



Respect, Gratitude, Admiration

TRIBUTE

The Newsletter of the Military
Historical Society Australia,
Queensland Division

President: Neil Dearberg
Website: www.mhsa.org.au

APRIL 2022 No.10



Governor-General Quentin Bryce and her husband, Michael, stand with troops at the dawn service to commemorate Anzac Day on the Australian base in Afghanistan in 2012

Governor General Quentin Bryce made a surprise visit to Australian troops in Afghanistan on Anzac Day. Ms Bryce addressed several hundred soldiers at the dawn service at Tarin Kowt base in the Oruzgan province and paid tribute to the "modern Anzacs" fighting in Afghanistan.

(Source: Sydney Morning Herald)

President Report

Anzac Day approaches. At a recent social event a lady (in her 30s perhaps and a PhD medical scientist)) said she did not like Anzac Day because it glorifies war. Her thinking was that people drinking alcohol, playing two up and being merry made light of what is a dreadful side of life, ie: war. My art of gentle persuasion deserted me when she indicated her opinion was based on her uncle, a veteran, who never went to Anzac Day services to share with his former mates because he did not want to glorify war. She did not comprehend 'commemorate'. Do you know anyone like this? How can anyone believe Anzac Day would glorify the loss of 41 lives in Afghanistan, the wounding and injury of another 260, and the 500-700 who have taken their own lives on return? How do we change that thinking as she's probably not alone, albeit in the minority?

It is many years since I saw anyone glorify war. Instead, we commemorate those who have given, and those who continue to give, valuable military service with the intent of ending war and restoring peace – broken earlier by politicians and diplomats who failed diplomacy.

I trust you and your families find time to commemorate what our veterans have done, and continue to do, so that people can express an opinion in a free and democratic nation of which we are proud.

From the Editor

What does Anzac Day mean today?

Australians recognise 25 April as a day of national remembrance, which takes two forms. Commemorative services are held across the nation at dawn – the time of the original landing, while later in the day, former servicemen and servicewomen meet to take part in marches through the country's major cities and in many smaller centres. Commemorative ceremonies are more formal, and are held at war memorials around the country. In these ways, Anzac Day is a time at which Australians reflect on the many different meanings of war.

In this the tenth Edition of *TRIBUTE*, now a monthly publication we remember 'Herbie' the War Dog and his handler Sapper Darren Smith who were killed by a IED on 7 June 2010 in Afghanistan and Operation Beli Isi Bougainville along with all the usual sections, including the highlights from the budget announced in Federal Parliament. I have also included the a bio of Air Vice Marshall Catherine Roberts Am, CSM Commander Defence Space Command.

This year I will be reflecting, especially on the loss of family members in Bougainville on Anzac Day.

Articles are needed on the Post Vietnam period, so please if you have something, contribute it to your Newsletter.

Finally, if you like the Watercolour painting by Rachael Michelle Potter of Herbie I suggest you look at her other excellent works on the Australian War Memorial web-site.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART96887

Watercolour of Explosive Detection Dog, Herbie, who served in Afghanistan. One of 10 watercolours by High School Certificate student and artist, Rachael Michelle Potter, in a series entitled 'Unsung Heroes - Afghanistan', of which nine are in the Memorial's collection. Herbie was an Australian Army Explosive Detection Dog serving with Mentoring Task Force 1, killed in an IED incident in June 2010, with his handler Sapper Darren Smith.

(Source: Australian War Memorial)

WAR DOG ‘HERBIE’

by Ian Curtis

Amongst the War Dogs that served in Afghanistan was ‘Herbie’ an Australian Army Explosive Detection Dog serving with Mentoring Task Force 1, who was killed in an IED incident on 7 June 2010, which proved to be a bloody Monday for the Australian Forces fighting in Mirabad Valley. It would be the first time since the Vietnam War that they saw two soldiers killed in action along with Herbie, the explosive detection dog.

In an interview Sapper Darren Smith, 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment gave a month before their death, he called partner Herbie (a three and a half year old border collie cross) his best mate. Sapper Smith at the time of his death was the first of Australia’s canine handlers to be killed while working with his dog in a combat zone.

Earlier on 7 June a platoon of 6RAR, a medic, Lance Corporal Mark Hughes-Brown, two combat engineers Sapper Jacob ‘Snowy Moerland and Sapper Darren Smith along with Herbie on patrol radio call sign Echo One One Alpha were heading for a cluster of villages called Sorkh Lez an insurgent stronghold a couple of kilometres west of their patrol base. Among the buildings of the targeted compounds, Snowy, Smithy and Herbie had excelled themselves, helping to locate three hidden caches of weapons and munitions, a couple of thousand rounds of ammunition, twenty three rocket propelled grenades and five mortar rounds. The patrol received a congratulations message from the Company Commander at Patrol Base Wali where he was monitoring two patrols he had dispatched on the day.

Shortly after eleven o’clock the patrol left the compound and began its journey back to the patrol base taking a different route to the one used on the approach used to Sorkh Lez. Snowy and Smithy are out in front, clearing the way along an earthen footpath running beside an irrigation canal. Snowy heard a tell tale buzz from his mine detector, indicating there is something metallic buried in the dirt in front of him. Snowy called Smithy that he has found something and Smithy summoned Herbie, who was off the leash and searching the field to one side, before moving up beside Snowy who was by now leaning forward to examine the ground at his feet. The men are only a metre or so apart and Herbie is beside his handler when an improvised explosive device detonates.

Sapper Jacob Moerland was killed instantly. Herbie was blown up and away from the seat of the blast his body found in a field where he had just come from. Sapper Darren Smith was blown backwards and to one side landing in a water filled aqueduct alongside the path. After a moment of stunned silence, the patrol went into action with some taking up positions looking out ready for the expected attack and searching for other explosive devices whilst others rushed to the blast site. For a moment Smithy cannot be found till he is sited in the aqueduct and men quickly jump in to get his body out.

The patrol medic Lance Corporal Mark Hughes-Brown known as HB knowing that Snowy is dead moved to Darren Smith who in his shock and confusion fought with the man who is trying to assist him. HB calmed him down with assistance and administered morphine, to ease the pain, A helicopter arrived soon after and the stretcher with Darren Smith’s body is placed on it. Darren Smith was dead. A doctor later said that he had received non-survivable wounds.’

Herbie's remains were collected, and were sent home separately to Sapper's Moerland and Smith.



RSPCA Wacol Military and Service Working Dog Memorial

References

1. War Dogs, Defence News 9 June 2014
2. Franklel Best, R War Dog of the Week: A tribute to Australian's first dog handler KIA and bomb dog Herbie
3. Cantwell J, Exit Wounds

OPERATION BEL ISI, BOUGAINVILLE

(Source: From Vietnam to East Timor 1972 – 99)



Anzac Day in Bougainville 25 April 2003

New Zealand Army Staff Sergeant Tai Hiroti and Australian Army Corporal Heath Clothier parade in front of the Peace Monitoring Group Memorial as dawn breaks over the troubled island of Bougainville, New Zealand and Australian Peace Monitors were joined by the Fijian and Vanuatu counterparts in marking the day with a dawn Service.

