



**Respect, Gratitude, Admiration**

# *TRIBUTE*

The Newsletter of the Military  
Historical Society Australia,  
Queensland Division

President: Neil Dearberg  
Website: [www.mhsa.org.au](http://www.mhsa.org.au)

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Nine members of 5 Platoon, B Company, 6RAR. By the end of Operation Bribie three of these young men were dead and five had been wounded. Only one emerged from the battle unscathed. Image courtesy of J. O'Halloran.

(Source: AWM)

## **President Report**

We remember the presence in our membership of Allan Limpus and Jim Molan, both who passed away recently. See more later in this Tribute.

It's astounding the quality we have in our own ranks. At the last meeting in Hervey Bay (and thanks to Ray Eustice and the HB RSL for their hospitality) Cameron Elmes gave a terrific presentation on his trip and the history of the British nuclear tests at Maralinga SA. Russell Paten told us of his research from just the name "Donald" on postcards to discover a remarkable personal and military history of Donald McKillop.

Our next meeting is 11 March to be held with the Gympie Aero Club at the Gympie aerodrome Kybong. An open day and static display of warbirds, military jeeps (courtesy of Ron Sutton one of our valued senior members), gliders, parachute drops, recreational aircraft with sausage sizzle, coffee, cold drinks and hopefully, an RAAF officer to talk about our modern air force aircraft and their roles. Please see the attached flyer at the end of Tribute.

Secretary Ian has come up with another brilliant edition for you. Be sure to read the "Two Stories" from beginning to end of both - you will get a surprise.

As I advised at the last meeting, come the AGM meeting in July both Ian and I are stepping down from our roles as secretary/treasurer and president. Please give thought to nominating yourself or another to fill these roles.

Make a diary note for the open day on 11 March and look forward to sharing "some air" with you at the aerodrome.

## **From the Editor**

Happy New Year and welcome to the first edition No 19 of *TRIBUTE* for 2023.

Unfortunately, we start the year with the passing of two of our well-known members, Allan Stewart Limpus and Jim Molan. Both known for not only their interest in Military History but for their lives work. I personally did not know either very well but the time I spent with them, Allan at meetings and Jim in my military career I will always remember them for what they believed in. Thank you to Allan Fuary and Russell Linwood for the assistance in the Tributes that appear below. I thought it important to tell both their stories as lead articles in this edition.

Also in this edition is the first part of an article also provided by Allan Fuary, "A band of heroes" A very brief history of C Company, Rockhampton, Queensland Scottish Volunteer Corps, compiled by Brian Rough, which will appear in the next few editions. Many of the regular sections are back, but I have replaced the quiz this year with AIF slang.

Enjoy the read.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF AUSTRALIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE VIETNAM

The last Australian troops left Vietnam in December 1972 and Australia's war officially ended on 11 January 1973 with a proclamation by Governor-General Paul Hasluck. Almost 60,000 Australians from all three services served in Vietnam. More than 3,000 service personnel were wounded and 521 lost their lives. The Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial remembers the courage and sacrifice of all those who served.

In 2023, the Australian Government will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, culminating with a National Commemorative Service in Canberra on 18 August 2023

### Vale – Allan Limpus

by Ian Curtis and Allan Fuary



Allan Stewart Limpus was born 3 October 1931 in Bundaberg. He attended Bundaberg West-Side State School, Bundaberg High and later went to Scots College, Warwick. After leaving school he worked for his father, went into Real Estate, was involved with the Bundaberg Fruit Markets from their start. After 25 years he sold his share of the fruit business to his partner. He was involved in the Scouting movement from a cub to becoming a Group Scout Leader. He was involved with the Young Australian League, the local amateur players, loved roller skating, water ski, fishing. He was also involved with the local Volunteer Sea Rescue

Service and the Civil Defence joining in 1966 and transferring to the SES, Neighbourhood watch and 50 years' service to Rotary.

Allan was a stamp collector, shell collector, coin collector and a military historian. He is internationally recognised shell expert, a speaker, judge and has a shell named after him. His Volute collection is now located in the Australian Museum in Canberra.

Most of all Allan was a family man. He met his future wife Joan at a dance in Maryborough. Their children Lynette, Andrew, Jenny and Colin all have fond memories of their father. Andrew said of his father, 'He was my mentor and mate'. Allan really enjoyed his time as a member of MHSA and the friendship and camaraderie of the Queensland members.

At his funeral, Allan Fuary spoke about Allan's, Military History interests and has kindly provided his tribute to Allan Limpus below.

*'I first met Allan in 1997 not long after moving to Bundy from Rockhampton. He came into the chemist at Sugarland on a regular basis to get his film processed. Having a chat, he said that he collected shells & would I like to drop around after work to have a look? Well, I was very excited to have a look at his artillery shell collection. Imagine my surprise when he showed me his "sea shell" collection. Luckily for me he had been collecting military medals & such for a while as well.*

*Seeing my love for all things military Al dropped into work to see me one lunch hour with a box full of books on Gallipoli. I thanked him & said I would have them back to him in a few weeks' time. His reply was no, they are your books now, I have doubles of them at home. He would not accept payment for them either.*

*Any way from that day to this we were joined at the hip so to speak! It was not long before we met Cain & his talent at mounting medals! On that fateful day the three musketeers were born! Many a pleasant evening was spent indulging in our new found friendship, talking shop, spending Al's money on Ebay, indulging in the odd bottle of good quality scotch & late night pizza deliveries!*

*The last one of these nights Al & I polished off an entire bottle of scotch & had started on the second. It was about 10 or 11 when Cain said who wants pizza. Al stole the large meat-lovers pizza & promptly ate the lot!*

*It was not long before we were haunting op shops & markets looking for that next treasure to add to our collections. Every 3 months or so we would head down to Brisbane to attend a military fair where we would spend more of Al's money. The Saturday evening, we all would turn up at the Norman Hotel in Brisbane for a nice big fat juicy steak! The next morning, we would do the show again & hopefully get away just after lunch for the 4 hour trip home.*

*The three Musketeers did not need the radio to entertain them. We used to regale each other with stories about anything & everything for the whole journey home!*

*One of the Musketeers great adventures was a trip to Canberra to visit the Australian War Memorial. We had got in touch with the AWM a few weeks before we left & we were able to book a "guide" who let us visit places not normally open to the public. It was fascinating being guided through the Conservation rooms & the Treloar Centre where we had a hands-on look at the restoration in progress of a WW1 Tank.*

*Al had some fantastic stories to tell about growing up in Bundy to his motorbike days & his first meeting with what would be the love of his life, Joan. Joan would not go out with him or his motor-bike to start with but he put on the Limpus charm & the rest as they say is history.*

*Joan would wait on us whenever we were visiting with a fantastic lunch followed by her award-winning Coffee Cake. I would congratulate her on the health of the Orchid she had on the bench each time I was at the table. She would take my compliments with thanks before Al whispered in my ear one day that the Orchard was plastic!*

*Sleep-overs were great with Cain dropping around after dinner for the standard surfing of the picture wireless (ie Ebay) to check out what Al needed to bid on! Joan would poke her head around the corner to see who wanted a cold drink or a coffee or tea. Breakfast was to die for with steak & eggs regularly on the menu.*

*As Al & Andrew had already visited the Gallipoli Peninsular for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the landing the both of them were a fountain of information when I & a couple of school mates decided to do the same. Al hosted a slide night at his place to give us a look at where we would be going; what clothing to take & where to stay, etc etc. Al's & Andrew's firsthand knowledge of the Gallipoli Peninsular stood us in good stead for our visit.*

*It wasn't long after I met Al that he tripped over at the local newsagency & busted his knee really bad. He was confined to bed for a month or so. I would drop around daily to make sure he had enough reading material & let him know what he had missed out on Ebay. We discussed all sort's of tales both long & short & before we knew it the day was over. Our friendship really grew in those few weeks.*

*I treasured the time I spent with Al. The escapades we got up too are some of the greatest memories I have & no subject was out of bounds! On one of these occasions, we had taken my new Porsche to go to Maryborough for a meeting of the MHSA. It was perfect weather so the top was down & we stretched it's legs & blew out the cob-webs here & there. You could not wipe the grin from Al's face for most of that trip. In his words it reminded him of his motor cycle days! Boys will be boys after all!*

