award medallion winners.

The Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA and RSLWA CEO John McCourt with Christ Church Grammar Surf Life Saving Cadet unit members, Cadet of the Year Award winner CDT Thomas Offer (centre) and RSLWA Trustee Doug Simpson.



OARSOME MARINE CHALLENGE



TO HELP TURN THE TIDE ON PARKINSON'S

For ex-Royal Marine Commando Veteran, Christian Cleghorn, the idea of rowing across the Indian Ocean to raise awareness about Parkinson's disease (PD) seemed like an obvious challenge – after all he's already navigated the Atlantic Ocean in a row boat!

by Jean Stewart

When living in the UK in 2011, his mother-in-law was diagnosed with PD, so Chris and his brother undertook to row across the Atlantic Ocean to raise money for research to help find a possible cure for the disease.

Having served with the Special Boat Service on operational deployments globally, the experiences gained provided Chris a strong skill set for the assignment that took 64 days to complete.

"That crossing presented several physical and mental challenges," Chris said.

"Rowing the Atlantic was the culmination of two years planning. When we finally saw the outline of Antigua on the horizon the feeling of elation was profound, we had reached our goal.

"More importantly, we had raised the profile of Parkinson's disease and raised more than 20,000 British pounds in the process."

A decade later, having moved his family to Perth in 2016, Chris is now employed as the Operations Manager

with James Fisher Defence, responsible for the delivery of Australia's Submarine Rescue system to the Royal Australian Navy.

With extensive knowledge of small boat operations in challenging and unique environmental conditions, Chris is now planning to lead a team of three other rowers across the Indian Ocean for the same cause in 2023.

"Living in WA made the decision easy, the challenge was here on my doorstep," he said.

"The Indian Ocean is one of the toughest ocean rowing routes and faced with big seas and wild weather, this crossing could take between 70 and 90 days.

The team of four will set off from Geraldton in a boat just over nine meters long and a little under two metres wide. The vessel will be their life support system for the entire time they are on the water and there will be no support team on the crossing.

Using only the power of their muscle and mind, they will row to Port Louis, Mauritius.



Rowing in pairs, they will run on a shift pattern of two hours rowing followed by two hours rest for 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The only place that all four crew will have to shelter is a tiny cabin about two thirds the size of a double bed.

“From the second we push off until next setting foot on dry land, the boat will be everything to us. We will either be on deck rowing or in the tiny cabin at the stern of the boat resting,” Chris said.

“We will experience sleep deprivation, extreme fatigue and massive weight loss.

Inside the cabin the crew will rest, cook, eat, sleep, navigate, communicate with each other and the outside world, patch up any injuries, write blogs, film vlogs and carry out running repairs.

“In fact the only thing that we won’t be doing in the cabin is go to the toilet, this will be an alfresco affair that bears a striking resemblance to a bucket on deck – because it is!” Chris laughed.

“Lovely when it’s sunny and calm, but balancing atop said bucket when there are howling winds will be a whole different challenge.”

Stepping up to accompany Chris is Lincoln Dews, a two times world champion Stand-up Paddle Boarder (SUP), ocean yachtsman and all-round ocean athlete.

Getting on board in the early stages was a straightforward decision for Lincoln who has been affected by PD through a close family member.

Third team member Ben Mann, brings a wealth of experience on the ocean as a sailor who has completed several Sydney to Hobart races, most recently in 2021.

Competing on the Stefan Racing Team achieving 4th overall in arguably some of the most challenging conditions in recent years, Ben is a keen water sports enthusiast who maintains a high level of fitness.

“While this will be Ben’s first venture in Ocean Rowing, he is well experienced on the sea,” Chris said.

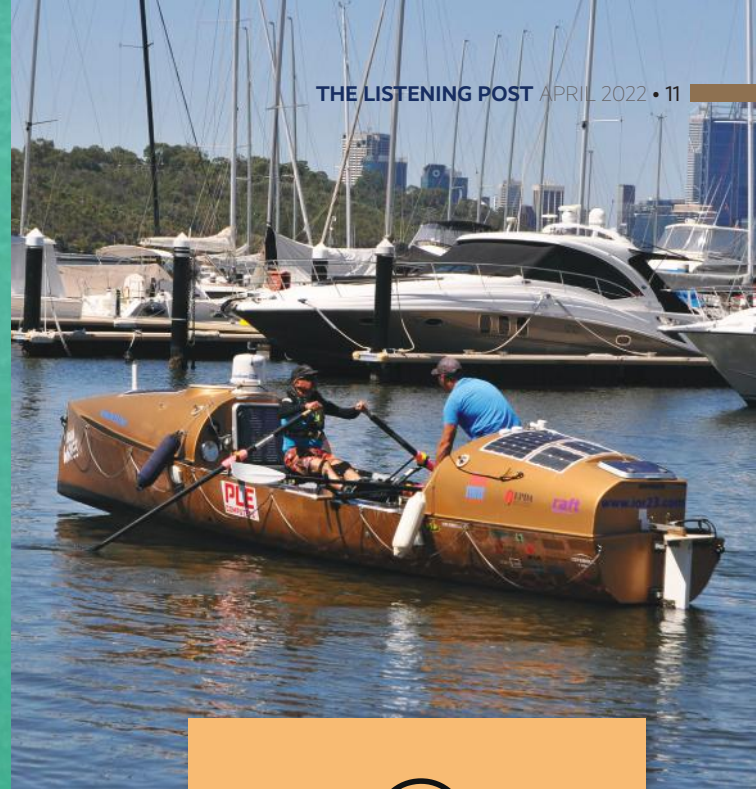
“To date the fourth rowing position remains vacant, which ideally would be suited to someone with early onset of PD, who could provide regular feedback through the boats communication systems to the Perron Institute.”

Together with the Perron Institute, and current sponsors, The Marina Mindarie, Austal Ships and Adina Watches, the rowing team hope to provide financial and neurological support for future development into the cure of PD.

Chris concluded with the interesting fact that more people have been in outer space than have successfully rowed across the Indian Ocean – safe journey guys!

Keep up to date with their progress in their training program, sponsorship and other developments through the website www.ior23.com, Facebook - @IOR23 and Instagram - indirow23

Support their efforts by donating to the Go Fund Me page at <https://gofund.me/67459f49>




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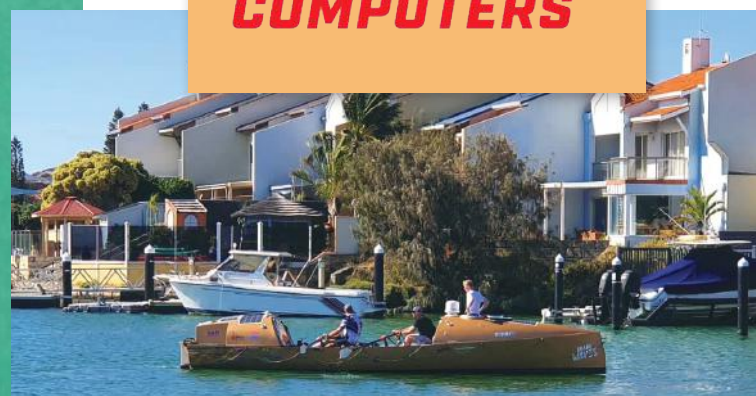


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GUITARS HELPING VETERANS FINE-TUNE MENTAL HEALTH

by Norman Burns

Hundreds of Veterans across Australia, including Western Australia, are discovering a unique way to deal with depression, the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder and other post-service issues - one note at a time.

The Guitars 4 Veterans Australia (G4VA) not-for-profit charity was set up in 2017 by former soldier Dave Cox, who was inspired by a similar program long established in the United States.

The G4VA approach is simple, give a gift of a guitar and music lessons to Veterans to help them cope with post-service issues, such as PTSD and enable them to “find a voice” through the healing power of music.

“In the words of a Veteran it opens a window of serenity,” says Dave, who served 10 years in the Australian Army, and was commissioned as an officer.

“I initially joined as an apprentice at 15. I packed my jeans and a guitar and set off and a guitar was always at my side. I joined post-Vietnam but pre-Timor, so I didn’t deploy to a conflict zone, but it was fair to say the public didn’t have a great view of the armed services at the time,” he says.

“While I had a rewarding time in the Army, a lot of friends and mates didn’t. Joining the corporate world afterwards, it was only a few years ago, I realised it was time to refocus and give back something to brothers and sisters who served.”

Learning of the US Guitars for Veterans G4V program, Dave decided to introduce a similar program in Australia.

“It’s very low-key as a lot of Veterans don’t want ‘structure’ in their face. The idea is they can, through receiving a free guitar and 10 free lessons, pick up the instrument and head off to the lounge or porch and strum away and hopefully have a better outlook on the world,” he says.

Music therapy is recognised as a great treatment for PTSD.

Guitars for the program are either donated privately or through music shops or businesses.

“Yamaha (guitars) Australia has helped and in Perth RADLINK Communications are a corporate sponsor - they reached out, they’re a company run by former Veterans and they were also seeking to give back,” he says.



Community organisations, and groups such as Rotary have also helped provide funds to cover lesson costs (which, due to the COVID situation, are currently all done online).

“We are always seeking donors, partners or sponsors and we love the idea of community helping, actually more grassroots than government programs. It’s the people reaching out to Vets in appreciation, mates to mates. However, any donations are always welcome.”

G4VA has also had some heavy hitters in the entertainment field lend their voice to the program.

“We produced a CD (Where Words Fail, Music Speaks) and 11 Australian artists - including Normie Rowe - donated songs for it; every CD sold equals a guitar lesson for a Vet,” says Dave.

Legendary Australian guitarist Tommy Emmanuel is an ambassador for G4V, helping raise its profile nationally and internationally.

While most Vets in the program are playing for “fun” and peace of mind, some are channelling their newfound musical love into commercial opportunities or branching out into song writing.

“We have a younger Afghan Vet who has been homeless and drug affected and music has steadied his outlook on life. He is now writing songs, we will manage him through that and get a song recorded,” says Dave, who adds he’s also seeking more industry support for another album.

Dave is supported in G4VA by former Vietnam Vet Jim Mavromatis and Veteran Paul Malone.

Vets wanting to take up the program can contact Dave’s team via the website www.guitarsforvetsaustralia.com.



SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR JAMES

World War II fighter pilot James Baker (99) is hoping to hitch a ride in a jeep in this year's ANZAC Day Parade after missing out on last year's 100th Anniversary of RAAF when COVID shot down the parade. The years have reduced his mobility, but his mind is sharp and memories are clear.



by Jean Stewart

As a fresh-faced 18-year-old studying engineering at University of Western Australia, James thought he had clear plans for his life, until December 7, 1941 when news came through that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. "I just got on a bus in to the city and signed up," he said.

That decision saw James enlist with the RAAF.

Within days he was on Pearce Airbase for initial training before being taken to Clontarf Boys Town, as it was called then. The RAAF had seconded the site as a training school when war broke out.

"We found out very quickly the place was lousy with bedbugs, so we had to bin all our sleeping gear and got new issue, we were scratching for days," James recalled.

In those early days James became disillusioned when much of their time was spent filling sandbags, until one day he and his mates were told they were going to Fremantle. Each was issued an envelope and told not open them until instructed.

The young men boarded an American warship at Fremantle docks. "Once we were on board we were told to open our envelopes. That's when I knew I was going to Victoria to start flight training in Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation (CAC) Wackett trainers," he said.

"It was every boy's dream to become a fighter pilot, and all I wanted to do at that time was to fight the Japanese!" James remembered the trip to Port Adelaide and on to Melbourne was very rough with waves so high the ocean was splashing in through the port holes.



James eventually ended up in Deniliquin for his Elementary Flying School Training where he graduated to flying CAC Wirraway aircraft.

He got his wings in Victoria and finished his training in Mildura before being posted to 24 Squadron in Bankstown, where he would be training in the CAC Boomerang, which was a highly secret aircraft at the time. Bankstown turned out to be a bit of a stepping stone as James was soon sent to Horn Island, about 17km off Queensland's north coast, just south of Papua New Guinea.

"We had to fly out over New Guinea and back looking for Japanese aircraft and ships," James said.

Still eager to see some action and fight the Japanese, James found this posting very boring. "I told my commander I wanted to fight and I applied to join 80 Squadron and was sent to Townsville in Queensland where I learnt to fly the Kittyhawk fighter plane," he said.

James then got his wish to see action and was sent as part of Australia's Merauke Force to defend New Guinea from Japanese attack.