(Source: NZDF)

Diplomatic steps initiated by New Zealand caught Australia off guard, having gained momentum in 1997 to settle the long running dispute over the fate of the PNG island of Bougainville. Within a short time, the Truce Monitoring Group deployed unarmed, under the command of New Zealand Army Brigadier Roger Mortlock, including 250 personnel from Fiji, Vanuatu, New Zealand and Australia. Militarily, Operation Bel Isi, as the second Bougainville peacekeeping mission was named, 'got off to a shaky and rushed start in late 1997'.

Not having worked with New Zealand taking the lead planning role before, some senior ADF officers were cautious about being drawn into a New Zealand led, unarmed peace support operation in Bougainville. Concerns revolved around New Zealand's ability to sustain a force on operations there beyond the first few weeks and months. In addition some

felt that New Zealand was deliberately trying to upstage Australia, and this left a niggling concern about the New Zealanders' motives and the extent to which the Australian Army should collaborate and work in accordance with New Zealand plans. Australian diplomats, however, realised that there would be no peace process without multilateral steps and therefore it was essential to have the support of New Zealand and regional partners from the Pacific such as Fiji and Vanuatu. The diplomats urged the ADF to recognise the importance of military support in the formation of a Truce Monitoring Group (TMG). In the months leading up to Operation Bel Isi, ADF planners apparently ignored warnings of a likely peace settlement and, following New Zealand diplomatic initiatives undertaken in isolation from ADF planners, were reluctant to engage the New Zealand Defence Force in last-minute contingency planning.

Notwithstanding the apparent foot-dragging, the ADF was undertaking precautionary steps towards understanding the situation by sending an officer to investigate. Colonel Hurley was co-opted from other employment in the lead-up to Operation Bel Isi. He was a member of the Australia–New Zealand reconnaissance team that went into Bougainville to negotiate the unarmed presence outcome with the Bougainville Revolutionary Army in late October 1997. Hurley observed that while this was happening, the party was reporting back to Canberra and Wellington to allow preparations to develop. ‘So in a sense, staff at all levels had planning time. How people in both locations reacted to our reports is another issue.

Despite the reconnaissance efforts, Australian military planning for the TMG as an unarmed force did not begin in earnest until mid November, leaving little time for deliberate planning before deployment. This generated considerable friction between ADF and NZDF personnel in Bougainville during the initial weeks of the operation. There were also problems in the integration of civilian Australian Public Service peace monitors. Because the ADF had not engaged the NZDF until two weeks before deployment, civilian monitors were selected quickly, leaving little time for adequate preparation. Several government agencies also contributed Australian Public Service peace monitors to the TMG. These included DFAT, the Department of Defence, AusAID and the Australian Federal Police (AFP). They all deployed with different institutional mindsets, and their differences meant that reconciling the organisational and cultural differences and facilitating coordinated actions were hard work. There were difficulties in the integration of Fijian and Vanuatu military personnel as well. Fijians came with a wealth of experience in peacekeeping in the Middle East but found the adjustment to being unarmed and working in monitoring teams, and in two cases commanding monitoring teams, a real challenge.

One of the most significant benefits for future operations from Operation Bel Isi was the way the mission consolidated diplomatic and military connections between Australia and New Zealand, as well as between the various Australian government departments involved. This interdepartmental collaboration proved invaluable on subsequent operations. Indeed, the experience was seminal for all involved, forcing the ADF, particularly the Army, and its partner domestic and international organisations to develop a new way of conducting inter-agency operations. This stood the Army and the wider ADF in very good stead for the more complex operations they faced in the years ahead.

With NZDF resource constraints and the signing of a peace agreement, the TMG subsequently transitioned to become the ADF-led Peace Monitoring Group (PMG). In the

end, the entire TMG–PMG operation was a valuable learning experience for the ADF and its partners. Fortunately, Operation Bel Isi also was good for Bougainville and the PNG Government. On reflection it was quite remarkable that a four-nation military organisation was able to provide medical care, confidence, presence and friendship to a needy part of the South-West Pacific. Operation Bel Isi demonstrated to Bougainvilleans and to the PNG Government security forces that ‘the military can indeed be peacemakers and not always war makers’

For the ADF, the Bougainville experience also set a remarkable precedent for unarmed military operations. The force that deployed was confident about its role, the goodwill established with the protagonists and the support provided. The combination of these factors meant that the ADF could launch and maintain such a mission, building trust and confidence among warring elements. The focus was on generating ‘non-kinetic’ effects; that is, effects achieved other than through the use of firepower. This was achieved through public information campaigns that demonstrated an effects-based approach to achieving the mission objective in Bougainville without having to resort to the use of lethal force. The information operations aspects applied included elements of Army’s field intelligence, counter-intelligence and psychological operations capabilities. The public information strategy was closely matched by the method of personal engagement with locals to ensure that information was passed back to the force about developments in the community in order to maintain optimal force-protection postures. Major Paul Clark, the Officer Commanding 1st Intelligence Company, observed that specialist intelligence support to deployed forces was a regular feature of operations undertaken in the 1990s, but the capabilities were becoming increasingly honed, with lessons learned being passed back to the Defence Intelligence Training Centre for incorporation in subsequent training courses. The operation in Bougainville provided an opportunity for deploying a Military Information Support Team (or MIST) to facilitate the distribution of specially prepared newspapers with targeted messages in support of the Monitoring Group. As Clark observed, ‘The positive public perceptions so created was the background against which all other Truce/Peace Monitoring Group operations were conducted.’ The experience of conducting such a public information and community engagement campaign benefited the Army in preparing for the operations that unfolded thereafter in East Timor, Solomon Islands and the Middle East.

In contrast to the successes with the MIST concept, force sustainment challenges were crippling. Breen observed that there was no coordination between the Australian and New Zealand air movements in and out of Bougainville. In addition, the Australians’ logistic system was simply unable to supply spare parts to this offshore operation in a timely manner. The difficulties echoed problems experienced with Operation Lagoon in 1994 and Operation Restore Hope in Somalia in 1993. There was a lack of responsiveness and accountability of the logistic support elements, much of which had been civilianised and had a nine-to-five work mindset that was unresponsive to operational demands. These support elements also Inquiry into Australia's defence relationships with Pacific island nations were not under Army’s direct control and therefore relied on the goodwill of those in charge. Support for land forces on operations was heavily reliant on air and sea transport outside the control of the land force commander. Still, over time, steady improvements were made in force preparation, rotation and logistics. Command and control arrangements, for instance, were set in place to make the logistic support system more responsive.

Notwithstanding the limitations, the experiences monitoring peace in Bougainville were extraordinary ones. Volunteers worked unarmed on a remote and undeveloped tropical island that had only just emerged from a civil war. This was a unique way for Australia and New Zealand to project power together in the South Pacific; overturning stereotypes of neocolonialism, working alongside Bougainvilleans at their invitation and, in so doing, breaking down barriers of mistrust and misapprehension. After the initial successes and the competing pressures of operations elsewhere, the monitoring group in Bougainville was drawn down, but maintained. The operation continued with a reduced footprint for another five and a half years. The operation was finally concluded on 30 July 2003 when HMAS Tobruk departed with the remaining Bougainville's Loloho wharf. With the departure of the Australians and New Zealanders, the long-term success or otherwise of the peace agreement would lie in the hands of the people of Bougainville and the government of Papua New Guinea, aided by a six-member United Nations Political Office in Bougainville.