*Both Cain & myself tried for years to stop him playing with sea-shells but nothing would sway him. We both thought we had won when he sold his entire collection to the Australian Museum in Canberra. Only to have him start a new collection of sea-shells a month later.*

*One of our more passionate quests was to discover the story of Bundaberg's VC winner. This all stemmed from a faded cutting from a local 1920's newspaper found under some kitchen Lino that was being replaced. The three musketeers managed to get ourselves on the front page of the paper with a picture of us around this bloke un-marked grave in the Bundy Cemetery. We liked to think we were famous for a damn sight more than 15 seconds.*

*Our next 15 seconds of fame was a display the three of us put in one of the pavilions at the Bundy show in 2001 I think. The display won first prize & we have the silk pennant to prove it!*

*Our biggest 15 seconds of fame was an invite to attend the Roma Centenary of the first tree being planted in Roma's Avenue of honour. For each WWI casualty from the Roma district the council planted a tree for each one.*

*Al, Tom Moir, myself & Andrew accepted & we put on a fantastic display of Al's medal collection & both myself & Andrew's military collections. A terrific week was had by all & it was fair to say we were all shagged afterwards.*

*We spent every day dressed as military re-enactors with Al lording it over us all by wearing the uniform of a Colonel while Andrew & I were humble WWI diggers! Tom wore the kilted uniform of the Qld Scottish Volunteer Corps circa 1891 & was a real treat with the ladies!*

*The Governor of Queensland Quentin Bryce & General Peter Cosgrove were invited dignitaries for the event & both of them were fascinated at the collection we had on show.*

*One of our more regular adventures was to attend the Historical Arms Collectors shoot at Eidsvold over the ANZAC week-end with Al yet again pulling rank with his Colonel's outfit. Andrew was asked to speak at the service & you could tell that Al was a proud Dad with several attendees congratulating him on his son's speech.*

*I have lost count of the many experiences that Al & I got up too. Every one of them was an eye-opener with the odd tear jerker dropped in here & there. There was never a dull moment & I consider my time spent with him way to short. He was a friend, a mentor a confidant & a shoulder to lean on, the superlatives go on & on.*

*They say it takes a minute to find a special person. An hour to appreciate them. A day to love them. And an entire life to forget them. I am proud & humbled to call my mate Allan a very special person.....'*

Allan Stewart Limpus was Mr Bundaberg and left a legacy way beyond it (he got things done). He will be missed by many. The authors cannot do him justice.

His coffin was given a guard of honour as it left the church by the members of Rotary.

REST IN PEACE



**Vale – Major General Andrew James Molan, AO, DSC**

by Ian Curtis



Jim Molan taking a screamer in his younger years at RMC Duntroon

(Ed; I asked Russell Linwood for a special picture of Jim and to write a few words)

I first met Jim at Duntroon in 1970. He was a superb sportsman, and a thoroughly decent bloke. As a senior class man to me, I always liked him because he nurtured and led, rather than accost we junior class men as some were want to do as part of the shaping process of future staff officers. Two years later, he graduated to Infantry where I also went when my turn came. From then on, we kept a personal and professional association even though we never served in the same place at the same time. Like me, he was a CO who practised what he preached about effective weapon employment and achieved Marksman standard with the rifle. When CO 6 RAR, he attended the Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting and appeared on the firing mound to encourage his men. I think he actually competed one year as well. Most recently, I convinced him to join the MHSA, which he did. Sadly, his early passing cut the potential we had to benefit more from Jim's experience; I NOW know why he politely declined our request to travel up to open the Military Spectacular. He was too ill, but still offered to address the conference by telecast. Such was this officer. I for one will miss his friendship, and Australia has definitely lost a great soldier, strategist and thinker. '

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Russell Linwood ASM



There has been much written about Major General Jim Molan since his passing from prostate cancer on 16 January 2023 by many more worthy authors than me.

Jim was an outstanding soldier, leader, statesman, strategist, pilot, linguist, volunteer fire fighter, politician, patriot, author and in his younger years a sportsman. At the age of 72 years young, Jim lost his last campaign with his loving wife Anne and their family by his side. As with everything in life, Jim faced cancer with courage, determination, and good cheer. He made the most of every moment throughout his life.

Jim hailed from a large Catholic family in the Melbourne suburb of Ivanhoe, born 11 April 1950, and was an Essendon supporter. He joined the Australian Army following school and graduated from Royal Military College Duntroon in 1971. His military career included posting to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Pacific Islands Regiment as a rifle platoon commander, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion RQR as adjutant, rifle company second-in-command and then company commander 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion RAR, Commanding Officer 6 RAR. Commander of the Army's mechanised 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, and Commander of 1<sup>st</sup> Division and its deployable Joint Force Headquarters.

Jim was the Commander of the Australian Defence College, including the Australian Defence Force Academy, the Australian Command and Staff College and the Australian Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies. Between 1992 and 1994 he was the Army Attaché in Jakarta and for this service he was awarded the Indonesian decoration Bintang Dharma Yudha Nararya in 1995. Between 1998 and 1999 he returned to Jakarta as Defence Attaché this time as a brigadier and served in East Timor. On 25 March 2000 he was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia for his service in Indonesia and East Timor.

In April 2004 Jim deployed to Iraq for a year as the Chief of Operations for the new Headquarters Multinational Force in Iraq which was being planned. He spent time finding a specific role within the headquarters before being allocated responsibility for energy security. He was eventually made Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, and served during continuous and intense combat operations. For his distinguished command and leadership in this period he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the American Legion of Merit.



After returning from Iraq he served as Defence Material Advocate of the Defence Material Organisation, and Advisor to Vice Chief of the Defence Force and Joint Warfighting Lessons and Concepts. Major General Molan retired in July 2008.

Jim was the author of two books;

- Running the war in Iraq; an Australian general, 300,000 troops, the bloodiest conflict of our time (Harper Collins)
- Danger On Our Doorstep (Harper Collins)

He has also written many articles and opinion pieces.

Jim was appointed by the Abbott Government as a special envoy for Operations Sovereign Borders and was credited with being the architect of the coalition's Stop the Boats policy.

In 2016, Jim unsuccessfully stood as a Liberal Party candidate for the Senate in NSW at the federal election. In December 2017 he replaced Fiona Nash who was found ineligible to stand and was not re-elected to the Senate in 2019 federal election. On 10 November 2019 he was selected by the NSW Liberal Party to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Senator Arthur Sinodinos. In 2002 he was re-elected for a 6-year term. He was an advocate for positions on immigration, defence and national security.

Jim had a passion for strategy because, *'well thought out strategy is the road to success'*. He was also a member of his local volunteer firefighting brigade living on the edge of the Monaro high country region at Royalla.

Jim Molan's funeral was held at the ANZAC Memorial Chapel of St Paul on the grounds of the Royal Military College Duntroon Wednesday 25 January 2023. Eulogies were given by all four of his children, Liberal leader Peter Dutton and Retired Major General Roger Powell a class mate at RMC on behalf of 35 still living classmates.

Major General Powell said, *'Jim was a warrior in every sense..... a reputation made of stuff from which legends are created. He was fearless in facing up to the consequences of any predicament, including his painful terminal illness. The only thing that made Jim tear up was that he would not be able to support Anne [his wife] in future chapters of their lives together.'*

Peter Dutton said, *'He was a man thrust into some of the most difficult and challenging circumstances. He was in the middle of war and bloodshed...He saw first-hand what we would call the darkest side of humanity. He was not just an Australian, he was one of our greatest.'*

As Slim Dusty said in one of his famous songs. **'You've done us proud'**

REST IN PEACE

## **“A band of heroes”**

### **A very brief history of C Company, Rockhampton, Queensland Scottish Volunteer Corps.**

Compiled by Brian Rough.

My purpose here today is to reveal to you one of Rockhampton's best kept secrets; that in the late 19th century – between 1886 and 1893 - this town boasted its own Scottish Highland Regiment. A fully kilted regiment no less, dressed as I am today. How did this happen? Why were their Scottish soldiers in Rockhampton. Well to answer that question we need to move even further back in time to 1860, the first year of Queensland's separation from New South Wales.