James spent the next six months in Merauke where he said the mosquitoes were so thick he couldn't walk through them.

James took part in several attacks on the Japanese from the New Guinea base. "I nearly got shot down a few times, but didn't," the 99-year-old proudly quipped. "In one attack we took down nine Japanese planes while we only lost one and we picked the pilot up after."

From his New Guinea tour James was sent back to an Operational Training Unit in Victoria before he discharged in February 1946.

He was not long out of the RAAF before being tapped on the shoulder to co-pilot a Liberator bomber in peacetime flying between Brisbane and Darwin. Six months later he was in the Captain's seat flying to Manila to bring back POWs to Sydney through Darwin.



"Those boys got out of the Liberator and knelt down and kissed the tarmac, it was heartbreaking to watch," James said.

James made two trips before he tried to go back to university but struggled with the concept. He then looked at Kalgoorlie School of Mines, which proved equally challenging.

When the war ended James returned to WA on leave and spotted his fiancé on Cottesloe beach and snuck up behind to surprise her, but the surprise was on him when he found it wasn't her. His 'mistake' was the beginning of a great love and he proposed to Marie on Rottneest Island. They later married in Sydney where James was intending to undertake training, as he had ruled out university.



A telegram from his mother in Malaya, where James had grown up, told of a job as a rubber tree planter, which he decided was a better option.

James moved to Malaya and Marie returned to WA before joining him several months later. During the following four years the couple were caught up in the Malayan Emergency, a guerrilla war fought in British Malaya between communist pro-independence fighters of the Malayan National Liberation Army. James took a job with Shell and traded the uncertainty of the thick jungle settings for Wyalkatchem, where he managed the fuel depot that serviced local farmers.

Despite his eagerness to fight the enemy and protect his country as a young man, James has never held a grudge.

When he visited Japan with Marie on holiday in the 1990s, James learned some Japanese before he went. "They are a very polite and courteous society, I really enjoyed the sense of order and preciseness in their culture. Everything was immaculate and the women were beautifully dressed and often went without food to buy something expensive to wear," he fondly recalled.



'LOST' RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION FILM RESURFACES

by Norman Burns

A Perth man hopes film footage he took of a Rats of Tobruk Association commemoration 50 years ago can be added to the State film archives – and be used as an RSL fund-raiser.

Daryl Binning had a long and distinguished career in film, news and documentary production in Australia and overseas.

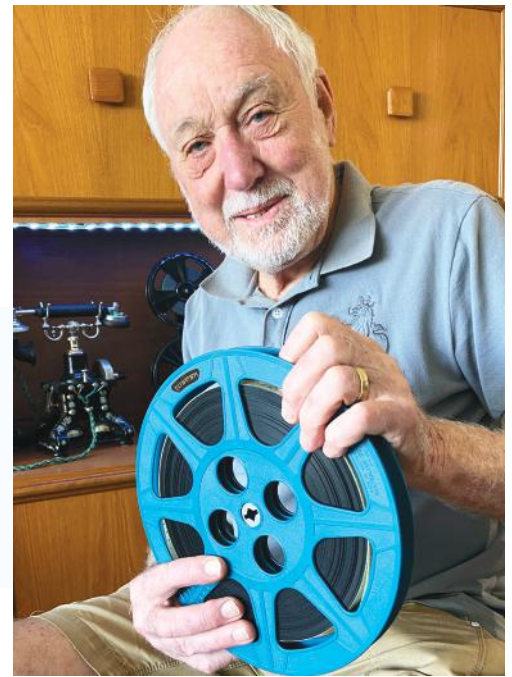
He produced newsreel and other footage that captured

many moments in history – including, in 1972, film of the Rats of Tobruk Association's Perth branch marching through King's Park at the dedication of a memorial 31 years after the heroic desert siege.

The Rats of Tobruk were soldiers of the Australian-led Allied garrison that held the Libyan port of Tobruk during a months-long siege by German commander Erwin 'The Desert Fox' Rommel's Afrika Corps in 1941.

They were named after Nazi radio propagandist 'Lord Haw Haw' described them as being caught like 'rats in a trap'.

"A mate asked me if I could come and film the event at King's Park," says Daryl, who took 10 minutes of silent 16mm colour footage of the ceremony, which features close-ups of Tobruk veterans, pipe



bands and dignitaries of the day – including then-Governor General Sir Paul Hasluck, resplendent in a top hat.

But the film had been left in the can, unseen, for almost five decades.

Although in relatively good condition, film is a volatile medium and Daryl was, at the time of going to press, having it digitally transferred to ensure its preservation.

As well as planning to offer a copy to the State Film Archive Daryl hopes digital copies – provided on thumb drives or such – could be made available for a small fee, with the proceeds donated to charities of the RSL's choosing.

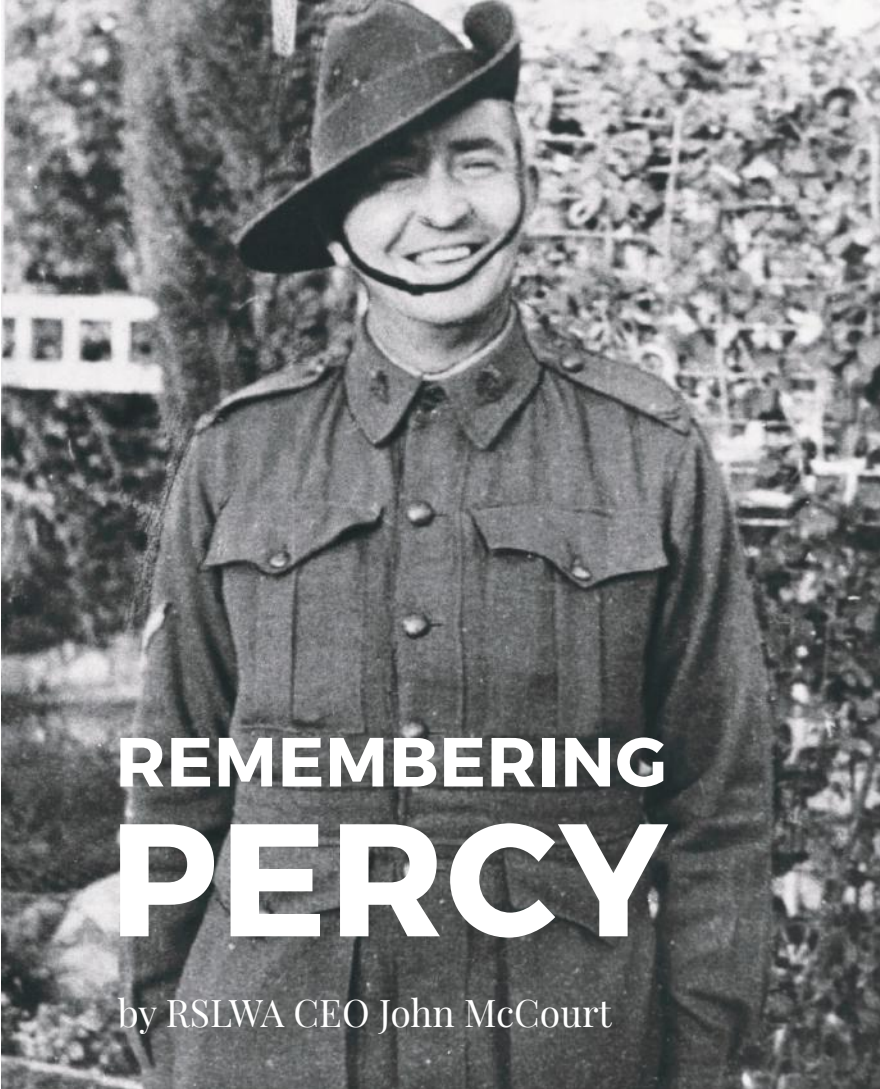
"There are some great close-ups of the 'Rats' – they would probably all be gone now – and maybe their descendants or families would like to have the footage available too," says Daryl, who came across the footage while he was preparing to move into a retirement village.

While Daryl marvels at the wonders of the digital age, he is thankful he learned his craft – including some pioneering work in New Guinea in the early 1960s - when cinematography was very much a 'hands-on' experience.

During recent years Daryl has provided archival footage for various organisations, including the SAS and energy giant Woodside. He is currently helping the Aviation Heritage Museum at Bull Creek to catalogue and preserve historic film footage.

Only a handful of the 14,000 "Rats of Tobruk" are still alive but the Rats of Tobruk Association (now based in Victoria) is still going strong, with more than 400 affiliate members across Australia, including descendants and relatives of those who so bravely fought off Rommel's troops.

www.ratsoftobrukassociation.org.au



REMEMBERING PERCY

by RSLWA CEO John McCourt

As we prepare for another ANZAC Day, the recent attendance at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) by Prime Minister, Scott Morrison and Federal Opposition Leader, Anthony Albanese was timely.

Both delivered speeches during the Last Post Ceremony at the AWM to mark the opening of Federal Parliament for 2022, within which the memory of Western Australian Victoria Cross winner Percy Gratwick was eulogised.

It was a timely and appropriate recognition of the importance of keeping the memory alive of those who died while displaying enormous selfless courage in looking after your mates.

In researching Percy's military background for a media interview, I was struck by his ordinariness as a bloke from the bush yet his extraordinary service to his country.

Private Percival (Percy) Gratwick was born in Katanning in 1902 and was well into his 30s as World War II approached. A resourceful character, he was a leader of men, building up a droving business in the North West.

When he first tried to join the AIF, he was knocked back. Why? Because he had a broken nose. Having it fixed at considerable expense to himself, he was finally accepted in December 1940.

After training, in September 1941, he joined the 2/48th Battalion in September 1941 that was under siege at Tobruk.

It was there that circumstances conspired to see his courage under fire that earned him the Victoria Cross during the second battle of El Alamein.

In an attack at Miteiriya Ridge, Gratwick's company suffered heavy casualties and was held up by intense enemy fire. His platoon lost its commander, its sergeant, and most of the men.

Seeing the seriousness of the situation, Gratwick launched a single-handed attack with grenades, rifle, and bayonet on the German posts. He finally fell to a burst of machine-gun fire but, while mortally wounded, he was still able to hurl a grenade that silenced the enemy.

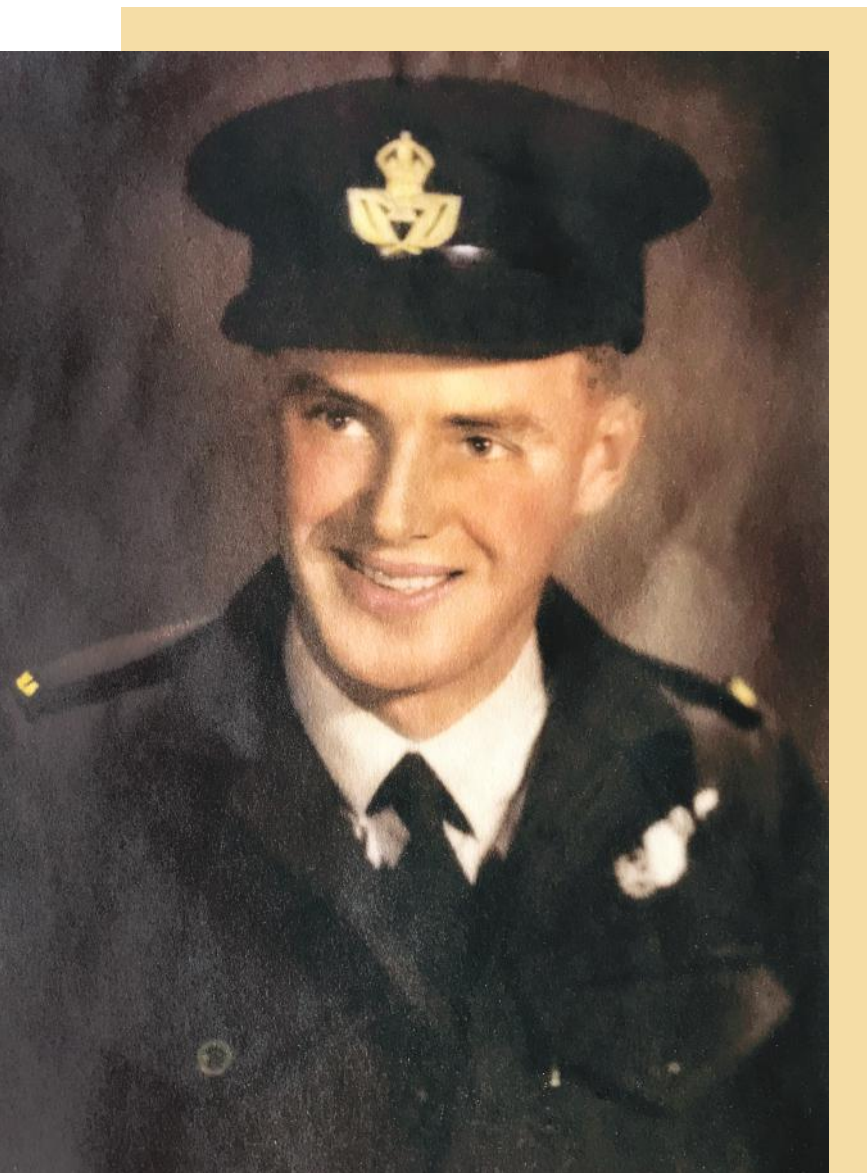
His lone efforts had a big impact on his mates, inspiring the remaining soldiers to advance and capture the ground the Germans had occupied.

