



**Respect, Gratitude, Admiration**

# *TRIBUTE*

The Newsletter of the Military  
Historical Society Australia,  
Queensland Division

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HMAS Anzac in 2018

(Source: VnExpress International)

## President Report

Did you know that around 30,000 servicemen and women served the ADF in Afghanistan? Of them, some 500 were recognised with individual honours and awards for their conspicuous service, including four Victoria Crosses for Australia, eight Star of Gallantry awards (second highest after the VC) and 62 Medal for Gallantry awards (third highest gallantry award), including Gp Capt (Doctor) Alexandra Douglas for her service in Rwanda. She will tell her frightful but amazing story at the Military Spectacular.

Following the fall of Kabul in August 2021, ADF personnel were used to evacuate Australians and Afghans who had assisted the Australian forces from Afghanistan. Three RAAF aircraft and 250 personnel were deployed from Australia to the Middle East as part of this effort. The first evacuation flight from Kabul took place on the night of 17/18 August.

Standing on the ramp of the last aircraft out was Gp Capt John Young, who continues to serve in the RAAF. John will be presenting his evacuation story and a summary of 20 years in Afghanistan at the Military Spectacular in October.

*HMAS Darwin* was deployed to the Persian Gulf from Feb to Aug 2014. Its Captain was Phillip Henry and with his crew was responsible for piracy and smuggling interdiction, especially around the waters of Iraq. Phillip is also presenting his tales at the Spectacular.

We honour, admire and respect all the men and women who have served our country, in Afghanistan, and every other theatre where they have served. We wish them the recognition and gratitude they richly deserve; so that we at home can vote for whoever we like, have the freedom to speak out loud and to sleep comfortably in our beds at night.

## From the Editor

Rain, rain go away, please. What a month, COVID, flooding again, a change of Federal Government all whilst I have been locked up inside. It has given me time to work on *TRIBUTE*, however. Got a lot to do when the sun decides to come out.

This edition of *TRIBUTE* sees the commencement of a series of stories Australian Defence Force Casualties in Afghanistan. The first being Corporal Mathew Ricky Andrew 'Hoppy' Hopkins, Private Gregory Michael Sher and Rifleman Stuart Nash.

All the regular sections appear News, Show and Tell the Quiz, (only one question this edition) and Poetry and Humour.

Enjoy the read. As always feedback is welcome.

## Australian Defence Force Casualties in Afghanistan

By Ian Curtis

Operations in the Afghanistan war resulted in 41 Australian soldiers being killed (34 as a result of enemy action) and 261 wounded (including two sailors and one airman) the majority since October 2007. It should also be noted that another Australian was killed whilst serving with the British Army (Rifleman Stuart 'Oz' Nash whose story is also included in this edition).

Over the next few issues of *TRIBUTE* the author will tell the story of some of the not so well-known soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice. The first, in honour of my old Battalion 5/7 RAR is Corporal Mathew Ricky Andrew 'Hoppy' Hopkins.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

REL41764

Rifle green coloured wool beret with metal Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) badge on front. On the inside of the crown is printed in white ink 'KENT, tm' underneath a crown between two lines. Underneath this manufacturer's design is printed 'PURE WOOL / MEDIUM'. The beret has a black nylon headband with small scuffs indicating use. On the inside rear of the beret is a white silk manufacturers tag with 'Christies Sydney' printed in black ink.

This beret is associated with the loss of Corporal Matthew Ricky Andrew 'Hoppy' Hopkins in Afghanistan in 2009 and was left on the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier at the Australian War Memorial on the afternoon of Monday 6 July 2009 by an unknown visitor. It is believed that this person knew Corporal Hopkins closely or served alongside him in Afghanistan. A hand written note left with this beret reads: *'To the eternal memory of our fallen warrior brother CPL Matt Hopkins. Never forgotten by the Rogues of 2 PL 7 RAR BG, Afghanistan 08'-09' - DUTY FIRST -'*



Mathew Hopkins was born on 27 August 1987 in Christchurch, New Zealand. In 1988 his family left New Zealand and settled in Brisbane, Queensland. Mathew attended Kenmore State High and always wanted to be a soldier. He enlisted into the Australian Regular Army on 28 March 2005. Mathew was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps after his recruit training at Kapooka, near Wagga Wagga NSW. After he became a qualified rifleman, Private Hopkins was posted to the 5/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (5/7 RAR) on 10 September 2005, based at Palmerston Barracks in the Northern Territory.

He qualified as an M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier crewman driver and later as an M113 crewman commander. After successfully completing the relevant promotions courses, he was promoted to Lance Corporal in June 2007 and Corporal before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in August 2008. Mathew was a genuine caring young leader, who led from the front looking out for his mates. He was a keen rugby player within the Battalion and within the Brigade competition.

Mathew deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Slipper with the 1<sup>st</sup> Reconstruction Task Force (RTF 1) from November 2006 to April 2007. He remained with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion RAR (7RAR) after the delinking of 5/7 RAR on 3 December 2006.

He deployed to Afghanistan for a second time as a member of the Force Protection Combat Team (FPCT), known as Combat Team Tusk, with the 1<sup>st</sup> Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force (MRTF 1). He was a corporal section commander with FPCT.

During his second rotation on Operation Slipper he returned to Australia in February 2009 to

marry his fiancée Victoria (who he met 18 months earlier and she had followed him to Darwin) in Newcastle NSW, and to be present for the birth of his first child, a son named Alexander. He spent a total of four days with his new-born son and new wife before returning to Afghanistan.

Corporal Mathew Hopkins was killed in action on 16 March 2009 during a joint 70-man patrol as a member of the Australian Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT) serving alongside Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers near the village of Kakarak, 12 kilometres north of the Australian base at Tarin Kowt. His section was attacked by about 20 Taliban fighters using automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenades and in the ensuing firefight he was shot. A combat medic dashed 60 metres under intense fire to help him but he died shortly afterwards.



Corporal Mathew Hopkins body was brought home and was buried with full military honours following a service at Newcastle's Christ Church Cathedral. The then Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard and NSW Premier Nathan Rees attended the service. His casket was escorted from the cathedral by an honour guard, made up of selected soldiers from his unit, and loaded onto a gun carriage for a private burial.

