For the third year in a row, we're proud to receive the Money Magazine Best of the Best award for Lowest-Cost Balanced Super Fund for our Indexed Balanced Option. Add this to our Top 10 investment performance for our Hostplus MySuper Balanced Option over the past 1, 3, 7 and 10 years*, and we think you'll agree, Hostplus knows a thing or two about what it takes to produce and sustain winning performance. To find out how we're helping over 1 million Australians retire with more, visit hostplus.com.au

*Source: SuperRatings SRO Balanced Survey to 30 June 2014. The information in this document is general in nature and does not consider any of your objectives, financial situation or needs. Before acting on this information, you should consider obtaining advice from a licensed financial advisor and consider the appropriateness of the information having regard to your particular investment needs, objectives and financial situation. You should obtain a copy of the Hostplus Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) available at hostplus.com.au and consider the information contained in the PDS before making any decision about whether to acquire an interest in Hostplus. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Issued by HostPlus Pty Limited ABN 75089933478, AFS No. 284141, RSSLF No. L0003002, MySuper No. 0052549S9138, Hostplus Superannuation Fund ABN 08 037 459 899, RSSL No. 28400074, Hostplus Life Insurance (Australia) Limited ABN 65 089 993 478.
Inside This Issue:

A Message from the Publisher:

Chief Executive Officers comment:

Thoughts from the President's Desk:

Report from Vice President, North Western Division:

Report from Vice President, Northern Division:

Artificial Intelligence is not yet capable of reading and understanding natural text.
My wife Jady and our sons Brok and Tate have a long standing family tradition of marching and proudly wearing my father's and grandfathers medals at the Lindisfame ANZAC service every year. This year's attendance far surpassed our expectations. It was great to see so many young people there, the band and choir performed magnificently, the speeches were amazing and the people responsible for such a wonderful service should be congratulated, you made us feel proud to be an Australian.

I'd like to acknowledge the incredible dedication the RSL TAS Branch staff has shown during this time. To say they have been busy is an understatement.

Robert Dick's media commitments were many and he was a familiar face on TV each night and also could be heard on local radio.

Noleen Lincoln must be the hardest working person I know and her commitment to ensuring everything ran as smooth as possible with what was an immense agency was truly inspirational.

We hope you enjoy this special commemorative issue and I'd like to personally thank Andrew Richardson for his talented creative input, Kyron Johnson of Snap Printing for another quality print job, The Mailhouse for their tireless work ensuring the magazines are wrapped and labelled and delivered to Australia Post in a timely and correct manner and Jady for her amazing attention to detail and for helping co-ordinate all the people involved.

I'd also like to ask the members and their family and friends to show some customer loyalty to the businesses that advertise in the magazine, for without them this publication would not continue to be an ongoing possibility.

Resilience Marketing is excited to announce that we are in the process of developing a new website for the RSL TAS Branch so keep an eye out for that one.

As always, it's an honour and a privilege to publish this On Service magazine for you and we hope you enjoy reading it and viewing the special images.

All the Best

Darren Roach
Managing Director

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Once upon a time there used to be a 'quiet time' in June/July but for the past few years that just hasn't happened.

ANZAC Day events around the State were huge this year and I congratulate all our Sub Branches which conducted Dawn Services and/or Main Parades and Services on the magnificent job done by all your volunteers. Not only were there the commemorative services, but many of our Sub Branches were involved in the conduct of ANZAC Day sports with local schools and communities, and also represented the RSL at major sporting events where a member would recite The Ode before the commencement of a game.

In Hobart there were a number of additional events this year and I congratulate Michael Romalis, Chair of the Hobart ANZAC Parade Committee and his dedicated team of volunteers and also the members of the Greater Hobart RSL Sub Branch for putting together a remarkable and memorable event schedule to commemorate the Centenary of ANZAC.

Events included the Dawn Service, Gunline Breakfast at Princes No. 1 Shed, Main Street Parade, Main Commemorative Service and the Cooee March at the conclusion of the service at the Hobart Cenotaph.

With the events surrounding ANZAC Day concluded, we then moved onto State Congress.

There were a couple of minor glitches but nothing so huge that it was evident to any of the attendees. Overall Congress ran very smoothly. It was agreed by delegates attending that next year's Congress is to be held in Launceston to mark the 100th anniversary of the Launceston RSL Sub Branch. The venue has been booked and Congress will be held at the Country Club Resort.

We have learned that having everything under the one roof is definitely the preferred option and a venue which can host our Congress Dinner, Business Session, have accommodation, meals and parking is far easier for both the organizers and attendees of Congress.

In April this year, RSL National appointed a new Chief Executive Officer.

Mrs Sam Jacuboski took up the challenge and we wish her all the very best in her new appointment. Sam was previously the CEO of RSL (South Australia) branch and brings a wealth of RSL knowledge and experience to the position.

We will be making some staff changes at the State branch in the near future with the employment of a designated Receptionist. This will allow the Administrative Officer, Tamara to better fulfill her role without also dealing with the telephones and counter enquiries. She doesn't know it yet but it will also allow the CEO to delegate some duties - heh.

By the time this magazine reaches readers we will have had the Tasmanian Victoria Cross Portrait Exhibition tour Tasmania from the 4th - 31st July.

I hope as many as possible took the opportunity to see the exhibition. Duplicates of the 14 portraits of Tasmanian VC recipients are being donated to the State Branch and will be displayed on our walls in the very near future.

The State Branch will be undergoing some renovations in the coming months.

The sky light is being removed and also disabled toilets are being installed. Visitors may expect some construction noise and we ask that all have patience while renovations are being completed.

Until next edition, stay safe and well.

Noleen Lincoln
Chief Executive Officer

Page 2. Commemorative Issue - 100th ANZAC DAY 1915 - 2015 RSL - ON SERVICE
THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

WE ARE EXTREMELY PROUD TO BE PRESENTING THIS SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

It seems like only yesterday that delegates from our Sub Branches assembled at West Point for our 100th Annual Congress, yet here we are two months down track and still going flat out.

Yet again Congress was a very successful event which was well organised and went off with hardly a visible glitch. At State Branch we have received congratulatory emails and phone messages with nothing but praise for the event, so well done Noelene and your band of volunteers. You have set a high standard however, I am sure that next year’s event will be even better still.

Congratulations must also go to all Sub Branches and their members for the magnificent job and professionalism displayed in the organising and running of ANZAC Day commemorative events in this the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landings. Such was the standard of events conducted throughout the State that the Premier of Tasmania and the Premier’s Parliamentary Secretary read out congratulatory messages in Parliament thanking the RSL for their efforts leading up to and on ANZAC Day.

A transcript of the two motions follows:

Anzac Day Notice of Motion – Parliament of Tasmania 28 April 2015 643 The Premier to move – That the House:

(1) Acknowledges the respect paid by Tasmanians on ANZAC Day, which marked the 100th anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli in 1915.
(2) Notes that Australians turned out in their hundreds of thousands to honour the service and sacrifice of the brave men and women who have served or are currently serving our country in the hundred years since.
(3) Further acknowledges the Tasmanians who turned out in record numbers to attend Dawn Services, marches and commemorative services across our State on Saturday 25 April 2015 including at least 5,000 at the Dawn Service at the Hobart Cenotaph, an estimated 10,000 at the Launceston Dawn Service and at least 3,000 in Burnie.
(4) Further notes this ANZAC Day 2015 marked the unveiling of the Flame of Remembrance, which serves as an eternal flame allowing a place of reflection for all Tasmanians.

(5) Thanks Tasmanians for their support of this important national event in honouring the sacrifice of past and present ANZAC service personnel.

