

# WESTERN OUTPOST NEWS



**AUTUMN 2017 ISSUE**

St Mary's Outpost the  
'Train of Knowledge'

## **St Marys Veterans Centre**

St Marys Outpost - VVAA  
& St Marys RSL Sub-Branch



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### Front Cover:

War Memorial - Broken Hill, NSW

#### **DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATION**

Winter 2017..... 23 May 2017

Spring 2016..... 25 August 2017

Summer 2017..... 17 November 2017

Autumn 2018..... 24 February 2018

Articles of a general nature may be submitted at anytime, please send to:  
john.davison@optusnet.com.au

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**Google: St Marys RSL Sub Branch**

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# ST MARYS VIETNAM VETERANS OUTPOST

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Let me start this report by saying, that...

On behalf of my family and myself, I sincerely thank all members and friends for the tremendous support shown following the death of Cheryl, my wife and the devoted mother of our children.

In regards to the future operations of the Train, I must say my greatest concern so far this year is “**uncertainty**”, I am sure you have heard the term *Modus Operandi*, it is a term used to describe an organisation's preferred or existing means of carrying out a function and interacting with other organisations.

At a meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017 we were advised in no uncertain terms by a member of the ATPD/DVA, that, after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 our pensions and welfare officers will need to conform to ADTP Training or be not covered by “VITA” .

My concern and, perhaps the biggest slap in the face to our Pension and Welfare officers is the manner in which this change has been imposed.... Absolutely **NO** consultation with our highly regarded greatly experienced Pension and Welfare officers, who are currently performing a range of valuable services to the veteran community.... “No consultation, just a directive”.

I want to assure all members; we are working to provide an acceptable solution that will allow our team to continue operating, and, at the same time comply with requirements of ADTP.

A more detailed overview of the new Advocacy Training Program, is available on P34 of the March-April 2017, issue of Reveille.

**On a lighter note**, you will have noticed some movement at the Station, the scaffolding was erected with a view to our train washers painting the road side of the carriages over a period of about 1 week, unfortunately, the Big Wet took over and has caused significant delays. However, I am sure the finished job by the train washers will be as professional as all the volunteer work carried out on our great facility.

**You may recall** that, I suggested that we embark on a public awareness campaign utilising free local newspapers and the like, so far we have been included in the community column of the “Star” on a weekly basis, see our message: <http://www.stmarysstar.com.au/story/4522633/in-and-around-stmarys/>

The news is good! Empty seats in our computer training carriage are being filled.

**In conclusion**, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended the AGM and re-elected last year's executive unopposed, it was in effect, a show of hands in favour of the harmony and enthusiasm that is quite evident within our ranks.

Tony.Mullavey  
President

## Welfare Officers Needed

The Welfare Department of the VVAA St Marys Outpost and the St Marys RSL Sub-Branch are seeking the support of members and their partners in being trained to become Welfare Officers.

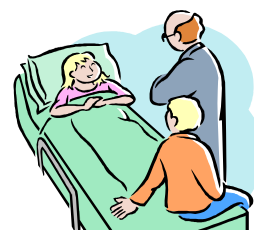
We need to build the Welfare Department due to several members resigning because of ill-health and personal reasons

Anyone interested will be assigned to a qualified Welfare Officer and will be taken to visit DVA patients in different Hospitals and Nursing Homes on Tuesdays.

After you have been on several visits with different Welfare Officers and you are deemed to be suitable to carry out the duties of a Welfare Officer you will be asked to attend a TIP Welfare Course to become a fully qualified Welfare Officer.

If you think you would like to try and can spare a few hours on a Tuesday please contact John to arrange a meeting and for more information.

H John Foeken JP - Welfare & Funerals Co-ordinator  
0409 329 688



## OUR AUSTRALIAN FLAG.

Our flag bears the stars that blaze at night  
In our southern sky of blue  
And that little old flag in the corner  
That's part of our heritage too.  
Its for the English, the Scots and the Irish  
Who were sent to the end of the earth  
The rogues and the schemers and dreamers  
Who gave our Australia its birth.

And you who are shouting to change it  
You don't seem to understand  
It's the flag of our laws and our language  
Not the flag of a faraway land  
There are plenty of people who'll tell you  
How Europe was plunged into night  
The little old flag in the corner  
Was their symbol of freedom and light.

It don't mean we owe our allegiance  
To a forgotten imperial dream  
We've the stars to show where we are going  
And the old flag to show where we've been  
It's only an old piece of bunting  
It's only an old coloured rag  
But there are thousands who died for its honour  
And fell in defence of our flag.

Anon.





## letters to the editor



### Unknown Soldier

John,

Going through our photos from our Western Front trip - should have sent you this one before.

As the headstone says:

*"The remains of an unknown Australia Soldier lay in this grave for 75 years. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 1993 they were exhumed and now rest in the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra."*

Regards,

Vin Cosgrove



*Thanks Vin, the photo certainly rounds off the story of Australia's Unknown Soldier in the last edition of the Outpost News - Editor.*



### Already in Hell



Hello, and welcome to the mental health hotline. If you are obsessive-compulsive, press 1 repeatedly. If you are co-dependent, please ask someone to press 2 for you. If you have multiple personalities, press 3, 4, 5 and 6. If you are paranoid, we know who you are and what you want. Stay on the line so we can trace your call. If you are delusional, press 7 and your call will be transferred to the mother ship. If you are schizophrenic, listen carefully and a small voice will tell you which number to press. If you are manic-depressive, it doesn't matter which number you press; no one will answer. If you are dyslexic, press 969696969696969. If you have a nervous disorder, please fidget with the dash key until a representative comes on the line. If you have amnesia, press 8 and state your name, address, phone number, date of birth, tax file number, and your mother's maiden name. If you have post-traumatic stress disorder, slowly and carefully press 000. If you have bipolar disorder, please leave a message after the beep or before the beep. If you have low self-esteem, please hang up! All our operators are too busy to talk to you. If you are suffering from short-term memory loss, press 9. If you are suffering from short-term memory loss, press 9. If you are suffering from short-term memory loss, press 9.