When Mathew was brought home, his best mate presented Victoria with Matt's wedding ring and a handmade box that contained letters from the guys in Afghanistan. Victoria in an interview in the Newcastle Herald, said that, 'Reading the great things that they said about Matt really opened my eyes to who he really was. There was a side of Mat that I knew, but the side of Mat they were talking about was the side I didn't know about. They said Mat was a great leader and that he was a funny guy, which I knew about. But it just made it very special hearing and reading those things, knowing that Mat meant a lot to many people, as well as to Alex and me.'

Corporal Mathew Hopkins has been honoured by the Litchfield Council in Northern Territory with the naming of a street after him. Victoria was for a time the youngest War Widow in Australia. She also visited Afghanistan, in 2013 when invited by the Australian Government

even seeing where her husband had slept on the base. ‘It was a once in a life time opportunity.... I felt like I got my closure just from looking at Mat’s old room.’

Each year as Alex grew up Victoria took him to an Anzac service.

Corporal Mathew Hopkins is remembered at the NSW Garden of Remembrance Wall 40/Panel G, Adelaide Pathway of Honour – 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour, Two Wells Afghanistan War Memorial, Yungaburra Afghanistan Avenue of Honour, 42for42 Memorial Garden, Brisbane.

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Private Gregory Michael Sher

‘Here was a Jewish man, going to a Muslim country to help those women who were having acid thrown at them and kids being stopped from being educated. His objective was to help them get educated and protect them from being hurt.’

(Felix Sher – father)

Gregory Michael Sher was born in Johannesburg, South Africa on 3 December 1978, the son of Felix and Yvonne Sher. He was the second of three boys and the family moved to Australia in 1986 and Gregory attended Doncaster Park Primary School and then Doncaster Secondary College. As a teenager he was full of fun and enjoyed life. The military however, was the foremost thing in his mind growing up.

When he left school, he got involved with an organisation that provided community security which allowed him to work during the day and then undertake military training. Greg initially joined 5/6<sup>th</sup> Royal Victorian Regiment in 1998. In 2003 Greg served in East Timor and part of the United Nations peacekeeping force. He spent six months in East Timor and when he came back and spoke to his mates who had been in Iraq or were going to Afghanistan, he set himself new goals. In 2004 he moved to One Commando Regiment. He was a keen body builder; he watched his diet and was very careful about his health. He was also a chocoholic; he loved his chocolate. Greg was also an avid reader on all things military.

When Greg was due to go to Afghanistan, he told his parents that he was going to South Australia to undertake training, however he did tell his brothers where he was going. On Christmas Day 2008 Greg phoned home and his father asked him where he was, he responded 'I'm in South Australia' his father asked him then 'how are you phoning', 'on a satellite phone' he replied. His father then had a good inclination where he was, because before he left, he grew a beard, cleaned out his room as if he was never coming back.

On arrival in Afghanistan Greg was told of a new weapon that they were going to be using that he hadn't trained to use. So, he went off to get some training. When he arrived at the training location there were also a lot of Afghan soldiers being trained. Greg mastered to weapon quickly and the instructors asked him if he has some spare time to assist them teach the Afghan soldiers. They responded well to Greg, calling him 'Mr Greg' he was patient with them and taught them well.

On the day of his death Greg had moved to a forward base in preparation to undertake a mission that night, but the weather conditions caused the mission to be halted. The Taliban attacked the base, firing two rockets, one falling short. The other rocket went through a HESCO wall, it then hit a container, but did not explode. It went through the container, which was full of water bottles and came out the other side. Greg happened to be on the other side and it just went thorough him. It then passed through a group of 10 – 12 soldiers and didn't touch one of them. Private Gregory Michael Sher was killed in a rocket attack in Oruzgan Province on 4 January 2009 at 12.55pm Afghan time.

When the Ramp Ceremony took place, and the soldiers line the route the coffin takes to the aircraft, normally the Afghan soldiers wouldn't attend, but all of them attended Greg's Ramp Ceremony. His mates also placed a Star of David on his coffin. In the Jewish religion, when someone passes away, they are put to rest quickly unless there is some untoward reason like murder. The Globemaster carrying Greg's body arrived back in Australia on a Friday 9 January accompanied by one of his mates. The family attended the ceremony in the hangar where Greg's medals and beret were presented.

Being late Friday afternoon, the Jewish religion cannot hold a funeral after sunset on a Friday or on a Saturday. Private Gregory Michael Sher was buried on Sunday 11 January. Over 3000 people attended the funeral including the then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Leader of the Opposition Malcolm Turnbull at the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha Cemetery at Lyndhurst.

His coffin, draped in an Australian flag, was taken to the cemetery aboard an Australian Army gun-carriage, escorted by a bearer party and honour guard, comprising his mates from his unit and other Special Forces soldiers.

At the request of the Sher family, the Prime Minister, the Hon. Kevin Rudd MP, spoke at the service and paid respect on behalf of the nation to Private Sher's dedication and service to Australia and its people.

Private Sher's partner and brothers also spoke, describing him as a man who overcame his fears to achieve all that he had in his life.

A volley of shots was fired by a firing party, which was composed of members of Private Sher's first Army Reserve Unit, 5/6 Royal Victorian Regiment, before he was finally laid to rest by family and friends.



Special Operation Commander Australia, Major General Tim McOwan presents Private Greg Sher's father Felix with his medals, beret and Australian Flag that covered his coffin during the Funeral.





Private Greg Michael Sher Grave today.

After his funeral Greg's parent's and brothers have remained very positive about his service in the Army. They attend the annual dinner held every September to honour the 41 men who made the supreme sacrifice. They were invited to Afghanistan by the Defence Force in 2013, and lit the flame at the Anzac Day Melbourne v Richmond match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in 2018. His brothers Barry and Steven have also been invited to toss the coin before Anzac Day matches in Melbourne, in honour of their brother.

Greg's father recently challenged General Angus Campbell to retrieve his dead son's Meritorious Unit Citation from his grave. Later thanked Peter Dutton from the bottom of his heart for overturning the Chief of the Defence Force's order to revoke the awards.

The Victorian Association of ex- Jewish Servicemen and Women (VAJEX) Australia inaugurated a memorial Shield which is presented to each of the Jewish Day Schools in Melbourne. Each school annually choose two students who have been outstanding in a given field. Their names are engraved on plaques to be placed on the Shield and each winning student received a suitably designed badge to wear. The schools retain the Shields and each subsequent year, the names of the winners are added.