As he had done all his adult life, Gratwick asked no one what to do. And what he did is now legendary. He had always measured people by their actions, not their words, and he lived and died by that belief.

A framed portrait of Private Percy Gratwick VC is proudly displayed, among the other Western Australian VC recipients, in the Victoria Cross Room of the ANZAC Club at ANZAC House.



FLYING HIGH ON DECADES OF MEMORIES



At 98 years of age, WWII veteran John Ibbotson has witnessed tremendous change over 10 decades and is a tome of interesting stories.

by John McPherson

Born in Meekatharra in 1923, he was the eldest of four children, a sister Mary (fondly referred to as Betty) and two brothers, Desmond and Peter.

The family's move to the city when John was only two accentuates some of the change John has experienced in a lifetime.

"When we moved to South Perth it was on a motorbike with a sidecar. Betty was just a baby and she was in the sidecar with Mum and we had two suitcases strapped between the motorbike and the sidecar – I was sitting on the back pillion strapped to my father," recalls John.

By the time John was 12, a move back to the country saw him living alongside the biggest apricot orchid in the south-west and, like so many of that era, he created many fond memories.

"My siblings and I went to Harvey State School before my mother sent us to the convent for schooling in 1934. During the school holidays I used to pick apricots and got threepence for a dump case," John said.

By the age of 14, the family moved back to the city where John completed his schooling at Fremantle Christian Brothers College and sat his junior level certificate with his father.



“My Dad was an ex-Serviceman in the AIF and because he wanted to get into the Customs Department we did our Junior-level certificates together, which we both got. Once he did he never looked back. He was a good worker; a very conscientious man,” John recalled.

Leaving school at 16, John started his first job with Australia’s oldest wine and spirits merchants, Lionel Samson and Sons.

When World War II broke out two years later, John followed his father’s footsteps into the armed forces, recruiting into the Royal Australian Air Force.

After a lengthy period of training, John travelled from Sydney to New Zealand on an American troop and hospital ship.

Further training followed in America before John sailed on the original Queen Elizabeth from New York to England, where he ended up flying over the Atlantic during World War II as a bomber waist-gunner.

“There were 20,000 American troops and 2000 Air Force on the ship. We zig-zagged across the Atlantic, without an escort, and were too fast for the submarines,” he said. “We were given a new aircraft, a Wellington bomber, which we flew out to Casablanca in North Africa before flying across North Africa to Egypt where we were based near Cairo on the banks of the Suez Canal.

“Our last stop after all the courses and learning was being sent to Foggia in Italy, right opposite Naples, for about two years,” he added. “At one stage during that time I thought I’d be very lucky if I reached the age of twenty-one!”

All in all John did 42 missions, dropping bombs, supplies, troops, mines and anything else they could think of.

“We never bombed any towns, we bombed railways, bridges and basic supply routes,” he said.

One of John’s incredible stories was about a training run in Ireland when their pilot collapsed at the controls and passed out.

“The bomb-aimer took over and I was trying to revive the pilot by slapping his face,” John recalled.

With the dry humour that only comes from experience John said: “The bomb-aimer was a bit unhappy about having to land the twin-engine plane because he wasn’t experienced so he kept flying and I kept slapping!

“After about 15 minutes the skipper started to stir, so I shook him and he came to saying: “What the bleeding hell is going on?” To which I said ‘well, you’ve been out to it for about 15 minutes and we were beginning to get worried’. Which was an understatement.

“Anyway, I said: Lou’s lined up the runway, so do think you can land the plane? ‘Of course I can’ he said and duly did.

“He was very, very wobbly and horrible looking – his appendix had burst! He was a tough old bird who was a wheat and sheep farmer from Katanning.”

John discharged from the Air Force in January 1946.

John met his wife of 72 years, Pat, through a mate who was going out with a friend of Pat’s.

Said Pat: “He took me to see Esther Williams in the movie Easy to Wed and six weeks later he proposed saying there was no point in ‘beating around the bush’.”

When John returned to Perth, he was put in touch with a taxi owner who was looking for drivers, so he got a licence to drive taxis, which he did for a few years. “We did pretty well, and the money was pretty good, so after a couple of years Pat and I bought a 1938 Dodge which had done a bit of mileage but was in pretty good condition.



When the government decided to issue 50 sets of taxi licences because there were not enough taxis for people at night, only owner-drivers could apply for them.

The local coppers gave John the tip-off that he’d have a better chance of getting one of the licences with a new car rather than a second-hand one.

In September 1948 Pat and John bought out another taxi owner to expand their fleet to three and sometime later entered a joint business venture with another taxi-owner, growing the fleet to six. Eventually they had around 20 taxis servicing the Fremantle area.

Market Street Taxis eventually accepted an offer to merge with Coastal Cabs, the largest taxi company in the Fremantle area and, as they say in the classics, the rest is history!



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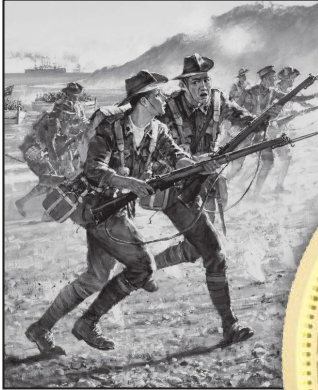
WORLD WAR I HEROES HONoured



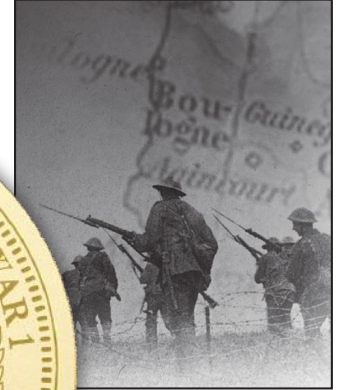
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End of WWI Centenary Commemoration

2018 marked the centenary of the conclusion of the First World War, the "war to end all wars." There are generations alive who have no direct knowledge of this conflict or of the sacrifice made by all who fought for their country. Our debt to them is immeasurable making it more important than ever that we remember their courage with a lasting commemoration. To ensure their sacrifice is not forgotten, a very special crown coin has been released: The "Centenary of the End of World War Golden Crown."

Fully layered with pure 24-carat gold, this collector's edition coin will shine as an enduring symbol of the immense pride we feel for those who served our country and endured great hardship. The design honours the fallen with a moving, raised-

relief portrait of a digger remembering his mate, set against a backdrop of the rising sun. In the foreground, a field of poppies, the symbol of remembrance, are created in hand-applied red enamel, providing a vibrant contrast to the pure, 24-carat gold.

It creates a touching counterpoint to the hallowed words "Lest We Forget" from Laurence Binyon's poem *For the Fallen* which forms the *Ode of Remembrance*. Poppies, crafted in vibrant enamel, have been inspired by John McCrae's moving poem *In Flanders Fields*, symbolising our eternal respect and remembrance of our fallen heroes.

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numbered issues will ever be minted. It is available now for only \$29.99 – a saving of \$50.00 – plus \$9.99 postage and handling. Due to the extreme limitation, only the earliest responders will successfully secure this proof coin honouring our World War I heroes. A Certificate of Authenticity detailing important provenance information pertaining to the coin will be issued with the coin. Peak collector interest is all but assured for this commemoration to those who served and with it the potential of a swift, early sell out of the "Centenary of the End of World War Golden Crown."

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ANZAC DAY



After two years of cancelled ANZAC Day events in the City of Perth there is a strong appetite from the community to acknowledge the sacrifice and service of our ex-service men and women and current defence service personnel.

In line with the current COVID-19 pandemic climate, RSLWA had to remove public participation for the Kings Park Dawn Service. Having to make that decision months ago in order to provide the infrastructure to accommodate public participation, we decided on a path that would enable the best of both worlds.

To protect our more vulnerable Veterans, while still delivering an ANZAC Day experience to the wider community, we have partnered with Radio 95.4 and the Triple M Radio Network to deliver a live broadcast of a Dawn Service to enable the community to participate in Driveway Services in the safety of their own homes.

Driveway Services have been supported by the community over the past two years and RSLWA is encouraging people to again embrace the Driveway Services in 2022. We look forward to receiving your photos for potential publication in the next edition of *The Listening Post* and on our website (high resolution 1-2mb +).

Preparation for other events is proceeding while working with Level 1 COVID-19 restrictions.

The traditional Gunfire Breakfast in the Government House Gardens will proceed, but will need to comply with physical distancing (2sq. metre rule) and proof of vaccination for entry.

The CBD Parade will also proceed with physical distancing and the RSLWA strongly encourages proof of vaccination for all participants.

As in 2021, RSLWA is encouraging people to only attend as observers if they have friends or relatives marching. The Parade will be telecast live by ABC TV and RSLWA is encouraging observers to enjoy the Parade from their own homes.

The Commemorative Service will proceed at the Perth Concert Hall with 75 per cent capacity. Tickets will be available from Monday, 4 April and can be booked through the Perth Concert Hall website www.perthconcerthall.com.au. Proof of vaccination will be required to enter the venue.

For the most up to date information visit the RSLWA website at www.rslwa.org.au or contact events@rslwa.org.au or call 9287 3799.

LEST WE FORGET

ANZAC DAY EVENTS



DRIVEWAY DAWN SERVICES

Monday, 25 April

Live Broadcast by Radio 94.5 and

Triple M Radio Network.

Broadcast begins at 5.55am and concludes at 6.30am.

GUNFIRE BREAKFAST

Monday, 25 April

Government House Gardens | 7.00am–9.00am

Entry to the Gunfire Breakfast is a gold-coin donation to share the Spirit of ANZAC Day. The breakfast is organised and prepared by Rotary Club of Perth.

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

Monday, 25 April

Perth Concert Hall | 11am–midday

This is a free community event, but tickets are required for entry. The program will include the Salvation Army Perth Fortress Band and the ANZAC Day Choir, brought together by the Perth Modern School Chamber Choir and Perth Modern School Alumni Singers.

The service will be broadcast live by ABC TV.

Tickets will be available from the Perth Concert Hall website and proof of vaccination will be required for entry. For patrons with wheelchairs and mobility aids, access is best from the St Georges Tce forecourt rampway. The Concert Hall foyer areas can be accessed using the lifts.

ANZAC DAY PARADE

Monday, 25 April

Perth CBD | 9.00am

The Australian Defence Force will step off from the corner of Barrack Street and St Georges Terrace at 9.00am, followed by vintage vehicles and military jeeps carrying Veterans, Ex-services Units, Corps and Regimental Associations. The Parade will proceed along St Georges Terrace, passing the saluting dais before turning right into Victoria Avenue and dispersing at Langley Park.

FORM UP

Participants/Marchers – St Georges Tce between Barrack and William Streets, dispersing at Langley Park.

Vintage vehicles and jeeps – Hay Street, between Irwin and Pier Streets, dispersing outside Perth Concert Hall.

Veterans' vehicles – Corner of Barrack and St Georges Terrace, dispersing Langley Park.



DISCLAIMER

Information is subject to change. The final Parade map and Order of March will also be published in *The West Australian* on Friday, 22 April 2022.

The ANZAC Day information on the RSLWA website will be updated regularly in the lead up to ANZAC Day.

All information was correct at the time of printing.