When the new colony's first Governor, Sir George Bowen, arrived he was a little shocked to find that the colony was totally defenceless. There were no British Army detachments here, and no home-grown defence force either. Sir George set about forming a colonial military force based on the Volunteer principles which were sweeping Great Britain at the time. Volunteer soldiers were part-time soldiers, men who gave up their free time to undertake military drill and become proficient in the use of firearms. They received no pay for their time and in fact had to purchase their own uniforms. The Government agreed to supply weapons and ammunition, but instructors were generally old soldiers.

Rockhampton, as it happens, followed Ipswich and Brisbane in forming companies of the Volunteer Rifle Brigade in late 1860. From that date, with the exception of a few short months in 1868, Rockhampton has maintained a part-time military force. The force received varying levels of support from the government. In its first decade its fortunes fluctuated wildly, effected by the economic prosperity, or rather the poverty of the colony. Over the years there were war scares, and on occasion the military aided the civil authorities. In the nineteenth century Queensland's soldiers never battled to defend their own shores against a foreign foe. In 1878 the Volunteers were mobilised when the Queensland Government feared Britain was on the verge of war with Russia. Again in 1885, fearing an imminent war with the Russian Empire, the force was again called out for Active Service. This last war scare was a little different to the earlier on, or rather it had a different effect on the local population. Queensland had introduced a new Defence Act early in 1885, and this created the colony's first permanent soldiers, a partially paid militia, and still allowed the unpaid volunteer force to exist. A Marine Defence Force was also created. So real did the 1885 war scare feel that in Queensland – as in all of Britain's colonies - the defence forces saw a rapid expansion. As well as its two militia Infantry Companies, a Naval Volunteer Corps was formed in Rockhampton.

In far off Brisbane nine new militia and volunteer companies were formed as a direct result of the war scare. That was almost 1000 additional men enrolling for military service. Two of those companies were made up of Scottish residents of Brisbane, and the Queensland Scottish Volunteer Corps was formed. It was a very unique and individual Corps, and from the outset a decision was made that the men would wear the full-dress uniform of a Highland Regiment. They adopted the Gordon regimental tartan as a mark of respect for the late General Gordon of Khartoum for whom there was much public sympathy at the time, and as a result they

ordered from British Army stores the complete uniforms of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Gordon Highlanders. These were full wool uniforms and the only concession to the climate that was made was the adoption of a white pith helmet instead of a feather bonnet. I should add that no one forced the men to wear these uniforms – it was their choice and they in fact paid for them. It was the single most expensive uniform adopted by any company of the Queensland Defence Force, and without a doubt it was the most stylish.

The idea caught on amongst the Scottish community in Rockhampton well after the war scare has subsided. An initial meeting was held in the Belmore Arms hotel in late January 1886, but in a preview of things to come, the meeting had to be adjourned as the gentlemen who had indicated their willingness to serve as Officers neglected to attend. When the meeting was finally held in February it was in the Exchange Hall of offices of Dawbarn and Gavin, East Street. Captain T B Robinson presided over the meeting and the reverend Dr Hay was also present. After much discussion John Gavin moved: “That it is the opinion of this meeting that the a Scottish Volunteer Corps be formed in Rockhampton, and that a petition be sent , with the names of those wishing to form such a corps to His Excellency the Governor for his sanction and approval, with a request that he will authorise the enrolment of such a corps.” Mr John M’Pherson seconded the motion , which was carried unanimously. A subsequent motion resolved that the company should be the Rockhampton Scottish Volunteer Corps.

John Gavin as the honorary secretary sought permission from the Commandant of the Queensland Defence Force, Colonel French, to form the Corps. The matter was passed to the Officer Commanding the Queensland Scottish in Brisbane, as the Commandant felt the proposed company should become part of the Queensland Scottish Volunteer Corps. In the fullness of time the Rockhampton Scots agreed, and the formal petition was sent to the Governor. There were sixty signatures on that petition, and I’m glad to tell you it has survived. The initial sixty petitioners were:

John A Gavin 26, William Grozart Johnston Edgar 30, William McBean 21, Arthur Brown 41, John Mc(?) 48, D S Macdonald 42, Alex Reid 37, D McIntosh 44, W Gordon Forbes 31, A McLeod 29, Ernest E Graham 24, John Brighton 21, Robert Corrie 18, W Cameron Marshall 25, John A Part 25, James F Home(?) 36, W McConnell 18, T Rattray 24, M G Martin 23, D Blair 19, A H Headreck 19, George Proudfoot 19, James Macartney 30, James H Mackintosh 24, William Pinkerton 37, David Kerr 37, Donald Mowatt 24, David Dermott 24, Ken M Grant 19, Richard Munro 17, John Meikle 19, H W Shaw 21, Wm Mckenzie 26, Andrew John Hunt(er?) 25, T Edgar 19, Harry Neil 23, D A Gilmour 23, A Clark 23, J Nicol 29, James (?) 28, ? McWilliam 18, John Muir(?) 45, A J Black 35, John Geddes 42, L H Sandberk 22, H McKay 28, A Bollman 22, John Edgar 23, Ernest R (?) 23, R Y Bufield 23, Alexander Anderson 52, T A Johnstone 17, George Gorrie 22, Benjamin Illford 23, Charles Steele 25, Allen Nicholson 22, Holroyd Julp 21, J W Bufield (for FWB) 21, William A Greer 28, and John Richardson 29.

Archival records for C Company, Rockhampton survived to a greater extent than those of the Brisbane, Ipswich, or Toowoomba Companies. Members of C Company seem also to have been more inclined to have their photographs taken, or at least photographs from Rockhampton appear more prevalent, so much of what is known about the Queensland Scottish reflects somewhat of a Rockhampton bias rather than a Brisbane one. From the

initial petition it would seem that the average age of a recruit in the Rockhampton Company was twenty-seven years old. The youngest applicant from amongst the fifty-nine men was just seventeen and the oldest fifty-two. Of the sixteen men whose occupations are known, more than half were professional self-employed men, the remainder being tradesmen. Whether that trend was common throughout the other companies of the Corps, is as yet unknown.

C Company was approved by the Governor on 2 April 1886, and gazetted with an establishment of 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenant, 1 Colour-Sergeant, 4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, 2 buglers and 90 privates.

In April the enrolled members of C Company met again in the Exchange Chambers to elect officers and non-commissioned officers. Around fifty people were present. Alexander Reid occupied the Chair. Alexander Reid, Arthur Brown and Dr McDonald were nominated for the position of Captain. Dr McDonald declined the position on the grounds that his leg was not so strong, and even though Alexander Reid asked for his nomination to be withdrawn as he could not devote the amount of time necessary to the task, the meeting declined to accept his request. Reid was elected captain and Arthur Brown and John Gavin were elected his lieutenants. The Governor assented to the appointment to provisional ranks from 21 May 1886.

By May the Rockhampton company was progressing well in drill under Sergeant-Major Colquhoun. The Capricornian noted their marked improvement and suggested they'd need just a bit more practice and some uniforms to turn into a first-rate Corps. They also needed rifles which finally arrived with their bayonets on the 28 May.

When Major Haldane from Townsville conducted the annual inspection of the Rockhampton Defence Force companies on 26 June he was particularly critical of the poor muster, most of whom were recruits. At the end of July Captain Reid was granted six months leave of absence, leaving Lieutenants Brown and Gavin in charge, neither of whom it seems had previous military experience.

So what do Volunteer Companies do besides training? Well if they are not training alone they are usually training with others, and in August 1886 a battalion drill held for the Rockhampton naval and land forces. The men were put through a detailed course of complex drill in preparation for a sham fight to be held in Rockhampton the following month. A sham or pretend battle between two opposing forces was little different to what military forces do today when conducting training exercises. In this case the Queensland Scottish, wearing their undress uniform of white jacket and black trousers, formed part of the town defences to counter Her Majesty's Queensland Ship, the gunboat *Gayundah* which was advancing up the river to attack and destroy the town. The Company was practised in skirmishing drill in the weeks prior to the event, and acquitted themselves well in the sham fight. Battling evil as well as battling friends was part of the QSVC routine, and the occasional Sunday church parades saw the company marched to a service at the Presbyterian Church, while the remainder of the Force attended the Church of England.