References

1. Blaxland J, The Australian Army from Whitlam to Howard
2. Breen B, Struggling for Self Reliance

BOOKS BY MODERN SOLDIERS

By Neil Dearberg

It's hard to get realistic stories of our modern ADF past and currently serving members. Here are some of their books telling personal accounts and stories, some funny, others scary - but all riveting and giving us an awareness of today's servicemen and women and what they go through. You may find the authors at the Military Spectacular in October.

Courage Under Fire, by Daniel Keighran VC; Pan Macmillan, 2020 - Dan was an infantryman. He served in Malaysia, Timor, Iraq and multiple deployments to Afghanistan. Army life, he says, was an improvement on his early family life as he grew up. For an action in Afghanistan, he was awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia. Life thereafter became vastly different for him and his wife and he still serves. This is a remarkable insight to modern soldiering, political intrigues and family influences.

One Woman's War and Peace, by Wng Comd (Retd) Sharon Bown; Exisile Publishing, 2016 - While serving as a nursing officer in Timor her vertebrae were crushed and jaw broken in a UN helicopter crash. With determination and resilience, she was medically fit in 12 months to remain on active service. She helped select the medical team after the 2005 Nias tsunami; also in 2005 deployed to Bali after the second bombing to provide expert medical care; went on to Afghanistan as senior nursing officer - all with ongoing rehabilitation from that helicopter crash. She is a Member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial and veteran advocate.

In Dogs We Trust, by Lt Col (Retd) George Hulse; self-published, Openbook Howden S.A., 2019 - George tells stories of many of the ADF dogs and 'doggies' (their handlers) and how these canine soldiers saved the lives of many of their human fellow soldiers from Vietnam to Afghanistan. Their type of service has changed from trackers in Vietnam to explosive detection and human detention, to airfield and depot defence. They are now a vital component of our military. Campaign recognition, forever ignored by an Australian

Government, the ADF Trackers and War Dogs Assoc privately fund campaign medals and valour decorations.

From the News

Defence Budget 2022-23 Highlights

The Minister for Defence Peter Dutton said the Government remains committed to building a strong, sustainable and secure Australia through Defence's 10 year funding model

The budget continues the Government's strong investment in the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) including \$9.9 billion investment over the next decade in new national cyber and intelligence capabilities. Project REDSPICE – Resilience, Effects, Defence, Space, Intelligence, Cyber and Enablers is the largest ever investment in the capabilities of the ASD. REDSPICE will increase ASD's offensive cyber capabilities, its ability to detect and respond to cyber attacks, and introduce new intelligence capabilities. It is also anticipated to create over 1,900 new jobs almost double the ASD size.

The Government will invest \$126.4 million for Operation FLOOD ASSIST in 2021-22. At its peak over 7,000 ADF personnel were made available to support flood affected communities in NSW and Queensland.

\$73.7 million in 2022-23 will be invested in Operation RESOLUTE to protect Australia's maritime interests. Australia will continue to support ongoing operations and activities in the Middle East committing \$104.2 million for operation ACCORDION.

The government will invest \$10 billion in ship building infrastructure, including a new submarine base on the east coast

The Army will be future ready fighting force with investment into new uncrewed aerial surveillance systems, Ch-47F Chinook helicopters, Abrams tanks and combat engineering vehicles. The Army's \$650 million contract with Brisbane based Insitu Pacific will develop 24 uncrewed aerial surveillance recently named 'Ghost Bat' will be the first combat aircraft to be built in Australia in more than half a century. The Ghost Bat will be built in Toowoomba.

The ADF will increase in size by 18,500 by 2039 – 40.

The Minister for Veteran Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee also announced from the budget, an initial \$22.8 million to fund 90 extra DVA staff to cut the backlog of unprocessed claims. This will be followed by a further \$73.2 million for additional staff and other measures to further improve the veteran claims process system and reduce waiting times.

There will be an additional \$22 million to grow the life-changing Psychiatric Assistance Dogs Program. The successful Kookaburra Kids Defence Kids program will be expanded. \$22 million will be injected to support the work of Bravery Trust and \$9 million to support participants in the 2023 Invictus Games.

There will be also \$.9 million to create a Remembrance Trail on the Greek Island of Lemnos, in recognition of the Australian doctors, nurses and other service personnel who served there during the First World War. There will also be \$45.1 million to build a new pavilion at Sandakan Memorial Park in Borneo to honour World War Two Prisoners of War.



Australia will send Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles to Ukraine after President Zelenskyy specifically requested them in an address to Australia's Parliament on 31 March.

The following day, 1 April, Prime Minister Scott Morrison confirmed that \$25 million in further military support would be sent to Ukraine, including the requested Bushmasters.

Mr Morrison said President Zelenskyy address to The Australian Parliament was a truly momentous occasion. "I can tell him after yesterday we announced \$25 million in further military support," Mr Morrison said. "We're not just sending our prayers, we're sending our guns, we're sending our munitions, we're sending our humanitarian aid, we're sending all of this and body armour and all of these things, and we're going to be sending our armoured vehicles, our Bushmasters as well. "And we're flying them over there on our C-17s to make sure they can be there to support."

Mr Morrison thanked President Zelenskyy "for coming and addressing our Parliament and reminding, not just all of us who were in the Parliament last night, I think, but all Australians, of what is at stake here".

"When you have one nation bullying another, a democratic nation whose territorial sovereignty has been violated and war crimes being committed in the Ukraine by Russia, then this is something that Australians will never stand for. "And so we stand with Ukraine.

"But President Zelenskyy had a key warning, I think, for the whole world – that if you let a bully do this in Ukraine, then there are bullies elsewhere, and there are those in our own region who should be watching on to see how the world, and the western world in particular, stands together and stands up against bullies."

(Source: Contact)



Air Vice Marshall Catherine Roberts AM, CSC

Former Mount Gambier woman Catherine Roberts, A senior Royal Australian Air Force officer whose childhood idol was Neil Armstrong, is the first head of the RAAF's space division when it's launched in 2022.

Part of the Royal Australian Air Force, Space Division will include several divisions of Defence with the aim of increasing the nation's space capabilities

“To reach for the stars and actually get there is a phenomenal feeling,” Air Vice-Marshal Roberts said. “As an Aerospace Engineer I have always been fascinated by space, the ultimate high-ground.”

Catherine joined the Air Force in 1983 to study Aerospace Engineering, graduating from No 28 Course Engineering Cadet Squadron in 1986.

Here's some of Catherine's achievements over her career

Reporting directly to the Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Cath Roberts is the inaugural Head of Air Force Capability, responsible for imagining, designing and shaping the needs

and future requirements of air and space power for the joint force. From 2022 Air Vice Marshal Roberts will become the inaugural Head of Space Division/ Command.