(28 April 2015)

Anzac Day 2015 Notice of Motion – Parliament of Tasmania 28 April 2015 651 Mr Guy Barnett MP (Member for Lyons) to move – That the House:

(1) Recognises the importance of veterans’ and ex-service organisations in commemorations during this Centenary of ANZAC period;
(2) Thanks members of the RSL (Tasmania Branch) and other ex-service organisations who work tirelessly to honour those who served, particularly in Anzac Day commemorations over the weekend;
(3) Notes that at least 57 Dawn Services, 61 Main Services and multiple parades were held across Tasmania on Anzac Day 2015 – a tremendous effort;
(4) Recognises the contribution of the RSL, Legacy and other organisations in not only commemorating the sacrifice of those who served whilst also providing support for veterans and the families of those who did not return home;
(5) Notes the recent comments of the Federal Minister for Veterans Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson, that while it is important to remember those we have lost, it is also crucial that we look to the future and how the next generation may support those men and women serving in our defence force today;
(6) Recognises that our responsibility to veterans is not confined to Anzac Day but is an ongoing role to be fulfilled by all members of our community.
(7) During this Centenary of ANZAC period, sincerely thanks all those who have served this nation in the past and commends the work of those who valiantly serve our nation today.

Many people thought that once this very significant day had passed things would settle down into some sort of semblance of normality; trust me – they could not be further from the truth.

This year is just the beginning of what will be a fairly busy four years as we move closer to the RSL Centenary in 2016, also the year in which we will see the commencement of many commemorations for the major battles of the Great War.

Prior to this we will have the 70th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific followed by the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Rumour has it that the commemorations this year (Hobart being the home of the major Battle of Britain commemorative event) is going to be bigger and better than previous years. We mustn’t forget either that next year is also the 50th Anniversary of Long Tan.

Tasmania finally has its own Flame of Remembrance, which was dedicated on ANZAC Day by the Premier of Tasmania the Hon. Will Hodgman MP during a very moving and poignant ceremony.

If you haven’t seen it as yet, next time you are in the area I recommend you drop by the Hobart Cenotaph and spend a quiet moment. Well done to all involved in bringing this project to fruition. I believe it is well time that we all pull together and start looking to the future in finding ways that we can engage with the younger cohort of veterans and peacekeepers, welcoming them into the fold and ensuring the future of the league. In a lot of cases it appears that this group feels alienated from the League, and aren’t realising that the majority of our fundamental values encapsulated in our core objectives is what they are looking for; we just don’t sell the message adequately enough in a language they understand or relate too.

Tasmania’s Branch of Mates4Mates is growing all the time with many events planned for the year ahead and at this point I extend a warm welcome to Daniel Vuvin who has recently been appointed as the Manager/Co-ordinator for Mates4Mates Facility in Tasmania. Daniel will be making contact with our Sub Branches in the near future and I ask that you welcome him and extend to him your full backing in his endeavours to grow the support on offer to our veteran community both young and old.

Congratulations must go to Dave Gordon, the first Tassie veteran on the Spirit of Mateship.

His first race I believe is the upcoming race to Vansau. Fingers crossed he may even be selected for this year’s Sydney to Hobart. In the near future State Branch will be conducting as series of Sub Branch Workshops where amongst the topics to be discussed will be Corporate Governance, a requirement thrust upon us by our changing society and life styles. We have compiled a Corporate Governance Manual that will assist current and future committees through a labyrinth of these new necessary requirements and regulations. I encourage all Sub Branches to ensure attendance by at least the President and Secretary at these workshops.

That’s about all I have for now, so stay safe and well and I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible in the coming months.

Robert Dick
President

RSL - ON SERVICE
Commemorative Issue - 100th ANZAC DAY 1915 - 2015
Page: 3
REPORT FROM VICE PRESIDENT, NORTH WEST

I AM EXTREMELY PROUD TO BE APART OF THIS SPECIAL ISSUE

Once again State Congress went off very well even though there a few behind the scenes concerns.

I have attended a number of Sub Branch Annual Dinners along the North West Coast since the last On Service and I must say that it is most pleasing to see Sub Branches supporting each other at individual functions through the networking opportunities which are foremost.

I have managed to attend some Sub Branch Annual General Meetings which have given me and State Branch some indication on how particular Sub Branches are operating and gives us an opportunity provide any assistance where there is a need.

During February I attended the RSL Women’s Auxiliary 66th Annual Conference held in Wynyard and in March I attended the Cameron Baird VC, G M Memorial Service - the unveiling of a plinth in his honour and other associated functions in Burnie.

On April 18th I attended the Devonport Centenary of Anzac Dinner held at the Devonport RSL this function was well represented and enjoyed by all who attended. The meal was very good and the guest speaker Barry Heard, author of “Well Done Those Men” (memoirs of a Vietnam Veteran) and other books gave a very interesting and factual presentation.

The Army Band - Tasmania provided some very good entertainment for the occasion. Well done Devonport.

Anzac Day Services along the North West Coast, West Coast and King Island were very well attended with numbers increasing at both the Dawn Service and Main Service in all districts;

well done to all for your efforts in commemorating the Centenary of Anzac now the planning begins for next year and beyond.

In closing I would like to inform everyone who may not be aware, that there is an online RSL Virtual War Memorial which carries the RSL brand. It can be accessed by entering:

www.rslvirtualmemorial.org.au

Graham Deacon
Vice President North West

REPORT FROM VICE PRESIDENT, NORTH

WE ARE EXTREMELY PROUD TO BE PRESENT THIS SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

The year is passing by very quickly it seems with the Centenary of ANZAC Commenorative events ongoing.

The Northern Midlands Sub Branch conducted a sell out Commemorative concert on the 18th April. All attendees spoke very highly of the standard of the entertainment and how hugely successful the show was.

The ANZAC Day Commemorative services around the district were very well attended. All Sub Branch Presidents reported excellent attendances at both the Dawn and Main services and a very good turnout at the various club rooms for breakfasts and lunches.

The Centenary of the landings at Gallipoli was the main event but we are to remember that the Centenary of ANZAC Commemorations continue through to 2018 and we must endeavour to keep promoting our services and events leading up to both ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day over this period.

Congress this year went quite well although we could have done with a few more Sub Branches turning up. Those Sub Branches in attendance voted overwhelmingly to have the next Congress in Launceston. The medals awarded to the legendary Tasmanian Soldier LTCOL Henry ‘Harry’ Murray VC, CMG, DSO & BAR, DCM were presented to the CV Museum, Launceston, on Saturday 6th June.

The medals will be on display to the public for some time.

The Reserve Forces Day Parade will be held in Launceston on Sunday 5th July this year at the Queen Victoria Museum / Old Railway Yard, Inveresk. A large turnout is expected.

On Saturday, 15th August 2015 the nation will commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific and the end of hostilities in the Pacific region, (VP Day).

A wreath laying service is to be conducted at the Hobart Cenotaph at 11am on the day.

At Congress I was elected to serve on the State Executive board to represent the North Eastern division for the next three years. I intend to serve the region as best I can and will take any concerns your Sub Branch may have on issues to the Executive board for consultation and resolution.

Yours Aye

Geoff Leitch
Vice President North
A new crown commemorating the First World War Centenary
fully layered with pure 24 carat gold, yours for just $29.99

KEY DETAILS

EVENT: The First World War Centenary, honouring all who fought for their country.

LIMITED RELEASE: The edition limit of this coin is 9,999.

AUTHENTICATION: Each coin comes with a numbered Certificate of Authenticity.

HIGH SPECIFICATION: Intended as a collectors’ item, this crown is fully layered with pure 24 carat gold.

YOUR FOR ONLY $29.99 (plus $9.99 p&h): an informative Certificate of Authenticity is included FREE of charge and successful applicants enjoy other benefits.

FORMAL APPLICATION


I do not need to send any money now.

If my application is successful I will be notified in writing within 7 days.