In October 1886 the Company secured the services of pipers. This obviously made an impression on the populace as the 1886 Picturesque Atlas of Australia, included the following in a description of Rockhampton:

Two daily newspapers compete in supplying news, and there are numerous associations for athletic and other sports, and no less than four companies of volunteers, including a band of heroes of Scottish origin in the national kilts, armed with rifles and those still more formidable weapons, the bagpipes.

Some exercises took place quite close to the centre of town and made use of the built landscape as well as the natural. Mr Pattison's boiling down establishment was the site for an overnight exercise in which 35 of the Queensland Scottish took part. They marched along East and Quay Streets, the pipes and drums of the Scottish Company providing a stirring accompaniment. The Scottish took the part of the attacking force in this exercise but were not able to carry the day.

Funding the Queensland Scottish was an issue, even before the full-dress uniform of kilt and doublet was attained. An 'entertainment' to aid C Company was scheduled in the Rockhampton School of Arts in late November. It took the form of a lecture on Scottish Regiments in the British Army by the Rev Dr. Hay, and included a concert of vocal and instrumental music. The local Orpheus Club provided some of the performers. Lucky door prizes were also given out.

Absent from his post for a long period of time, Captain Alexander Reid resigned from C Company on 7 March 1887. Lieutenant Arthur Brown resigned just a month later. The reason for the latter resignation is not known, but it left John Gavin in charge and he was immediately appointed a provisional Captain. James Todd and Duncan Mackintosh were appointed Lieutenants, a few months later.

The Queens Birthdays – 24th May - was the occasion for a little pomp and ceremony and of course a public holiday. After the Royal salute an athletics carnival was held in Serecold's paddock on the Upper Dawson Road and hundreds of spectators came out of town to witness it. Sports were an important facet of leisure time activities amongst the young men of Rockhampton, and C Company took the unusual step of forming its own sporting team, the Scottish Rifles Football Club. Some of the individuals involved were Gavin, Cousins, Edgar and McIntosh. Who they played or how successful the team was I have yet to discover.

In June 1887 A good deal of amusement, wrote the Capricornian reporter on 18 June, has been caused in town by the battle in which our Scottish "sodger laddies" have been endeavouring to get – not kilts, but kilted. Captain Gavin has been wiring in to Brisbane. First it was said the kilts were come; then that they were short shipped; then that they would be ready to camp in: and now it is stated the kilts are not coming, and the Company is not going to Brisbane, so that there would seem to have been much ado about nothing. While the cold weather continues they will be far more comfortable with their "tartan trews."

C Company took delivery of its kilts, doublets and other uniform items in late June, but did not immediately appear in public wearing them, the Capricornian suggesting it was the cold windy weather that was putting them off. The men appeared in the full-dress uniform for the first time at the drill-shed in Fitzroy Street. Forty rank and file, two buglers, two pipers, four sergeants and Lieutenant McIntosh and Captain Gavin paraded in their finery.

The Capricornian reported they 'made a bonnie display. Great satisfaction was expressed on all hands as to the appearance and bearing of the men in their new outfit. A large number of people assembled in aid around the building, and took a lively interest in the novel spectacle.



The men afterwards patrolled the principal streets of the town with the band playing “Bonnie Dundee” and other well known Scottish airs.

(To be continued)

## **From the News**

Kim Beazley has been appointed as Chair of the Australian War Memorial Council.

Mr Beazley, a former Labor Leader, Defence Minister and Governor of Western Australia first served as a member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial from July 2009 to December 2009, leaving the position to take up an appointment as Ambassador to the United States of America.

The Memorial welcomed Mr Beazley back to Council in October this year, following the departure of former Chair, Dr Brendan Nelson, AO.

“I am pleased to congratulate Mr Kim Beazley on his appointment as Chair of the Australian War Memorial Council,” Director Matt Anderson said. “Mr Beazley is one of the longest serving Defence Ministers of this nation and he has an in-depth knowledge of military history. “Given his impeccable record during his years of public service, including as Governor of Western Australia, Ambassador to the United States and a distinguished career in politics and academia, Mr Beazley will make a valuable contribution in leading the Council as our new Chair. “He has an obvious and long held passion for supporting Australian veterans and for our current service men and women and I am sure his empathy and intellect will shine through in his leadership of Council. “I look forward to preserving and sharing the stories of Australian service with Mr Beazley as we deliver the Memorial Development project, together.”

Mr Beazley was elected Chair by his fellow members of the Australian War Memorial Council.

He was recommended to as a member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial by the Albanese Government in October.

(Source: Contact)



High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems of the United States Army and United States Marine Corps launch rockets during a firepower demonstration at Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Queensland, during Exercise Talisman Sabre

Defence has signed contracts with the US DoD to deliver High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems to the Australian Army and with Norway's Kongsberg to deliver Naval Strike Missiles to the Royal Australian Navy.

Naval Strike Missile (NSM) will be employed on Hobart-class destroyers and Anzac-class frigates, replacing the ageing Harpoon anti-ship missile on those ships from 2024.

Defence says NSM contains leading-edge technology that will provide Royal Australian Navy ships with a powerful maritime strike capability.

Kongsberg Defence Australia has committed to working with Australian industry on the project, creating local jobs and building Australia's industrial capability.

Defence will also acquire the land-based, long-range, surface-to-surface High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), which includes launchers, missiles and training rockets. HIMARS is scheduled to be in use by 2026-27, providing the Australian Army with a significant capability boost. HIMARS munitions currently have a range of up to 300 kilometres, which is expected to increase with technological advances. HIMARS includes a weapon-locating radar to detect and respond to land, air and maritime threats, which is being delivered by Australian company CEA.

The combined total investment in these new acquisitions is more than \$1 billion.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles said that in the current strategic environment, it was important the Australian Defence Force was equipped with high-end, targeted military capabilities. "The government is taking a proactive approach to keeping Australia safe – and the Naval Strike Missile and HIMARS launchers will give our defence force the ability to deter conflict and protect our interests," Mr Marles said.

Minister for Defence Industry Pat Conroy the government was getting on with delivering the Australian Defence Force the capability it needed for the 21st century. “The level of technology involved in these acquisitions takes our forces to the cutting edge of modern military hardware,” Mr Conroy said. “Naval Strike Missile is a major step up in capability for our navy’s warships, while HIMARS launchers have been successfully deployed by the Ukrainian military over recent months and are a substantial new capability for the Army.”

(Source: Contact)



Major General Douglas Laidlaw poses with winners of Defence’s annual National Employer Support Awards at a formal dinner held at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera

The annual Defence Employer Support Awards has recognised leading employers across Australia for their support to their ADF reservists.

Assistant Minister for Defence Matt Thistlethwaite joined Chief of the Defence Force General Angus Campbell, Secretary for Defence Greg Moriarty and other senior Defence leaders at the event in Brisbane.

Major General Douglas Laidlaw, Head of Joint Support Services Division and Head of ADF Reserves and Employer Support, said the awards showcase employers that have demonstrated outstanding support to their staff who conduct ADF service. “Defence recognises and values the contribution made by ADF reservists and their employers,” Major General Laidlaw said. “Across Australia, we have more than 31,000 active ADF reservists who contribute vital skills and capability to the defence of our nation.”

Employers of ADF reservists release their employees for periods of Defence service, including for compulsory call outs to assist with natural disasters and emergency operations. “Having workplaces that support reservists is vital and ensures the ADF can operate at full capability in order to respond quickly and effectively to assist the Australian community and secure our national interests,” Major General Laidlaw said. “Our reservists are a highly skilled, dynamic and disciplined workforce, whose service to our country during the COVID-19 pandemic, bushfires, floods and other disasters is made possible by the support of their

employers. “I commend the award-winning organisations and all the nominees for their continued support of our ADF reservists and their communities across Australia.”