As a self-professed science fiction buff, Air Vice Marshal Roberts has always been fascinated by advanced technology and space, and has committed her career to advancing air and space power for Australia's defence. While she is passionate about technology, she is equally passionate about bringing out the best in people and relationships across Defence, allies, industry and academia.

A Member of the Order of Australia for her exceptional service in the fields of aerospace acquisition and sustainment, Air Vice-Marshal Roberts joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1983 as a specialist in aerospace engineering at the Aircraft Research and Development Unit. She has held more than 20 roles throughout her Air Force career including Logistics Command (F/A-18/Macchi/Winjeel Engineering), No 77SQN (Flight Line Maintenance), No 481SQN (Senior Engineering Officer), and Lead-In Fighter Project (UK Resident Team).

In 2001, Air Vice-Marshal Roberts undertook the inaugural Joint Command and Staff College, followed by a posting to the joint Airworthiness Coordination Agency. In this role she received a Conspicuous Service Cross for her work in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) airworthiness oversight for the introduction of major aviation capabilities, establishing ADF operational airworthiness regulations and developing new airworthiness frameworks for charter and unmanned aircraft.

Air Vice-Marshal Roberts spent a significant part of her career posted in the UK. In 2005 she assumed appointment as the Assistant Air Force Advisor in London engaging on Air Force capability and commanding Air Force personnel embedded in UK units and on UK operations. She was then appointed to command the Tactical Fighter Systems Program Office in 2007, followed by command of the Training Aircraft Systems Program Office in 2009. In both commands she completed major negotiations for new acquisitions and support contracts. She completed the Royal College of Defence Studies course in International Relations and Strategy in 2011.

In 2013 Air Vice-Marshal Roberts was posted to the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter project, achieving Government program approval in April 2014 and the introduction of the first two Australian aircraft into service at the Luke Air Force Base in Arizona in December 2014. She has been responsible for materiel acquisition and sustainment of Growler, Super Hornet, Classic Hornet and Hawk Lead-in Fighter.

In March 2016 Air Vice-Marshal Roberts was appointed Head Aerospace Systems Division responsible for acquiring and sustaining all of Air Force's fixed wing assets. She implemented a major First Principles Review reform in workforce design, organisational construct, governance, industry efficiencies and capability manager engagement across the Air Domain and CASG.

Air Vice-Marshal Roberts is a Fellow of Engineers Australia, Member of Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Defence representative on the Australian Space Agency Advisory Group. She is also the Chair of AFL for Air Force. She holds a Master's Degree in Management of Defence Studies from University of Canberra and a Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Engineering from RMIT.

Air Vice-Marshal Roberts has a passion for diversity and is involved in assisting women to enter the field of aerospace and STEM through her work with Women in Aviation/Aerospace Australia and Women in Aviation International (Australian Chapter). She has been a mentor in both the Future Through Collaboration (Defence and Industry) and Superstars of STEM programs.

Outside Air Force, Cath was featured in the prestigious AFR 100 Women of Influence in 2013, and was the recipient of the Aviation/Aerospace Australia Leadership Award in 2014.

She is married to Stuart and they have two wonderful daughters. The family enjoy Aussie Rules, time on their property, skiing (water and snow), dirt bike riding and fishing.

(Source: www.airforce.gov.au)

Navy



: Able Seaman Su Lee prepares lunch in the HMAS Kuttabul officers' galley in Sydney.

Unlike most of us, Able Seaman Su Lee makes sticky rice on purpose. "I can say I'm the best rice cook in Navy," the chef said. "I don't even need to measure, I just pour in and it always comes out perfect."

Emigrating from South Korea in 2004, Able Seaman Lee brings a Korean flavour to the galley of HMAS *Kuttabul*. She said she was the go-to chef for Asian cuisine, with galley menus frequently featuring dishes from China, Korea, India and Thailand.

Despite enlisting as a qualified chef, Able Seaman Lee said cooking in Navy was unlike anything she'd done before. "I had to learn everything new, like how to cook 50 kilos of rice at a time," she said.

Like 30 per cent of all other Australians, Able Seaman Lee was born overseas, a diversity reflected in ADF recruiting numbers. Over the past 20 years, recruiters recorded a 10 per cent rise in the number of people born overseas enlisting in the ADF. In 2001, 152 people born overseas joined the ADF, accounting for 7.5 per cent of enlistments.

This figure jumped to 17 per cent in 2021, with 1159 immigrants enlisting.

These statistics track national trends, with migration to Australia the dominant component of population growth.

(Source: Contact)



Army soldier Private Tim Melvin, right, reunites with his daughter, Navy sailor Leading Seaman Esther Melvin, on HMAS *Canberra* on Operation Tonga Assist 2022.

When the Royal Australian Navy's biggest ships rendezvoused in Nuku'alofa Harbour in Tonga in early March as part of Operation Tonga Assist 2022, two Defence families had instant family reunions.

HMAS *Canberra*-based aeronautical engineer Lieutenant Commander Stephen 'Smokey' Cole was able to catch up with his son Able Seaman Aaron Cole, an aircraft handler on HMAS *Adelaide*.

Separately, Australian Army soldier Private Timothy Melvin, who manages requests for tools and equipment on *Adelaide*, was reunited with his daughter, Leading Seaman Esther Melvin, a senior weapons maintainer on *Canberra*.

It was the first catch up in about two months for both family groups.

"I love my family and really value the time I get to spend with them, so being able to see my Dad while deployed means the world to me," Leading Seaman Melvin said. "When I was told he was waiting for me, I ran down to my workshop and jumped into his arms." For Private Melvin, who joined the Australian Defence Force (ADF) in 2013, it was an unexpected and special occasion.

“It was a rare opportunity to spend time with family while on an operation at sea,” Private Melvin said.

The Cole family father-and-son reunion was also a special occasion. “It’s the first time we’ve crossed paths at sea and it was really memorable,” Lieutenant Commander Cole said. “It was also nice to send some photos back to the family.”

Lieutenant Commander Cole joined the Royal Australian Navy in 2011, following 23 years service in the Royal Navy.

“We’re an ADF family – myself and Aaron both serve in the Navy, while Aaron’s brother and my second son, Daniel, serves in the Australian Army as an infantry captain,” Lieutenant Commander Cole said.

Able Seaman Cole, who signed up in 2019, was delighted to see his dad. “My reunion with my father was very good. It was a nice little break after a very busy period at sea,” Able Seaman Colesaid.

The Coles and the Melvins thank everyone in both ships who facilitated their Tonga family reunions.

(Source: Contact)

Army



Corporal Mitchell McLean from the 1st Combat Signal Regiment at his former high school in Casino, NSW, while deployed on Operation Flood Assist 2022.

A self-described troublemaker during high school, when Corporal Mitchell McLean from the 1st Combat Signal Regiment graduated Year 12 and exited the grounds of Casino High School, he believed it was to never return.

That was until he deployed to his hometown of Casino, in northern NSW, as part of Operation Flood Assist. Aiding residents with clean up, Corporal McLean said it was a blessing to come back and help people he personally knew. “While going to homes that were affected, a lot of people I knew either directly or in-directly through a niece or someone I went to school with,” Corporal McLean said.