I understand I can apply for only one coin, and that my application should be made within 7 days. I may return the coin within 14 days if I am not satisfied. I confirm I am aged 18 years or over. Applications are only open to Australian households and is limited to one per household.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

1. You may apply now to secure the ‘We Will Remember Them’ Golden Crown for just $29.99 (plus $9.99 p&h). A Certificate of Authenticity is included at no additional cost.

2. Apply now. Applications will be approved in strict order of receipt. If your application is successful you will be notified in writing within 7 days. Offer is limited to one per household.

3. Successful applicants will qualify to view the next coin in ‘The First World War Centenary Crown Collection’, a series of gold layered crowns commemorating major campaigns of the First World War. These further crowns, which may be yours for only $79.99 (plus $9.99 p&h) each will be sent at monthly intervals after your We Will Remember Them Golden Crown. Each will be yours to view on approval for 14 days. You may cancel at any time.

4. To apply now, send the coupon below. For priority, call now on 1300 725 103.

Lines open 8am-5pm Monday-Friday AEST.

Send this coupon free post to:
THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE, REPLY P.M.B. 8369 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Promotion Code: 79596

Offer closes: Promptly

Apply by telephone on: 1300 725 103

Title: [ ] Mr [ ] Ms [ ] Mrs [ ] Miss [ ] Other

Name

Address

Postcode: ___________ Email

Phone: ___________________________ Go online today at: www.bradford.com.au/hwrf

Please allow up to 10 weeks for delivery. All correspondence is kept in strict confidence and will not be released to any other person or company. Offer subject to change.

A.S. C.O.M.A.73
©2015 The Bradford Exchange Australia A.N.B. 11-034 10/16/17
HOBART

People have lined the streets of Hobart to mark the centenary of Anzac Day.

Crowds lined up five-deep along Macquarie St cheered on more than 1000 people participating in this year’s main parade. After saluting Governor the Hon Kate Warner at the Hobart Town Hall, the march continued on to the Hobart Cenotaph for the main commemorative service. Led by the Bishop of Tasmania Reverend John Harrower, the service featured an address by the former Chief Justice and Governor, William Cox.

His father, Ellis Cox, fought in World War I in the Australian Imperial Force as an artillery officer and was awarded a Military Cross for gallantry.

"Let us always remember that without the sacrifices and efforts of the men and women we honour today, we would have inherited a different quality of life from that which we now enjoy," Mr Cox said.

Australia’s most recent Victoria Cross recipient Cameron Baird was honoured with his name being unveiled on Hobart’s VC Memorial, which now lists the state’s 14 VC recipients. Corporal Baird, 32, from Burnie, was killed in Afghanistan in June 2013 and his bravery recognized posthumously with the high military honour.

Earlier mild conditions brought people out in their thousands at the Hobart Cenotaph for the Dawn Service. As the temperature reached 11 degrees, the echo of the Last Post rang out across the still morning to remember the fallen and mark the 100th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli.
Scotch Oakburn student Amelia Pearson addresses the Anzac Day service in Launceston.

ABOUT 1500 people gathered in Burnie Park to pay their respects and were encouraged to not only reflect on the past but also pay homage to Australians currently serving overseas.

Burnie’s Mayor Anita Dow said Anzac Day was one of Australia’s most important national days and it was heartening the community was keeping the spirit alive.

Earlier in the day a record crowd of more than 2000 people attended Burnie’s dawn service.

He was the second lieutenant of the machine gun section of the 12th Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade and was recovering in hospital from a wound when he wrote the letter. Miss Cameron said,

“William was injured at Gallipoli a second time but survived the war”.

RSL Sub Branch President Geoff Leitch said,

“The attendance, including many family groups with small children, was very pleasing.

“That’s the idea to get them involved and we have children speaking at the main service at 11am;”

The dawn service from New Zealand was broadcast on a big screen.

Hundreds of people joined the Anzac Day march at Richmond, marching across the historic Richmond Bridge.

Anzac Day services organizer, Michael Barrett said the numbers attending and marching was beyond all expectations.

“The entire town truly commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landings.”
KINGSTON BEACH

The beach was packed with a large crowd where the community shared the experience of a beach front Dawn Service, conducted by the Kingston Beach RSL Sub Branch.

Premier, the Hon Will Hodgman MP attended and said,

"It was a very moving experience."

FRANK MACDONALD MEMORIAL PRIZE STUDY TOUR 2015

The group at the "Menin Gate" were photographed with two of the buglers from the nightly Remembrance Ceremony.

Jenna Carnichael, Sacred Heart College
Alice Garnett and Italia Giniely, Ogilvie High School
Liam Grieves, Burnie High School
Jacob Styles, Riverway High School
Olivia Ionney, Calvin Christian School
Margaret Baxter, Teacher at, Calvin Christian School
David Bost, Teacher at, Bulcara Street Primary School
Adam Brooks MP, representative of the Tasmanian Parliament
Mark Green and Joan Mylly, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Terry Row JP, Deputy State President, RSL (Tasmania Branch).

[top picture]
Do your set of stairs feel like Everest?

Have a seat...

And let Master Lifts take care of the journey from here.
Call us today, and arrange a FREE in home demonstration and quote.

1300 454 387
www.masterlifts.com.au

---

Honoured to be by your side


Proudly providing home nursing and home support services to veterans and seniors every day.

To find out more about our range of government funded services please call 1300 665 444 or visit us at rdnshomecare.com.au
Welcome here
RSL Tasmania

RSL Member

Bridgestone Tyre Centres
Ace Alarms & Security
Par’s Heat Pomp Centre
Natur Zen’s Garden Centre - Ulverstone
Robyn’s Hair Studio - Latrobe
Essentially Mobile - Hobart
Leap Health Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation
Territory Discoveries
Kemptons Old Books (10% discount)
Penguin Video - 56 Main St, Penguin
The Groosy Penguin Cafe - 74 Main St, Penguin
Zvon’s Hair Dresser - 70 Main St, Penguin
Health & Mylès Healthy Meats - Main St, Penguin
Ben Newton’s Mechanical Services - 109 Main St, Penguin
Shoreline Hotel Bistro - Howrah
Martini’s Restaurant - Burnie
Wombat Burrow - Picture Framing, Quail St, St Helens
Grazziozzi’s Furniture, St Helens
The Watch Repair Shop - Hobart
The Coin & Stamp Place, Hobart - Shop 3, Trafalgar on Collins, 110 Collins St, Hobart. (10% discount to RSL Members)

The INS Group is a leading Australian Health Services Company dedicated to delivering innovative and quality health care technology and services.

INS LifeGuard
24-Hour Personal Alarm & Monitoring Systems
Live at home safely knowing the simple press of a button puts you in contact with our Emergency Response Centre, which is staffed by highly qualified and experienced Nurses, 24/7. That’s unique to INS LifeGuard!
Emergency Services, family or neighbours are immediately called in an emergency.

INS Technologies
Developer of eHealth & TeleHealth Technologies
Supporting INS LifeGuard by developing exciting new technologies, such as:
INS LifeGuard SmartHome — a unique, patented system combining Personal Emergency Response, TeleHealth and Home Automation, virtual GP Consults and much more.
INS LifeGuard SmartVillage — convert your village to I.P. technology delivering I.P. voice and internet services village-wide via existing cabling, M2M SIMs, or WiFi.

1800 636 040 www.theinsgroup.com.au

The ANZAC Legend Lives On

One hundred years after Britain declared war on Germany, The Perth Mint has released fitting tributes to all Australian and New Zealand servicemen and women with The ANZAC Spirit 100* Anniversary Coin Series.

DISCOVER THE SERIES
perthmint.com.au/anzacsRSL
1800 098 817

The Australian Silver Medallion is registered trademark of The Australian War Memorial 1912.
After joining the Defence Gap Year program in 2010, Emily found extra motivation to push her through initial recruit training.