## ST MARYS RSL SUB-BRANCH REPORT

I'm sad to report a sorrowful start to 2017 for our Sub-Branch with three members departed – Ray Bates, Bob Humphreys and Ray Radford. From our Sub-Branch friends in the bush, I'm also sad to report that Bruce Riley, President Chatsworth-Iluka also passed away.

*May they Rest in Peace; Lest We Forget*

We were of course very pleased to see our Patron Tanya Davies MP now promoted to the State Ministry, as Minister for Mental Health, the Aging and Women (see photo opposite) Congratulations Tanya.

Best I now introduce myself! Following our AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> February, Your new President is me – Ron Blakely. You can reach me on 0411131849 anytime if I can be of assistance. John Foeken has returned as Vice President. All other Executive positions are unchanged. I would also like to say a huge *'thank you'* to Ron Kelly for his leadership of the Sub-Branch over the past five years. We are very fortunate to have such a stable team.

We have hit the ground running this year:

- \* Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February: Frank Lawton and I attended a Service at the Richmond Memorial to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin. It was a small gathering but well run and a pleasure to be part of the ceremony.
- \* Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February: Tony Fryer, Frank Lawton, Lesley Ayres and I attended the third meeting of the Centenary of Armistice 2018 Committee. The event at the Penrith Paceway on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 is shaping up as a key event for your next year's calendar. It is a joint venture of three RSL Sub-Branches (St Marys, Penrith and Glenbrook).
- \* Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February: Tony Fryer, Paul Hibbard and I attended the RSL Far West Metropolitan District Council to discuss the latest in the embarrassing situation that RSL State Council finds itself in. As at the end of February when writing this, moves were in place to call an urgent Congress of Sub-Branches to further direct the actions to be taken to rectify the issues and return RSL NSW to 'normal business'. It is a developing scenario so by the time you read this I expect the situation to be much clearer and hopefully on the road to recovery.
- \* Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February: Frank Lawton and I attended Emmaus Catholic College for their school awards presentation. Later the same day we both took part in Emma Husar MP's Seniors Forum, along with members from the Train. (A photographic collage on the back cover)

With ANZAC 2017 rapidly approaching, the Service Planning Committee is continuing with efforts to ensure that the Services will be successful. We have some special guests from Queensland visiting us especially for the Services, so please come along. Put Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April in your diary for our usual pre-ANZAC Service at Victoria Park (preceded by the march along Queen Street from 2:30 pm), our guest speaker will be Sub-Branch Patron, Dr Chamberlan and Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> for the Dawn Service commencing at 5:00 am – but please come much earlier to get the good position

Ron Blakely

President St Marys RSL Sub-Branch

## NSW Government, Cabinet Swearing-In 2017



Stuart and Leslie Ayres with Tanya Davies

Gary and Lesley Ayres are Stuart Ayres parents, both Gary & Lesley are members of the Sub-Branch and the "Train"

Reno nicknamed Lesley "Member for Thornton" as a joke and it has stuck

Tanya Davies is a Patron of St Marys RSL Sub-Branch and a huge supporter of the Train

### **MICHAEL JOHN FITZGERALDSOLICITOR**

**Level 8  
65 York Street Sydney 2000**

**Phone: 9283 2500 or 0419 440 990**

**FAX: 9283 2600.  
ABN 18095746334**



## Fishing.Report

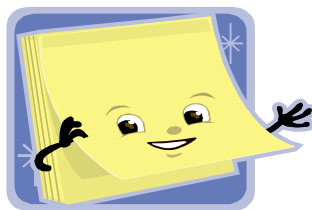
The fishing year has started badly, February's trip was all set to go, we were off to usual spot at Clark Point Reserve. The. fishing doesn't get called off without good reason, the death of Ray Radford a Director of St Marys RSL and a Sub-Branch member of many years, in fact I can't remember Ray not being there at the meetings, his funeral was to be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, the fishing day sp it was decided to call off the fishing as a lot of the men wanted to attend and pay there last respects to a fellow Veteran.

March is another story it was to be our boat trip on the Hawkesbury, there were a lot of men unable to attend and I was having trouble filling one boat, it needs 6 people to cover the cost of the boat for a days hiring. It's a fun day and normally we get two boats no trouble, as it turned out I had to be in Goulburn on the first. I sent out a message to everyone and they voted to cancel to another day.

Let us hope that next month's fishing day is free of all problems and we finally get to go fishing.

Fishing is on the First Wednesday of the month and all are welcome, we don't catch to much but it is a fun day, if you intend to come could you please let me know so we can cater for you.....

Reno



### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING DAYS OF OPERATION FOR PENSIONS AT THE ST MARYS VETERANS CENTRE**

Pension claims at the 'Train' are now carried out on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday between the hours of 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, however, these timings are flexible depending on availability of Pension Officers.

Anyone wishing to see a particular Officer should phone the office first to ensure they will be in attendance.

Veterans attending the 'Train' for the first time to start a claim should allow for at least two hours for the interview as initial interviews can be time consuming.