VEHICLES

MOTORCYCLES IN THE PARADE

Members of Military Motorcycle Clubs will again conclude the Perth ANZAC Day Parade. The contingent of motorcycles includes members of the WA Military Motorcycle Club and other ex-serving members.

Riders will be required to meet at the Fraser Point car park, Riverside Drive at 8.00am for departure at 8:30am to the CBD to join the Parade.

Parade Form-up will be at Sherwood Court, exiting along Terrace Rd from Langley Park.

Motorcyclists interested in participating should contact Gary Scott on 0417 974 994 or email scottgm@bigpond.net.au

VETERAN VEHICLES IN PARADE

Elderly Veterans and those with reduced mobility can participate in an open-air jeep or vintage car experience in the City of Perth Parade.

Please contact Bruce McDougall on 9398 4050 or email bruceemcdougall@hotmail.com to arrange a booking and provide a carer's contact details.

Veterans using this service will need to arrive at the Veteran Vehicle Form-up area on the corner of Hay and Irwin Streets before 8.30am.

VETERAN VEHICLES

For those who are unable to March, RSLWA offers a driver service. A driver will pick you up from your home and drive you to the Parade Form-up area, through the Parade route and then back home after the Parade.

Please note, people applying for this free service must stay for the Commemorative Service which finishes at midday. For more information and to register please contact Cassandra Brennan on 0402 845 459 or email cassandra@monarchevents.com.au

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

As RSLWA has had to make the decision to not open the Kings Park Dawn Service to public attendance, there have been no additional Public Transport provisions made. For other events, please plan your journey and allow extra time to get there. In recognition of the great sacrifice made by the men and women of our armed forces, all veterans and serving personnel wearing service uniforms, ribbons or medals can travel FREE on ANZAC Day.

For further information on Transperth services, please visit transperth.wa.gov.au or call 13 62 13 closer to the time. Hearing or speech disability? Call NRS 133 677 and ask for 13 62 13.

ST JOHN COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE

This service is for veterans and carers who are unable to drive or get public transport to the CBD Parade. This is available to elderly people with moderate disability and carers able to assist themselves in and out of a normal sedan vehicle. Places are extremely limited. To book please call Community Transport on 9334 1300.

RSLWA'S COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY TO BE SHARED THROUGH NEW TECHNOLOGY



The Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority (BGPA) is adopting new technology to engage visitors to Kings Park and have implemented Markr to provide an augmented reality experience to some of the iconic locations throughout the park.

Interactive Markr information technology is being made available to users when they are in and around Kings Park. The Markr virtual information points will enable RSLWA to share the story of fallen servicemen and women and the memorials established in their honour.

This way of connecting the visitor comes with an automatic translation to the user's language, a new way of presenting visual content and has a zero carbon footprint.

BGPA Executive Director of Kings Park Alan Barrett said he was pleased to provide RSLWA this new way of sharing the stories of Australian Defence Force personnel.

"We have dropped a number of Markrs around the park for people to discover and by using the free Markr app visitors can experience the information in a whole new way," he said.

"We hope it helps the people of Perth connect to veterans of Western Australia and learn more about the State War Memorial and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice."

RSLWA CEO John McCourt said the innovation was another way of collaborating with like-minded organisations to better inform the public of the sacrifices made by our soldiers, sailors and air force personnel.

Download the Markr app through the App Store or Google Play.
















RSLWA

**2022 ANZAC DAY
PARADE MAP**

**25 April 2022
Start time: 9.00am**

LEGEND

-  Route Motorbikes
-  Route Jeeps
-  Route Participants
-  Route Veteran Vehicles
-  Road Closure (5am - Midday)
-  ADF Form-up Area
-  City of Perth Parking
-  First Aid
-  Toilets (all locations have disability access)
-  Lost Persons
-  Lost and Found
-  Sausage Sizzle
-  Form-up Area (Please refer to Order of March)



Proudly supported by:





ORDER OF MARCH



- 1** • 10 x Australian National Flags and 10x New Zealand National Flags
• State Presidents of RSLWA, Naval Assoc and RAAF Assoc
• Defence Reps (RAN, Army, RAAF)
• Mounted Police

DEFENCE FORCES CONTINGENT

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- 1A** • Royal Australian Navy
AUSTRALIAN ARMY PIPES AND DRUMS

- 1B** • Australian Army
7 WING AIR FORCE CADETS DRUM CORPS

- 1C** • Royal Australian Air Force

EX-SERVICE CONTINGENT

THE SALVATION ARMY PERTH FORTRESS BAND

- ADF serving since 1990
- WW1 Banners Escorted by Westralian Great
- War Living History Assoc
- Legacy Wards
- War Widows Guild

- 2** • Jeeps, Landrovers and Vintage Military Fire Engine

- 3** • Veteran Carrying Cars

NAVAL SECTION

TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK BRASS BAND

- Naval Assoc Banner & Rep, RAAF Assoc Banner & Rep
- Naval Assoc of Aust (WA) Section State Executive

- Naval Association of Australia WA
- WRANS-RAN Women's Association WA
- Fleet Air Arm Assoc of Aust WA Division
- HMAS Perth National Assoc, HMAS Brisbane Assoc, HMAS Hobart Assoc

PERTH METRO PIPE BAND

- HMAS Sydney Assoc
- RAN WWII Heavy Cruisers (HMAS Canberra Assoc, HMAS Australia Assoc, HMAS Shropshire Assoc)
- HMAS Darwin Banner
- RAN Communications Branch Assoc
- "N" Class Destroyers Assoc
- Tribal Class Destroyers Assoc (HMAS Arunta, HMAS Warramunga, HMAS Bataan)

CHURCHLANDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (Band 1)

- C** • RAN Clearance Divers Assoc
• Far East Strategic Reserve (Navy) Assoc
• Combined Defence Forces Support Assoc of WA (Incorporating Vietnam Logistics Support Veterans Assoc of WA and HMAS Sydney) Inc
• Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships Assoc
• Tingira Association
• Ex-Royal New Zealand Navy
• Australian Navy Cadets

ARMY SECTION

CITY OF PERTH BAND

- 6th Aust Division Cavalry Regiment Assoc (WA)
- Royal Australian Armoured Corps Assoc (WA Branch)
- Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Assoc
- Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps Assoc
- 1st Armoured Regiment Assoc

- 3rd Cavalry Regiment Assoc
- Royal Australian Armoured Corps Vietnam Veterans Assoc
- Vietnam Veterans Assoc & Australian Army Training Team Vietnam Assoc (AATTV)
- Royal Australian Artillery Assoc of WA

SCOTCH COLLEGE PIPE BAND

- 101 Field Battery Assoc
- 102 Field Battery Assoc
- 104 Field Battery Assoc
- 4th Field Regiment RAA (Vietnam)
- 2/7th Field Regiment Artillery Assoc
- 2/3rd Aust Composite AA Regiment Assoc
- RAE Ex-Servicemen's Assoc (Engineer Units)
- Royal Australian Survey Corps Assoc

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRASS BAND

- E** • Royal Australian Signals Assoc
• 2/11th AIF Battalion Assoc
• 2/16th AIF Battalion Assoc
51 ACU PIPES AND DRUMS
• 2/28th Battalion & 24th Anti-Tank Coy Assoc
• 2/32nd Battalion Assoc
• 2/43rd Battalion Assoc
• 48th & 2/48th Battalion Assoc
• 2/3rd Machine Gunners Battalion Assoc
• 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion Assoc
• 13th Brigade AIF Group WW2 (11th, 16th, 28th, 44th Battalions)

PRESBYTERIAN LADIES' COLLEGE PIPE BAND

- F** • Royal Australia Regiment Association

- 1 RAR
- 2 RAR
- 2/4 RAR
- 3 RAR
- 4 RAR
- 5 RAR
- 5/7 RAR
- 6 RAR
- 7 RAR
- 8 RAR
- 8/9 RAR
- 9 RAR

CITY OF COCKBURN PIPE BAND

- G** • Combined Commandos Squadron Assoc (incl 2/2 Commando Squadron)
• Australian Commando Association Western Australia
• Royal Western Australian Regiment Assoc (incl 16th Btn Cameron Highlanders)
• Australian SAS Assoc
• Australian Army Training Team Vietnam Assoc (AATTV)

CHURCHLANDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (Band 2)

- HQ 1 Australian Task Force Assoc
- 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight Assoc
- Australian Intelligence Corps Assoc (WA)
- Royal Australian Corps of Transport & Royal Australian Army Service Corps Assoc
- 1 Australian Field Hospital Assoc
- Field Ambulance Assoc (incl 2/13th)

COASTAL SCOTTISH PIPE BAND

- H** • Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps Assoc
• Royal Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers Assoc
• Royal Australian Engineers Assn of WA Inc
• Royal Australian Army Pay Corps Assoc
PERTH METRO PIPE BAND

- New Zealand Ex-Service Men and Women
- Military Police Assoc
- Officer Training Unit Scheyville
- Australian Red Cross Assoc
- **Australian Army Cadets**

AIR FORCE SECTION

7 WING AIR FORCE CADETS DRUM CORPS

- I** • Royal Australian Air Force Assoc
• 3 Squadron Assoc
• Pathfinders Assoc
• Bomber Command Veterans
• No. 25 City of Perth Squadron Branch Assoc
• RAAF Police Assoc
CITY OF PERTH BAND
• No. 3 Telecommunications Assoc
• RAAF Ubon Assoc
• RAAF Vietnam Veterans Assoc
• No 9 Squadron Assoc
• WRAAF Branch Assoc.
• **Australian Air Force Cadets**

TRI-SERVICE CONTINGENTS

TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK BRASS BAND

- J** • Australian Ex-Services Atomic Survivors Association
• National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Assoc
K • Honouring Indigenous War Graves Assoc
• Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Assoc
• Gulf War/Peacekeepers Assoc
• Defence Reserves Assoc
• National Servicemen's Association

WA POLICE PIPEBAND

- WA Police
- Police Rangers

WA FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICE CONCERT BAND

- Department of Fire and Emergency Services
- Fire and Emergency Services Cadet Corp

COMMONWEALTH & ALLIED FORCES SECTION

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WIND SYMPHONY

- L** • British Ex-Services Assoc
• Royal Green Jackets Assoc
• Airborne Forces Assoc of WA
SCOTCH COLLEGE PIPE BAND
• North American Veterans' Unit
• Greek Australian Ex-Servicemen's Assoc
• Veterans of Foreign Wars
• Descendants of WWII Chinese Defence Force

- Indian Defence Forces Assoc
- Korean Ex-Servicemen Assoc
- Polish Ex-Servicemen
- Rhodesian Services Assoc of WA Inc
- South African Military Veterans Organisation of Aust

WA SIKH BAND

- M** • Sikh Ex-Servicemen
• Turkish Ex-Servicemen
• Vietnamese Ex-Servicemen
• Relatives of Deceased Veterans
• Scouts
• Girl Guides

CHURCHLANDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (Band 1)

- Motorcycle Clubs (Sherwood Court)

WA SOLDIERS REMEMBERED ON ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE FOR SINGAPORE

The 80th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore to Japanese forces was marked by members of the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion Ex-members Association with a Remembrance Service at the Prisoner of War Memorial in Kings Park.

The Fall of Singapore was one of the most significant military defeats in British and Commonwealth history. More than 20,000 Australians served in the Malayan Campaign and the Battle for Singapore during the Second World War, with more than 1,700 killed and another 1,300 wounded.

Some 15,000 Australians were among the 130,000 Allied personnel taken as prisoners of war, with more than 7,000 dying in captivity by the time the war ended.

The 80th Anniversary Remembrance Service, was led by MC Harry Tysoe, the grandson of Harry Tysoe of 'A' Company. The welcoming address was presented by Ex-



members Association President Bernie Dorizzi, nephew of the three Dorizzi brothers Herbert, Gordon and Thomas, who all died in 1945 on the Sandakan Death March.

The 2/4th Association historian and daughter of Noel (Cowboy) Matthews of 'E' Company, gave the Fall of Singapore address. Those who lost their lives, during or shortly after, the battle for Singapore were remembered with the 'Reading of the Names' by Graeme Hambley, son of Ernest (Blue) Hambley of 'B' Company, and Lou Daily, nephew of Lou Daily 'B' Company and William Beer of 'D' Company.

During the wreath laying Jim Elliott, son of Jim Elliott 'A' Company, provided a touching instrumental guitar backing. Bugler LCPL David Scott performed the Last Post and Rouse before 502 Army Cadet Unit providing the Catafalque Party dismantled.