Greg was a highly skilled and experienced soldier. His comrades in 1<sup>st</sup> Commando affectionately knew him as "the super Jew". He was well-read, enjoyed a considered and meaningful discussion on any world issue, and was determined to constantly improve. Time has not diminished the sadness and grief felt by his parents, Felix and Yvonne, his brothers, Steven and Barry, and his partner, Karen. But their pride in Greg's service and sacrifice conquers the darkness they feel without him.

Private Gregory Sher is remembered on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour, Victorian Garden of Remembrance Wall 119, Row S, Two Wells Afghanistan War Memorial, Yungaburra Afghanistan Avenue of Honour, 42for42 Memorial Garden, Brisbane.

References

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**Once a Rifleman always a Rifleman. Swift and Bold.**

**Rifleman Stuart Nash**



Rifleman Stuart Nash was killed in action during combat in Zarghun Kalay, Nad e Ali District, Helmand province. He was wounded as he was covering comrades from a compound rooftop while working as part of the 1 RIFLES Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT) Battle Group. His fellow riflemen administered first aid and he was evacuated by a Medical Emergency Response Team helicopter, but subsequently died of his wounds on 17 December 2008.

An Australian citizen, Rifleman Stuart Nash was born in Sydney on 19 April 1987, and enlisted in The Rifles on 9 March 2008 in Gloucester. He attended the Combat Infantryman's Course at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick, where he quickly established himself as a popular and confident character with maturity beyond his years and a positive influence on his peers.

After passing out of Catterick on 19 September 2008, Rifleman Nash was assigned to 1st Battalion the Rifles at Beachley Barracks in Chepstow. Following pre-deployment training in the United Kingdom he joined the battalion on operations in Afghanistan. He joined his mentoring and liaison team in Nad e Ali, a district centre west of Lashkar Gah, and recently the scene of intense fighting. In what can only be regarded as a baptism of fire, Rifleman Nash rapidly adapted to the austere life of a patrol base and established new friends among his fellow riflemen, who quickly christened him 'Oz'.

Although the newest and youngest member of his team, his gentlemanly manner and thorough professionalism instantly gained him acceptance. He was a polite man of strong faith who was always happy, and was always ready to put others before himself. If he was ever the man left behind, the returning patrol was always greeted with chopped wood for a fire and hot water for brews.

His Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Joe Cavanagh, shared such a brew with Rifleman Nash and his friends the day before he was killed and remembered clearly his impressive and humbling loyalty, good humour, maturity and intellect. Lt Col Cavanagh said:

Rifleman Nash was clearly thriving on the dual challenges of his own early professional service and the responsibilities of mentoring his Afghan National Army warrior colleagues. He was honest about the difficulty and danger of his work, modest about his own reserves of courage, robust and determined to succeed. He was already enthusing - utterly realistically - about joining the battalion's reconnaissance or sniper platoons after this operation in Afghanistan. He would have been superb in either. He fell a hero, in combat alongside his fellow riflemen.

His OMLT Commander Major Mark Mooney said: Nashie had only been in the Army for nine months but already showed great potential. He was young, bright and ambitious. 21 years old, an Australian from Sydney with a background in mechanical engineering and a strong sense of duty, Stuart had decided he should come to Britain to join the Army to do his bit and see the world. He talked of his desire to buy a sports car and tinker with it on return to the UK, such was his constant, optimistic and industrious approach to life.

Identified as having the potential to do well as an NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer), he was admired by his fellow riflemen for his fitness, can-do attitude, big heart and thirst for knowledge.

Team Commander Captain Iwan Williams said: He was one of the most promising new soldiers I have worked with; his intelligence and enthusiasm marked him out amongst his peers. He instantly became a popular member of the team, always doing more than was expected and always with a smile. He will be missed greatly.

His friends from training and his mentoring and liaison team recall that he was undeterred by the dangerous side of soldiering and had joined the Army to do operational service ‘proper soldiering’ as he called it.

Corporal Joseph Nash, who shared the same name and had quickly become a friend, was with him when he was wounded. Cpl Nash said:

He was shot whilst calling out target indications and returning fire, all the time under heavy enemy fire. Despite being recently out of training he was a professional and a soldier in the best traditions of Australia and Britain.

Rifleman Stuart Nash body was returned to Australia and he is buried in the Richmond War Cemetery, Hawkesbury NSW. He is remembered at the Australian War Memorial. He was one of eight from 1 Rifles to be killed in Afghanistan.

#### References

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## From the News



An M777 155mm lightweight towed howitzer bound for Ukraine is loaded onto a C-17A Globemaster at RAAF Base Amberley.

The six guns were taken by truck from 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery at Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane in late April and departed on a C-17A Globemaster from RAAF Base Amberley to Ukraine

“This \$26.7 million in new support for Ukraine takes Australia’s total contribution to Ukraine to more than \$225 million,” said Defence minister Peter Dutton. No comment was made about ammunition.

The United States has pledged to provide 90 M777 155mm howitzers and 184,000 shells to Ukraine, from their total fleet of 1001.

Australia only had 54 guns to start with – now down to 48.

The last of 20 Australian Army Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles left RAAF Base Amberley last week, aboard a Ukraine-based Antonov AN-124.

Fourteen of the 20 Bushmasters supplied to Ukraine from Australia were equipped with remote weapon stations.

(Source: Contact)



People’s Liberation Army-Navy (PLA-N) intelligence-collection vessel Haiwangxing operating off the north-west shelf of Australia. Official Defence image.

Defence can confirm the vessel is a PLA-N, Dongdiao-class auxiliary intelligence ship named Haiwangxing,” the Defence statement said.

“Haiwangxing travelled down the west coast of Australia to the vicinity of Exmouth, before changing course to track east along the north-west coast.”

Defence’s statement today also said that it “is actively monitoring the current activities of the Chinese intelligence collection vessel off the north-west coast of Western Australia with a combination of air and maritime capabilities” – despite supplying a map showing they believe/predict it is currently tracking close to Darwin.

“Defence will continue to monitor the ship’s operation in our maritime approaches.

(Source: Defence News)



Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Rick Burr, AO, DSC, MVO, addresses 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment, personnel and invited guests during the commissioning of the new regional support craft 'Kuursi' on Thursday Island, Torres Strait Islands.