**Interviews are carried out on a 'first in first served' basis**



**IF YOU, OR A VETERAN YOU KNOW,  
IS FEELING**



**THEN IT'S TIME FOR A CHAT WITH OUR WELFARE OFFICERS  
VISIT THE VETERANS CENTRE, LOCATED IN**

**“THAT TRAIN”**

**CNR MAMRE ROAD & HALL STREET ST MARYS**



**THE BEST TIME TO ACT IS NOW!**

Paddy was a youthful and hard working Irishman at a Coastal village in Ireland. Daily he would pole a heavy old punt out to sea then work a heavy iron grapple to bring up the sand oysters which he sold to the local ice works.

He was a man of regular habits he always arrived home each day at a certain time.

Sadly, Paddy did not realise the heavy grappling was taking a toll on a faulty heart.

One day he failed to come home so his wife contacted the Police to investigate him being missing. They rowed out and found Paddy dead in the punt beside him a huge grapple full of oysters he'd tried to hoist aboard.

Headlines next day in the 'Irish Times Newspaper' Said, “OYSTERS KILPATRICK”

*Admit it, you didn't see it coming did you?*





## COMPUTER TRAINING CLASSES

Computer Classes are conducted at the Vietnam Veterans Train situated at the St Marys RSL Club in Mamre Road St Marys as follows:

Tuesday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
 Wednesday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (LadiesClass)  
 Thursday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Thursday classes teach Digital Photo manipulation using Photoshop Elements 5, only 5 students at a time **Bookings essential.**

The Tuesday and Wednesday classes are informal and we teach mixed classes from the 'beginner' to the more experienced and retired seniors wanting to familiarise with current software and learn to use the Internet to send E-Mails and carry out research & other technology related issues.

**For more info call Keith 9833 4700 or  
 email [vietvet@tpg.com.au](mailto:vietvet@tpg.com.au)**



Allan Duncan is a retired detective sergeant and qualified negotiator with 23 years experience in the NSW Police Force. He is also the co-founder and present councillor of the Hawkesbury Police and Emergency Services post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) support group. Having been a resident of the Hawkesbury for 45 years, Allan is familiar with the local area and since entering real estate has sold millions of dollars worth of real estate. He recently achieving equal first in a major sales competition in NSW.

## ALLAN DUNCAN REALTY

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**Allan Duncan**  
Principal

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**St Marys RSL Sub-Branch  
Invites you and your family  
to join with us in Commemorating**



# ANZAC 2017

This year, within the theme of ANZAC, we will focus on  
**The Battle of Kapyong, Korea 1951** with special attention to  
**Captain Reginald Walter Saunders, Commander, A Coy, 3 RAR**

We will conduct our two annual Services:

**Local community March and Service – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

The March along Queen Street St Marys will commence at 2:30pm from Coachman's Park, and conclude at Victoria Park with an 'eye's right' to our honoured special guest, Dr Daryl Chamberlain.

The Service will immediately commence after arrival of the March.

Local High Schools will have a special display in line with the theme for the Service.

Following the Service, please join with us in the auditorium at St Marys RSL Club Ltd for nibbles and refreshments.

**Dawn Service – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

This Service will be conducted at our Guns War Memorial adjacent to the Train in the grounds of the St Marys RSL Club.

It will commence at 5 00am, preceded by 45 minutes of related short video clips on the large screens provided.

The Service will include the schools' display and several additional features

Following the Service, breakfast will be available in the Club. A separate Breakfast arrangement in the Northern Room will be by special invitation only

Visiting us from Queensland will be a number of descendants of Reg Saunders. We have invited them to join us in our two Services to pay special reflection on Reg who is a past President of our Sub-Branch. Come along and welcome them to our Service



# VVAA ST MARYS OUTPOST EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORT

School is back and teachers and students have started another year of education.

Part way through it's 13<sup>th</sup> year of operation the Outpost Education Program continues to connect with government and non-government schools while delivering its program on "Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War 1962 - 1972 (and beyond) and the impact of that war on veterans and their families".

While the program continues to attract new schools to the list of partners in education each year, there is a long list of schools who have engaged the Outpost Education Program across its lengthy period of operation, eg: Bede Polding College, Caroline Chisholm College, St Clair High School, McDonald College, Penrith Anglican College, St Agnes College, Gilgandra High, Erskine Park High to name a few.

Outpost Education Program records indicate that throughout the years of operation around 45 school visits are conducted each year to a combined student audience of approximately 5000 senior students. Present indicators show that 2017 will achieve similar outcomes.

Every effort is made to respond to the variety of requests to the Education Program. School presentations usually average 2 hours of session time. Occasionally the extended program of 3 plus hours is requested eg: Parkes High and Gilgandra High.

Individual student interviews are requested regularly as well as community groups looking for entertaining and informative guest speakers eg: Probus, Rotary Clubs, Defence Force Associations and Church groups. Anzac/Remembrance Day service guest speakers are always made welcome. Attending these school programs is very rewarding and show that school communities continue to observe our Anzac Day traditions and commemorate fallen comrades.

Outreach visits west of the ranges continue annually to Gilgandra and Parkes High with new country schools seeking presentations eg: Orange High, Bathurst High and Mudgee High. The Outreach trip to Monaro High, chalking up its 11<sup>th</sup> yearly visit in May and originally proposed by the late Past President Garry Fizzell, along with accompanying Monaro students to the AWM to look through the Vietnam Gallery and conduct a short commemoration service in the Hall of Memory, is always a highlight. AWM staff are very aware of the Outpost Education Program and fully support our student visitations.