“To return here under these circumstances is not ideal but it’s good to know I can give back to my community. “After finishing work for the day, I have managed to catch up with close family and friends and offer all sorts of assistance.”

Corporal McLean attended Casino High School, one of only two secondary schools in the town, and was invited back as a guest speaker during morning assembly. “I wanted to get across to the students that school isn’t all bad,” Corporal McLean said. “There are things outside of school that they can do that might make a great impact on communities or individuals. Army was that avenue for myself, and I am now giving back to my home community.

“I wasn’t the worst or best student, but I told them that everybody is human, especially the teachers, and to just be kind.”

Located in the Northern Rivers area, Casino is described by locals as the center of everything; Brisbane to the north, Byron Bay to the east, and the snowfields and national parks of Tenterfield.

Corporal McLean joined the Army in 2016 and works as a telecommunications technician, currently based out of Darwin.

He said being on Operation Flood Assist had been the most rewarding and hands-on experience in his career. “I got to have that face-to-face contact with the community and not be behind the scenes,” he said. “I had actually lived in the house next door to where I was working the other day – a nice trip down memory lane.”

(Source: Contact)

ARMY TO STORM TOURIST SPOT

EVAN MORGAN

SOLDIERS from 2RAR will be storming the beaches at Pallarenda and on Magnetic Island in the coming weeks as part of Exercise Black Cutlass.

The exercise starts on Monday, March 21 and finishes on Friday, April 1.

The training activity involves the troops from 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment conducting a night amphibious beach landing followed by reconnaissance and surveillance in support of a fictitious amphibious landing.

The exercise will focus on ensuring 2RAR is ready now, as well as future ready.

It is designed to test soldiers' capability to conduct the full range of pre-landing operations, enabling the Australian amphibious force to respond, when and where required, to support Australia's national interests.

Commanding Officer 2RAR Lieutenant Colonel Mark Tutton said Magnetic Island was chosen because it was a challenging environment to train this capability.

"This is the first time that 2RAR has done a training exercise of this type at Magnetic Island," Lieutenant Colonel Tutton said. "Training here will provide a fresh challenge with terrain that prepares us for work in our region. It is a great way to start our training this year and our soldiers are looking forward to it."

"I would like to thank the people of Magnetic Island and Cape Pallarenda for welcoming us into their community."

"Defence will not take any risks with the health and safety of Queenslanders. For everybody's safety, we ask that people maintain their distance if they see or hear the training."

Defence is working closely with police and Townsville City Council to ensure residents are aware of the training, which will be conducted during the day and at night.

The public should not be alarmed if they see or hear military vehicles and watercraft or see military personnel carrying weapons.



Private Rhys Kent, Commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Mark Tutton, and Major Richard Hindmarsh from 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2 RAR), prepare to depart for Magnetic Island off Townsville to commence Exercise Black Cutlass 2022.

(Source: Townsville Bulletin - 2RAR Museum)



The weapon-mounted T-Worx Intelligent-Rail system is being trialled by NIOA.

A smart rail system that transforms rifles into real-time data nodes linking soldiers in the battlefield with tactical leaders and commanders is being trialled by NIOA.

The Australian-owned prime has linked with T-Worx to investigate application of its Intelligent-Rail® (I-Rail®) technology for use in the Australian Defence Force. T-Worx developed the I-Rail under US Army funding and guidance, and it was selected by NATO as the basis for the NATO-powered Rail STANAG 4740/AEP-90. I-Rail provides the war fighter with a fully integrated sensor platform with a single source of power and connectivity between weapon ancillaries including sensors. It captures information from sensors on the weapon to create a data package which can include video, radio communication, ammunition usage and location logistics.

The system is already fully integrated within the Colt M4 family of weapons. Colt is a key partner of NIOA which provides the Colt M4 as the primary weapons system for Australian SOCOMD units.

The I-Rail technology will be a key technology enabler for LAND 159, LAND 125-4, LAND 53 and LAND 200 programs for the ADF.

NIOA General Manager for Engineering Rudi Bekker said the company's weapons-design team was progressing with a comprehensive trials and demonstration program for the ADF as well as the New Zealand Defence Force and law-enforcement clients.

The company recently completed Stage 1 of Tranche 1, encompassing test, evaluation, data analysis and source evaluation recommendations for the latest sniper and close-combat weapon systems.

(Source: Contact)

Air Force



Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld, centre right, and Minister for Defence Peter Dutton discuss Australian space capability with Army Lieutenant Colonel Clifford White during the 2022 Air and Space Power Conference.

As Defence enters into a new space era with the establishment of Defence Space Command, the release of the Defence Space Strategy sets a vector to assure Australia's access to space for civilian and military uses.

Chief of the Defence Force General Angus Campbell said space was critical to ADF warfighting effectiveness, situational awareness, and the delivery of real-time communications in the current geostrategic environment. "We must be able to generate space power across the Defence portfolio, supporting the joint force, whole of government, allies and international partners. We must also protect billions of dollars' worth of commercial and military assets against space debris, collisions and destructive acts," General Campbell said.

"The decision to create a single organisation to coordinate and manage Defence's endeavours in space is significant. Defence Space Command brings members of Navy, Army, Air Force, the Australian Public Service and contractors together under an integrated headquarters reporting to the Chief of Air Force as the Space Domain Lead."

Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld said Defence had the responsibility of assuring Australia's access to space for civilian and military users in a safe and sustainable space environment.

"Advancing Australia's space power requires a shift in thinking that recognises and supports space as a contested operational domain rather than simply being an enabler to other domains," Air Marshal Hupfeld said.

"The Government has committed to significantly increasing investment in Defence's space capabilities by investing around \$7 billion this decade to assure our access to space, space services and geospatial information. "While technologies and systems are important, they are only part of what enables the delivery of space power. Our people and partners will bring the curiosity, creativity and collaborative spirit required to conceive the space power required to meet our future challenges."

Led by Defence Space Commander Air Vice-Marshal Cath Roberts, Defence Space Command was established to assure Australia's access to space to defend Australia, our national interests, and promote global security and stability. "Space is the ultimate high ground. What we see from space gives us an unsurpassed advantage in surveillance and intelligence. It is central to how we will fight and win in the future across multi-domain operations, using advanced hypersonics, precision strike missiles and guided weapons," Air Vice-Marshal Roberts said.

"We are enhancing our sovereign capabilities so Australia can be self-reliant in the detection of threats and collection of information for the defence of our nation. This is crucial to gaining timely, accurate information for the safety and capability of our forces. "This evolution of our operational capability will see us become an active contributor in space and ensure we can efficiently and effectively respond to space incidents when required.

"The newly released Defence Space Strategy sets the trajectory for Defence to assure Australia's access to space. The immediate priority for Defence is to better integrate the many diverse elements of space capability. "We will look at innovative ways to expand our space capability to meet unique Australian requirements and develop our partnerships with industry and academia.