"Someone told me that I couldn't get through basic training. I don't like being told I can't do things, so it was good motivation for me."

Emily's initial decision was to do her one-year commitment and then move on with her life.

"I was introduced to Defence by the recruiters that came to my school," she said. "I liked the sound of it and joined the program. I really enjoyed that Gap Year; that sold it to me and I stayed on." With a family background connected to the medical profession, Emily is planning ahead with study and a long-term career change in mind.

"When the Gap Year finished, I signed on to the Army as a clerk and have now started studying a Bachelor of Nursing part-time," she said. "I'm aiming to become an Army Nursing Officer after my studies. My Dad is a paramedic and nursing is something I've always had in the back of my mind. It's also something I can do through various assisted study programs within the Army that lead to a job."

Emily is currently deployed in Afghanistan as the Headquarters Clerk at the main HQ in Kabul.

She is one of the Australian Defence Force personnel deployed across Afghanistan in a variety of roles on Operation Highroad, supporting the NATO-led Resolute Support mission. Resolute Support focuses on training, advising and assisting the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces and Afghan security institutions at the operational, institutional and ministerial levels. Emily's parents Sharyn and Dean still live in Launceston and Emily says it didn't dawn on them where she was until Anzac Day.

"My parents have told me that it didn't hit home for them that I was in Afghanistan until Anzac Day when they were at the footy in Melbourne," she said. "They said the focus was on Afghanistan during the course of the day with speeches and ceremonies which was really well done."

This is Emily's first deployment and she had the privilege of being deployed on operations in Kabul for the Centenary of Anzac. Being a part of the Kabul Dawn Service meant a lot to her.

"Normally on Anzac Day I'd spend the day with friends, but to be deployed here on operations on the Centenary of Anzac made it that much more special," she said. "I had a role during the service and it's something I'll never forget."
A King Island resident is working to bring peace and security to the Middle East.

Fifty grams of plastic explosives is detonated behind Base Armament Manager RAAF Warrant Officer John Youd as part of a demonstration at a weapons range in the Middle East Area.

Royal Australian Air Force Warrant Officer, John Youd is currently deployed as a Base Armament Manager in the Middle East Region where he reports to the Commanding Officer on all matter to do with explosive ordnance. His job involves storage, accountability and employment of explosive ordnance across all Australian Defence Force (ADF) platforms in the area of operations. He also deals with their disposal when required.

"I am currently undertaking my career-long dream, which is to be deployed to the Middle East Region," John said. "This is my first operational deployment of my career, although I have deployed on dozens of exercises in such places as Malaysia, Phillipines, Singapore, Guam, New Zealand and extensively around Australia."

To be a part of Operation Accordion and in turn represent my trade, service, the ADF and the people of Australia makes me very proud."

In a career spanning almost forty years John has served in both the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force, in his current job. After completing early schooling on mainland Tasmania he moved to King Island to eventually graduate year ten. John joined the Navy in 1975, at 16, as a junior recruit at HMAS Leeuwin, where he spent 12 months before posting to HMAS Albatross, Nowra to join the Fleet Air Arm. After training as an Air Technical Weapons Ordnance sailor John said his favorite posting was on the aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne, from 1978-9.

"I worked with the A4 Skyhawk jet aircraft, this was a fantastic period of my life," he said. "I was trained in all kinds of explosive ordnance, munitions, weapons systems and ejection seats."

By November 1984 John had transferred from the RAN to the RAAF and found himself enjoying a posting to a fighter squadron as an armament technician. "I spent from 1988-2000 with 77SQN working with the ‘classic’ FA-18 Hornet aircraft," he said. "In 2014 I was posted to 77SQN, again on the classic Hornets, at RAAF Tindal in the Northern Territory. 77SQN Armament technicians, or Gunners, as they are known, are responsible for the safe fitting of bombs, missiles, guns and counter-measures to the ‘classic’ FA-18 Hornet fighter aircraft, as well as the arming, dearming and servicing of the ejection seats.

John said another career highlight was his time spent in operational fighter squadrons where he got to consolidate his training in seeing Australia’s strike aircraft, the FA-18 Hornet, armed and used in its primary role. John plans on returning to King Island after completing his fortieth year in the ADF. This will earn him one of Defence’s highest long-service accolades, the Federation Star, which will go on his Defence Long Service Medal alongside his Australian Defence Medal and Operational Service Medal, which he has qualified for while on his current deployment.
CLAREMONT SUB-BRANCH
WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT

"TO THOSE WHO SERVED" and "LEST WE FORGET"

A gathering of some 200 people attended the dedication of the new Claremont War Memorial on Saturday, 11 April 2015 with over 1500 attending the Dawn Service and an estimated 1200 at the main service on Anzac Day.

The War Memorial has been built in Windermere Community Foreshore Park at Claremont with Windermere Bay and Dogshear Point as the backdrop.

During World War 1 a large army camp was established on Dogshear Point where the Cadbury factory, Cadbury housing estate and Claremont Golf course are now located. With exception of those who trained at Pontville in 1914, and some who were trained for a short period at Ross, all Tasmanians who enlisted during World War 1 in Tasmania, were trained at Claremont Army Camp, with up to 2,000 soldiers in training at any one time.

The Memorial which was a project of the Claremont Sub Branch was first mooted some five years or so ago.

The Sub Branch was not in a position to fund the Memorial by itself and requests for funding from both Federal and State Governments were delayed for quite some time due to financial constraints.

However, last year a grant under the DVA “Anzac centenary Local Grants Program” and a generous donation by the current State Government enabled the project to go ahead.

The design of the Memorial consists of three concrete panels standing side by side on a raised plinth.

The concrete material represents the solidarity and strength which has always been and continues to be shown by our Armed Forces when faced with adversity and the exposed concrete aggregate of the plinth reflects the rawness of conflict.

The outer panels are angled forward 15 degrees, and this is symbolic of three individuals standing with arms around shoulders in a show of solidarity and comradeship.
The panels support the three service badges with the words,

**“TO THOSE WHO SERVED” AND “LEST WE FORGET”**

placed below the Army badge on the centre panel. LED lights are set into the plinth near the base of each panel for after dark illumination.

A nine metre flag pole stands behind the centre panel.

A paved walkway leads to the Memorial and there is a paved area in front of and to each side. Five information boards have been placed on the northern side of the walkway and the area has been grassed and planted with native bushes and trees.

We at Claremont RSL believe that the Memorial will not only be a lasting tribute to all those who trained at the camp, but a fitting memorial to all Tasmanians who have served in all conflicts and peace keeping operations all over the world.

---

**Veterans Wellness Programs**

**Start today and experience the benefits...**

- Increase mobility and balance
- Reduce and manage age related illness
- Assist with the management of chronic health conditions, back pain, cardiovascular disease, arthritis, diabetes and more.
- Exercise Physiology, Occupational Therapy, Dietetic & Physiotherapy services available.
- Operating out of Gym & Aquatic facilities, also with the option of home visits.

**DVA Pays**

for the clinically necessary treatment

Entitled Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) clients may be referred for clinically necessary Exercise Physiology treatment by their General Practitioner on a valid DVA referral form.

Gold Card Holders are entitled to clinically necessary treatment covered by DVA health care arrangements for all health conditions.

White Card Holders are entitled to clinically necessary treatment for an accepted disability i.e. an injury or disease accepted by DVA as caused by war.

**TASMANIA**

NJF operates out of numerous locations, call to find your nearest location.

1300 890 507

or 0449 713 472

E admin@njfwellness.com.au

njfwellness.com.au
NEW RSL MUSEUM FOR SCOTTSDALE

"Huey" finally arriving at his final destination.

This will be the only Iroquois helicopter on permanent display in Tasmania.