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MEMORIAL HONOURS MASSACRED TOODYAY NURSE'S BRAVERY

A memorial recently unveiled in Toodyay commemorates one of the darkest episodes in Australian wartime history, while acknowledging the extraordinary courage of Australia's wartime nurses.



The unveiling of the Alma Beard Memorial, located outside the Alma Beard Medical Centre in the Wheatbelt town, attracted about 100 people who braved sweltering conditions to witness the moment on February 16. Three days earlier, more than 400 people attended a commemoration service at the SS Vynr Brooke Memorial in Point Walter, Bicton, to remember those who died in the sinking of the vessel and the subsequent massacre of nurses, civilians, and wounded troops – all of whom had surrendered to Japanese forces on Bangka Island, off Sumatra.

The centre and memorial are named after Toodyay born-and-bred Australian Army nurse Alma Beard, who was raised on the family farm Pell Mell on Rockdale Road in Culham, not far from Toodyay.

Trained at Royal Perth Hospital, Alma worked in a Sydney hospital to gain experience before enlisting in the Australian Army Nursing Service in June 1941 and serving with the 2/13th Australian General Hospital in Singapore.



Left without food or medical supplies to treat the wounded, and with no means of escape, the survivors agreed to surrender to Japanese occupying forces – a fatal choice.

The Japanese separated the men from the group, took them behind a headland and either shot or bayoneted them to death.

The 21 Australian and 25 British nurses, including Alma, were ordered to march into the sea. The group was machine-gunned from behind by Japanese troops. Alma Beard was just 29.

Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Statham (nee Bullwinkle), AO, MBE, ARRC, ED was the sole surviving Australian Army nurse of the Bangka Island massacre, feigning death in the sea even though gravely wounded. She later spent three years in a Japanese POW camp.

Her evidence to the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal in 1946 brought to light the atrocity perpetrated by the Japanese.

Lt Col Statham, who was later awarded the world's most prestigious nursing honour, the Royal Cross Florence Nightingale Medal, died in July 2000 aged 84.



She and hundreds of others, including women, children, and wounded troops, were on the last ship to escape the fall of Singapore – the SS Vyner Brooke – when it was attacked and sunk by Japanese aircraft off Sumatra.

Survivors were strafed by the marauding aircraft as they clung to wreckage and a lifeboat, but after hours in the water, more than 100 made it to Bangka Island's Radji Beach on February 16, 1942.

The memorial, a two-metre metal silhouette of a wartime nurse set in Toodyay stone, was made possible by donations from an anonymous benefactor and the Friends of the Toodyay Museum.

It is now on public display outside the Stirling Terrace medical centre, a poignant and permanent reminder of the courage of Alma and her fellow nurses and of the devastating horror of that day in February 1942.





KUWAIT REMEMBERED

The 31st Anniversary of Gulf War 1 – Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm/Liberation of Kuwait by allied forces was commemorated at the Bassendean War Memorial with a service run by the Eastern Regional (Bassendean) RSL Sub-Branch.

The Service included the handover of a newly commissioned banner to the Gulf War 1 Veterans with the Eastern Regional (Bassendean) RSL Sub-Branch committing to making it an annual memorial event.

The event, held on February 27, was attended by members from five of the six ships involved in the conflict – the HMAS Brisbane, Darwin, Success, Sydney and Westralia.

Sub-Branch Vice President Justin Hughes said the ceremony became more relevant as shipmates got older.

“It enables crewmates to reconnect while the ceremony also provides a time to remember some who have passed away,” he said.



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70 YEARS OF WRAAC FORMATION CELEBRATED



After four years of planning and two years waiting to bring it to fruition, the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) was celebrated.

A Sunset Commemorative Service was held at the State War Memorial in Kings Park in February and streamed to the Eastern States for those who could not attend due to border closures.

MC Vivienne Blycha conducted the service which began with Noongar Elder Di Ryder performing a Welcome to Country before the Hon Chaplain Maj Laurel Pearce (Salvation Army) gave the call of remembrance to WRAAC members who had passed.

The State War memorial Warden, Maj-Gen Barry Nunn AO RFD ED gave the opening address before the presentation of Bag Pipe Banners was presented by the WRAAC President Judy Welch.

The Australian Army Cadets 58 ACU Carine, recently awarded the RSLWA Cadet Unit Efficiency Shield 2021, supported the event with the Catafalque party.

WRAAC uniforms dating from 1960s to 1985 from members' private collections and the RSLWA Pinjarra Sub-Branch were modelled by daughters and grand-daughters of Delma Lim and Penny Busby.



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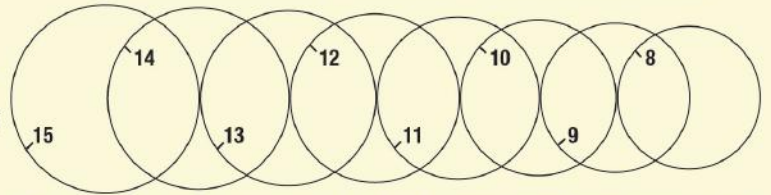
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HMAS SYDNEY IV REUNION WEEKEND

The 30-year reunion for the tri-deployment of crews of HMAS Sydney IV was marked with a full weekend of events in Denham in the State's mid-west.

Organised to coincide with the annual HMAS Sydney Memorial Service held in Geraldton, the reunion started on Friday, 19 November with the live stream of the service from the HMAS Sydney II Memorial in Geraldton. About 50 people gathered at the Shark Bay Heritage Resort, while another group watched the live stream at the Shark Bay Hotel.



A memorial concert on Denham's foreshore attracted more than 500 people on the Saturday evening. Local Geraldton band Red Ochre started the show, followed by the Royal Australian Navy Band WA Reserve. The Troubadours refreshed memories with some classic 60s and 70s music before Johnny Young and the Strangers took to the stage. Headline act, Normie Rowe AM, also a Vietnam Vet who does a lot to support Veterans, closed the concert.



A Memorial March along Denham Foreshore with Naval and RAAF personnel leading the procession was followed a Service by the Sea on the Sunday.

More than 250 people attended the service where Captain Ross Halsall officiated as Master of Ceremonies and Chaplain Glenn Mercer conducted the Naval Prayer. The service ended with people casting rosemary sprigs into the ocean from the end of the jetty as a symbol of remembrance and respect.

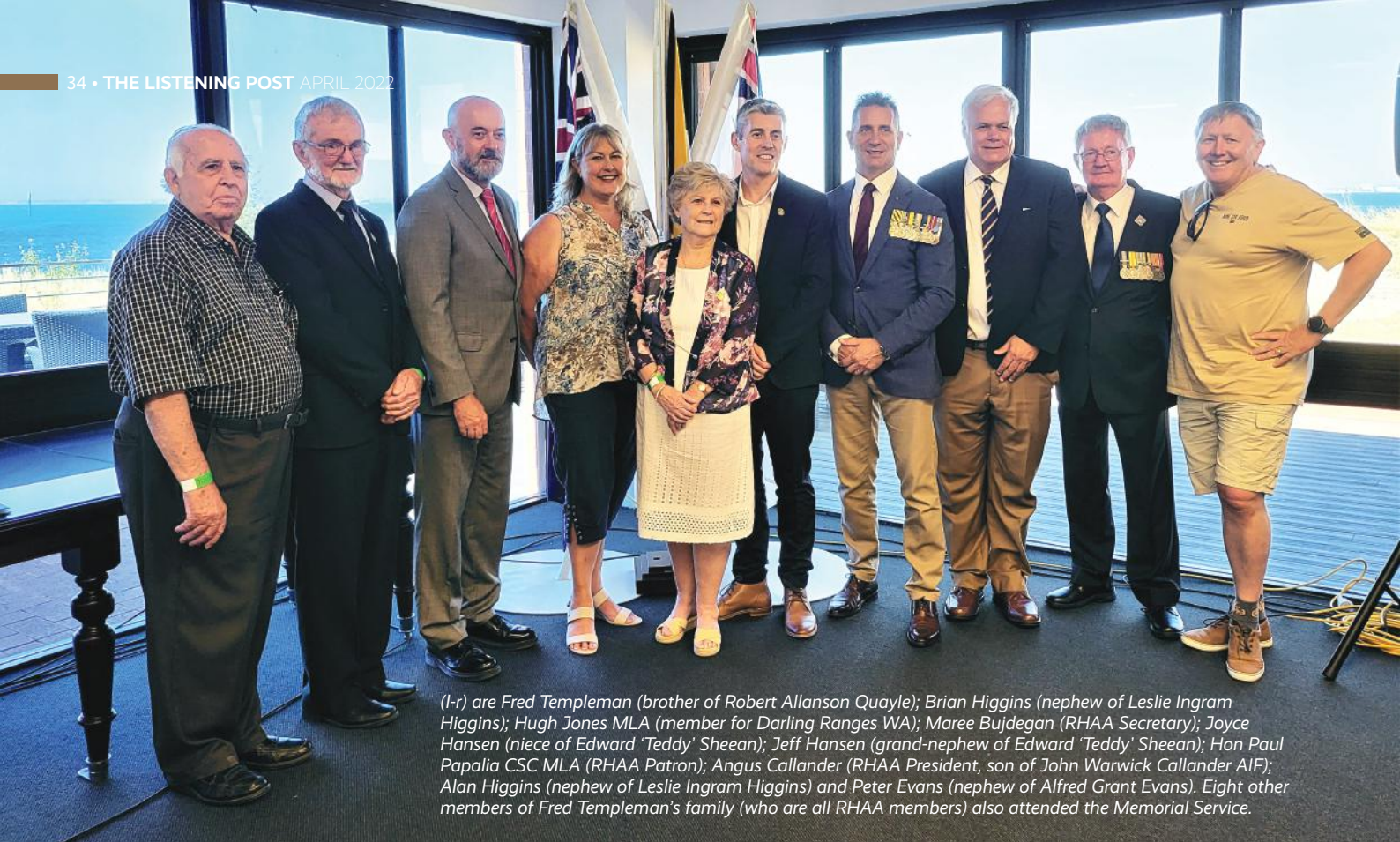
Lead Coordinator Adrian (Radar) Burns said the service was a poignant reminder of the loss of the 645 sailors who gave their lives for this country on 19 November, 1941.

"A very fitting conclusion to a remarkable weekend.

"It was obvious many past crews of all Sydney warships appreciated being able to reconnect with each other to commemorate this 80th anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Sydney."

A newly commissioned HMAS Sydney banner was paraded for the first time at the Denham Commemorative services.

For many who were unable to attend, and those who did, there is a video of the weekend, put together by Denham professional film company, FINN Films which covered the events and live streamed the Memorial Service on the Sunday.



(l-r) are Fred Templeman (brother of Robert Allanson Quayle); Brian Higgins (nephew of Leslie Ingram Higgins); Hugh Jones MLA (member for Darling Ranges WA); Maree Bujdegan (RHAA Secretary); Joyce Hansen (niece of Edward 'Teddy' Sheean); Jeff Hansen (grand-nephew of Edward 'Teddy' Sheean); Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA (RHAA Patron); Angus Callander (RHAA President, son of John Warwick Callander AIF); Alan Higgins (nephew of Leslie Ingram Higgins) and Peter Evans (nephew of Alfred Grant Evans). Eight other members of Fred Templeman's family (who are all RHAA members) also attended the Memorial Service.

ARMIDALE ASSOCIATION

Late in 1942, the Australian corvette HMAS Armidale (1) embarked on a daring mission of great secrecy to what is now Timor Leste to snatch Portuguese women and children, Allied troops and commandos right from under the noses of Japanese forces.

'Operation Hamburger' ended, ultimately, in tragedy when the ship was sunk by Japanese torpedo bombers as it headed into Betano Bay, Timor. One hundred sailors and troops on board were killed.

But the actions of the Armidale's crew during the attack – and subsequent epic struggle by survivors to make it to safety – form one of the most poignant and dramatic Australian stories of World War II.

Now Perth-based volunteer group Remembering HMAS Armidale Association (RHAA) is planning an expedition to locate the ship's wreck – and potentially recover what would be one of the most powerful 'symbols' of individual courage by an Australian serviceman – an Oerlikon gun fired by naval rating Edward "Teddy" Sheean, who was eventually posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his heroic actions.

"When the Armidale was attacked – from multiple angles – on December 1, 1942, it was twice hit by torpedoes; the ship was operating under radio silence but never got out a message in any case because the radio room was hit," says RHAA President Angus Callander, whose father John was one of just 49 survivors out of 149 on board the Armidale.