“Australia’s geographical location and vast open land in the southern hemisphere helps us see things that others can’t. We will continue to work closely with our allies and international partners to mutually assure the responsible use of the space domain. “Together we will reach for the stars to protect Australia – our freedom, our values and our way of life.”

(Source: Contact)



Air Force crew attendant Leading Aircraftwoman Hannah Heaney supports aircrew on board a KC-30A during air-to-air refuelling operations with a P-8A Poseidon as part of Exercise Diamond Seas 2022.

From training amid COVID-19 challenges, to supporting air-to-air refuelling on exercise, a career as a crew attendant has been exciting so far for Leading Aircraftwoman Hannah Heaney. Leading Aircraftwoman Heaney already had a job offer from an airline when she discovered she could join the Australian Defence Force (ADF) gap year program as a crew attendant. “My parents are into hang gliding and I meet all sorts of random people through their club,” Leading Aircraftwoman Heaney said.

“One of the members of their club, a navigator in the Air Force, encouraged me to apply for the ADF gap year and give the Air Force a go. “At that stage, I wasn’t aware the Air Force had career options such as a crew attendant.”

Securing a spot in the 2020 Gap Year Program as a crew attendant, Leading Aircraftwoman Heaney ditched all previous plans with the airlines and began preparations for a trial year in Air Force. At 19 years old, she farewelled her family and hometown of Tocumwal in New South Wales on the banks of the Murray River, and set off by train to commence 02/2020 initial recruit training course at RAAF Base Wagga. Three weeks into the 13-week course, Leading Aircraftwoman Heaney and her course mates struck a snag – COVID-19 had arrived

and it changed everything. The course was confined to RAAF Base Wagga for the duration of her training, unable to see family and friends.

“It was hard not being able to see my family but it was good in its own way – as a course we became very close, almost like family,” Leading Aircraftwoman Heaney said. Considering the impact COVID-19 had on the aviation industry over the past two years, Leading Aircraftwoman Heaney said she was grateful she chose the path she did.

After initial recruit training, Leading Aircraftwoman Heaney was posted to No. 33 Squadron based at RAAF Base Amberley. No. 33 Squadron operates a fleet of seven KC-30A multi-role tanker transport aircraft and provides air-to-air refuelling and strategic airlift capability for Defence. As a crew attendant, Leading Aircraftwoman Heaney is responsible for the safe carriage of Defence personnel on KC-30As to destinations around Australia and the globe.

“I love working on the KC-30, the job is constantly changing – one day we are in the office planning a trip, the next day we are flying to Hawaii,” Leading Aircraftwoman Heaney said. Recently, she took to the skies supporting aircrew for air-to-air refuelling operations with an P-8A Poseidon as a part of Exercise Diamond Seas 2022. During refuelling missions, the KC-30A will fly in close formation with other aircraft at up to 700 kilometres per hour.

For Exercise Diamond Seas, the air refuelling officer controlled the telescopic boom mounted on the tail of the KC-30A to transfer fuel to the P-8A. Once refuelled, the P-8A returned to its air-maritime integration mission for the exercise. When asked what the future holds, her eyes light up and she is quick to respond. “I would like to commission as an air refuelling officer. I’ve seen it live, I love watching it and I think it’s a great career,” Leading Aircraftwoman Heaney said.

(Source: Contact)



Aviators from Royal Australian Air Force’s No. 1 Security Forces Squadron participated in Exercise Pacific Defender earlier this year at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

The exercise was a bilateral training and engagement activity conducted with the United States Air Force’s 736th Security Forces Squadron, with a primary objective of enhancing

interoperability between security forces in the Indo-Pacific region. No. 1 Security Forces Squadron detachment commander, Squadron Leader Zacari Smit, said the program provided the squadrons with the opportunity to exchange tactics, techniques and procedures across multiple subjects.

“We aimed at advancing our combat shooting, hand-to-hand combat, protected mobility, and military working dog capabilities,” Squadron Leader Smit said.

“The success of the exchange was tested through a full-mission profile activity involving the short-notice protection of air and space capability nodes in a hostile operating environment.”

The exercise enabled No. 1 Security Forces Squadron to demonstrate the agile and lethal capabilities of its close-combat teams, while protecting air and space assets from a well-trained enemy, and in terrain that accurately reflected the many small islands that characterise the Indo-Pacific region. “The scenario also allowed No. 1 Security Forces Squadron to test its ability to team and integrate with a partner force at short notice,” Squadron Leader Smit said. “For our junior aviators, this type of interoperability necessitated quick and effective communication to ensure tactics and procedures were understood and, in many cases, merged across the two nations.

“While at times challenging, the accelerated teaming process used on the exercise will enable the success of any future operations with partners in the Indo-Pacific region.” Beyond combined training benefits, the exercise also provided No. 1 Security Forces Squadron the opportunity to draw lessons and observations for capability development.

“Employment of No. 1 Security Forces Squadron’s command and control technology was trialled for the first-time alongside protected mobility platforms in a hostile and complex operating environment,” Squadron Leader Smit said. “The tactical and capability lessons learnt on Exercise Pacific Defender, and similar activities, will drive the squadron’s transition to a more agile and responsive force to meet the evolving needs of Air Force and the joint force.”

(Source: Defence News)



Residents, local government officials and aviators from RAAF Base Tindal recently stopped to remember a dark day in Australia’s history: the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Katherine on 22 March 1942.

The town of Katherine, about 300km south of Darwin, marks the southern-most point of Japanese bombing raids on the Northern Territory.

During World War II, and shortly after the deadly attack on Darwin on 19 February 1942, the township of Katherine was attacked by the Japanese.

On 22 March 1942, nine 'Betty' bombers from the Japanese Navy dropped around 90 high-explosive bombs known as 'Daisy Cutters' on the Katherine airfield.

The raid by the Japanese resulted in one fatality, an Indigenous man by the name of Dodger Kodjalway.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Katherine and the event was marked with a commemorative service, held at the Katherine airfield, which is now occupied by the Katherine Museum.

Senior ADF officer at RAAF Base Tindal, Wing Commander Shane Smith, attended the service to reflect and remember the life of Dodger Kodjalway, those that were injured in the attack and to pay tribute to the military personnel who have served in Katherine over the years.

Wing Commander Smith said that Katherine was targeted by the bombing raid due to the large numbers of military personnel stationed in the town during the war. "While damage to infrastructure was limited and just one life lost, the attack changed Katherine in many ways and it continues to impact people's lives to this day," Wing Commander Smith said. "The strength and resilience of the residents of Katherine at the time of the bombing needs to be highlighted."

Eighty years since the Australian mainland came under attack, it is important that we continue to understand and preserve our nation's history by coming together to remember and pay respects to the memory, sacrifice and contribution of those lives lost and to thank those who serve and continue to serve.

(Source: Defence News)

Maryborough



The Maryborough Aero Club and the Maryborough Military Aviation Museum, hosted the local 216 Sqn Air Cadets in March 2022, giving them a hands on experience. They had 12 aircraft available for them to inspect ranging from the WWII Wackett to the Westwind Jet Aircraft.