The Scottsdale RSL Sub Branch is realizing its dream of opening a Museum with their Iroquois Helicopter “Huey” finally arriving at its final destination at the RSL & Ex-Servicemen’s Memorial Club in George Street, Scottsdale.

It has been a massive undertaking to get the helicopter and a building to house it. It has taken four years of hard work and dedication by the members of the Sub Branch.

It has been made possible by a grant of $230,000 from the State Government, and many generous donations of both time and money from the community.

The Sub Branch has also contributed $50,000.

In total, the costs of the new building and the restoration of the helicopter will be in excess of $350,000.

This will be the only Iroquois helicopter on permanent display in Tasmania. All the military memorabilia which is presently in the museum room at the RSL club will be relocated and displayed in the new building, making it one of the best Military museums in the State.

A date has not yet been set for opening to the public. There is still a lot of work to be done and money to be raised.

Our own Sub Branches may consider donating excess items of memorabilia or gift funds to this extremely worthwhile project. It is not easy in a small rural town to raise a large amount of money and this Museum will eventually be on the tourist trail and will benefit all Tasmanians and interstate visitors alike.

The Scottsdale Rotary Club has donated 500 railway sleepers to the Sub Branch to sell as their donation towards this project. These are selling for $15.00 or $10.00 depending on the grade.

(Contact: Bruce Scott on 0437 155 395)
HOLMES MEMORIAL DEDICATED AT SNUG

the RSL remembers the dedication of the Holmes Family

On the 25th February this year over 60 members and families of the Kingborough RSL Sub Branch and the Snug Fire Brigade and four members of the Holmes family, gathered at the Snug Fire Station to dedicate a memorial to four deceased members of the Holmes family.

The service was conducted by the RSL Executive while all four members of the family present participated in the plaque unveiling.

The Memorial, comprising of a Gallipoli pine tree (provided by Kingborough Council) and a beautiful brass plaque and sandstone plinth (donated by Turnbull Family Funeral) has been provided by the RSL and tended by members of the Sub Branch and the local volunteer fire brigade.

Those to whom the Memorial has been dedicated were Setty Holmes, former Kingborough RSL Secretary for five years in the early part of this century and her late husband and WW2 veteran Roy, who was also Secretary/Treasurer for five years. The third member was the late June Holmes, the wife of RSL stalwart (Bill) and first President of the Kingborough RSL Ladies Auxiliary.

Bill Holmes, OAM, AFSM, brother of Roy, also saw active service in WW2 and then served the RSL for over 40 years. During that time he was Sub Branch President for 36 years, State RSL Vice President for 21 years, State RSL President for four years and an Honorary National Vice President for many years.

Bill also earned the rare award of the RSL’s Meritorious Service Medal for his outstanding service in 1989 and was also a Life Member of the League.

Bill gave outstanding service to the Tasmania Fire Service as a volunteer fire officer, from shortly after the disastrous “Black Tuesday” bushfires of 1967 until his death a few years ago. He was a Brigade Chief and a Group Officer and held executive office on the Tasmanian Volunteer Firefighters Association for many years. He gained many Service long service awards before receiving the highest recognition, the Australian Fire Service Medal, in 1984. He was often consulted by officers throughout the Service on operational aspects of fire-fighting.

Bill Holmes was also Club President at North-West Bay Golf Club for three years and was the “Diggers Day” organiser there for over two decades, raising funds for Legacy. His tremendous depth of community service was also recognised by Kingborough Council which presented him with a Municipal Merit Award.

Kingborough RSL President, Martin Bastick and Secretary, Dick Goodwin conducted the dedication service whilst Vice President John Ward recited the Ode of Remembrance.

Bill’s son, Tom responded to the dedication on behalf of his family, thanking the RSL and fire brigade for their efforts, recalling the families early days living at Snug and their great interest in the Fire Service and RSL.

He concluded by stating that were the relatives being recognized to be present today, they would all be suitably “chuffed”.

Honour our Heroes with Design a BRICK

Create a long lasting tribute at your local venue for those who served their country, using personalised engraved bricks and pavers.

Enquire with us today
1300 652 541
sales@designabrick.com.au
www.designabrick.com.au
The Poppy Field was a truly memorable tribute to our Fallen and especially in remembrance of those Tasmanians who lost their lives during the Gallipoli campaign and WW1.

In early April we were approached by Mr Rex Gardner, CEO of the Mercury newspaper in Hobart. The Mercury wished to ‘grow a field of poppies’ on the lawns of Parliament House in the week prior to Anzac Day, and wished to give RSL Tasmania the opportunity to fundraise during the week.

It was that time of year when the majority of our State Branch volunteers were already committed to fundraising in other locations and so we sent a call for help to the Rotary Club of Glenorchy.

President, Cheryl O’Borne immediately rallied her troops and the Rotary members manned the site every day in the week leading up to Anzac Day.

Above: RSL Tasmania CEO, Noreen Lincoln and her grandson, Landen Sing, line commence planting the Poppy Field.
RSL State Branch is very grateful for the assistance so freely given by the Rotary Club of Glenorchy.

The Poppy Field was a truly memorable tribute to our fallen heroes, and especially in remembrance of those Tasmanians who bravely lost their lives during the Gallipoli campaign and WW1.

The positive feedback we received from the community was remarkable and the generosity of the public was beyond expectations. The funds raised from the sale of the poppies will assist us in our valuable work for the veteran, ex-Service and current serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their dependants.
FLAME OF REMEMBRANCE

After ten years in the planning, Tasmania finally has its own eternal flame.

The Flame of Remembrance was officially dedicated on Anzac Day, 25 April 2015.

The concept was originally launched in 2006 however, the plans were stalled because of problems with getting a permanent gas line to the Flame.

The project was relaunched after RSL Tasmania and the State Government were successful in gaining a grant from the ANZAC Centenary Fund and is RSL Tasmania’s gift of ANZAC commemorations.

On the side of the Flame of Remembrance there are three meaningful words - LEST WE FORGET.

The Flame is dedicated to all those Servicemen and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives during war and conflict in service to the Nation.

RSL Tasmania is grateful to, and acknowledges the support of the Federal Government, the State Government, Hobart City Council, Tas Gas, Boral Concrete and all other agencies involved in the construction of the Flame of Remembrance.

Lest We Forget
“My advice to everyone is get a COWAY Bidet put on your toilet, I did and it changed my life.”

BARBARA Nash simply dreaded going to the toilet: the combination of arthritis and a bad back made what is a simple thing for most people almost impossible for her.

Usually she had to have a shower after going to the toilet; it was a secret she kept to herself for years. Her doctor had said a Bidet would solve her problem but the cost for Installation and space required for the traditional stand alone Bidet to be installed in her home was just too expensive. Barbara says her luck changed when visiting her friend Norma in the next suburb. While she was there she had to go to the toilet - the thing she dreaded most while she was out.

Well she was amazed by what was on her friend’s toilet! She asked Norma what it was and Norma explained that she had a COWAY Bidet toilet seat installed only a few weeks ago by The BIDET SHOP®. “The chap was so nice and helpful he had the Bidet installed in a jiffy.”

She went on to say, “It has a heated seat and soft closing lid but the best thing is, once I have finished going to the loo I simply press the wash button on the remote control and the bidet cleans me with a stream of warm water, the in-built fan then dries me off with warm air and I haven’t used toilet paper since. It’s the best thing since sliced bread.”

Well Barbara hesitantly went in to the toilet and used the COWAY Bidet, she pressed the large button on the remote control and she was clean. She cried tears of joy and relief now that her toileting problems were solved.

She rang The BIDET SHOP® straight away and ordered one. They installed it later that week. Since then Barbara has introduced 4 of her other friends to this life changing machine. She said “I just didn’t know how many other people out there were having trouble going to the toilet. My advice to everyone is get a COWAY Bidet put on your toilet, I did and it changed my life.”

