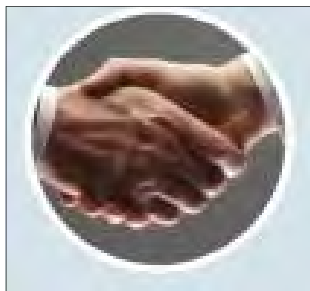


WESTERN OUTPOST NEWS



SPRING 2016 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: Flanders Field



DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATION

Summer 2016..... 18 November 2016

Autumn 2017..... 24 February 2017

Winter 2017..... 23 May 2017

Spring 2017..... 25 August 2017

Articles of a general nature may be submitted at anytime, please send to:
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St Marys Vietnam Veterans Outpost

President's Report

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY, AUGUST 18th

At the going down of the Sun, and, in the morning; the best place to be is
"ST MARYS OUTPOST".

I can truly say that I am both humbled and extremely proud to be the President of the St Marys Outpost; I have heard nothing but absolute praise regarding our Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Service (2016), of course, I fully realise that without the dedication of the committee, the planners, the workers, the sponsors, St Marys RSL Sub Branch, St Marys Club Ltd and members delegated to various, but no less important tasks; there may well have been absolutely no praise and possibly no event. - With this in mind, please accept my sincere thanks to you all, for a **BIG JOB - WELL DONE**.



The arrival of call sign VH-UHE proudly sponsored by Australian Native Landscapes.

The arrival of the 'Huey' was a total and very pleasant surprise to most guests, many even braved the dust to get a closer look, there were also about 1000 onlookers who came out from the nearby houses and factory units to find out what was going on. However, to the Vietnam Veterans it was like travelling in time; a very emotional journey back to the days of the Vietnam War; back then, the Huey was like an umbilical cord, it represented life, it delivered us, it resupplied us, it picked us up and was on hand when it was most needed. It is no wonder, that Vietnam Veterans have an ongoing love affair with the Huey.

"LONG LIVE THE HUEY"

The formalities of the evening highlighting the 50th Anniversary of "Long Tan", marking the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of 1ATF at Nui Dat and the first National Servicemen to Vietnam all went off quite well and our guest speaker, Professor, The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO was obviously very comfortable with the proceedings, as she stayed on a lot longer than intended and during dinner was very busy giving photo opportunities to one and all.

The re-vamped Cenotaph, lighting, gate and surrounds made a vast improvement to the spectator vision and the overall working of our Commemoration Service; I was particularly impressed with the Ceremonial table setting with Mrs Rita Thomas assisting, the placing of the "Long Tan Cross" by Terry Burn and the Piper closing the ceremony playing "Lights Out" along with the progressive turning off of the lights; it all added different aspects and dignity to the proceedings.

ON THE SOCIAL SIDE

The ST MARYS RSL auditorium was buzzing with excitement and about 280 patrons were all trying to talk over each other, the buffet went quite well and there appeared to be no shortage of food, although, a couple of items did run out towards the end. (Can't please everybody, all of the time.)

The 1st/15th RNSW Lancer Band very quickly set themselves up and did a really great job providing entertainment right throughout the dinner, and, the "LONG TAN" place mats had the desired effect; they very soon became sought after as mementoes.

Many thanks go to the Women's Auxiliary, Geoff Perry selling tickets and others, who ensured our raffle was very well supported; lots of interest was being directed at the Electric Guitar, which was kindly made and donated by Jeff Wilson. First ticket drawn was held by Bill Johnson who chose the Electric Guitar from the four prizes on offer.

AS A POINT OF INTEREST

"Long Tan" was also featured at the Navel Association's Annual Dinner held at Rooty Hill RSL, I am very happy to report that a good number of Train members and their Partners supported this event.

UP COMING EVENTS

Remembrance Day 2016, St Marys RSL Sub-Branch will be conducting its annual Remembrance Day Service on Friday 11th November, at the recently upgraded War Memorial (adjacent to the entrance to St Marys RSL Club), commencing at 10.40am.