"With modern technology, such as underwater drones, finding the resting place of HMAS Armidale should be possible. And imagine if we could retrieve the Oerlikon gun that Ordinary Seaman Sheean used in his gallant action? It would make an incredible exhibit at the Australian War Memorial," says Mr Callander.

First though, RHAA needs to negotiate all the red tape and permissions to even attempt such a project. "Armidale is still a Navy asset and in an area that comes under the jurisdiction of Timor Leste, so there's a lot of paperwork to get through first," he says.

REMEMBERING HMAS ARMIDALE

Perth-based volunteer group Remembering HMAS Armidale Association (RHAA) held a Commemorative Service at the HMAS Stirling's Senior Sailors and Officers Mess to remember the tragic loss of life that occurred with the sinking of HMAS Armidale.

Many of those attending the Service at HMAS Stirling on December 6, 2021, were relatives or descendants of those lost on HMAS Armidale.

Also in attendance was Remembering HMAS Armidale Association Patron, the Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA, Member for Warnbro WA, a former Lieutenant Commander and Navy Clearance Diver.

Mr Callander says along with Edward Sheean's extraordinary Victoria Cross, there are many compelling aspects of the HMAS Armidale saga.

"There's an international angle because not only Australians were involved; the ship had relieved Australian troops of 2/2nd Company who were fighting behind Japanese lines but also members of the Dutch East Indies (KNIL) forces.

"The ship had 63 Netherland East Indies troops on board, comprising of Dutch nationals, Dutch Colonials, Javanese, Ambonese and two Royal Navy sailors. Not to mention the Japanese, who were also involved in the ordeal," he says. The survivors' story is equally incredible and tragic.

Somehow a whaler and motorboat (although partially disabled) didn't go down with the Armidale. "The whaler was partially submerged but in another incredible feat survivors managed, using a raft made from bits of driftwood that had been strapped to the Armidale thanks to a suggestion by Leading Seaman Leigh Bool, to 'raise' the whaler and bail it out," says Mr Callander.

The 29 men on board the whaler headed for Bathurst Island, some 400km from where the Armidale sank. After eight gruelling days they were spotted by a Catalina flying boat and rescued 24 hours later by HMAS Kalgoorlie.

Initially the Armidale's commander decided to take 16 of the most badly wounded, plus some fit rowers, into the motorboat and head south. Even though the motor was shot up, some ingenious work by West Aussie Leslie Higgins and fellow Engine Room Artificer Richard Maddox got it started.

They were able to rebuild the motor with some silver paper out of a cigarette packet, cardboard and tool fashioned out of a can opener. When the petrol ran out, they drained oil out of the carburettor and ran it as a diesel motor. All were eventually rescued, although two men had died during the eight-day ordeal.

Another group clung to a makeshift raft and although spotted and photographed by reconnaissance planes, vanished into the ocean. "The photo of them on the raft is one of the most haunting images of the war," says Mr Callander.

HOW EDWARD SHEEAN WON A VICTORIA CROSS

When two torpedoes struck the Armidale during its bombardment by Japanese aircraft on December 1, 1942, the ship's fate was sealed but the stage was set for an extraordinary act of selflessness by a young crewman.

Captain David Richards gave the order to abandon ship and the vessel began to quickly sink. Men clambered over the side, only to find themselves sitting ducks as Japanese aircraft made multiple runs strafing the survivors floundering in oil-coated, debris-strewn seas. "Incensed by this, a young naval rating from Tasmania, Edward Sheean, strapped himself to an Oerlikon gun mounted behind the bridge and began firing; even though gravely wounded he shot down one bomber and his fire kept the attackers at bay, giving some hope to the survivors. He kept firing even as the ship slipped beneath the waves, the tracer bullets could be seen through the water," says Angus Callander. "It was an extraordinary act of courage and self-sacrifice, and his actions undoubtedly saved the lives of many men, including my father."

Sheean, just a teenager, was posthumously awarded a mention in dispatches for his bravery.

In 1999 a Collins Class submarine was named after him – the only RAN vessel to be named after an ordinary seaman.

However, it was widely believed Sheean's actions deserved more than a "mention" and in 2020, after a decades-long public campaign, it was announced he would become the 101st Australian – and the Navy's first – Victoria Cross recipient.

While the plan to locate the HMAS Armidale wreck is still in its early days, the RHAA's immediate project, through the generous support of Austral Ships and lobbying by the RHAA patron Hon Paul Papalia MLC, is to donate a large-scale model of the ship to the Armidale Ex Services Club.

"We hope to get this done later this year. Plus, we want to contact as many relatives or descendants of those who were on the Armidale as possible. Just \$25 gets you membership for life of the organisation. The HMAS Armidale (1) story is a part of our history that should never be forgotten" says Mr Callander. – Norman Burns.

If you wish to join or contribute to the Remembering HMAS Armidale Association, or have archival material or information related to the ship, contact Angus Callander on 0417 913 467; www.remembering-armidale.org

GREEK NATIONAL DAY



Greek nationals around the world commemorated Greek National Day, an annual event representing bravery, solidarity and heroism.

It was 81 years ago that the Prime Minister of Greece, Ioannis Metaxas, denied Benito Mussolini's request to allow Italian troops to cross the border into Greece, making the decision to stand up and defend themselves against Hitler's war machine of WWII. He responded to the Italian ultimatum in French, the diplomatic language at the time, "Alors, c'est la guereel!" or "Then it is War!".

The decision by Metaxas on 28th October 1940 is commemorated each year in Perth with a large contingent

Pictured front row (l-r): Deputy Warden of the Kings Park State War Memorial Warden Geoff Simpson, Consul of Greece in Perth Mrs Georgia Karasiotou, RSLWA representative John McPherson, the Member for Darling Range Hugh Jones MLA representing the Premier, Ms Joanne Fotakis representing Mr Patrick Gorman MP; Kings Park State War Memorial Warden and former Governor of WA Kerry Sanderson AC.

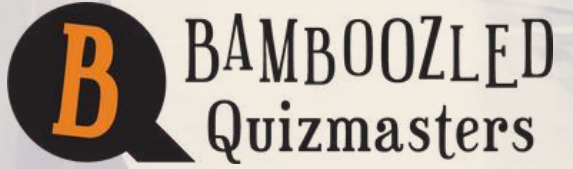
from all walks of life coming together for a commemoration service at the Kings Park State War Memorial.

From schools to clergy, politicians and the general public, all were there to pay tribute and to remember the courage of the Greek people standing up for themselves all those years ago.

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RSLWA AND LEGACY WA 'WORKING BETTER TOGETHER'



A Sundowner hosted at Parliament House in November was a networking event for 'Friends of Veterans and Families' as prelude event for the RSLWA and Legacy 2022 Charity Ball.

Bringing together politicians and high profile business people, the event was hosted by the Hon. Peter Tinley MLA to showcase the collaboration that RSLWA and Legacy WA have formed.

RSLWA and Legacy WA are joining forces to not only rise to the challenges a growing new wave of Veterans and their families are bringing, but to also strengthen their support to ensure veterans and families get the assistance they need and deserve. "This Collaboration enables us to speak as one voice and plan accordingly," RSLWA CEO John McCourt said.

The networking event included a brief interview with a contemporary Veteran Josh Bryan and Legacy Beneficiary Erin Posik.



HOW RICHARD REJOINED THE CONVERSATION

Richard Treasure joined the Navy in 1963, and during the next 12 years, he served on seven ships and three establishments. “I first noticed my hearing difficulties during the Vietnam War. I was on a Destroyer and walked out on the upper deck just as a four-inch gun fired right above my head. It was then that the tinnitus started,” said Richard.

“My hearing loss affected my life in many ways, especially at restaurants with all the background noise,” said Richard. Kathryn May, Qualified Audiologist, explains, “many individuals with sensorineural hearing loss often hear muffled speech, they often suffer from tinnitus (or ringing in the ears), and many of my clients have difficulty hearing in background noise or have clarity of speech problems”.

“I COULDN’T HEAR HUMAN VOICES. IT WAS LIKE THAT FOR YEARS AND YEARS.”



One incident, in particular, was the turning point for Richard and Allison. “We have a caravan, and Richard was reversing the van. I was yelling at him to stop. But he couldn’t hear me. So, in the end, I had to jump out the way because he would have run me over. It was quite frightening,” said his wife Allison as she reflected on that pivotal moment when they both realised that Richard’s untreated hearing loss was a real safety issue for both of them.

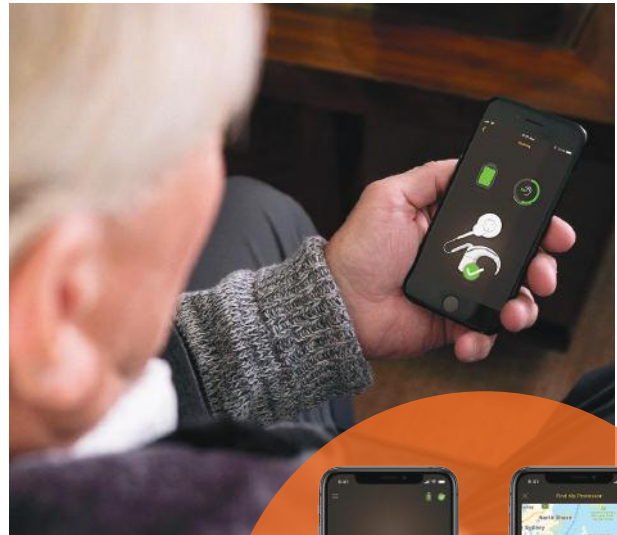
His hearing journey began with Lions Hearing Clinic in 2015 when Richard was fitted with a hearing aid. His hearing loss progressed over the next 10 years, and he was diagnosed as profoundly deaf in his left ear, which rendered the hearing aid unhelpful in that ear.

UNTREATED HEARING LOSS IS ASSOCIATED WITH AN INCREASED RISK OF DEMENTIA.

Under the DVA hearing services for veterans' program, he qualified for a fully subsidised cochlear implant to restore the hearing he had lost in the Vietnam War. "It was fabulous. We didn't have to do anything. The Lions Clinic did all the paperwork with DVA and made all the arrangements.

"Professor Marcus Atlas is truly amazing as my surgeon. I thought I might be too old for cochlear implant surgery, but he answered all my concerns, and the surgery was actually pretty easy. There really wasn't too much pain after the surgery," said Richard.

We know that only about 8-10 per cent of people who need a cochlear implant get one. Ear Science Institute Australia runs the most extensive state cochlear implant program to increase awareness of these life-changing devices and make the technology accessible to as many West Australians as possible." said Ear Science Surgeon-Scientist Professor Marcus Atlas.



A cochlear implant is a sophisticated electronic medical device that takes treating hearing loss to the next level, bypassing damaged sensory hair cells within the cochlea (inner ear) to directly stimulate auditory nerves.

A cochlear implant consists of two parts – the external sound processor, which collects and processes the sound, converting it into a radio frequency signal that is sent through the skin and the internal implant, which consists of the receiver-stimulator and electrode, which is inserted into the cochlea and provides electrical stimulation to the auditory nerve directly. Which, in turn, takes the sound to the brain.

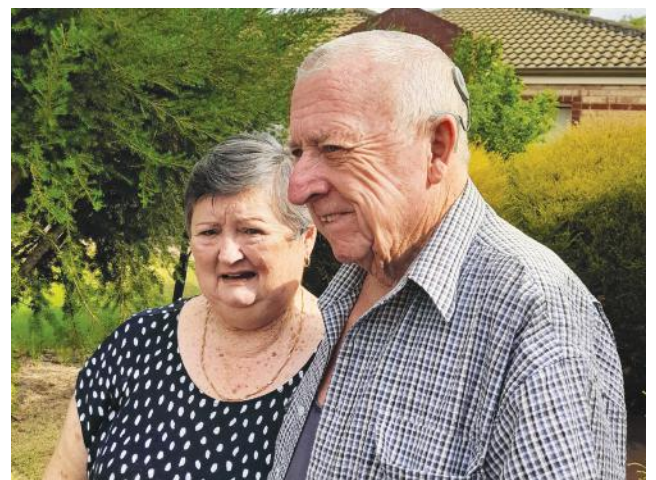
Richard's hearing aid is paired with his cochlear implant, which gives him hearing in both ears. Dr Cathy Sucher from Ear Science Implant Clinic explains that "our ears work best when they work as a team, the brain needs both ears for optimum understanding of speech, and spatial awareness of the direction sounds are coming from."