Thursday Island has a new 12.5-metre regional support watercraft to support maritime operations in the region and be operated by Army's 51<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment (51 FNQR).

The regional support craft's name *Kuursi* means 'hammerhead shark' in Kala Lagaw Ya language. Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Rick Burr, said he was honoured to attend the ceremony on 27 April, which finalised RSC *Kuursi*'s spiritual integration into the Zenadth Kes waters, following the vessel's religious blessing earlier this year.

The new support craft, a sovereign-built vessel manufactured by Yamba Welding & Engineering in Yamba, NSW, will be permanently located and maintained on Thursday Island. "Regional support craft *Kuursi* is an exciting new maritime capability for Army and will boost our sovereign border protection activities in far north Queensland," Lieutenant-General Burr said. "This new vessel expands 51 FNQR's littoral projection capability from the unit's previous watercraft, with improved range, speed and manoeuvrability.

"RSC *Kuursi* will support a spectrum of marine support operations to regional force surveillance units, including search and rescue, recovery, casualty evacuation, stores and equipment transfer, community engagement and surveillance.

"51 FNQR plays a critical operational role in conducting surveillance patrols in the sparsely populated and remote regions of far north Queensland."

Tasked to detect and deter cross-border movement in the Torres Strait, 51 FNQR completed 645 days on Operation Resolute during 2020–22. Apart from detecting and deterring the movement of prohibited imports and exports, and the illegal exploitation of natural resources, the operation included support to whole-of-government efforts to protect far north Queensland communities from COVID-19.

Recognising the important role 51 FNQR plays for both Army and Australia, Lieutenant-General Burr thanked the regiment for its work and dedication. “This visit to Thursday Island and the Torres Strait Islands is an opportunity for me to personally recognise 51 FNQR,” he said. “Their efforts over an extended period of high operational tempo, with deployments over the past two years to Operation Resolute, are just the examples of Army’s values that all units should embody.”

Australian Border Force (ABF) Acting Inspector for the Torres Strait, Hannah Standen, said it was great to witness the addition of a new vessel to the ADF’s littoral fleet. “The ABF and ADF have worked hand-in-hand for many years now in the Torres Strait, so it’s really positive to see a further increase in our collective maritime capabilities within this remote region,” she said.

(Source: Defence News)

## **Navy**

### **Navy helicopter in emergency evacuation at sea**

Royal Australian Navy safely evacuated an unwell merchant mariner from the bulk carrier *Sea Angel* on 2 May, about 200 nautical miles off the south-east coast of Victoria. Due to the distance offshore and limited daylight, civilian emergency services were not able to conduct a medevac safely and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority Response Centre requested assistance from the frigate HMAS *Parramatta*.

*Parramatta*’s MH-60R Seahawk helicopter winched the patient from the deck of *Sea Angel* for transport to Merimbula airport where he was met by the NSW Ambulance Service. Commanding Officer HMAS *Parramatta*, Commander David Murphy, said the ship was well prepared to conduct the evacuation.

“On this occasion the vast distance from shore and limited day light meant that civilian emergency services helicopters were unable to reach the *Sea Angel*,” he said. “The Navy’s Seahawk helicopter can fly at night and in all weather conditions.

“We continuously train and maintain a high degree of readiness for these types of emergencies. We’re deeply committed to the safety of our fellow mariners and we wish the unwell sailor a speedy recovery.”

HMAS *Parramatta*, which is based at Garden Island in Sydney, was off the coast of Victoria at the time conducting a period of routine certification training.

(Source: Contact)



A single MH-60 Romeo helicopter (photo digitally altered) conducts a running take off during first-of-class flight trials onboard HMAS Adelaide.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison was at HMAS Albatross, Nowra, NSW, in April to announce the purchase of 13 new MH-60R Seahawk helicopters for the Royal Australian Navy. Lockheed Martin Australia welcomed the announcement of the MH-60R helicopter fleet expansion.

Through this acquisition, the Royal Australian Navy will acquire 13 additional MH-60Rs from the United States Navy, one to replace an aircraft lost in a crash near the Philippines last year and 12 to increase the rotary wing fleet to 36 (replacing MRH90). Lockheed Martin Australia CEO Warren McDonald welcomed the AU\$2.5billion announcement of the maritime-helicopter capability expansion.

“This additional growth further enhances the Royal Australian Navy’s rotary-wing capability and increases operational flexibility to transition from anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare to maritime utility and support missions using the multi-role capability of the MH-60R Seahawk,” Mr McDonald said.

“The expanded MH-60R Seahawk fleet provides strong economic opportunities for Australian industry that will generate more employment, supply chain spending, and partnerships with small to medium enterprises in the Shoalhaven region. “Our Sikorsky Australia team has an exceptional track record as a trusted partner to the Royal Australian Navy in sustaining this critical capability with excellence. “We welcome the opportunity to expand on this mission to protect Australia’s national interests.”

Lockheed Martin’s company, Sikorsky Australia, is the RAN’s industry partner for delivering deep- and intermediate-level maintenance services for the MH-60R Seahawk.

For over 30 years, Sikorsky Australia has sustained the RAN’s Seahawks and the Australian Army’s Black Hawk helicopters, with a team that has grown to 250, including 195 skilled aviation engineers, technicians, and training and logistics employees based at the Nowra headquarters

(Source: Contact)





The crew of Armidale-class patrol boat HMAS *Ararat* conducted the final freedom of entry parade in the western Victorian town of Ararat on May 7, with the ship to be decommissioned in June.

The freedom of entry parade dates back to medieval times when trusted military units were granted permission to enter walled towns to replenish victuals and arms. Commanding Officer of HMAS *Ararat*, Lieutenant Commander David Martinussen, said it was a great honour to lead his ship's company through the streets of Ararat. "On behalf of my entire ship's company, I'd like to thank the Ararat Rural City Council for making us feel so welcome and for awarding us Freedom of Entry," Lieutenant Commander Martinussen said.

"Freedom of entry is the highest honour a town or city can award a military unit and we are privileged to have received this mark of trust and respect from the people of Ararat. "The crew is pleased to have had the opportunity to reconnect with and say a proper farewell before we decommission later this year."

HMAS *Ararat* is one of Navy's 11 remaining Armidale-class patrol boats in service.