Also in Maryborough on it has been announced that the Governor of Queensland visited the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum on 4 April 2022 between 2.15 and 2.55pm

Quiz

Quiz Questions

1. Name the ship in the Australian Fleet. Clue – Australian cricket legend, the late Shane Warne, made his highest Test score with the bat in this city?
2. Name the ship in the Australian Fleet. Clue – The football team for this town was for many years known as the Pumpkin Pickers?
3. How old is the Army?
4. Who is Army's Indigenous Elder?
5. Which countries are members of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, commonly called the Quad?
6. When was the current rising sun pattern introduced into service and what iteration is it?
7. Which year was the ban on gay and lesbian people serving in the ADF lifted?
8. What is the oldest, continuously active Defence base in Australia and where is it?
9. The crew of which US Navy ship helped during the recent flood clean up in Brisbane?
10. A Navy captain is leading an expedition at what research station?

Answer - Quiz Questions in *TRIBUTE* No 9

1. When was the L1A1 SLR introduced as the standard rifle?
Answer: 1960
2. Which is the Army's most recent corps?
Answer: Public Relations Service (1994)
3. What is the name of the AAAvn song?
Answer: Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines
4. Which company makes the Karl Guastav 84mm recoilless rifle?
Answer: SAAB Bofors Dynamics
5. What is the Army Signal Corps Motto?
Answer: Certa Cito (Swift and Sure)
6. How many times has the Australian Government conscripted Australian into the Army?
Answer: Four (1911 – 1929, 1939 – 1945, 1951 – 1959, and 1964 – 1972.
7. How many crew an M1 Abrams tank?
Answer: Four; commander, gunner, loader and driver
8. What year was ANZUS signed?
Answer: 1951
9. What is the name of the medal colloquially called the 'Victoria Cross for Animals'?
Answer: The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) Dickin Medal
10. What is the muzzle velocity of the EF88?
Answer: 930 metres a second

Show and Tell

Combat Clothing and Individual Load Carrying Equipment – Post Vietnam

The 1960s were good for the Australian Infantryman regarding the improvement made to combat uniforms, footwear and load carrying equipment. However, in the post-Vietnam era with the downsizing of the Army and reduced defence spending Australian soldiers soon found that everything about the Army was stagnant. The Government's direction that the Defence Force was to concentrate on the defence of continental Australia meant that through the 1970's and 1980's the Army was conducting exercises in rural and outback Australia.

Infantrymen soon found that the weapons, clothing and equipment they had been issued for fighting Communist guerrillas in the jungles of South East Asia was not suited for the task of fighting a limited conventional war in the defence of continental Australia.

Infantrymen determined that jungle green uniforms didn't always blend with the Australian bush environment or the arid areas they were operating in. Soldiers wanted to move away from jungle green uniforms that dated back to World War Two and push for an Australian camouflage uniform became a topic of regular discussion. It was found that while the Vietnam

era large pack was adequate for dismounted operations away from vehicles in a warm environment, it didn't have sufficient carrying capacity when cold weather clothing and heavier duty sleeping bags were carried. From the late 1970s an Australian version of the British Howard Green wool jumper was issued for field use.

In the late 1970s the Army assisted by Defence Science commenced development of a unique Australian disruptive camouflage pattern uniform known officially as Disruptive Pattern Combat Uniform (DPCU), but also known as AUSCAM (Australian Camouflage)



The colours for AUSCAM were based on those of the vegetation found in Australian bush and the colours and eventual pattern were the result of extensive visual and computer research. In 1988 after ten years of research and trials the AUSCAM DPCU started to be issued to soldiers as the replacement for the jungle green uniform.

At about the same time in an effort to assist concealment it was decided to conduct trials for the introduction of a brown (tan) leather field boot to replace the black GP boot. The trials of the brown leather boot included suede and rough texture leather surfaces and resulted in the acceptance of the brown leather boot modelled on the Vietnam era black GP boot. As with the Vietnam era GP boot there were no cushioning in the boot.

Many Australian soldiers in the post-Vietnam era had purchased commercially available wet weather jackets and rain suits in dry jupara and expensive Gore Tex. Eventually around 1990 this resulted in the Army issuing a dry jupara wet weather jacket in AUSCAM with a separate cold weather liner to replace the American cold weather jacket and the Australian lightweight tropical raincoat of the Vietnam era.

Also in the late 1980's the one piece American Kevlar helmet was brought into service to replace the two piece American M1 helmet. The Kevlar helmet was issued initially as a parachute combat helmet for members of 3RAR Parachute Group and then a decision was made that it would become the combat helmet for the rest of the Army.

A Small Arms Replacement Project (SARP) was initiated during the early 1980's to replace the existing family of 7.62mm, 5.56mm and 9mm small arms weapons with a new generation

of weapons using the NATO standard 5.56mm SS109 ammunition. The weapons to be replaced were the 7.62mm L1A1 SLR, the 7.62mm L2A1 AR, the 5.56mm M16A1 AR, the 9mm F1 SMG and the 7.62mm GPMG M60. The SARP trail took place during 1983 – 85 and during 1985 it was announced that the 5.56mm F88 (Steyr AUG) Assault Rifle and the 5.56mm F89 (FN Mimimi) light support weapon had been chosen as the new family of small arms for the Australian Defence Force. Pre-production weapons were troop trialled by 6RAR during 1989 – 90 and the new weapons officially came into service during 1991 – 92.

At around the same time as the new small arms weapons were being trialled and issued for service new Pattern 1988 ICLE in AUSCAM were also being issued. Although it was modelled on the improved Pattern 1956 ICLE of the Vietnam era it had larger pouches for the carriage of magazines for the new weapons and included a new Field Pack Large 1988 in AUSCAM. There was also a small lightweight backpack in AUSCAM which could be attached to the upper back of the ILCE harness for the carriage of items such as ration pack and rain jacket.

To be continued.

Humour and Poetry

A Canadian Army C.O. was about to start the morning briefing to all the staff.

While waiting for the coffee machine to finish its brewing, the C.O. decided to pose a question to all assembled. He explained that his wife had been a bit frisky the night before, and therefore he failed to get his usual amount of sound sleep.

He posed the question; "How much of the act of sex is "work," and how much is "pure pleasure"?"

A Captain chimed in with a 75-25% in favour of 'work'.

A Lieutenant said it was probably about 50-50%.

A Warrant-Officer responded with a 25-75% in favour of 'pleasure', depending upon his state of inebriation at the time.

There being no consensus, the C.O. turned to the Private who was in charge of making the coffee. What was HIS opinion?

Without any hesitation, the young Private responded, "Sir, it has to be 100% pleasure, Sir."

The C.O., a little surprised and as you might guess, said "And why is that soldier"?"

"Well, Sir, if there was any work involved, the officers would have me doing it for them, Sir."

The room fell silent..... God Bless Privates!