Teachers transferring from school to school help to broaden the footprint of the Outpost Education Program by requesting a presentation in their new school eg: Illawarra Christian School and Randwick Girls High School. However travel to some inner city schools is becoming an issue where road time is increasing due to traffic congestion. Spending 2 hours plus travel each way for a school visit together with presentation time often makes a very long



A new country school to the program -  
Orange High

day eg: Waverley College, Shire Christian School.

A major positive consideration when engaging the Outpost Education Program for schools is that *we go to them* with an impressive memorabilia kit and a highly evaluated interactive multimedia educational program specifically designed to cover the Vietnam War National History Syllabus Topic. Excursions 'out of school' are very costly and time consuming to organise due to student safety, risk assessment requirements and bus travel time constraints. These negative factors make the Outpost Education Program a very attractive alternative. Cost to schools, by way of a donation to the Outpost Sub Branch, is at their discretion.



11 years on at Gilgandra -students enjoying role play dress up - very happy enemy!!

Around 50 years on the Vietnam War Topic remains a popular choice for schools, although currently, and understandably, the WW1 Topic is being favoured across the 100 years commemoration period.

On a different matter, some advice to those Outpost Sub Branch members who make themselves available as guest speakers for Primary and Secondary Anzac Day School Services. This year Anzac Day falls on the last day of the Term 1 Vacation, therefore schools will be looking for speakers on 26, 27 and 28 April. Some schools may hold their commemoration service across the last week of Term 1, ie 3 to 7 April.

As in previous years a list of available Outpost presenters with their contact details will be sent to schools requesting a guest speaker. Schools then deal directly with the person of their choice. Wives of veterans are also very welcome guest speakers

If you wish to be included on the 2017 Outpost Guest Speaker List please email your contact details to me by mid March.

Best wishes to the 2017 Outpost Executive and the active sub branch members who keep on delivering a range of quality programs to the veteran and ex-service community.

Vin Cosgrove OAM JP  
VVAA Outpost Education Program



Parkes High students were all happy to be involved in role play.





## ST MARYS RSL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

For more information contact:

Honorary Secretary – Kerry Squires Email: [kerrysquires@gmail.au](mailto:kerrysquires@gmail.au)

Our auxiliary held our AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.

The new executive committee was elected as follows,

President: ..... Jan Bergan

Honorary Secretary ..... Kerry Squires

Treasurer ..... Sharon Bellanto

We are looking forward to our upcoming Easter raffle.

Our ANZAC day raffle is presently being organised.

Thank you to the ladies and the members of the community for their support in our Christmas raffle.

Our regular meat raffle is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month, in the RSL club, we look forward to your support.

Kerry Squires

Honorary Secretary



### The Winter Boots

(Anyone who has ever dressed a child will love this)

Did you hear about the teacher who was helping one of her pupils put on his boots?

He asked for help and she could see why.

Even with her pulling, and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on.

By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat.

She almost cried when the little boy said,

**Teacher, they're on the wrong feet '**

She looked, and sure enough, they were

Unfortunately, it wasn't any easier pulling the boots off, than it was putting them on.

She managed to keep her cool as, together, they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the correct feet.

He then announced,

**These aren't my boots '**

She bit her tongue, rather than get right in his face and scream,

'Why didn't you say so?' like she wanted to.

Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet.

No sooner had they got the boots off when he said,

**They're my brother's boots. But my Mom made me wear 'em today.'**

Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry.

But she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots BACK onto his feet again

Helping him into his coat, she asked,

**'Now, where are your mittens?'**

He said,

**'I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots.'**

She'll be eligible for parole in fifteen years.



## UNTAMED FLOWERS

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*Credit Cards Welcome*

### 2 TRU

One of our St Marys RSL Sub-Branch members, whilst on Christmas holidays on the Central Coast just recently, went for a haircut.

While waiting patiently for his turn in the chair, he availed himself with the daily newspaper and became pretty well engrossed, when suddenly his turn came and he was called up to the chair. Without turning, he handed the newspaper to the guy waiting next to him with the words : "Here mate, have a read!"

Steve then tripped over the gentleman's WHITE CANE!!





## NSW RSL STATE BRANCH UPDATE

Latest update below, which seems to place some belated organisation to the situation and clarity around Congress.

Regards

Tony Fryer

Secretary, St Marys RSL Sub-Branch.....

Dear Members,

I know that there is a lot of rumour and concern circulating amongst sub-Branch members at the current events surrounding RSL NSW and I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some information based on feedback from a number of District Council Presidents and others.

### **Annual State Congress**

Congress is still going ahead in Albury between Sunday 22 May and Wednesday 25 May 2017. Despite any other investigation, report or enquiry, we are bound by the Constitution (clause 21.3) to hold Congress annually at the time, date and location as determined by the 2016 Congress. Motions have been submitted for consideration and an agenda will be issued within the time frame set by the Constitution.

### **Congressional Election**

The 2017 Congressional Election is still valid and ballot papers will be issued later this month. They have not been issued as yet because there are still a lot of Sub-Branches completing their AGMs and compiling their SBA forms for clearance. There has been one candidate withdraw from the election for State Councillor Northern Country and as stated in the By-Law, State Council has made a decision regarding the ballot which will be communicated to Northern Country Sub-Branches very shortly.

### **Extraordinary State Congress**

As with the first two points, State Branch will initiate the process to hold an Extraordinary State Congress in accordance with the Constitution (clauses 21.9 - 21.10) upon receipt of correspondence from at least 75 sub-Branches. There have been a number of such letters received at ANZAC House and as long as the letters indicate the meeting at which the resolution was heard and agreed to and the letter is original and signed by the Sub-Branch Honorary Secretary, it will be added to the tally.