**The winners:**

Category	Name/Representative	Company
Veteran Employee of the Year	Nick Elston	GSA Management Consulting
Veteran Entrepreneur of the Year	Garth Chester	Valenhold
Partner Employee of the Year	Katie Vidal	She Maps
Partner Entrepreneur of the Year	Kelly Willmott	Green Fox Training Studio
Employer of the Year – Large		Cubic Defence Australia
Employer of the Year – Medium		Bluerydge
Employer of the Year – Small		Viden
Excellence in Supporting Veteran and/or Partner Employment		Vertical Scope Group
Outstanding Employer of the Year		Bluerydge
Outstanding Contribution to Veteran and/or Partner Employment	Amanda McCue	Career Swag

(Source: Contact)

**BOEING** LEADERSHIP UPDATES

**Sir Michael Arthur**  
Retiring,  
Early 2023

**Dr. Brendan Nelson**  
President  
Boeing International

**Maria Fernandez**  
President  
Boeing Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific

Boeing on 5 December 2022 announced that Brendan Nelson will take over as president of Boeing International (BI) and lead the company's international strategy and corporate operations.

The former Australian diplomat, government minister and boss of the Australian War Memorial will succeed Sir Michael Arthur when he retires from Boeing in early 2023 after four years at the helm of Boeing International.

Dr Nelson, the second non-US citizen to lead the organisation, will report to Boeing President and CEO Dave Calhoun and join the company's executive council.

The Australian citizen has been president of Boeing Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific since February 2020.

He will move to London to take up his new role, effective 12 January 2023.

“Brendan brings to his new position vast experience in government and diplomacy, industry and non-profit associations, that will serve us well as we continue to grow as a global company while navigating the dynamics of the geopolitical environment,” said Mr Calhoun.

Boeing operates in 65 different countries, including major operations in Australia, India, the Middle East and United Kingdom, and employs more than 25,000 people outside of the United States who are engaged in design, development, manufacturing, services and support.

Dr Nelson will oversee 20 regional offices in key global markets.

His responsibilities will include developing the company's growth and productivity initiatives outside the United States, forming new business and industrial partnerships, overseeing international affairs, enhancing Boeing's local presence and providing global functional support.

Maria Fernandez will succeed Dr Nelson as president of Boeing Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific, effective 20 December 2022. She will be the senior company leader in the Oceania region and board chair of Boeing Australia Holdings. In this role, she will coordinate Boeing Australia activities, lead government relations and direct the implementation of the company's strategy to expand its local presence and grow the business.

“Maria has had a distinguished career with more than 20 years of leadership experience in the Australian national security sector and was the first woman to lead an Australian intelligence agency. She has the ideal background for this position,” said Dr Nelson.

Fernandez has held senior executive positions in Australia's departments of Home Affairs, Defence, Immigration and Border Protection, and Education.

Before joining Boeing, she ran a consultancy that provided strategic advisory and independent assurance services to Australian government agencies.

(Source: Contact)



## Navy

### Deep Dive into History

The Australian War Memorial's new online exhibition about the history of the RAN features a tribute to Navy's VC Recipient Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean.

The exhibition was launched on 1 December coinciding with the death of Ordinary Seaman Sheean aboard HMAS *Armidale* (1). Called a Digital deep dive of the Royal Australian Navy the exhibition commemorates navy people through their own stories and shows how the Navy has evolved over more than a century.

The exhibition is accessible from the Australian War Memorial website, [navy.awm.gov.au](http://navy.awm.gov.au)

(Source: AWM)



Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, Commander Maritime Border Command Rear Admiral Justin Jones and Lieutenant Commander Jared Webb salute as the Last Post is played at the memorial service to commemorate Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark (*inset*) and the rest of the crew of HMAS Sydney (II), which was sunk off the coast of Western Australia on 19 November 1941

A commemorative ceremony was held for Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark, the only member of the HMAS Sydney (II) crew to be found after it was sunk in 1941.

Months after the sinking of HMAS Sydney (II), the body of an unidentified sailor washed up on the shore of Christmas Island

For years, Able Seaman Clark's unidentified body remained in an unmarked grave on the island until it was exhumed in 2006 and DNA samples taken. Previously referred to as the HMAS Sydney (II) unknown sailor, Able Seaman Clark was formally identified after extensive DNA research in 2021.

Able Seaman Clark will forever represent his shipmates who lost their lives on that fateful night of 19 November 1941.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Matt Keogh said Able Seaman Clark and his fellow crew members made the ultimate sacrifice in service to Australia. "We remember them and pay tribute to the families who were left behind when HMAS Sydney (II) was tragically sunk," Mr Keogh said. "I would like to thank the Christmas Island community for affording Able Seaman Clark the dignity he deserved and supporting the search for his resting place."

Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Mark Hammond said that for a ship the size of HMAS Sydney (II), that was so widely admired across the country, to be lost with all hands was simply unfathomable. "I thank the Christmas Island community for the care and respect they provided to a very brave sailor on his journey home," Vice Admiral Hammond said.

Senator for the Northern Territory and Christmas and Cocos Keeling Islands Malarndirri McCarthy said that as a Yanyuwa Garrwa woman, commemoration was very sacred and the death of a loved one in war was a huge price to pay for family, the community and the nation. "Through the story of Able Seaman Clark, we remember all of those who lost their lives making the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country," she said.

(Source: Contact)



Petty Officer Jean Metcalf on the flight deck of HMAS Adelaide before scattering his father's ashes from an MRH-90 Taipan.

Navy member honoured his father's legacy in a special way thanks to aircrew from Army's 5<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment embarked in HMAS Adelaide for Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2022 (IPE22). Naval police coxswain Petty Officer Jean Metcalf was unable to attend his father's funeral due to COVID-19 border restrictions. He was given the opportunity to scatter his father's ashes from an MRH-90 Taipan over the Strait of Malacca while Adelaide was in transit to Malaysia.

Petty Officer Metcalf said scattering the ashes from the air was significant, as his Army veteran father spent part of his childhood on Royal Malaysian Air Force Base Butterworth, and later built a civilian career as a helicopter pilot. “When I wasn’t able to attend Dad’s funeral, I asked that some of his ashes be reserved, so I could say goodbye in a way that was meaningful to both of us,” Petty Officer Metcalf said. “Dad was a helicopter pilot. He helped me get my pilot’s license and gave me the love of flying. “I came up with the idea of spreading Dad’s ashes from the air, then realised I’d be in *Adelaide* when she transited past Butterworth for IPE22. “Since Dad was always supportive of my Navy service and had great memories growing up in Malaysia, I thought maybe this could be my way to honour him.”

Petty Officer Metcalf said the response of the Army aircrew showed ADF members are like family. “When the aircrew found out Dad’s flying history and connection to Malaysia, they wanted to help make a flight happen, and Malaysian authorities were equally obliging,” he said. “I think it shows that on deployment we’re not ship’s company and embarked forces, we’re a joint force – like a family. “I’m very grateful to have had the opportunity to honour Dad and like to think he’d be happy to be back in Malaysia.”

Malaysia is one of Australia’s most important defence partners. Both countries have a long, shared history in helping maintain an open, inclusive and resilient Indo-Pacific.

Indo-Pacific Endeavour has visited Malaysia four times since 2017

(Source: Contact)

## Army



On 5 December 2022 we recognise more than 280,000 Australians who were called up to serve their country in National Service schemes between 1951 and 1972.

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs Matt Keogh said the men who served as ‘Nashos’ should be proud of their service. “Today marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Whitlam Labor Government’s end to the last National Service scheme in Australia,” Minister Keogh said.



“The Nashos were an integral part of Australia’s defence forces in the 1950s, 60s and 70s serving in Australia, Borneo, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam. “The first National Service scheme, from 1951-59 saw men from across the country called up for training in the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force. “More than 220,000 served during this period, putting their careers and lives on hold to serve their country.

“The second National Service scheme took place from 1965-1972 and, for some, included service in the Vietnam War. “During this period, 63,000 20-year-olds were selected for service in the Army through a birthday ballot. “More than 15,300 National Servicemen served in the Vietnam War and some 200 lost their lives. “At least 100 National Servicemen also served overseas in Borneo, with two men losing their lives while on deployment. “No matter the nature of their service, today we honour all national servicemen and thank them for what they have done for our nation. “We thank all Nashos and their families for putting their lives on hold during their years of compulsory service. “We know this service was difficult, as was your return to civilian life. “The Australian Government thanks you.”