The Armidale's, along with two Cape-class vessels, are the Australian Defence Force's principal contribution to the nation's fisheries protection, immigration, customs and drug law-enforcement operations.

*Ararat* is the second ship named after the Victorian town, with the first being a World War II corvette that saw action in various theatres including the Pacific and Papua New Guinea.

*Ararat*, which came into service in 2006, will be decommissioned in June as Navy transitions from the Armidale-class patrol boat to the Arafura-class offshore patrol vessels. Lieutenant Commander David Martinussen said the freedom of entry parade was a fitting way to reinforce Navy's relationship with Ararat.

“Like all of Navy’s patrol boats, *Ararat* has made a significant contribution to the security and defence of Australia’s sea lanes, and I’m sure that all the ship’s company, both past and present, are genuinely proud of *Ararat*’s service,” he said.

(Source: Defence News)

## Army



Musician Francis White sounds the Last Post during the Commonwealth memorial service at Gallipoli, Turkey.

The haunting tune of a lone bugler sounding the Last Post during the dawn service on Anzac Day is emotive and powerful for all Australians. This year at Anzac Cove in Turkey, it was especially poignant for the Australian Army Band bugler, who reflected on his family’s proud connection to the battlefield.

Army Musician Francis White, from Adelaide, was part of the Australian Defence Force contingent supporting the commemorative ceremonies at Gallipoli on 25 April.

Musician White honoured his great-grandfather Captain Francis Michael White, who served as a lieutenant with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Regiment at Gallipoli in 1915.

Like many who fought at Gallipoli, Lieutenant White was struck down with illness during the campaign and was sent to a hospital ship for recovery. Also, like many other Australians who served at Gallipoli and returned, he brought back seedlings from Lone Pine and buried them at Port Wakefield in South Australia.

Musician White joined a compatriot from the New Zealand Army Band to sound the Last Post and Reveille at Anzac Cove. He performed at a similar moving Anzac Day ceremony at Sandakan, Malaysia, in 2019.

“It is an honour to serve in my role as an ambassador for Australia, commemorating the service and sacrifice of soldiers who are now out of living memory, yet whose actions were

critical to our freedom and identity over one hundred years later. This is an incredible personal journey for me to better understand the experience of my ancestors,” Musician White said.

The family military history covers service in both world wars, with his grandfather serving in the Royal Air Force in Northern Ireland. He then transferred to the Royal Australian Air Force as a Catalina pilot and navigator in WWII, and served in the Indian, Pacific, and European theatres. “I honestly can’t think of a greater personal honour than this opportunity to commemorate at the campaign location of my great-grandfather,” Musician White said.

The Australia’s Federation Guard and Australian Army Band, working with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, also conducted a commemorative service at the Australian Memorial at Lone Pine.

(Source: Contact)



Lieutenant Colonel Chris McKay at the memorial for the Battle of Semakh, at Kinneret Academic College, Israel.

How brave must someone be to charge on horseback at night when the ground can’t be seen?

A clue to the answer lies with an Australian Light Horse memorial tucked away inside Kinneret Academic College grounds, near where the Australians’ sacrifice at the Battle of Semakh during World War I is honoured.

Australian Army officer Lieutenant Colonel Chris McKay is with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in the Middle East, serving with Chief Observer Group Golan, Tiberia.

His duties have allowed him to visit the memorial, where he reflected on the bravery of those it commemorated. "I'm cavalry, and not knowing it was there before posting to Israel, I had mixed emotions visiting the memorial the first time," Lieutenant Colonel McKay said. "It's a heroic episode in the history of the Australian Army. This was one of the last cavalry charges in modern warfare."

On 25 September 1918, men from the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment and one squadron of the 12<sup>th</sup> rode for two hours with orders to take Semakh junction, the strategic gateway to the whole of Galilee, positioned on the Damascus railway line.

At 4.30am, the force advanced in absolute darkness, and as the enemy opened fire a squadron commander shouted, "What orders, colonel?" "Form line and charge the gun," Lieutenant Colonel John Parsons replied.

In response, the light horse did the unthinkable and charged towards the flashing muzzles before them.

Adding to the danger, the Germans had added machine gunners to the small Turkish garrison, with the guns concealed in railway trucks and carriages at the station. Entrenched in the stone buildings of the station house, the enemy had orders to hold the position at all costs. As dawn neared, hand-to-hand combat took place at the last stronghold, the station house.

By 5.30am it was over. Horses lay scattered across the battlefield and the dead were lined up in rows covered in Army blankets: 14 Australians were killed and 29 wounded, with 61 horses dead and 27 injured, a loss of nearly half the horses.

98 enemy were killed and 364 captured, of whom 150 were German.

The memorial at Semakh was designed by Australian artist Jennifer Marshall. It depicts an Aboriginal trooper Jack Pollard, of the 11<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment, tending to the grave of a fallen mate.

The 20th reinforcement contingent of the 11<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment was made up mostly of Aboriginal members. The council for the Preservation of Heritage Sites in Israel and the Kinneret Academic College, built and maintain the area.

"Ziv Ofir and a group of volunteers look after it and they are passionate about it," Lieutenant Colonel McKay said. "You can see the amount of effort and funding that goes into the development and conservation of the sight."



The replica rail car, which was added to the memorial site in April.

In early April a new exhibit was unveiled, a replica of a railway car powered by an aeroplane propeller engine. The replica is to scale, measuring 460cm long and 210cm wide. "I have never seen anything like it before," Lieutenant Colonel McKay said.

In 1918, Jewish inventor Baruch Katinka was tasked with developing a small rail car that would enable pilots to travel to Haifa. The engine that Katinka received was 160 horsepower, far exceeding that needed for a small rail car.

On its maiden voyage, the rail car reached speeds of more than 80km/h. With minor modifications to change the drive, three more were commissioned.

The story is told that after the German's retreated, Australian pilots heard there was an abandoned plane engine-powered rail car with propeller propulsion, and decided to investigate. "You can just imagine it. These Australian's finding it and deciding to see how fast it could really go," Lieutenant Colonel McKay said. Taking the rail car for a joyride, the Australian's soon discovered there were no brakes. As it hurtled around a curve on the track, the rail car apparently flipped.