For more information call The BIDET SHOP® on 02 8005 5730 (Local) or 1300 243 387 (National)!

Australia’s Only Automatic Toilet

THRONE Bidet Systems

With no cistern on the wall or in the wall the throne automatic toilet system now provides designers and architects with unbounded freedom in the design of modern bathrooms

Prince

Queen

Princess

Tankless, Auto Flush, Warm Water Wash, Warm Air Dry, Soft Close, Bidet, Toilet.

Auto flushing Heated seat 3 Way Nozzle Warm Air Dryer Automatic open/close

Hi-tech remote Night Light

For more information on our luxury range of auto-flush toilets and combined bidets

Local 03 9005 7473 | National 1300 243 387

Save up to 30% off RRP* - Just quote this number 507RT

*Local plumbing regulations may apply
In mid 2013 a new RSL Tasmania Award was introduced as a means of recognizing the courage and endless efforts of our Emergency Services Workers across the State and their massive contribution to the wellbeing and care of the community.

The Award consists of a plaque and certificate for each Divisional winner and the overall winner of the Year.

To my grandkids, I leave my Morris Minor.
To the Salvos, I leave hope.

Leave behind a future for people in need by including a bequest to The Salvation Army in your Will.

To find out more about leaving a bequest or if you’d like information to help you prepare your Will, please call 1800 337 082 or visit salvationarmy.org.au/wills

Send to: Bequests Dept, The Salvation Army, PO Box 50, New Town, TAS 7008.

Yes, I’m interested in: (Tick one)
☐ Leaving a bequest to The Salvation Army
☐ Information to assist with preparing a Will

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
State _____ P/C _____ Email ________________________________
Tel ________________________________ Time to call _____ AM/PM
☐ I have already included The Salvation Army in my Will

Phillip Stephens
FUNERALS

embrace the past with remembrance
and the future with longing

- Beautifully appointed chapel, seating up to 200 people
- Offering cremonies at our home crematorium, or burial at a
cemetery of your choice
- After service refreshments at our chapel, or refreshments at the home of
your choice
- Professional and professional funeral plan, with a respectful
tribute
- flowers and flowers, including-arrangements
- All fees & levies are respectfully acknowledged.
- Full family care (benefit)
those three is also presented with the perpetual shield and holds the title of State winner.

Our Sub Branches were asked to nominate from their municipalities a deserving member from any of the Emergency Services and the nominations were then judged by the President, Australian Institute of Emergency Services (AIES) – Tasmanian Division, Ron Jones and the RSL Divisional Vice President for the areas.

The 2014 winners were announced on 28 February 2015 at the AIES Annual Dinner held at the Balmoral Motor Inn, Glenorchy and were presented with their awards by Deputy State President, Terry Roe JP in front of their peers which, by all account, was a very successful event.

The 2014 winners are:

**Southern Region**
*Constable Rod Warrington*  
Tasmania Police

**Northern Region**
*Ronald Denne*  
Longford Fire Brigade

**North West Region**
*Brian Randall*

**Overall State Winner**  
*Constable Rod Warrington*  
Tasmania Police
We have an option for you.

Our self-contained units give you the convenience and independence of living at home, with the comfort and security of knowing there's always expert, professional care and assistance close by, whenever you need it.

We have attractive, pleasant and comfortable units in Hobart, Launceston, Low Head, Westbury and Somerset. (We also provide home care services and operate residential care facilities.) Please get in touch and find out more about how our Independent Living Units can work for you.

Residential enquiries

Southern Tasmania
Ph: 0214 9714 or 0417 579 053

North/North West
Ph: 0348 0240 or 0409 546 835

Email: residentialenquiries@scctas.org.au

Rosary Gardens - New Town - 141 High Care Residents
Guilford Young Grove - Sandy Bay - 56 Low Care & High Care Residents plus 38 Units
Sandown Village - Sandy Bay - 60 Low Care and High Care places plus 34 Units
Taroona Villas - Taroona - 13 Units
Lawrenny Court & Hamilton Place - West Hobart - 94 Units
Fairway Rise - Lindisfarne - 90 Low Care and High Care places plus 91 Units

Glenara Lakes Village - Youngtown - 72 Low Care & High Care Residents plus 63 Units
Mount Esk - St. Leonards - 98 Low Care & High Care Residents
Ainslie Launceston - South Launceston - 94 units
Ainslie Low Head - Low Head - 69 Low Care and High Care Residents plus 34 Units
Ainslie Westbury - Westbury - 6 Units
Yaraando - Somerset - 82 Low Care & High Care Residents plus 6 Units

web: www.southerncrosscaretas.org.au

The right option at the right time.

Founded and sponsored by the Knights of the Southern Cross
I changed my password everywhere to 'incorrect.' That way when I forget it, it always reminds me, 'Your password is incorrect.'

I don't need a hair stylist, my pillow gives me a new hairstyle every morning.

It's easy to identify people who can't count to ten. They're in front of you in the supermarket express lane.

You know you are getting old when the candles on your birthday cake start to cost more than the cake itself.

Love your enemies. It makes them so damned mad.

Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died.

The most important thing in life is not knowing everything, it's having the phone number of somebody who does!

You know your driving is really terrible when your GPS says, "After 300 feet, stop and let me out!!"

The probability of meeting someone you know increases a hundredfold when you're with someone you're not supposed to be seen with.

Your mind needs exercise just as much as your body does, that's why I THINK of jogging every day.
The 100th Annual State Congress was held on the 8th and 9th of May 2015 at the Hobart Convention Centre, Wrest Point.

The Hon Will Hodgman MP, Premier of Tasmania officially opened Congress. Other dignitaries and official guests included:

Rear Admiral Ken Doolan, AO RAN (Retd), RSL National President,

Senator Stephen Parry MP, President of the Senate representing the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs,

Senator David Feeney MP, Shadow Minister for Veterans’ Affairs,

Mr Craig Orme, Deputy President – Repatriation Commission

Ms Jan Hyde, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs – Tasmania.

RSL official guests included:

Major General David McLachlan, AO (Retd), State President – RSL Victoria

Mr Rod White, State President – RSL NSW.

State Congress 2016 is to be held in Launceston at the Country Club Resort on 20/21 May 2016.

There were 35 Sub Branches represented with 62 delegates,

During the Official Opening of Congress the following League Awards were presented:

Life Memberships –

Mr Harry Chapman, Penguin Sub Branch

Mr Kent Luttrell, Launceston Sub Branch

Mr Robert Ramsay, Lindisfarne Sub Branch

Mr Kevin Walker, Wynyard Sub Branch

Sub Branch Chairmen –

Fingal Mathinna
RSL Sub Branch,

Circular Head
RSL Sub Branch Inc.

State Office Bearers - 2015
State President
Mr Robert Dick

Deputy State President
Mr Terry Roe JP

State Treasurer
Mr Alex Dick

North Eastern Division
Vice President
Mr Geoff Leitch

North West Division
Vice President
Mr Graham Deacon

Southern Division
Vice President
Vacant

BUY 1 ADULT TICKET
GET 1 FREE

Explore Launceston’s beautiful Tamar River
and stunning Cataract Gorge

Multi Award Winning
Cruises Depart Daily - Depart Hourly

TAMAR RIVER CRUISES

Call 6334 9300 (Booking needed) tamarrivercruises.com.au

For more information, visit our Facebook page 'The Spirit of Launceston'
STATE CONGRESS - 2015

The 100th Annual State Congress

Harry Chapman - Life Membership

Kent Luttrell - Life Membership

Kevin Walker - Life Membership

Robert Ramsay - Life Membership

Mr Bill Eckhardt
Fingal Mathinna RSL - Sub-Branch Charter

Mr Rodney Wells and Mr Adrian Dodd
Circular Head RSL - Sub-Branch Inc. Charter

RSL - ON SERVICE

Commemorative Issue - 100th ANZAC Day 1915 - 2016

Page: 27
Since 1985 Doug Wyatt has been researching and documenting Tasmanian Military History, resulting in the publication of 10 books and 25 CDs.