Mr Keogh said he hoped all Nashos knew that if they were injured during their service, even if they were never deployed, they are eligible to claim through DVA and all are entitled to a White Card for mental-health support.

(Source: Contact)



#### December 2022 Changeover of the CO of 2 RAR (Amphib)

The last few days have been very busy for the unit and for me. The current CO, LTCOL Mark Tutton was farewelled by the Battalion. This was first done at a Battle Dinner on Thursday Night which was conducted in the Unit Training Facility. The idea is that a Battle Dinner takes the theme as though the Unit is overseas on Operations, and thus there are sandbags everywhere, vehicles and cam nets and the tables are decorated with weapons and equipment rather than mess centre pieces and statues, and the soldiers drink from cups

canteens and are wearing field uniforms. I must take my hat off to CSM admin with his wonderful organisation and I was very happy to support the event. The NCO's, SNCO's and Officers of the Battalion gathered for a night of speeches, farewells, and camaraderie.

The CO, LTCOL Mark Tutton, was originally a soldier in the British Army then an Officer in the British Army. He transferred to the Australian Army and served as a Captain and Major in 6 RAR. He served on operations with 6 RAR during the extremely testing MTF 1 rotation to Afghanistan. He has served as 2 RAR (Amphib)'s Commanding Officer for the years 2021 and 2022 and leaves for a posting to Canberra.

The CO made a great speech which highlighted the busy schedule of the last 2 years of the Battalion on operations, exercises, support tasks, and courses and I quote some of his last words to all those gathered.

Finally, it is time to bid you all farewell, fair winds and following seas. They say fair winds and following seas make for smooth sailing...But, I have always found it's better to ride the waves and weather the storm in the company of good people!

I will forever carry a part of you all and this Battalion within my soul, in exchange I leave part of mine here with you. I consider you all 'family'. As I've said to many of you before, 2RAR is like the mafia, once you've been part of it you never truly leave. Accordingly, I will always be there for you should you ever need. Do not hesitate to reach out to me, or come and catch up for a brew and a chat if you find yourself in Canberra. Good luck, stand firm, strike hard, and always remember you are 'Second to no Bastard'

The CO was presented with a Paddle from the OR's, a Weapon Board from the SNCO's and a framed flag from the officers. He presented a Black bell that will be attached to the Flag station to replace the whistle for announcing 'Stand fast' for the raising and lowering of the Australian National Flag to help add to the Amphibious theme that is the Battalion.

As the Curator I would like to thank Mark for his very public and vocal support of the museum and me personally during his two years, especially at the dinner during his speech and I wish him and his family well in their future endeavours. I would also like to thank the Battalion for the very kind invitation to participate and enjoy the dinner and to be made very welcome by the participants. A special shout out to the snipers who for a short period made me feel like I was one of them again.

On Friday a handover parade between LTCOL Mark Tutton and the New CO of 2 RAR (Amphib) LTCOL Jon Wick was conducted with the troops that had returned from IPE 22 on the parade and the rest of the Battalion lining the road out of the Battalion for Mark's final drive out.

I have and look forward to a very close relationship with the New CO, LTCOL Jon Wick, who was my last OC prior to discharge.

Second To None!

(Source: The Curator 2RAR Museum)





An Army MRH-90 Taipan lands in Fitzroy Crossing, in Western Australia's Kimberley region, where flooding from Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie has isolated communities

ADF aircraft have landed in Fitzroy Crossing, the town at the centre of severe flooding in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. With floodwaters receding, C-27J Spartans, MRH-90 Taipans and CH-47 Chinooks have delivered much-needed supplies and personnel to the town.

C-27J captain Flight Lieutenant Pete Wuttke, of 35 Squadron, said Defence had managed flying operations at Fitzroy Crossing airstrip in conjunction with the airfield operator. "With the airstrip being underwater, there was a question around the subsoil of the runway pavement, given the size and weight of our aircraft," Flight Lieutenant Wuttke said. "However, with flights commencing we can better support the emergency service agencies."

ADF fixed and rotary wing aircraft are being used to transport critical food, medical supplies and emergency services personnel around the Kimberley region, where key roads have been cut due to flooding in the aftermath of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie.

State Emergency Service (SES) worker Steve Cable, who has been assessing the level of damage to houses in the Fitzroy Crossing region, said the recommencement of ADF flights would "massively" speed up the flood recovery process. "SES workers are going door-to-door to determine how quickly we can get people back into their homes," Mr Cable said. "But we also need to get back to Broome each day because there is a severe shortage of accommodation."

Mr Cable and fellow SES workers were transported on one of the first C-27J flights out of Fitzroy Crossing. "There are still no roads open out here so having the ability to utilise Defence air transport allows us to get our work done as well as get vital goods and services into the town and surrounding areas," he said.

(Source: Contact)

## Air Force



The outgoing Warrant Officer of the Air Force, WOFF-AF chief, hands over the mantle to her successor, WOFF-AF Ralph Clifton

The important role of Warrant Officer of the Air Force (WOFF-AF) is being given a fresh set of eyes with the departure of WOFF-AF Fiona Grasby from the position, from 1 December.

Replacing WOFF-AF Grasby is WOFF-AF Ralph Clifton, who now takes on the privilege and responsibility of representing and serving the aviators of a diverse, dynamic and evolving Air Force.

Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Robert Chipman said WOFF-AF Clifton “will undertake a significant role in strengthening our Air Force legacy as we embark on a challenging and uncertain second century”. “We commit together to do our best on behalf of aviators, ensuring they have the leadership, resources and opportunities to deliver air and space power as guided by our Air Force strategy,” Air Marshal Chipman said. “Together we will strengthen our readiness, resilience and resourcefulness to ensure Air Force continues to rise to our strategic challenges as we have throughout our history. “We do this as a committed member of the joint force, building partnerships across all levels of command, other government departments and our coalition partners.”

WOFF-AF Clifton brings more than 30 years’ experience in the RAAF to his new role, with an extensive deployment history across a host of operations.

He becomes the 10<sup>th</sup> Warrant Officer of the Air Force.

“I am delighted to welcome Ralph as the new Warrant Officer of The Air Force and I look forward to working with him during my tenure,” Air Marshal Chipman said.

(Source: Contact)





A RAAF C-17 Globemaster III flies in a 2-ship formation with a US Air Force C-17 over Papua New Guinea.

Flying in the valleys of Papua New Guinea has provided a unique challenge for American and Australian aviators during Exercise Global Dexterity 22-2.

On 18 November, a pair of C-17A Globemaster III transport aircraft took off from RAAF Base Scherger in far northern Queensland for the six-hour mission. The aircraft – one from the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), the other from the United States Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) – conducted simulated airdrops in formation over Papua New Guinea. The colossal C-17A is capable of airdropping everything from rations and water through to bulldozers and other engineering equipment.

Flight Lieutenant Matthew Huber, a C-17A pilot with the RAAF's 36 Squadron, said it was the first time RAAF and PACAF C-17A crews had conducted this training in Papua New Guinea. "Papua New Guinea provided a unique environment for flying training, with high terrain and challenging environmental conditions unlike anywhere in the immediate Indo-Pacific region," Flight Lieutenant Huber said. "The C-17A is an extremely versatile and manoeuvrable aircraft for its size, and conducting this training in Papua New Guinea provided the crews from both countries a unique experience."

Major Joshua Moore, PACAF 15<sup>th</sup> Wing Director of Agile Combat Employment, said he was grateful to have flown on Exercise Global Dexterity. "It was truly one of those once-in-a-lifetime kinds of experiences," Major Moore said. "It was awesome to be able to fly in that beautiful and rugged terrain and to do so operating seamlessly in an integrated crew."

(Source: Contact)



Urgent medical supplies are loaded onto a C-27J Spartan for delivery to Derby during Operation Flood Assist 23-1.

A Royal Australian Air Force C-27J Spartan has delivered life-saving dialysis supplies to a medical facility in the flood-affected Kimberley region. Road transport to the facility in the north-western town of Derby was cut off by severe flooding in the aftermath of ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie.