"My life has truly changed since I got my cochlear implant," said Richard. "It took about 12 months to really see the full benefit of the cochlear implant on my hearing. Allison helped me with the rehabilitation – in the car we would practice the sounds and phrases I had lost, so I could cheat and lip-read!"

"It was the best decision he made," said Allison. "Now he can not only hear people, he actually understands them. He joins in at the dinner table conversations with the family when they visit every fortnight for dinner," She said. "You can't join in a conversation that you can't hear", mentioned Richard.

"The first few months, he was really worried about losing it," said Allison. "But now he is very confident going out and about. I no longer have to give him a nudge if someone is trying to talk with him or have to talk for him."

"Your hearing won't heal itself, but we can help," said Kathryn May, Qualified Audiologist at Lions Hearing Clinic in ANZAC House. "Hearing implants are truly life-changing devices. They help people hear sounds they no longer hear with their hearing aids. Good hearing gives people confidence and connects them with loved ones. It is excellent that DVA provides funding for these devices for people like Richard."



MOORA'S WWII HISTORY CAPTURED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Two years of research into the strategic importance of the people and district of Moora played in protecting Western Australia and the nation during the Second World War has culminated in a book titled *Stand Fast*.

Author Bob Sheppard said the book depicts in graphic detail the creation and history of the 13th Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC) between 1939 and 1945.

"Many of today's generation know nothing about this history and unless captured in books such as *Stand Fast*, the memories would simply fade into the mists of time," he said.

"This was my attempt to show what a wonderful military heritage Moora has and to record it for this generation and generations to come. Unfortunately, all the memories aren't pleasant like the mortar incident that killed 14 volunteers.

"They were in a group examining the mortar when it suddenly exploded. Because there were no survivors' no-one really knows what caused the mortar to detonate," said Bob.

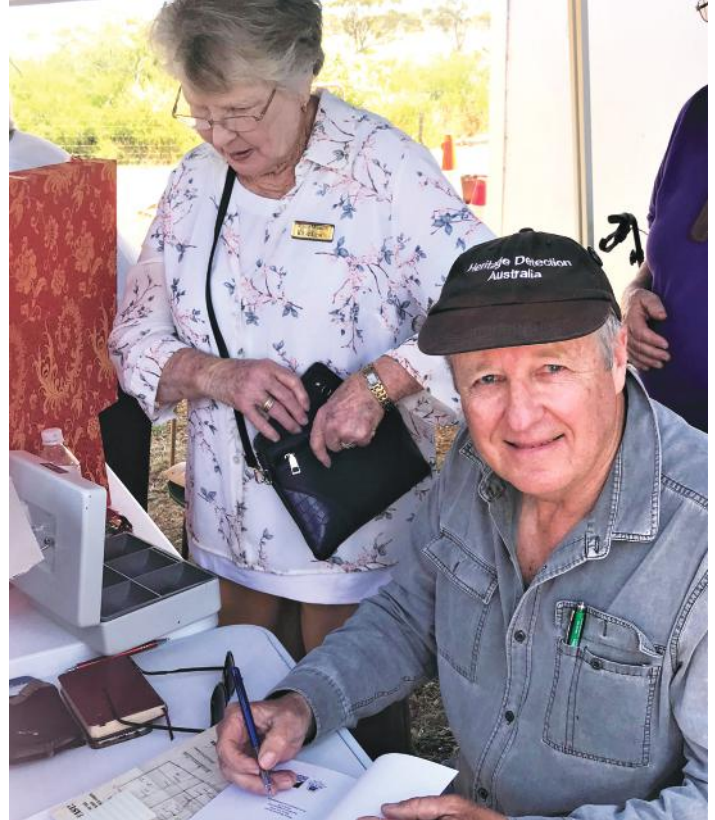
Bob is described in the book as an archaeologist, historian, heritage consultant and the principal of Heritage Detection Australia (HDA). He became interested in the military history of the region following heritage and archaeological investigations of the remnants of WWII Radar Station 48 and Coast Watch Post 16 at North Head near Jurien Bay for the Shire of Dandaragan.

Coming from a military family Bob seeks assistance from people, or groups who are passionate about revealing WA's extensive WWII heritage.

"I've written four books like this in the past and have around another 14 in the pipeline," Bob said.

Stand Fast was launched at Moora on 23 Oct last year at an event that exemplified how important the recording of history is to our culture.

Anyone who is able to contribute can contact Bob at bob@heritagedetection.com.au or the Moora Historical Society (through which the book launch took place) if they have any material related to WWII or the Mid-West.



Author Bob Sheppard signs copies of his book *Stand Fast* during its launch at the Moora Berkshire Valley Mill Museum. Behind him is the President of the Moora Historical Society, Kaye Lewis.

RSL STALWART ACKNOWLEDGED AS SENIOR OF THE YEAR



Mosman Park RSL Sub-Branch stalwart, Trish Fynmore, was honoured as Senior Citizen of the Year for 2021-22 by the Mosman Park Town Council. The well-deserved award is in recognition of her work in the community over many years and, in particular, her work with the local Sub-Branch.

Trish has been a prominent member of the RSL Mosman Park Sub-Branch, most recently as Secretary and "energiser" for the Sub-Branch recruiting many new members and maintaining contact with members who were unable to attend meetings or events.

CHRISTMAS DELIVERIES BRING CHEER

WA Veterans facing hardship were touched by the spirit of Christmas with the delivery of 350 Christmas hampers from the RSLWA and its Sub-Branches leading up to Christmas.

Packed full of pantry essentials, the hampers were made possible through the generous donation of \$15,000 by the Scottish Masonic Charitable Foundation WA (SMCFWA).

The hampers were collected from Foodbank distribution centres and delivered by RSLWA Sub-Branches to the families identified through the welfare program as needing support.

RSLWA CEO John McCourt said this was the third consecutive year that the charity had donated toward the Hampers for Vets program run by the RSLWA.

“We were able to make the lives of 350 veterans and their families a little brighter through the delivery of these hampers, which means they did not go hungry and were able to celebrate Christmas,” Mr McCourt said.



PARTNERS OF VETERANS RECOGNISED WITH MEMORIAL PLAQUE



A memorial plaque dedicated to the partners of Veterans was unveiled by the Governor of Western Australia, The Honorable Kim Beazley AC.

Erected in the Court of Contemplation at ANZAC House by the Partners of Veterans Association of Australia WA (PVAAWA), the plaque is the first of its kind in Western Australia and is one of only five in Australia.

PVAAWA President Bev Benporath said it took the Association four years to raise the money and get approvals. “The memorial plaque recognizes the service of partners of Veterans; we stand beside them and support them through their service and through their transition back into civilian life,” Mrs Benporath said.

The Honors and Awards committee and CEO approved the memorial plaque to be placed at ANZAC House in August 2021 and the unveiling ceremony was held in early December.



ELLENBROOK RSL SUB-BRANCH

The Ellenbrook RSL Sub-Branch worked hard to ensure the meaning of Remembrance Day was remembered by the people of Ellenbrook as an important part of its history and culture.

Local RSL Sub-Branch President, Stephen O'Neill, said that continued promotion of the importance of this day was significant.

"The coverage at the local shops, and a brilliant front page article in the local newspaper (The Echo), helped present our story, but the highlight was our Remembrance Service held in the Memorial Amphitheatre in Woodlake," He said.

Held in warm conditions overlooking the lake, the Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA joined over 750 students, community members, RSL members and their families, along with other political representatives and local councillors.

Welcome to Country was done in Nyungar by Josh McGuire attended to honour his Grandfather (Jumbo) McGuire (2/32 Btn) who fought in WW2.



Ellenbrook RSL Sub-Branch President, Stephen O'Neill, beside the community's Wall of Remembrance.



PEACE POLE FOR REMEMBRANCE IN MOORA



A wreath and representation of a soldier at Moora's commemorative service.

Remembrance Day in Moora was marked with the unveiling of a Peace Pole by the local Rotary Club.

Wreaths were laid at the war memorial by the local RSL, Shire, ambulance brigade, high school and primary school during the service which attracted about 50 people.

The Moora RSL Sub-Branch Treasurer Ailsa Stonehouse was extremely grateful to the people of the local community for their support and donations to the Poppy Day Appeal in November.

WATER CORPORATION SHOWS ITS RESPECT

The West Australian Water Corporation showed its respect for The Fallen with Remembrance Day services held at three Perth depots.

RSLWA Veteran Liaison Officer, John McPherson, addressed a large group at the Corporation's Treatment and Resource Recovery (TARR) facility in Osborne Park while Major Perry Beor, a current Water Corporation staff member, conducted a service at the Beenyup Advanced Water Recycling Plant (AWRP). The third service was conducted at the Water Corporation's Leederville facility by Major Scott Miller.

SUNDOWNER CONCLUDES CBD REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day in the CBD was closed out with a Sundowner event for Veterans, their families and friends at ANZAC House on Friday, 12 November. People attending enjoyed an informative talk by guest speaker The Hon. Andrew Hastie MP and by music by the Australian Army Band while taking in the city and river views on the balcony.



NORTH BEACH DRAWS A CROWD



Five plaques for late members and local ex-service personnel were unveiled at the Wall of Remembrance as part of the North Beach Remembrance Day Service.

Around 300 people attended, including school children from Our Lady of Grace Primary School and a bus load of ladies from Legacy.

North Beach RSL Sub-Branch's Brian Jennings said wreaths were laid by local Members of Parliament, the Member for Carine Paul Lilburne and the Member for Scarborough Stuart Aubrey.

"It was a great day after the disappointment of having to cancel previous Commemorative events due to COVID," he said.



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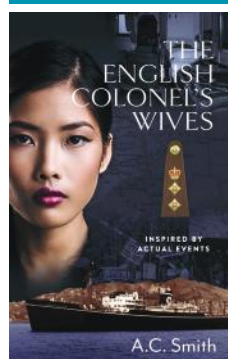
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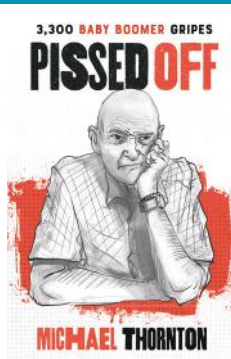


ISBN: 978-1-925707-48-9

Nothing is as it seems among passengers on the New Zealand Star. Colonel Newton's impotency resides in another when portraying to enigmatic widow, Nancyng Jenkins, his role as emissary to a dying woman, while she masks a torrid life of unspeakable horror and devious subterfuge. High Commissioner Sir Gerald Templer recalls Newton to the cauldron of post-war Malaya, the quarry being its most-wanted communist terrorist, The Huntsman. With the past casting long shadows, does Mrs Jenkins hold the key to Newton's redemption?

"An enjoyable, high quality historical fiction novel. An entertaining mystery involving several well drawn, multi-dimensional characters."

— Michael Pert, author of *The Kissing House*

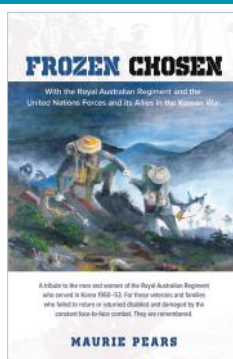


ISBN: 978-1-925707-49-6

Australia has five million baby boomers. Seventy-one-year-old Michael Thornton is one of them. He is so pissed off about the state of things, he's listed 3,300 gripes.

"Michael Thornton is not as pissed off as he says. Switched on might be a better way of putting it. This book claims to be full of gripes and Thornton is surely entitled to a few of those. But is also replete with astute observations and devastating insights. It loves life and is peeved by the narrow-minded and ungenerous who spoil the fun. Thornton is great fireside company as you shelter from the storm."

— Michael McGirr, author of *Books that Saved My Life*.



ISBN: 978-1-925707-55-7

With the Royal Australian Regiment and the United Nations Forces and its Allies in the Korean War.

This is a personal story of the experiences of a Subaltern and his 7 Platoon C Company, 3rd Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR Old Faithful) including observations from serving members of the British Commonwealth Forces who faced the enemy in the front line where the war is won or lost. Other observers and historians have made a priceless contribution to this volume and its tribute to the Australians with the UN Forces in Korea 1950-53.

The Diggers thank them and their families, who held the fort at home.