(Source: Defence News)

## Air Force



Former Air Force P-3 Orion flight engineers Warrant Officer (Retd) Dave Jones (right) and Warrant Officer (Retd) Steve Shuck (centre) at the P-3 Orion A9-754 memorial display unveiling at RAAF Base Edinburgh in Adelaide.

A routine flight home to Australia 31 years ago turned into a tragedy for the ADF members on board P-3C Orion A9-754 and an event Air Force will never forget.

On 26 April 1991, a No. 10 Squadron Lockheed Orion was taking off from the airfield on West Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands to return to RAAF Base Edinburgh when it suffered a mid-air emergency and ditched into the shallow water of the Rumah Baru lagoon. As it hit the water, number two propeller sheared off and penetrated the fuselage where it struck and killed Flying Officer Tom Henniker. All others on board survived.

Each year, Air Force remembers this tragedy and the loss of Flying Officer Henniker and last month members from all three services gathered to view a special new memorial created for permanent display in the sergeants' mess at RAAF Base Edinburgh.

Creating a permanent memorial legacy with components from the aircraft was an honour that No. 11 Squadron's aircraft structural technicians (ASTTECH) were proud to take on. Corporal Corey Eime and Sergeant Craig Schippan described it as an artistic representation of a Lockheed P-3C Orion observer's window. "We included the gentle curve of the aircraft fuselage finished in the original platform series of white over grey livery," said Corporal Eime.

“The roundel is a section of original wing plank cut from the aircraft during its salvage recovery and mounted behind the observer’s window. “We wanted the piece to be visually striking yet respect the mournful nature of the event. I feel the high gloss finish of the aircraft frame beside the raw, distressed finish of the original aircraft component captures this.”

The process of creating this memorial legacy has been cathartic for many long-term Air Force members and has strengthened mateship for others. “Senior service members from outside the section watched it evolve and shared their stories of the aircraft or its salvage recovery with members who are newer to Air Force and our family culture,” said Corporal Eime.

Sergeant Craig Schippan said No. 11 Squadron’s contribution to the memorial stemmed from Corporal Eime’s creative idea to simulate the aft observer’s window. “Corporal Eime was a real driver behind our team building this display, which was all done by hand in a similar fashion as an aircraft is built,” said Sergeant Schippan. “All ASTTECH members contributed to this legacy, working on it between aircraft maintenance tasks and in their own time to complete and display the memorial in time for this year’s commemoration.”

Commanding Officer of No. 10 Squadron, Wing Commander Marija Jovanovich, said the loss of Flying Officer Tom Henniker and aircraft 754 left an indelible mark on the collective consciousness of the squadron. “Even though the tragedy occurred 31 years ago, the mark persists today and will continue to do so in the future,” said Wing Commander Jovanovich. “This poignant new memorial finally gives us a physical focal point for the grief and memory that surround this tragedy here at RAAF Base Edinburgh. “It is a powerful tribute, and I have nothing but deep thanks and admiration for those who have made it a reality.”

(Source: Contact)



Chief of the Royal Australian Air Force Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld and Major General Mark Goina, Chief of Papua New Guinea Defence Force, shake hands after signing an aviation safety memorandum of understanding at Air Transport Wing in Port Moresby.

Australia is lending a helping hand in getting the air arm of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) back on its feet after many years out of the skies.

Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Chief of PNGDF in Port Moresby as part of ongoing efforts to assist in building up Papua New Guinea's air capability through measures including plane maintenance and staff training. The MoU between the Royal Australian Air Force and the Papua New Guinea Defence Aviation Authority aims to enhance and improve the aviation safety and capability of the PNGDF.

Air Marshal Hupfeld said it was an effective way of providing support to our close neighbour at a particularly important time for the region. "The Australian government has made it very clear it's important that we recognise the significance and the security of our region," Air Marshal Hupfeld said. "What's important though is that PNG makes its own choices about their security and their sovereignty. "What I'd like to do as the Chief of Air Force is to be in a position to assist, as we are doing through this program, and support the PNGDF aviation arm."

Air Marshal Hupfeld was in Papua New Guinea at the end of April leading a RAAF delegation attending a number of events commemorating Anzac Day.

This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a critical year of World War II for Papua New Guinea, many sacrifices on the battlefields and the remarkable adversity faced during the Kokoda campaign. The month of April 1942 was a time of particularly bitter fighting in the skies above Papua New Guinea as Japanese aircraft flew down from Rabaul and Lae to attack Port Moresby and surrounding areas.

To commemorate the historic events of 80 years ago, Air Marshal Hupfeld and the delegation attended a dawn service at Bomana to honour the almost 3500 fallen Australians and other Commonwealth troops, and at least 32 PNG soldiers buried there. The delegation also took the opportunity to visit the Isurava Memorial, which was the scene of one of the bloodiest battles of the Kokoda campaign, before heading to Efogi near Mission Ridge and Brigade Hill, where another fearsome battle occurred in 1942.

(Source: Contact)

## **Quiz**

### **Quiz Questions**

1. Name the Ship. The name of this city has three As and two Rs. After that it's time for tea.

### **Answers Quiz Questions in Tribute No 11**

1. What is the name of the first Evolved Cape-class patrol boat?  
**Answer;** Cape Otway
2. Who is the first Defence Space Commander?  
**Answer:** Air Vice-Marshall Catherine Roberts
3. What is the name of the 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander?  
**Answer;** Brigadier Greg Novak
4. What colour is the HQ 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade colour patch?



**Answer:** Red

5. What do the common defence terms mean?

- Adgie – **Answer:** Airfield Defence Guard
- Beagle – **Answer:** Navy Stewart
- Birdie – **Answer:** Fleet Air Arm sailor/officer
- Grunt – **Answer:** ‘Government Reject Unfit for Normal Training’ a term coined by other corps about infantry soldiers
- Middy – **Answer:** Midshipman

## Show and Tell

### Project Wundurra and Project Land 125

In Australia the soldier of the future project started off during 1993-95 with Project Wundurra (Aboriginal for Warrior) run by the Army and supported by the Defence Science. Project Wundurra soon became Project Land 125; the Soldiers Combat System Project and it continues to run.

In an article published in The Australian Army in Profile 1998 Lieutenant Colonel Iain Cruickshank stated that the aim of Project Land 125 was to, “optimise the capabilities of the combat soldier and combat units as effective, integrated systems for the next century. In so doing, this total system, including everything the soldier wears, consumes, uses, trains and interacts with, will be integrated. This includes weapons, night fighting equipment, individual combat load carrying equipment, communications equipment and clothing.”