Michelle Rickerby, Renal Service Manager at the Derby Renal Health Centre, said the facility was just 24 hours away from running out of supplies completely. “We normally get all our supplies by road, but with the road closed we had only 24 hours left before we would be forced to stop providing dialysis services,” she said.

Two C-27J Spartans from 35 Squadron are currently moving supplies and personnel around the flooded Kimberley region at the request of the National Emergency Management Agency.

A C-130J Hercules had also earlier transported a team of more than 50 Western Australian emergency services workers to the region.

Flight Lieutenant Brendan Lohman, who captained the 35 Squadron Spartan aircraft into Derby, said the crew were ready to continue to provide emergency supplies, food rations, personnel and equipment as required. “We’re now working across the region and will continue to move supplies and equipment where and when they are needed,” Flight Lieutenant Lohman said. “It’s always gratifying to know that we can make a difference by delivering things such as these vital emergency medical supplies.”

(Source: Contact)

## Show and Tell



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

AWM2021.781.32

The Australian War Memorial has acquired an artistic exchange between Afghan and Australian women, The Handkerchief Project.

More than 40 embroidered handkerchiefs were sent to Afghan women by Australian women during the Afghanistan War. On each handkerchief an Afghan woman sewed her response. The handkerchiefs will be taken into the National Collection to represent the lives of women during the war.

Image: Afghan Persian dialect is embroidered in the centre of the work, when translated into English it reads, 'I wish to be a doctor'.

(Source: AWM)



## Two Stories BOTH TRUE

Many years ago, Al Capone virtually owned Chicago . Capone wasn't famous for anything heroic. He was notorious for enmeshing the windy city in everything from bootlegged booze and prostitution to murder.

Capone had a lawyer nicknamed "Easy Eddie." He was Capone's lawyer for a good reason. Eddie was very good! In fact, Eddie's skill at legal manoeuvring kept Big Al out of jail for a long time.

To show his appreciation, Capone paid him very well. Not only was the money big, but Eddie got special dividends, as well. For instance, he and his family occupied a fenced-in mansion with live-in help and all of the conveniences of the day. The estate was so large that it filled an entire Chicago City block.

Eddie lived the high life of the Chicago mob and gave little consideration to the atrocity that went on around him.

Eddie did have one soft spot, however. He had a son that he loved dearly. Eddie saw to it that his young son had clothes, cars, and a good education. Nothing was withheld. Price was no object.

And, despite his involvement with organized crime, Eddie even tried to teach him right from wrong. Eddie wanted his son to be a better man than he was.

Yet, with all his wealth and influence, there were two things he couldn't give his son; he couldn't pass on a good name or a good example.

One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision. Easy Eddie wanted to rectify wrongs he had done.

He decided he would go to the authorities and tell the truth about Al "Scarface" Capone, clean up his tarnished name, and offer his son some semblance of integrity. To do this, he would have to testify against The Mob, and he knew that the cost would be great. So, he testified.

Within the year, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago Street . But in his eyes, he had given his son the greatest gift he had to offer, at the greatest price he could ever pay. Police removed from his pockets a rosary, a crucifix, a religious medallion, and a poem clipped from a magazine.

The poem read:

"The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour. Now is the only time you own. Live, love, toil with a will. Place no faith in time. For the clock may soon be still."

STORY NUMBER TWO

World War II produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare.

He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific.

One day his entire squadron was sent on a mission. After he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized that someone had forgotten to top off his fuel tank.

He would not have enough fuel to complete his mission and get back to his ship.

His flight leader told him to return to the carrier. Reluctantly, he dropped out of formation and headed back to the fleet.

As he was returning to the mother ship, he saw something that turned his blood cold; a squadron of Japanese aircraft was speeding its way toward the American fleet.

The American fighters were gone on a sortie, and the fleet was all but defenseless. He couldn't reach his squadron and bring them back in time to save the fleet. Nor could he warn the fleet of the approaching danger. There was only one thing to do. He must somehow divert them from the fleet.

Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety, he dove into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-mounted 50 caliber's blazed as he charged in, attacking one surprised enemy plane and then another. Butch wove in and out of the now broken formation and fired at as many planes as possible until all his ammunition was finally spent.

Undaunted, he continued the assault. He dove at the planes, trying to clip a wing or tail in hopes of damaging as many enemy planes as possible, rendering them unfit to fly.

Finally, the exasperated Japanese squadron took off in another direction.

Deeply relieved, Butch O'Hare and his tattered fighter limped back to the carrier.

Upon arrival, he reported in and related the event surrounding his return. The film from the gun-camera mounted on his plane told the tale. It showed the extent of Butch's daring attempt to protect his fleet. He had, in fact, destroyed five enemy aircraft. This took place on 20 February 1942, and for that action Butch became the Navy's first Ace of W.W.II, and the first Naval Aviator to win the Medal of Honor.

A year later Butch was killed in aerial combat at the age of 29. His home town would not allow the memory of this WW II hero to fade, and today, O'Hare Airport in Chicago is named in tribute to the courage of this great man.

So, the next time you find yourself at O'Hare International, give some thought to visiting Butch's memorial displaying his statue and his Medal of Honor. It's located between Terminals 1 and 2.

*SO WHAT DO THESE TWO STORIES HAVE TO DO WITH EACH OTHER?*

Butch O'Hare was "Easy Eddie's" son.



## AIF Slag

**Abdul** – Turkish Soldier, individually, collectively. An Arabic proper name

**Ack.Ack.Ack.** – Full stop. Three A's in a signal signifies the end of a sentence. Otherwise expressed as 'three to a leaf.', 'three of a kind' or 'ackety ack'

**Andy Mc Noon** – An unqualified idiot. From the Arabic 'Inta machnoon' a damned fool.

**Anzac Soup** – Shell-hole water polluted by a corpse.

**Anzac Soup** – The ordinary Army stew diluted with water to a greater extent than usual.

**Archie** – Anti-Aircraft shell or gun.

**Army Safety Corps** – Army Service Corps. The ASC rarely had to operate under fire.

**A.W.L.** – Absent without leave

**Axle Grease** – Butter.

## Poetry and Humour

During my talk on Queensland Schools@War on 23 January 2023 at Harvey Bay I told of American soldiers complaining to the Herberton Catholic Church for changing one of its regular hymns which was attracting soldiers to attend mass during World War Two on the Atherton Tablelands.. The Hymn's words are;

### Hymn for the Soldiers

Mary help our valiant soldiers,  
Guard them all on land and sea.  
Keep them ever near to Jesus,  
And sweet Mother close to thee.

### Chorus

Mary help them, help we pray,  
Help our soldiers, night and day  
Bring us peace and dearest Mother,  
Bring our boys safe home, we pray

Mother help our wounded soldiers,  
Help those sailing o'er the main,  
Pray that all be won to Jesus,  
Born through grief to live again.

Chorus

Mother help the absent loved ones,  
Oh we miss their presence here,  
Help our fathers, friends, our brother's,  
Help them, guard them, far and near.

Chorus

Mother help our noble chaplains,  
Guard them, keep them close to thee.  
Secure them light and strength supernal  
To quench Christ's thirst on Calvary.

Chorus

Bless the Stars and Stripes they stand for,  
Trust in God, and faith in man  
Ne'er in war, but against oppression,  
Mary Old Glory lead the van

Chorus.

## A few funnies

One day you'll find someone that is obsessed with you. It's probably going to be a dog, but it is what it is.

You know how they throw the ball into the crowd after they win the game? That is not allowed in bowling. I know that now.

Refusing to go to the gym is a form of resistance training.

If a parsley farmer gets sued, can they garnish his wages?

My wife just found out I replaced our bed with a trampoline. She hit the ceiling!

I know they say money talks, but all mine says is 'Goodbye.'

The police just pulled me over and said, "Papers?" I said, "Scissors, I win!" and drove off. I think he wants a rematch – he's been chasing me for 45 minutes!