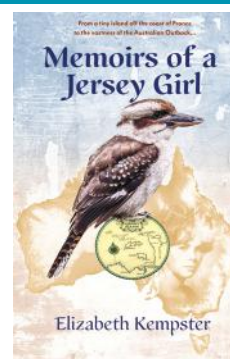


ISBN: 978-1-925707-51-9

National serviceman, Tom Duncan, was a changed man when he returned from the Vietnam conflict.

His pompous father, a successful New England fine wool producer, stating that he'd not have the family's good name tarnished any more, banishes his second son to the god-forsaken country west of the Bogan River in northwest NSW after he'd fallen foul of the law one too many times.

Far from being the intended punishment, Tom flourishes in the isolated scrublands, more so after school teacher, Samantha Neilson, joins him. When tragedy strikes, Tom acts compulsively, reverting back to a time in his past he had been convinced he'd left behind. When you tread on a snake you can expect to be bitten.

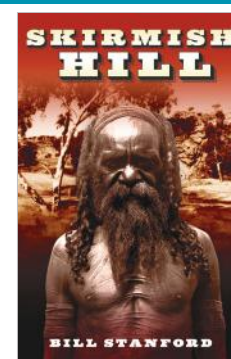


ISBN: 978-1-925707-50-2

From growing up in the Channel Islands post World War II, to running sheep and cattle stations in Australia, *Memoirs of a Jersey Girl* is the story of a life filled with adventure, achievement, and at times, tragedy.

A near-death accident driving a speeding Porsche in Portugal is the catalyst for Elizabeth's marriage to Ian, which would be the beginning of their journey in a very foreign land. As a young Ten Pound Pom dealing with the hardships of the Australian outback, including drought, isolation and deadly snakes, Elizabeth builds the mental strength and character required to deal with adversity.

This is the engaging story of an incredibly strong woman, whose life is an inspiration to her family and friends.



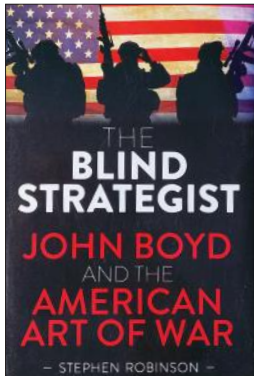
ISBN: 978-1-925707-52-6

Skirmish Hill exists in remote and off-limits Aboriginal land in the Great Victoria Desert of Western Australia. The narrative's central figure, William Whitfield Mills, made his mark in colonial Australia as an outback surveyor, explorer and gold prospector and was thus selected for his participating role. He crossed paths with men and women of interest, Europeans and Indigenous alike. Together they engendered the Australian way of life and achievement.

Having by now learned that Mills died and was buried in an unmarked grave on an island in the midst of a salt lake in the vast Western Australian goldfields, the author and his wife undertake a wonderful journey of contemporary exploration to hopefully find his final resting place.



ON THE BOOKSHELF

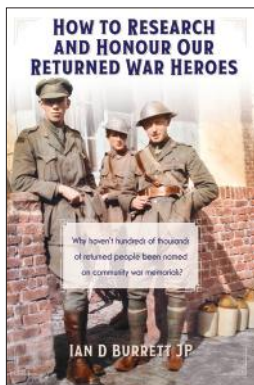


The Blind Strategist. *By Stephen Robinson*

Did Nazi war criminals deceive the United States military during the Cold War? A new book by a Canberra-based historian tells the story of how America's most famous and influential military theorist was seduced by the lies of Hitler's defeated generals.

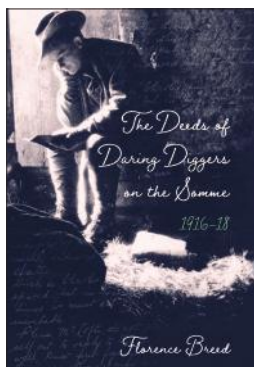
Colonel John Boyd, a maverick fighter pilot, revolutionised the American art of war through his ideas on conflict and the human mind. Boyd claimed that victory is won by the side which transitions through 'decision cycles' faster than the enemy. His ideas gained influential converts in the Pentagon who were seeking a new way of waging war after defeat in Vietnam.

Boyd certainly changed the American art of war, but did he corrupt it in the process?



How to Research and Honour Our Returned War Heroes. *By Ian D Burrett JP*

One person with conviction and vision can change the world. Ian Burrett is one such man. Imbued with the qualities of his decorated father who served and fought for Australia in World War One, Ian's determination to find and recognise all those men and women who have served on our nation's memorials is the stuff of legend. Their memorials and cenotaphs are repositories of enabled memory. Many were surrogate graves for 100,000 Australians killed in our name whose bodies will never be repatriated. But what of those who served, fought, suffered and returned? In confronting orthodoxy, Ian Burrett challenges us all to ask, "Where are the others? Who are those men and women among us who have dedicated their lives, or part thereof, to us and the protection of our nation, interests and values?" – Dr Brendan Nelson AO.

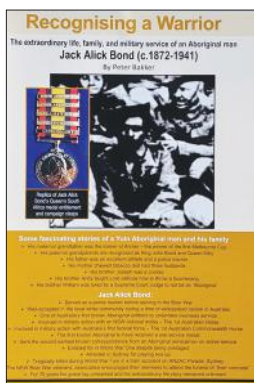


The Deeds of Daring Diggers on the Somme. *By Florence Breed*

An interesting collection of letters and some linking articles about "Diggers" who fought in Belgium and France for the causes of Freedom and Justice.

They faced machine guns (a new device for mass killing) and the horrors of chemical warfare (a new scientific, diabolical way to exterminate). They had to smoke cigarettes to calm their nerves and to cover the terrible stench of the killing fields.

If this book does nothing but give people a better awareness of the gratitude we owe to Australians involved in the great European conflict, it will have done something worthwhile; for there is nothing more hurtful than ingratitude!



Recognising a Warrior. *By Peter Bakker*

The Extraordinary life, family and military service of an Aboriginal man Jack Alick Bond (c. 1872-1941). The highly researched publication documents well how Jack lived a life of adventure and hardship in serving his country and also his indigenous heritage.

Jack's story ranges from his maternal grandfather being the trainer of Archer, the first Melbourne Cup winner, to him surviving numerous deployments to the battlefields of the Boar War.

In crediting the Australian military as being a strong influence in the early reconciliation of Indigenous Australia the author states: "The Australian military is an institution that can take some pride in having a long history of being at the forefront in breaking down the barriers between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people".

Ironically, Jack was killed by a tram at an ANZAC Parade in Sydney following his return to Australia. Available for \$15 (postage included) by email request to the author at phbakker@bigpond.net.au

DEEDS NOW DONE

The inspiration for this poem was drawn from personal witness and reflection, and for those who also suffer from anxiety, depression or PTSD.

"I had always thought myself to be an emotionally solid person with a steadfast moral compass and a robust, yet relaxed command style," he said.

"Within a matter of days when serving in East Timor, I witnessed a young girl, about 14 or 15 years old, walk past me with only half a face. This hit me hard as my daughter was close to the same age.

"Then came word that fellow unit members had been killed or injured in an improvised explosive device attack in Uruzgan, Afghanistan. I had a close bond with one of these members as he was a reservist at a unit I was posted to previously.

"It could be seen on the faces of the soldiers I was standing with, the emotional wave hit them all at once. Someone had to be the strong face and shoulder of this team."

Ozman75 never got the chance to grieve in country, and back at home it took a while for emotions to raise themselves.

"Not a day goes by where my mind doesn't flick back to those days and weeks that followed in East Timor. What I had gone through was in no way the worst someone could have been through."

Poetry is not something Ozman75 usually does. He attends Veteran's Fitness Programs when he can and talks to fellow Vets about how they are managing their own anxiety, depression or PTSD.

One day, after a brief conversation with another Veteran, the words to this poem jumped into his head and he had to write it down.

This is just a small part of Ozman75's journey to help him make sense of the thoughts and feelings, as well as acknowledging others going through the same issues.

"I am no longer the solid stern-faced emotionless soldier, but rather a person who has to deal with the consequences of my choices, as everyone else must."

Publishing under a pseudonym, Ozman75 is a retired Corporal of the Australian Army who served in the Royal Australian Engineer Corps and as a Plant Operator in East Timor in 2010.

Deeds Now Done

A life of sorrow for deeds now done,
The memories remain,
What lies within will always be,
The evil that was slain.

My strength is sapped, my will is torn,
The darkness starts to rise,
The thoughts and sounds of deeds now done,
Does look on from piercing eyes.

What they see and what they know,
The hand or knife or gun,
They frown upon the death you sow,
Your soul for deeds now done.

The fire within that burns like ice,
Frigid coals, do lay waste,
The actions of my deeds now done,
Kept time with quivers of haste.

My mind is numb, my body sore,
From all my deeds now done,
The scars we hide, the truth we bare,
For those we love and beyond.

The fight inside, the battle bold,
The parade, the pipes, and drum,
The silent streets, the forgotten hero,
Forever the deeds now done.

Lest We Forget.

By Ozman75, Dec 2021

THE LAST POST

NOVEMBER 2021 - MARCH 2022

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RSLWA extends a sincere apology to Mervyn Punch [Service Number W10496] of Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch who was incorrectly listed in the Last Post in April 2021. Apologies to all who may have been upset by this error.

If you have recently lost a loved one who was a veteran and would like to have them honoured here, please let us know by emailing membership@rslwa.org.au

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HMS Ganges Association WA Division	0400 204 801	james.sharkey@bigpond.com
Legacy WA	0418 266 247	ceo@legacywa.com.au
Malayan Volunteers Group Australia	9247 3374	bunneyelizabeth5@gmail.com
Mandurah Murray Vietnam & Veterans Group	0439 616 544	michael.ohalloran1@bigpond.com
Military Brotherhood Military Motorcycle Club	0414 154 885	markwalker68@mac.com
Perth Central Sub-Branch Inc		
National Servicemen's Assn of Australia (Mandurah-Murray Sub Branch)	0408 090 474	nsaam.m@hotmail.com
National Servicemen's Assn of Australia (WA Branch Inc.)		stuwf@gmail.com
Naval Assn of Australia WA Section	0477 160 097	iholthouse@hotmail.com
North American Veterans Unit	0478 669 882	navu.perth@gmail.com
RAAF Police Assn	0413 675 010	cjf3003@yahoo.com
RAAF Vietnam Veterans Assn of WA Inc	9405 1872	raafvwwa@gmail.com
Remembering HMAS Armidale Association Inc	0418 367 869	rhaainc@gmail.com
Rhodesian Services Assn of WA Inc	0412 771 523	anaconda.pag@optusnet.com.au
Royal Australian Armoured Corps Assn WA Branch	0402 149 755	noel.moyes@bigpond.com
Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps Assn WA Inc	0412 672 103	j.arco@bigpond.com
Royal Australian Artillery Assn WA Inc	0438 695 711	info@artillerywa.org.au
Royal Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers Assn	0488 932 179	richard.fenton@defence.gov.au
Royal Australian Engineers Assn of WA Inc Secretary	0413 376 273	raeAssoc.wasec2017@gmail.com
Royal Australian Navy Communications Branch Assn WA	0407 726 994	kowandi205@outlook.com
Royal Military Police Assn (WA Branch) Secretary	0429 081 037	eric.heath@bigpond.com
Royal Western Australia Regiment Association	0428 898 431	billstevens@iinet.net.au
Soldiers & Sirens	0459 317 772	terrencecook@soldiersandsirens.com.au
South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia	0477 999 715	stevensondw@gmail.com
Submariners Association of UK Australia Branch	0458 773 985	barry_grace@hotmail.com
Submarines Association Australia WA Branch Inc	0414 407 067	wa.secretary@submarinesaustralia.com
The British Ex-Services Assn Inc.	0428 317 652	British.ex@bigpond.com
Tingira Australia Association	0403 402 496	tsec@tingira.org.au
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 12163 Inc	0437 099 310	cmd@vfw12163.org
WA Branch of the Partners of Veterans' Assn of Australia Inc	0409 088 905	ager@iinet.net.au
War Widow's Guild of Australia WA Inc		warwidowswa@bigpond.com
WRAAC Assn WA Inc	0412 984 739	wraac_wa@gmail.com
WRAAF Branch of RAAF Assn WA Div.	0407 850 090	gjb41@bigpond.com
WRANS-RAN Women's Assn WA	0419 698 402	Wranswa@outlook.com

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