Faith, Hope, Unity and Purpose are Powerful National Weapons
When you hear Mother Nature is about to tear us apart
When warnings of doom are preached, come flutters of the heart
And you want to pack swag to flee wherever
Perhaps escape to the mountains, or the vast Never Never?
To dodge drought, fire, flood and seemingly endless rain
Or bury your head in sand, never to be seen again
Well, take a deep breath, if Australia is your home
For that's part of life on OZ wherever you may roam
No matter, be you rich, poor or in between
We are as one, here Down Under, as it has always been
Sharing and caring for each other neath the Southern Cross
Jaws set firm when surrounded by danger and terrible loss
Here and there a joke, or perhaps "she'll be right, mate"
Tears mid charred ruins of a home with a blistered gate
Or in another season, watch drowning memories drift from sight
Yet never wavering in faith to escape darkness and find light
In such troubled times, we are bonded closer together
No matter the danger, caused by man or tantrums of weather

Like those before us, it's the same pain, sweat, blood and tears
Always the calmness, humour and faith to defy terrible fear
Emulating the courage and fortitude of past generations
Who with vision and grit, rolled up sleeves to help create our nation
Settlers with wooden plough or explorers on mountains blue
Blood at Eureka stockade and ANZAC spirit brave and true
Now it's our turn to prepare the journey into those tomorrows
Bright beacons of pride and purpose for our young kin to follow
Spirits fueled by powerful words of "let me give a hand, mate"
Or "Check the young family down the road; we can wait"
To help those where empty pockets and bare larders abound
Always in testing times comes the cry "Pass the hat around "
Rescues, scones and tea, spare beds and hugs of comfort too
Fighting fires, feeding starving cattle, and more than a few
When told precious castles of dreams are lost, we weep and curse
Then brave smiles, tools in hand, we claim "it could have been worse"
With faith and hope in a safe and secure place, we are all as one
Tomorrow we will build new castles and find new dreams to be won

George Mansford



The Eight Bell

I first met Frank on Anzac Day and times of commemoration
We both came to this great land, by way of immigration
A trusted member of the executive, on which the committee would pivot
If you wanted an opinion, our Frank was sure to give it

On days of special service, the dais became his throne
When he approached the lectern, he didn't need a microphone
Always the proud sailor, in presence and physic
You could hear him anywhere, his voice was so unique

He met his wife Laraine, out on a blind date
Little did he realise then, she'd be his lifetime mate
Engaged and married in a flash, no time to waste in port
For so many sailors, time ashore was short

Laraine was left to rule the roost, with all the chores and bills
For Frank spent so much time at sea, it's a wonder he didn't grow gills
When he returned he often felt, that he had been demoted
For during his long absence, Laraine had been promoted

But there was also tragedy, along their family track
For gifts that God has given, He sometimes does take back
Few will ever know, the sense of loss we feel
Some wounds may leave a scar, but some wounds never heal

For all his naval service, he would pay the highest price
A curse upon the veteran, when fate rolls its' deadly dice
To give your life for your country, doesn't always happen during war
For no one ever knows, what the future has in store

When he heard that eighth bell ring, it was time to leave this earth
His first born child appeared, to guide him to his berth
No more pain, or sorrow, in this valley of tears
Except from those who loved him, through his mortal years

May a gentle wind, be at your back and all the seas be calm
As you rest forever, safely in God's palm
You have joined the shipmates, of those who've gone before
As you travel through eternity, to a different shore

By Tomas 'Paddy' Hamilton

20 June 2021

Dedicated to the late Frank Lawton, St Marys RSL Sub Branch

Dates to Remember - APRIL

1 April 1974 – OTU Scheyville closed

2 April 1984 – ADFA opens

2 April 2005 – Leading Seaman Scott Bennet, Sergeant Wendy Elizabeth Jones, Petty Officer Stephen Slattery, Lieutenant Mathew Davey, Lieutenant Mathew Goodall, Lieutenant Paul King, Flight Lieutenant Lynne Elizabeth Rowbottom and Squadron Leader Paul Stuart McCarthy were all killed in a Helicopter Crash on Nias Island Indonesia during Operation Sumatra Assist 11.

2 April 1993 – Lance Corporal Shannon McAliney 1RAR accidentally discharged of weapon on patrol in Somalia

10 April 2021 – Commissioning of HMAS Supply (11)

21 April 2006 – Private Jacob Bruce Kovco 3 RAR – was killed in Iraq from a gun-shot wound during Operation Catalyst

25 April – ANZAC Day

27 April 2008 – Lance Corporal Jason Marks 4 RAR Cdo died from small arms fire during Operation Slipper in Afghanistan

29 April 1988 – 1st Commando Regiment

Military Historical Society of Australia, Qld Division Committee 2021 – 22

President	Neil Dearberg
Vice President	Russell Paton
Honorary Secretary	Ian Curtis
Honorary Treasurer	Ian Curtis
Committee Member	Andrew Limpus
Committee Member	Scott Meares

<p><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 April – Anzac Day • 14 May – Bimonthly Meeting • 9 July – AGM • 10 September – Bimonthly Meeting • 11 November – Remembrance Day • 12 November – Bimonthly Meeting 	<p><u>FELLOWS of MHPA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Meyers • Anthony Staunton • Donald Wright <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEW MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robyn Green • Gary Ilton
---	--

Contact details

Honorary Secretary / Treasurer: Ian Curtis	Editor: Ian Curtis Editor: Neil Dearberg
Phone: 0437303969	Phone: 0437303969
Email: qldsec@mhsa.org.au	Email: qldsec@mhsa.org.au
Website: www.mhsa.org.au	
Address: MHPA Qld PO Box 243 Maleny, Queensland 4552	Annual Membership Fees Ordinary Member \$50 Family Membership \$55



MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Business Number (ABN) 97 764 781 363

Membership Application

Queensland Division

Membership Fee Ordinary Member \$50, Family Member \$55 (ie 2 or more domiciled at the one address)

Name/s

Postal Address

.....

Telephone

E-mail

Date/year joined the Society

Military Interests

I understand the above details will only be used by the Qld Division and the Federal Secretary of the Military Historical Society of Australia to maintain correct records of my membership and for general branch or administrative business, and by the Journal editor to assist with editorial planning. I understand that the Society's Constitution requires the Federal Secretary to maintain a membership register (including the Journal mailing list).

In addition to information kept for these purposes:

OPT IN I agree to my email details being included on the Federal Secretary's contact list which will be used solely to distribute Society business and convey items of interest to members (including members' notices) **YES /NO (cross out whichever does not apply)**

OPT IN I wish to be included on the members' interests register and give permission for my military interests and my phone/email/address contact details to be included on it (cross out whichever does not apply). **YES/NO (cross out whichever does not apply)**

I understand that I can revoke permission for inclusion on register and contact lists at any time

As part of your membership you will receive a quarterly edition of Sabretache, the journal of the MHSA. **I require a hard copy (mail) / electronic (via email) version. (circle your option)**

.Cheque/Money Order: Military Historical Society of Australia, Qld Division - Please send this form and your membership fee to:

**Treasurer, Qld Division
Military Historical Society of Australia
PO Box 243
MALENY Q 4552
Email: curtisir131@gmail.com**

Or,

Direct deposit to the Qld Division MHSA Westpac Account at Maryborough, Qld.

BSB No. 034-128 Account No. 23-3618

If paying by Direct deposit, reference your name and forward the application form as well.