### **State Council**

State Council has stood aside and delegated its oversight authority of RSL NSW to a Caretaker Management Committee consisting of 3 respected Service Members of RSL NSW (one Metropolitan, one Northern Country and one Southern Country). This authority to delegate is conferred on State Council through clause 16.1 (c) of the Constitution. Our organisational structure relies on sub-committees to continue to provide support to Youth Clubs, Day Clubs, Commemorations and administrative functions, with the final oversight authority resting with State Council. This authority now rests with the Caretaker Management Committee until the conclusion of the Board of Enquiry or the declaration of the Congressional Election.

## Caretaker Management Committee

The names of this committee have not yet been made public as RSL NSW is still trying to determine the best way to indemnify the committee members. More information will be available soon however if you have any questions in relation to the Caretaker Management Committee please forward them to [admin@rslnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@rslnsw.org.au) and I will ensure they are placed before the committee members.

## Investigations and Reports

The process concerning the investigations into RSL NSW has been drawn-out and frustrating for many members. ANZAC House has cooperated fully with all investigative teams and this has drawn our limited staff resources away from some of our regular duties however it is my understanding that two of the key reports will be finalised in the next couple of weeks which will enable the process for a Board of Enquiry to gain pace. Once we are able to release the details and findings of these reports and investigations we will do so.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the patience of many members through this difficult time. I recognise that the flow of information to members has been slow however we are committed to trying to remedy this through these direct emails.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff O'Brien

Chief Operating Officer

Assistant State Secretary

In a criminal justice system based on 12 individuals, not smart enough to get out of jury duty, here is a jury of which to be proud.

A defendant was on trial for murder. There was strong evidence indicating guilt, but there was no corpse. In the defense's closing statement, the lawyer, knowing that his client would probably be convicted, resorted to a trick. "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I have a surprise for you all," the lawyer said as he looked at his watch. "Within one minute, the person presumed dead in this case will walk into this courtroom." He looked toward the courtroom door. The jurors, somewhat stunned, all looked on eagerly. A minute passed. Nothing happened. Finally, the lawyer said, "Actually, I made up the previous statement. But you all looked on with eager anticipation. I, therefore, put it to you that you have a reasonable doubt in this case as to whether anyone was killed, and I insist that you return a verdict of not guilty."

The jury retired to deliberate. A few minutes later, the jury returned and pronounced a verdict of guilty. "But how?" inquired the lawyer. "You must have had some doubt; I saw all of you stare at the door.

The jury foreman replied: "Yes, we did look, but your client didn't."



## DAD'S POEM

Dad's name is Julian Dawson Millar

He earned his first stripe in the Victorian Scottish Regiment of the army at 21 years old. He was in the Army part time from 8<sup>th</sup> March 1939 to 29<sup>th</sup> July 1940 and full time from 30<sup>th</sup> July 1941 to 20<sup>th</sup> January 1947. He received KP Duty for drilling the men to stand with one hand on their hip and one leg forward then calling them a lot of 'pansies'. But he said it was worth it. He was not sent overseas to war due to the lung damage from a bout of TB. He wanted to be a journalist and his English marks were always good, but because of the war, went to work with his father who had a Master Building business. I believe this is his only war poem, sadly.

Cheers and Happy New Year,

Chris Coe



## WAR 1940

Oh, little man, what do you now?  
You fight and you fume, and rave and fret;  
You plan your life, then go berserk  
And wreck the things that you beget.

Some pause in wonder and survey  
The madness that around them swirls  
They do not understand nor wish  
To join this hell-bent crowd of churls.

“Why don’t you come and fight?” they yell,  
And “Fight?” bewildered ones reply.  
“We want no fight, we only want  
Our peace and tranquility.”

“We have our homes, our loved ones too,  
Our little happiness and cheer.  
Why wreck all these so foolishly  
To fight?” But still the mad ones sneer.

And so the mad world rushes on  
So full of sadness, sorrow, pain  
Oh, little man, what think you now  
Will sanity return again.







**GOD INVENTED BEER**



**TO STOP MATELOT'S FROM  
RULING THE WORLD**



***Blacktown and Districts TPI  
Social and Welfare Club***

Blacktown and Districts TPI Social & Welfare Club meets on the First Thursday of each month (except January) at the Blacktown RSL Club. Meetings start at 1:00 pm

The Club is open to all TPI Veterans (including Veterans under the MRC receiving the Special Rate of Disability Pension), and welcomes their Carers and Friends.

To join the Club a Veteran must be a subscribing member of the TPI Association of NSW Ltd.

Apart from the Monthly Meetings the Club arranges at subsidised cost, a function, generally each month, which could be a Bus Trip, Luncheon, BBQ.

The Club's Welfare Officers also keep in contact through Hospital and Home visits to those who cannot make the Meetings.

A Newsletter is also distributed to all members, either by email or by 'snail mail'

For further Information, please contact the Hon Secretary: John Davison at

mobile: 0411737446 or email: [john.davison@optusnet.com.au](mailto:john.davison@optusnet.com.au)



## Nepean Wives of Vietnam Veterans, Women's Support Group SUMMER REPORT

### VALE

Cherryl Mullarvey

*At the end of last year we lost, not only our Vice President, but a close friend. This was a great shock to all of us and a memorial was held instead of Christmas celebrations.*



*Cherryl will be missed and our fond memories will remain with us.....RIP.*

The ongoing saga of attracting younger wives of Veterans, to start a support group, is still hitting a brick wall. These wives face issues that we don't have and other resources need to be put in place. Many of the wives are employed, or at home working with young children. Therefore a night meeting might be more convenient and childcare arranged for them. We don't know what the answer is, only they can say what they need. Until then we leave the offer open, till they ask for whatever they need.