## Combat Clothing – East Timor

The AUSCAM combat clothing and ICLE was worn by Australian soldiers deployed to East Timor from 1999. Initially Australian soldiers wore the same flak jackets that had been worn in Somalia. However, later 1999 and into 2000 the sudden appearance of Australian the infantrymen wearing combat body armour (CBA) with US Army Woodland Pattern camouflage covers was an indication that Australia had made an urgent purchase of the body armour from the USA. This body armour set for an individual consisted of hard ballistic plates, front and rear that provided protection against small arms fire. This was probably the first time that Australian soldiers had been issued with body armour with ballistic plates outside the Special Forces Counter Terrorist Response Teams. In addition to water bottles and water bladders in carriers many soldiers used backpack Camelbak bladders to assist with hydration on the move.

To be continued



A new AMCU baseball-style cap will roll out across Army this year, as an alternative to the bush hat.

This style of field headdress will allow soldiers and commanders an alternative headdress when operating in different environments, such as in vehicles and on boats.

ADF Clothing Manager Sandy McInerney said it was also an alternative form of headdress for soldiers conducting domestic operations as directed by unit commanders.

The new cap is to be worn with field dress, but individual units will have the final say on which headdress is worn out field.

The caps, which will have a hook-and-pile patch at the front to support the wearing of ANF patches, will roll out in two phases, with personnel in north and south Queensland, Darwin, South Australia and Sydney metropolitan areas receiving issues between in May.

Sydney regional areas, Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT units will receive caps from May to August.

“The baseball cap has been an item that’s been desired by personnel for a long time. Army is in a position where it can make these smaller modernisations happen,” Ms McInerney said.

Navy and Air Force will also adopt the AMCU baseball cap when the AMCU uniform is worn by their respective personnel.

(Source: Army Newspaper)

## **INVICTUS Games**

Seven days of competition saw 500 wounded, injured and sick serving and former military personnel from 20 nations compete at the Invictus Games, The Hague in the Netherlands.

Team Australia finished the games with a plethora of medals, but that is not what the Invictus Games are all about. The event is unique as there is no competitive medal tally between nations. The event is designed to inspire and celebrate competitor's journeys through recovery and rehabilitation.



From left, Minister for Immigration Alex Hawke MP, Australian Invictus Games team co-captains Corporal Sarah Petchell and Sergeant Shane Bramley at the Australian Invictus Games team announcement, Victoria Barracks, NSW

The Next Invictus Games will be held in Dusseldorf Germany in September 2023.



The Australian Team, arrive in The Hague

## Humour and Poetry



### MY ANZAC ON THE WALL

I wandered thru a country town, 'cos I had some time to spare,  
And went into an antique shop to see what was in there.  
Old Bikes and pumps and kero lamps, but hidden by it all,  
A photo of a soldier boy – an Anzac on the Wall.

'The Anzac have a name?' I asked. The old man answered 'No'.  
The ones who could have told me mate, have passed on long ago.  
The old man kept on talking and, according to his tale,  
The photo was unwanted junk bought from a clearance sale.

I asked around', the old man said, 'but no-one knows his face,  
He's been on that wall twenty years... Deserves a better place.  
For some-one must have loved him, so it seems a shame somehow.'  
I nodded in agreement and then said, 'I'll take him now.'

My nameless digger's photo, well it was a sorry sight  
A cracked glass pane and a broken frame – I had to make it right  
To prise the photo from its frame I took care just in case,  
Cause only sticky paper held the cardboard back in place.

I peeled away the faded screeed and much to my surprise,  
Two letters and a telegram appeared before my eyes  
The first reveals my Anzac's name, and regiment of course  
John Mathew Francis Stuart – of Australia's own Light Horse.  
This letter written from the front... My interest now was keen  
This note was dated August seventh 1917  
'Dear Mum, I'm at Khalasa Springs not far from the Red Sea  
They say it's in the Bible – looks like a Billabong to me.  
'My Kathy wrote I'm in her prayers... she's still my bride to be  
I just can't wait to see you both, you're all the world to me.  
And Mum you'll soon meet Bluey, last month they shipped him out  
I told him to call on you when he's up and about.'  
'That bluey is a larrikin, and we all thought it funny  
He lobbed a Turkish hand grenade into the CO's dunny.  
I told you how he dragged me wounded, in from no man's land  
He stopped the bleeding, closed the wound, with only his bare hand.'  
'Then he copped it at the front from some stray shrapnel blast  
It was my turn to drag him in and I thought he wouldn't last.  
He woke up in hospital, and nearly lost his mind  
Cause out there on the battlefield he'd left one leg behind.'  
'He's been in a bad way Mum, he knows he'll ride no more  
Like me he loves a horse's back, he was a champ before.  
So Please Mum can you take him in, he's been like my own brother  
Raised in a Queensland orphanage he's never known a mother.'  
But Struth, I miss Australia Mum, and in my mind each day  
I am a mountain cattleman on high plains far away.  
I'm mustering white-faced cattle, with no camel's hump in sight  
And I waltz my Matilda by a campfire every night  
I wonder who rides Billy, I heard the pub burnt down  
I'll always love you and please say hooroo to all in town'.  
The second letter I could see, was in a lady's hand  
An answer to her soldier son there in a foreign land.  
Her copperplate was perfect, the pages neat and clean  
It bore the date, November 3rd 1917.  
'T'was hard enough to lose your dad, without you at the war  
I'd hoped you would be home by now – each day I miss you more'  
'Your Kathy calls around a lot since you have been away  
To share with me her hopes and dreams about your wedding day.  
And Bluey has arrived – and what a godsend he has been  
We talked and laughed for days about the things you've done and seen'  
'He really is a comfort, and works hard around the farm,  
I read the same hope in his eyes that you won't come to harm.  
McConnell's kids rode Billy, but suddenly that changed.  
We had a violent lightning storm, and it was really strange.'  
'Last Wednesday, just on midnight, not a single cloud in sight,  
It raged for several minutes, it gave us all a fright.