The published CDs include the following:

- FOR VALOUR, Tasmanian's awarded the Victoria Cross, Australia's highest award for Valour, 1900-2013.
- Guidons, Colours, Banners, Standards and Flags presented to the Army in Tasmania.
- The Australian Army Women's Service in Tasmania, 1942-1946.
- 2/12th Battalion, 1939-45.
- 2/40th Battalion, 1940-45.
- Australian Army Chaplains in Tasmania from 1886.
- 12th 50th Battalion, 1936-46.
- Sheffield Mounted Cadets, 1908-1912.
- Lineage of Infantry in Tasmania.
- The First Military Encampment in Tasmania, 7th-9th November, 1868.
- The 40th Battalion, 1st AIF.
- Military Activities at Pontville and Brighton Camp.
- The Derwent Regiment, 1903 - 1965.
- Tasmania's Expeditionary Force, World War One, 1914.

In recent years Doug has specialised in researching and documenting Military Biographies. These include military biographies of those who served in the Boer War, WW1, and WW2. So impressed with the production of some 14 biographies, Chris Taylor wrote this testimonial:

"Having recently become a father, I decided to research my family history in more detail. I knew that my ancestors had fought in both world wars, but my knowledge of their efforts and commitment was at best, limited. Doug's research and commitment to exploring my families past helped bring them back to life, not only for me but for my future generations. Members of my family were no longer names, they were people, who served and in some instances died for our country. I cannot thank Doug enough for his patience and sensitive approach to such a critical part of what has become a defining part of my own families history. I encourage anyone who has had family members serve to explore the past and I have no hesitation in recommending Doug, who has gone above and beyond to help me value the past.

Thank you."

Page: 28

Conmemorative Issue - 100th ANZAC Day 1915 - 2015

RSL - ON SERVICE
Another couple of Doug’s passions are Military Medal Framing and Restoration of old photographic memories.

Researching and documenting Military Biographies, led to the layout and design of Military Medal framing as shown here:

Doug can also restore damaged photographs as shown in the examples below:

For more information contact:
Chris Taylor | DIRECTOR
Ph: 1300 277 428
Mob: 0413 150 000

PO Box 6109, Silverwater, NSW 2128
chris@apricus.com
www.apricus.com.au

Additional information can be seen on the website at:
www.dmwyatt@bigpond.net.au.
Michael Kelly is a Vietnam veteran who recently submitted a short story for a writing competition. It's about two Vietnam veterans who meet on a plane. Michael’s story won third prize and was published in a booklet made up of the top 25 entries.

Somehow I’ve always managed to escape when veterans start telling war stories, but this bloke was in seat 24A and I was stuck in 24B without a parachute. He was flying to Sydney “For three days on it with me mates,” he told me, followed by the ANZAC Day March if they could still walk. Staring intensely into my book didn’t put him off and I didn’t want to say something rude so I put the book away and he knew he had won.

“Rod Avery’s my name,” he said. I told him mine and we shook hands.

His story began with recruitment training at Puckapunyal in 1968 when he was eighteen. Before that actually, when a judge gave him two minutes to choose between three years in the Army and six months jail for “borrowing” a car to drive home to Melbourne after a party in Geelong. To this day he swears he was going to take it back next day and catch a train home, but the judge didn’t buy it.

After recruitment training he was posted to infantry and eventually to the Australian Task Force Base at Nui Dat in January 1970. By his account he only remained a private because he was far too valuable as a fighter to be promoted. I looked at his flabby face and beer gut and tried to picture a fit, heavily armed young warrior in jungle greens, his face daubed with green and brown camouflage paint.

“I only saw action three times,” he said and was quiet for a while. “Hard to talk about that to anyone who wasn’t there.”

“I’m sure it is,” I said and though I’m sure you will anyway. “Worse if you get hit of course,” and he lifted his shirt to show a scar and a hollow at the back of his ribs where two of his ribs should have been.

“Was it a bullet or shrapnel?” I asked.

“Bullet. Got one in the leg too. We had a section caught in a bunker system, pinned down, couldn’t even lift their heads to shoot back. Couldn’t call in artillery because Charlie, that’s the Viet Cong, were only twenty metres away from our blokes. I was ordered to give covering fire with my machine gun so our guys could move back.”

“I ran for a tree that would have given me cover but halfway there I got hit in the leg and did a face plant. When I tried to crawl I got this one,” he said pointing to his ribs. “I must have been in a bit of a hollow because while I stayed flat they couldn’t hit me, but I couldn’t go anywhere. I thought we were all dead.” He was quiet for a while.

“What happened?” I asked.

“The tanks came,” he said. It was dark outside but he turned away and looked out the window for a few seconds. “Centurion tanks. I didn’t even know they were with us that day and suddenly there was two of them charging up behind me, side by side, ten metres apart. The Crew Commanders were exposed outside their hatches from the chest up firing machine guns mounted on top of the turrets. Sitting ducks they were but I guess if they were down inside they couldn’t see what was going on in the jungle.

“Every few seconds their main guns fired. You wouldn’t believe the impact those bloody machines had made. The sheer size of the things, the power, the ear-splitting noise of the main guns and what they did to a bunker when they hit. I can’t tell you how I felt, after I’d been squirming face down in the mud waiting for the next bullet...”

His voice trailed off and he looked out at the blackness again. I think he sneakily wiped his eyes.

“One came straight at me and I put my arm up and hoped to Christ the driver or Crew Commander could see me. They obviously did because it swerved around me then turned ninety degrees and stopped between me and the bunkers. I was shielded from enemy fire but I was too weak to move. One of my mates saw what was happening and ran in to get me. Only a little bloke too but he put me over his shoulder, picked up the gun and carried me out. Dust off chopper picked me up end twenty minutes later I’m in hospital at Nung Yau.”

After a long pause and struggling to sound composed I said

“You didn’t just put your arm up mate, you were shitting yourself, waving your bush hat all over the place...”

“I thought I’d be run over!”

Then he froze for a few seconds, the realisation too much to take in. “Did I tell you that?” he asked.

I shook my head.

“You were there.”

“Crew Commander,” I said.

“Why the hell didn’t you tell me?”

“I just did.”

“I mean before. You let me prattle on for half an hour and never let on you served in Vietnam.”

“I never do. I wouldn’t have this time except I realised who you are. That made it different.”

He leaned back and closed his eyes for a few seconds. “Am I right, that you turned side-on to shield me?”

Page: 30.
WAR WOUNDS

“Yes, but I couldn’t hang around. I gave you about ten seconds then turned and kept going. All I could find out later was that your Platoon had five casualties so I didn’t know if you got out or not.”

“None killed and five wounded including me. I got out thanks to my mate who’s a bloody hero. And to you of course. I’ve often thought about that tank, the crew, wondered if they got home OK.”

You don’t look any the worse for wear?”

“No. I’ve been OK. Learned to live with the guilt and shame of fighting a war we shouldn’t have been in, killing blokes that were just trying to defend their country.”

“You don’t think we made a difference?”

“Of course we did but it was all bad. It took me years to realise that. I was a naive country kid, only knew what the Army told me. But politicians here and in America should have known. There were so many things wrong with that bloody war.”

It cost over a million dead and God knows how many lives destroyed. And for what?

If we hadn’t interfered the North would have overrun the South in weeks. Same end result, hardly any casualties. We achieved nothing.”