Some of our ladies are currently getting support from the V&VFCS, as well as attending our group meetings. Our meetings are an opportunity to voice problems in a safe and caring environment. Discussions are kept confidential. The group is for the wives, and activities are offered to prevent social isolation and build social supports.

Nine ladies recently enjoyed a week at Bulwarra, Terrigal. We were offered the ex caretakers home, where the scenery was spectacular, though we still enjoyed our meals together in the larger cottage. We enjoyed one night at the local hotel, that had cocktails on special, which caught the eye of a few members. All the ladies went to the pictures and saw "Hidden Figures", a great movie that everyone enjoyed, no violence and not one swear word. Would recommend all to see it. The food, the company and the warmth of all those attending, made for a great respite.



Off to the Pub for dinner!

Our group will be celebrating Mother's Day at a high tea in Castlereagh. Our usual picnic at Tench Reserve has been great, though we need a change, and its nice to be waited on!

Our Morning tea for Cancer will be held again this year in June. Hopefully we'll again have the train washers assistance for setting up the tables and chairs. We're all getting a bit older, and their help is very much appreciated. We are hoping to beat our efforts of last year, with a larger cheque going to the "Look Good, Feel Better" organisation and the Nepean Cancer Centre.

Again a big thank you to Barbara and Carol for all the hats and beanie's that have been delivered to the Cancer Centre at Nepean Hospital. We have also purchased some good hats for patients recently diagnosed. Thanks also to the Blacktown group for the wool, knitted donations and the support they give our group at the morning tea. We have another 100 hats, turbans and beanie's to be delivered in the near future. Thank you to everyone that has knitted, sewn and decorated these.

This year we sent away over 60 boxes. Thanks should go to our members, friends and the Blacktown group for donations to our parcels for the Troops Christmas Boxes. We can always accept donations of items for the Christmas boxes, at the craft group that meets weekly at the youth centre every Tuesday from 12:30 pm until 4 pm. New items of personal products i.e soaps, deodorants, shaving cream etc as well as magazines, lollies, playing cards etc things that bring them pleasure/comfort during a testing time, that they are away from their families. Christmas in the Middle East can be very cold, sometimes freezing! Therefore we also add some scarves and warm hats to their parcels. Don't forget the Santa hats and tinsel, as they also love to decorate their rooms and workplaces when possible

Till next time,

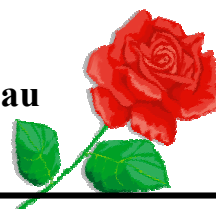
Maree Johnson

Eds Note: apologies for the quality of the photograph, it was supplied very dark and I have endeavored to lighten it so that the lovely ladies are recognizable.

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## BELL "IROQUOIS" HUEY UH1H

No other aircraft in the history of aviation evokes the emotional response the Huey does... combat veteran's or not... she is recognised all around the world by young and old, she is the ICON of the Vietnam war, U.S. Army.

"EAGLE ONE" was purchased by Patrick Soars in Houston Texas in 2007, Serial No. 66-16301 and has had a long and proud history in the U.S. army seeing service in the Vietnam conflict (in a training and utility role), Gulf War I and finished her life with the Texas National Guard and Texas Search and Rescue Services.

This fine ship was rescued from perhaps a fate of spare parts and was dismantled and rebuilt to the zero time condition you see today with the help and assistance of **Australian Native Landscapes Pty Ltd** and **Heliaust Pty Ltd**. This ICON of the Vietnam War is perhaps the greatest example of her type in Australia, set in the livery of an American Army VIP transport "slick" she has been restored to the highest of airworthy standards. "EAGLE ONE" is a living reminder of the brave and dedicated crews that rode this magnificent machine into combat. The owners of "EAGLE ONE" are humbled and honoured to be able to fly and display this incredible "Grand Old Lady".

**"EAGLE ONE" proudly sponsored by**



**"LONG LIVE THE HUEY"**



Castle.Hill & District RSL Sub Branch

## ANZAC DAY TOURS

FRANCE & BELGIUM

19 – 29 April 2018



The Castle Hill Sub Branch is organising a tour of the battlefields of the Western Front in April 2018 and a major highlight will be attending the dawn service commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Villers Bretonneux.

Highlights of the tour include:

- \* Attend the dawn service commemorating the 100th anniversary of the battle of Villers Bretonneux
- \* Visit various battlefields of France and Belgium
- \* 3 nights in Paris
- \* Dinner at Moulin Rouge
- \* Dinner at Eiffel Tour
- \* and much, much more

Tour price - \$4,580

A full copy of the itinerary and booking forms are available from:

Barry Pareezer  
Social Secretary  
Castle Hill RSL Club  
[social@castlehillrslsubbranch.org.au](mailto:social@castlehillrslsubbranch.org.au)  
0409 916 380





The following Poem was sent to me by a good friend, whose wife, unfortunately has been admitted to a Nursing Home suffering with Alzheimers. I pass it in the hope that it may bring some comfort to those who may be in a similar position ... Editor

### ALZHEIMER'S POEM

Do not ask me to remember  
Do not try to make me understand.  
Let me rest and know you're with me.  
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.  
  
I'm confused beyond your concept.  
I am sad and sick and lost.  
All I know is that I need you to be with  
Me at all cost.  
  
Do not lose your patience with me.  
Do not scold or curse my cry.  
I can't help the way I'm acting,  
Can't be different though I try.  
  