## Important Date - February

1 February 1964 – 4 RAR Birthday

1 February 1967 – 138<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment

1 February 1971 – Commissioning of HMAS Cairns

- 1 February 1995 – 2/4 RAR delinked
- 1 February 1997 – 4 RAR renamed 4 RAR (Commando)
- 1 February 1995 – 4 RAR re-raised (birthday)
- 1 February 1981 – HQ 1<sup>st</sup> Commando Regiment
- 1 February 1976 – Field Force Battle School 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade
- 1 February 1951 – Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Training Centre
- 2 February 1942 – First Japanese attack on Port Moresby
- 1 February 1943 – Last Australian Forces sail from home to Middle East
- 2 February 1968 – 3 RAR recapture Baria after Tet Offensive
- 2 February 2011 – Corporal Richard Edward Atkinson 1 CER – died from an IED Explosion during Operation Slipper, Afghanistan
- 3 February 1915 – Turkish Forces attack the Suez Canal
- 3 February 1942 – Gull Force captured on Ambon
- 3 February 1943 – Australians Counter Attack ay Wau
- 3 February 2022 – 1<sup>st</sup> Health Battalion Darwin raised
- 4 February 1942 – 160 Australian massacred at Tol Plantation – New Britain
- 5 February 1917 – Captain H W Murray VC awarded for his actions at Stormy Ridge
- 6 February 1941 – 6<sup>th</sup> Division enter Benghazi, Libya
- 6 February 1939 – RAAF Base Pearce
- 7 February - 49<sup>th</sup> Battalion RQR
- 8 February 1942 – Japanese invade Singapore
- 8 February 1974 – Commissioning of HMAS Bentano
- 9 February 1943 – Japanese defeated at Guadalcanal
- 10 February 1944 – End of Japanese resistance on the Houn Peninsula
- 10 February 1964 – HMAS Melbourne/HMAS Voyager Collision
- 10 February 2006 – Commissioning of HMAS Larrakia (11)
- 10 February 2007 – Commissioning of HMAS Broome (11)
- 10 February 2008 – Commissioning of HMAS Bathurst (11)
- 11 February 1951 – Chinese offensive Korea
- 12 February 1900 – Pink Hill Cape Colony attacked
- 12 February 1940 – First convoy of Second AIF reaches the Middle East

- 13 February 1946 – Main Australian contingent of BCOF sailed for Japan from Morotai
- 13 February 1965 – First SAS Squadron advance party depart for Borneo
- 13 February 1990 – Headquarters Special Forces
- 13 February 1978 – NSW Police request Army explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) assistance when a bomb was detonated during the inaugural CHOGRM at Sydney Hilton Hotel. The next day the army were called out to secure the travelling route for delegates to Bowral.
- 14 February 1900 – Relief at Kimberley
- 14 February 1942 – SS Vyner Brooke sunk
- 14 February 1975 - Australian Honours and Awards introduced
- 14 February 2003 – between 150,000 and 200,000 Melburnians anti-Iraq war protest. (never been matched but the momentum died quickly)
- 14 February 2012 – Sergeant Brett Kinloch AFP – died of a heart attack whilst serving with UNMIT in East Timor
- 14 February - National Service Day
- 15 February 1942 – Fall of Singapore
- 15 February 1992 – HMAS Melbourne (111) Commissioned
- 15 February 2022 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Health Battalion Enoggera raised
- 16 February 1942 – Raddi Beach Massacre, Banka Island, Dutch East Indies
- 16 February 2002 – Sergeant Andrew Russell SASR was killed from an Anti – tank mine explosion in Afghanistan
- 17 February 1900 – Paardenburg Orange State
- 17 February 2022 – 4<sup>th</sup> Health Battalion Townsville raised
- 18 February 1941 – Australian troops arrive in Singapore
- 18 February 1860 – 2<sup>nd</sup> /14<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry)
- 18 February 1943 – 9<sup>th</sup> Division arrive at Fremantle
- 19 February 1915 – Allied ships bomb Dardanelles
- 19 February 1942 – Bombing of Darwin
- 19 February 1943 – Defence Bill Approved
- 19 February 1969 – Battle of Hat Dich, Vietnam
- 20 February 1942 – Japanese land in Portuges Timor
- 20 February 2011 – Sapper Jamie Ronald Larcombe 1 CER – died from small arms fire during Operation Slipper, Afghanistan

- 21 February 1916 – Verdun Western Front
- 21 February 1956 – Australian and British aircraft bomb Kluang, Malaysia
- 22 February 1942 – General Douglas MacArthur ordered to leave Philippines
- 22 February 2008 – Commissioning of HMAS Glenelg (11)
- 22 February 2022 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Health Battalion Adelaide raised
- 23 February 1942 – Sparrow Force on Dutch Timor surrender
- 23 February 1942 – Main Australian Force on Timor surrender to the Japanese
- 23 February 1956 – 1 Squadron RAAF bomb Communist Camps near Kuala Lumpur
- 23 February 1967 – Major P J Badcoe VC (first of 3 acts of bravery)
- 23 February 2001 – Commissioning of HMAS Sheean
- 23 February 2001 – Commissioning of HMAS Dechaineux
- 23 February 1967 – Monash University Regiment
- 24 February – National Day for War Animals
- 24 February 1955 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Company
- 24 February 1941 – Armoured Centre
- 24 February 1971 – Major J J (Jock) Smith MC and Bar awarded his bar
- 25 February 1951 – Hill 614, Korea
- 25 February – 7<sup>th</sup> Base Area Support Battalion
- 26 February 1943 – End of fighting at Wau
- 27 February 1942 – Battle of Java Sea
- 27 February 1967 – Commissioning of HMAS Paluma (IV)
- 28 February 1942 – Japanese invade Java
- 28 February 1991 – Anniversary of the end of the Gulf War
- 29 February 1972 – HMAS Sydney arrives at Vung Tau

## **The Military History Society of NSW**

Is holding a one-day Conference

Saturday 7 October 2023

Anzac Memorial Hyde Park

**NEW SOUTH WALES AT WAR**

Featuring talks by prominent historians and visits to local historical sites



# Aviation Open Day & Static Displays

GYMPIE AERO CLUB



**"GETTING PEOPLE INTO THE AIR"**  
**GYMPIE AERODROME - YGYM**

Warbirds, Parachute jumps, Gliders, Military Jeeps  
General & recreational aircraft fly-ins  
Flying Schools & Local Aero Clubs



This display day is open to the public, veterans and all aviators to promote the joys of aviation

## SATURDAY 11 MARCH 10AM - 2PM

**Warbirders** are invited to fly in and show the public the splendor of years now gone and your love of these amazing machines. Arrival between 0800 and 0930 local time - marshals will direct you to your display area.

**Aero Clubs** are invited to fly in to enjoy the show and hospitality

- YGYM Landing Fees have been waived for the day
- Discounted Fuel available - MC & Visa
- Car Parking available, gold coin donation
- Sausage Sizzle
- Coffee available
- Cold drinks

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN THE FUN OF PROMOTING AVIATION AS WE ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO GET INTO THE AIR AND LEARN THE JOYS OF FLYING. LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING SO WE CAN ARRANGE SPACE AND FACILITIES FOR YOU**

**CONTACT: Neil Dearberg 0412 017715 | [neil.dearberg034@gmail.com](mailto:neil.dearberg034@gmail.com)**

Representatives from Red Cross and RSL Gympie will be available to assist with mind recovery if needed

**Hosted by Gympie Aero Club and the Military Historical Society of Australia Qld Division supported by the Gympie Regional Council.**

## Military Historical Society of Australia, Qld Division Committee 2022 – 23

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

<p><b><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATE</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 March – Bi-Monthly Meeting</li> <li>• 25 April – ANZAC Day</li> <li>• 13 May – Bi-Monthly Meeting</li> <li>• 8 July – AGM</li> <li>• 9 September – Bi-Monthly Meeting</li> <li>• 11 November – Remembrance Day</li> <li>• 18 November – Bi-Monthly Meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>FELLOWS of MHPA</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Meyers (Deceased)</li> <li>• Anthony Staunton</li> <li>• Donald Wright</li> </ul> <p><b><u>NEW MEMBERS</u></b></p> <p><b><u>VALE</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allan Limpus</li> <li>• Jim Molan</li> </ul>
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Ian Curtis	Editor: Neil Dearberg
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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 .....

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 MHS. **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 MHS 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.**