I could have added that forty years ago I disembarked in Sydney and said goodbye to some mates I would never forget but would never see again. No ANZAC Day marches, no reunions, Vietnam chapter closed.

He made strong eye contact for the first time. Angry eye contact I thought. “Why should we be ashamed for Christ’s sake?”

The government dumped us there. And once we got there Charlie was coming after us. We had no choice up to that point. But every time the shit hit the fan, we made choices ordinary men never have to make. We could hide, we could do just enough to stay out of trouble, or we could do whatever it took for our mates.”

I was about to say something but he was on a roll. “My shrink pointed that out to me years ago and I thought, Rodney, he’s bloody right you know, no soldiers in the world look after each other like we do. If poor old Charlie paid a high price for that, it wasn’t our fault.”

“What you did for me was special, but I reckon the tanks saved hundreds of other Aussies while they were there.”

Some idiot officer sent them home to Australia before my Battalion and three of my best mates were killed assaulting a bunker system. I got no doubt they’d be alive today if we’d had tanks with us. And what about grunts? If one bloke didn’t do his job we were all history. And sappers feeling for mines in muddy rivers so you blokes could drive across safely? Chopper pilots? The balls those blokes had when they needed them.

“So you need to think about that mate. If the only good thing we could have done over there was look after our mates, you did that in spades and you should be proud of it.”

We collected our bags and I was feeling a bit awkward about how to say goodbye. He handed me a piece of paper with his mobile number. “Give me a call,” he said “But I don’t want to hear any bullshit war stories.” We laughed at that and he started to hold out his hand but then gave me a self-conscious hug.

I think he tried to say something but it didn’t come out. Then he quickly turned and limped off.

On the eve of ANZAC Day it took me an hour to find my campaign medals. I thought about Rod’s view of the war and wondered why I’d never thought about it that way. I hadn’t allowed myself to think about it at all, was probably the answer. I can’t imagine ever feeling proud of my involvement but that’s OK, I don’t need to go that far.

I put my medals away where I can find them easily next year. Just in case.
NOTICES

INFORMATION ON REUNIONS, GET TOGETHERS OR JUST SEARCHING FOR OLD MATES


The Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps Vietnam Veterans reunion will be held in Albury/Wodonga over the Anzac Day weekend 22-25 April 2016. We aim to make this reunion a special one to mark the 50th anniversary of the deployment of personnel and units that comprised HQ APFV, TATF and 1ALS.

For those veterans who have not received email notification of the reunion, please contact Brian Roberts on: 0402 236 941 or brian45@westnet.com.au

2RAR REUNION AT TWIN TOWNS SERVICES CLUB TWEED HEADS on 31st October 2015.

AGM at 8.30am (ANZAC Room), Commemorative Service at 9.45am (Cunningham Park - next to Services Club), Reunion 11.00am (River View Lounge). Contact Secretary Gordon Hurford on: 07 5443 5583 or 2aradecretary@gmail.com

REUNION FOR RAAF CLERKS Friday 22nd April to Monday 25th April 2016

At various locations in Ipswich. It is proposed to run a reunion for current or ex clerks from the ADMIN musters of the RAAF and will include CERK, CLERK, CLERK2, CLERKFA, PSASSE, EDASSIST, STENO, PCS and officer branches of ADMMO, FINNACCIO, EDO and POC of which all are welcome to attend.

It is proposed to meet on Friday Night the 22nd April 2016 at the Ipswich Jets Leagues Club from 6.30pm for Welcome drinks, then across the weekend, we will hold a Barefoot Bowls morning from 11am on Saturday at North Ipswich Bowls Club followed by the Official Reunion Function on the Saturday Night the 23rd April at the Ipswich Jets Leagues Club from 5pm, then on Sunday we will hold a recovery breakfast followed by a proposed (subject to approval) tour of the RAAF Amberley Heritage Centre and on the Monday which is ANZAC Day, the group will attend a Dawn service then march as a CLERKS Group Contingent in the Ipswich ANZAC Day March and service followed by drinks at the Ipswich RSL Club.

Come along and have a good laugh, reignite old friendships, relive those things we used to get up to, and see how we have all changed in the years since we last met. It is hoped to have photo displays and there should be a lot of reminiscing.

There is a cost for some events which will be revealed at a closer date.

If you require any information or more details about the reunion please contact: Kent Boniface on 07 54460 940 or Greg Lyons on 0413700299. Or email: rafareunion@bigpond.com

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF MILITARY POLICE CENTENARY CELEBRATION AND REUNION 1st-3rd April 2016

The Royal Australian Corps of Military Police (RACMP) was formed on 3 April 1916 and was originally known as the ANZAC Provost Corps. On 3 April 2016 the Corps will celebrate its 100th year of service.

Serving and Former Corps members will celebrate this event on the weekend of 1-3 April 2016.

Any former Corps members who may wish to be involved in the Ceremony/Reunion are requested to contact John Watson of the Military Police Association Australia on: email: infopap@bigpond.com for further information.

Looking for...

I am trying to locate a medic nurse who was in Vietnam 1971, her name was Judy Wilson and her married name was Compon, our last correspondence with each other was around 1973. We became friends during part of the time I was a Donut Dolly and with the US Red Cross. Please contact Margo Smith on: 0401950 yahoomail.com

Seeking...

Contact from Descendants and Relatives of 11 Rats of Tobruk. Be advised that the ROTA Membership Database and Website, which went live February 2012, has been recently updated and now contains a Master Record of 5223 Rats, Fallen/KIA 2294, POWs 939 and Non-Tobruk 289, along with other Member Reports. These Reports can be viewed on the Website: http://rotoftobruk.org.au.

Also please be aware, if you are a Descendant or Relative of a Rat of Tobruk, over the age of 16 years, you are eligible to apply for Affiliate Membership of ROTA. By joining this Unique Association, you can do your part in assisting the Association to continue functioning into the future and ensuring the Memory of the Rats of Tobruk lives on forever. We owe them at least that much, for their Service to our Country.

I can be contacted via the Website or by Phone on: 03 9970 5734 or 0401561421

Owen Carlton, a Proud Nosh, ROTA ARN N0023.

All ex or current RAAF personnel including Officers and all Mustering Officers who worked in a RAAF MRS, GES, GEMF, GEMS or MEOMS unit are invited to our National Reunion of RAAF GEMS MUSTERINGS to be held the 4th to the 6th of September 2015 in WAGGA WAGGA NSW.

There is a cost for the functions, so please contact Greg “Jacko” Lyons on: 07 3294 0803 or 0413700298 email: djacks58@bigpond.com or Ken McLeod on: 07 32018339 or 0417872007 email: napping@bigpond.com for further details or check our website - https://sites.google.com/site/airforcegemsmusterings/home/events.
Supporting Tasmanian families in their hour of need
Millingtons provides you with every option in funeral and cemetery service.

Contact us 24 hours a day on 6211 4888

Gay Flowers
is a well established Tasmanian florist offering comprehensive floristry needs

Gay Flowers
est. 1978

Ph: 6223 2598
3 Gregory Street, Sandy Bay

Order online at: www.gayflowers.com.au

email: enquiries@gayflowers.com.au
Coming into Mates4Mates I feel like I’ve got that family back again. All the people here have different stories, but we’re all the same. To be around guys like you who understand what you’ve been through and where you’re coming from, it’s invaluable... that’s something I haven’t experienced since I left Defence.”

-James Haw, Mate

Mates4Mates supports wounded, injured and ill Defence Force personnel and their families. We offer free support for current and ex-serving through:

- Psychological services
- Referral to DVA entitlements experts
- Physical rehabilitation and training
- Yoga
- Adventure training (Kokoda, Sailing, Equine Therapy)
- Social and family support
- Career support

Get involved today.
To be notified of upcoming events in your area email Tasmania@mates4mates.org or call (03) 6242 8940.