Just remember that I need you,  
That the best of me is gone.  
Please don't fail to stand beside me,  
Love me till my life is done.

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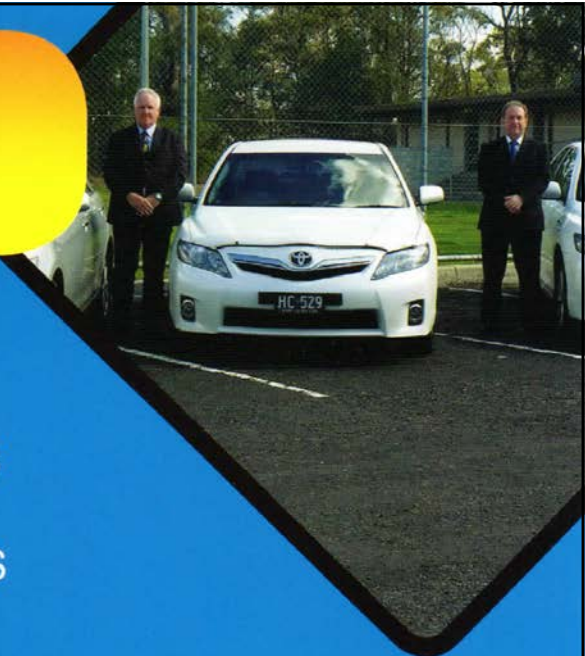
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## ST MARYS RSL BOWLING CLUB

The bowling club invites all members and visitors to utilize the excellent facilities available with our two greens, spacious bowls lounge and function room. We have a great social bowls programme and free coaching for those interested in starting out. Bowls are available from the club, so there is no cost outlay to start your new pastime.

We also have a strong representation in both male and female pennant teams (representative) which is available to any member to enter. You don't have to be a champion bowler to play pennants. So come along and join in the fun.

### Social Bowls Programme

Tuesday	Any Pairs	9.30am Start
Wednesday	Any Pairs	10.30am Start
Thursday	Ladies Bowls	9.30am Start
Friday	Mens Pairs	1.00pm Start
Saturday	<u>Free Coaching</u>	10.00am – 12 noon
Saturday	Any Pairs	1.00pm Start
Sunday	Turkey Trots (mixed Bowls)	9.30am Start

Contact the Bowls Office via Club Reception on 9623 6555



Bowling Club Greens and Function area.

An Aussie and a Yank aid worker are helping out at the Japan nuclear disaster. Yank says, "You from round here, buddy?"  
"No," he replies, " Queensland ."  
"What State's that in?" asks the Yank.  
"Pretty much the same as this place!"



## SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT ANZAC DAY

*Written by a retired Aussie soldier.*

Having been associated with the Australian Army in some way, shape or form for all my adult life (and some of my childhood) it should be no surprise that ANZAC Day has been a particularly important day in my calendar for many years. There have been many notable ANZAC Day events for me. My first ANZAC Day in uniform as a 17 year old trooper, drunk as ten men and wandering around on the wrong side of the bar at a crowded pub trying to find the exit door. Having the honour of carrying the regimental guidon on parade as the very sober Sergeant Major of a unit my grandfather had served in through the First World War. Watching a clip from the movie Gallipoli at a gunfire breakfast, and realising at the part where the Commanding Officer is telling his men they are going to charge to near certain death that I was then the custodian of that man's job. Or my last ANZAC Day in uniform, spent overseas, sharing a minutes dawn silence with some of the diggers on duty.



Central to my experience of every ANZAC Day has always been one thing, the memory of those who had made some personal sacrifice through their military service. Some had paid the ultimate sacrifice, and some had served yet were simply no longer around to tell the tale. Many others are still around; to share experiences, comradeship, and a few drinks with friends and family. ANZAC Day to me is like some of the better wakes I have attended, a commemoration of the lives of those who

had gone before us by those who shared some part of their experience. There is a public side to ANZAC Day as well. People turn up at services or clap as the parade passes by. A grateful public paying their respects at the state occasions before the families retire for their more personal celebrations at various pubs and messes.

With some luck, 2015 will see all that return once the ANZAC centenary is over. Until then I will sit back and watch as sport stars, celebrities, politicians and flag wearing bogans set about desecrating my memories of all the very ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives in the service of the country's armed forces. I will stand my minutes silence while the RSL flogs branding rights to multinational corporations so they can pretend that their shitty beers, supermarkets and bakeries are still local businesses. I will watch the flag held reverently at half-mast, while some tosser wears it wrapped around his unwashed neck like the discoloured skin surrounding the head of a festering boil. I will listen to the Last Post and Reveille, and hopefully not hear the camp Gallipoli themed concerts providing overpriced access to tacky B-list celebrities no one ever wanted to see in the first place. In my mind's eye I will likely picture absent friends as I always do, and try to erase the images of ANZAC themed teddy bears, commemorative coins, biscuit tins and coffee mugs that traded off the memories of the fallen for a quick-buck-to-be-made, cash and carry culture. As usual, I will think a lot about the lessons of war that I drew from the facts I studied over the few years' service I had, and try not to cringe as ignorant couch potatoes take to Facebook with unintelligible drivel based on

what they gleaned from jingoistic crap masquerading as news and history. I will watch the soldiers, sailors and airmen/airwomen march, those serving and those who served, maybe a nursing or Land-Army volunteer will still be there. Then I will probably make an early break from the crowd, while assorted public servants and community groups follow in the parade like some sort of incongruous tail-end Charlie tagging along to a circus carnival day out.