It really spooked your Billy – and he screamed and bucked and reared  
And then he rushed the sliprail fence, which by a foot he cleared’  
‘They brought him back next afternoon, but something’s changed I fear  
It’s like the day you brought him home, for no one can get near.  
Remember when you caught him with his black and flowing mane?  
Now horse breakers fear the beast that only you can tame,’  
‘That’s why we need you home son’ – then the flow of ink went dry-  
This letter was unfinished, and I couldn’t work out why.  
Until I started reading, the letter number three  
A yellow telegram delivered news of tragedy,  
Her son killed in action – oh – what pain that must have been  
The same date as her letter – 3rd November 1917  
This letter which was never sent, became then one of three  
She sealed behind the photo’s face – the face she longed to see.  
And John’s home town’s old timers – children when he went to war  
Would say no greater cattleman had left the town before.  
They knew his widowed mother well – and with respect did tell  
How when she lost her only boy, she lost her mind as well.  
She could not face the awful truth, to strangers she would speak  
‘My Johnny’s at the war you know, he’s coming home next week.’  
They all remembered Bluey he stayed on to the end.  
A younger man with wooden leg became her closest friend.  
And he would go and find her when she wandered old and weak  
And always softly say ‘yes dear – John will be home next week.’  
Then when she died Bluey moved on, to Queensland some did say.  
I tried to find out where he went, but don’t know to this day.  
And Kathy never wed – a lonely spinster some found odd.  
She wouldn’t set foot in a church – she’d turned her back on God.  
John’s mother left no Will I learned on my detective trail.  
This explains my photo’s journey, of that clearance sale.  
So, I continued digging, because I wanted to know more.  
I found John’s name with thousands, in the records of the war.  
His last ride proved his courage – a ride you will acclaim  
The Light Horse Charge at Beersheba of everlasting fame.  
That last day in October, back in 1917  
At 4pm our brave boys fell – that sad fact I did glean.  
That’s when John’s life was sacrificed, the record’s crystal clear  
But 4pm in Beersheba is midnight over here.....  
So as John’s gallant spirit rose to cross the great divide,  
Were lightning bolts back home, a signal from the other side?  
Is that why Billy bolted and went racing as in pain?  
Because he’d never feel his master on his back again?  
Was it coincidental? same time – same day – same date?  
Some proof of numerology, or just a quirk of fate?  
I think it’s more than that you know, as I’ve heard wiser men,  
Acknowledge there are many things that go beyond our ken

Where craggy peaks guard secrets 'neath dark skies torn asunder,  
Where hoof-beats are companions to the rolling waves of thunder  
Where lightning cracks like 303's and ricochets again  
Where howling moaning gusts of wind sound just like dying men.

Some Mountain cattlemen have sworn on lonely alpine track,  
They've glimpsed a huge black stallion – Light Horseman on his back.  
Yes sceptics say, it's swirling clouds just forming apparitions  
Oh no, my friend you can't dismiss all this as superstition.

The desert of Beersheba – or windswept Aussie range,  
John Stuart rides on forever there – Now I don't find that strange.

Now some gaze upon this photo, and they often question me  
And I tell them a small white lie, and say he's family.

'You must be proud of him.' they say – I tell them, one and all,  
That's why he takes – the pride of place – my Anzac on the Wall.

Source: Poem by Jim Brown)

(Editor: Jim is a former Primary Schoolteacher, Police Officer in N.Z. where he was born and where he also commenced a career as TV Journalist before moving to Melbourne.)



## **The state of the Ruzzian military**

**A Russian wife turned to her husband and asked, "What's this special military operation our glorious leader keeps talking about?"**

**Her husband replied, "It's a proxy war between Russia and NATO."**

**"Oh, right. How's it going?"**

**"Well," he replied, "so far we've lost 24,000 soldiers, 2,000 tanks, 200 aircraft, numerous helicopters, and loads of armoured vehicles and artillery pieces. and our flag ship along with other naval pieces"**

**"Wow! What about NATO?"**

**"They haven't turned up yet."**

## Important Days in June

2 June 2001 – Commissioning of HMAS Gascoyne (11)

6 June 2011 – Sapper Rowan Jaie Robinson Incident Response Regt RAE – died from small arms fire during Operation Slipper, Afghanistan

7 June 2010 – Sapper Jacob Daniel Moerland and Sapper Darren James Smith 2 CER died from an IED explosion during Operation Slipper, Afghanistan

7 June 2010 – Explosive Detection dog HERBIE – whilst on foot patrol died from an IED explosion during Operation slipper, Afghanistan

10 – 15 June 2010 – Battle of Shah Wali Kot

11 June 2010 – Ben Roberts Smith actions resulted in him being awarded the Victoria Cross

12 June 1996 – Black Hawk disaster Townsville

Mid June 2021 – All Military personnel withdrawn from Afghanistan

19 June 2009 – 4 RAR Commando re named 2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Regiment.

21 June 2010 – Private Benjamin Adam Chuck, Private Scott Travis Palmer and Private Timothy James Aplin 2 Cdo Regt – died in a helicopter crash during Operation Slipper in Afghanistan.

21 June 1984 – Defence Force School of Music

21 June 1993 – Major Susan Felsche RAAMC died in an aircraft crash in Western Sahara

22 June 2013 – Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird VC, MG 2 Cdo Regt – Died from small arms fire during Operation Slipper, Afghanistan

23 June 2007 – Commissioning of HMAS Wollongong (111)

24 June 2005 – Commissioning of HMAS Armidale (11)

25 June 2012 – Explosive Detection Dog QUAKE – died from a gunshot wound during Operation Slipper, Afghanistan

26 June 2004 – Commissioning of HMAS Ballarat (11)

30 June 1975 – 109<sup>th</sup> Signal Squadron

30 June 1996 – 5<sup>th</sup> Field Engineer Regiment

June 2013 – Corporal Cameron Baird actions resulted in him being awarded the Victoria Cross

## 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 style="text-align: center;"><b><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS</u></b> <b><u>AND DATE</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 July – AGM</li> <li>• 10 September – Bimonthly Meeting</li> <li>• 14 – 16 October – Military Spectacular</li> <li>• 11 November – Remembrance Day</li> <li>• 12 November – Bimonthly Meeting</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>FELLOWS of MHPA</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Meyers</li> <li>• Anthony Staunton</li> <li>• Donald Wright</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NEW MEMBERS</u></b></p>
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**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 .....

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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:

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