Eventually I will retire for a drink (and I can guarantee you it won't be bloody VB), initially alone with my thoughts of a few of those who served. A young man who tragically suicided after his deployment to Afghanistan went bad. An uncle who was killed in Vietnam. My father, who survived his service in World War II and went on to die in the relative peace of his own home last year. I will also meet up with mates and talk, partly about what they are doing now and partly about the ones that are not there. Throughout the day there will be many memories surface. Mostly about the men and women it has been my great good fortune to serve with; even the small number of them who, just as in every walk of life, were absolute lids. Then I will go to bed that night and a centenary will have passed, and with a little more luck, it will not have made an ounce of difference to my own collection of ANZAC day memories.

**Ed's Note:** Although this was written before the Centenary of ANZAC; the message is still there!



# ST MARYS RSL YOUTH CLUB

## ACTIVITIES FOR ALL



BOXING



JUDO

KARATE

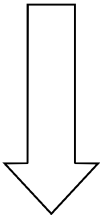
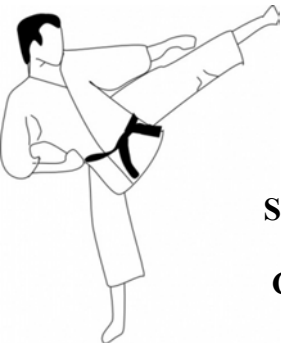
GENERAL ENQUIRIES

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**ST MARYS RSL YOUTH CLUB**  
**(NEXT TO RSL CLUB)**  
**CNR MAMRE RD & HALL ST**  
**ST MARYS 2760**



# ARLINGTON CEMETERY

## TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN

### HONOR GUARDS

On Jeopardy the other night, the final question was.....

*"How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns?"*

All three contestants missed it!



Tomb of the Unknowns

Q1 How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why?

A 21 steps: It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

Q2 How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

A 21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1.

Q3 Why are his gloves wet?

A His gloves are moistened to prevent him losing his grip on the rifle.

Q4 Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and, if not, why not?

A He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

Q5 How often are the guards changed?

A Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

Q6 What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

A For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30".

They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way.

After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt.



Wreath Pin



There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC, the US Senate/House took two days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the



military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment; it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a service person.

The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, since 1930.



Changing the Guard

God Bless and keep them.



**Minchinbury**  
Community Hospitals

Cnr Great Western Highway &  
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(02) 9625 2222

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Minchinbury Community Hospital offers a bus pick-up and drop-off service at minimal cost for day rehabilitation, just another way for us to make it easier to look after YOU!

[www.mhsminchinbury.com.au](http://www.mhsminchinbury.com.au)



# DVA facts made easy

RECEIVE THE BENEFITS YOU DESERVE

**THAT TRAIN** Have you ever thought, what is the real function of "That Train", just sitting there on the Corner of Hall Street and Mamre Road, St Marys?

The brainchild of a small but dedicated group of Vietnam Veterans in association with St Marys RSL, saw a need to establish an All Services Welfare and Drop In Centre staffed by qualified non government consultants who could assist and advise all veterans and dependents with the very confusing formal applications that are required by DVA.

Free, Confidential help in all things DVA and much more....

- \* War Widow/Widowers Pensions
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- \* Bereavement
- \* Transport
- \* Hospital Visitation
- \* Military Themed Funerals

We also have....

- \* Social Events
- \* Computer Classes
- \* Outings

Why not drop in and have an informal chat about your needs and concerns.

A man approaches a young woman in a shop.

He says "I can't find my wife, can I talk to you for a few minutes?"

The woman says "Sure, but do you have any idea where your wife is?"

"Not a clue," he says, "but whenever I talk to a woman with breasts like yours, she appears out of nowhere!"



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The "Outpost News" expresses its grateful appreciation  
to all the advertisers that support this publication.

**St Marys RSL Sub-Branch**  
**Corner Mamre Road and Hall St.**

The RSL Sub-Branch monthly meeting is held the second Wednesday of each month at 6.30 pm in the auditorium, refreshments provided. The office is open most mornings between 10.00am-12noon and can be contacted on **9623 6555**.

**ST MARYS RSL SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE**

President:	Ron Blakely	02 9623 6555
V/President:	John Foeken	0409 329 688
V/President:	Frank Lawton	02 9623 6555
Treasurer:	Ted Fish	02 9623 6555
Secretary:	Tony Fryer	0414 557 692
A/Secretary:	Lesley Ayres	02 9623 6555
Committee:	Tony Mullavey	0416 231 993
	Michael Wiezel	02 9623 6555

**ST MARYS VETERANS CENTRE COMMITTEE**

**PHONE: 02 9833 4700 FAX 9833 4022**

President:	Tony Mullavey	0416 231 993
V/President:	George Perrin	0412 824 219
V/President:	John Foeken	0409 329 688
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Assistant Sec.:	Graham Breckell	0488 775 325
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This newsletter is produced and printed at the VVAA St Mary's Outpost in association with the St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch. It is provided free of charge to members of both Associations. Views and statements made within the magazine are not necessarily the views of the St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch or the VVAA St Mary's; the Editor and the organisations are not giving legal, accounting or other professional advice and therefore do not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the opinions or information contained in the magazine. We believe that the sources are accurate at the time of publication. Care should be exercised by readers who attempt to use this publication as a source of reference material for any purpose other than its intended use, which is light informative reading on topics of interest for the Veterans of both associations.

John Davison - Editor





**Seniors Forum**  
held by Emma Husar MP, on  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February,  
2017 at the St Marys  
Community Centre