My sincere thanks to all.

Tony Mullavey

President

Commando!

During my physical examination, my doctor asked me about my physical activity level. I described a typical day, "Well, yesterday afternoon, I took a five hour walk, about 7 miles through some pretty rough terrain. I waded along the edge of a lake. I pushed my way through brambles. I got sand in my shoes and my eyes. I avoided standing on a snake. I climbed several rocky hills. I took a few 'leaks' behind some big trees. The mental stress of it all left me shattered. At the end of it all I drank eight beers."

Inspired by the story, the doctor said, "You must be one hell of an outdoors man!"

"No," I replied, "I'm just a terrible golfer."



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.

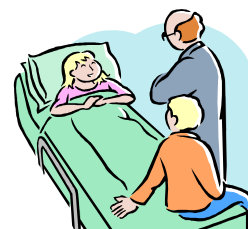
We need to rebuild the Welfare Department due to several members resigning because of ill-health and personal reasons

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 more information.

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



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.



ST MARYS RSL SUB-BRANCH REPORT

**Vietnam Vets Day 2016,
aka 50th Anniversary of The Battle of Long Tan**

A special service was held on the 18th August 2016 at the new War Memorial upgrade at St Marys RSL Sub-Branch, jointly with the St Marys Outpost of the Vietnam Veterans Association.

Three mil-hardware icons of the period were on hand for this historical event -

- our 2 Howitzers - representing the guns that provided a continuous protective barrier for besieged members of D Coy 6 RAR,
- our M113 APC - representing the armour that delivered the relief force and additional firepower, and
- the visit from the Bell "Iroquois" Huey UH1H helicopter - representing the RAAF 'choppers' that supplied the much needed ammunition resupply in very challenging conditions.

These provided an ideal reflection and focus for the Service. Thanks to Stuart Ayres MP, a video of the chopper landing can be seen on our Facebook page ([https://www.facebook.com/stmaryssubbranch/?ref=stale_email & scroll to composer=1](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryssubbranch/?ref=stale_email&scroll_to_composer=1)).

Special thanks to Pat Soars (Australian Native Landscapes) for allowing the chopper to visit us this day, and to the great support we always receive from 1/15 Royal New South Wales Lancers (for the Band and Catafalque Party), 5 Engineer Regiment (to perform the Table Ceremony) and Andrew Iverson (for providing the Pipes that always add a sombre reality to our Services). Special thanks also to Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO who graced us with her presence and delivered a wonderful Address to the 400 attending - her visit was a privilege to us all.

The newly upgraded War Memorial with its elevated Cenotaph and special lighting on both the memorial stone and each individual Catafalque party member, ensured that all attending had visual access to the central activity.

Cheers

Tony Fryer

Honorary Secretary



Photograph of the Night Service



ST MARYS RSL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

For more information contact:

President - Joan Miller Email: joanmiller53@bigpond.com

Secretary - Michelle McCallum Email: macka152@tpg.com.au

St Marys RSL Women's Auxiliary was well represented at the Vietnam Veterans day celebrations held at the Club on Thursday the 18th August with President Joan Miller laying a tribute on behalf of the Ladies. The Ladies also held a stall during the night's entertainment and dinner raising \$113.00. Our thanks to the sub-Branch and Club Limited.

It was sad to hear the passing of Marry (Molly) Backhouse after a long illness, Molly was a staunch member and supporter of the Auxiliary and has been a member for 22 years and she will be sadly missed by all she had come in contact with. The service was well attended and the Ladies did a Guard of Honour. Our condolences go out to her family.

The St Marys Spring Festival which was to be held in September was cancelled and as we had quite a number of items for sale we held a stall at a school and raised over \$450.00 and a thank you to those who attended the stall.

Our Fathers Day Raffle was the best we have ever had with 25 prizes with an end result of over \$1400.00 raised. A big thank you to Kerry and Janice who organised the event. Well done girls.

We have been on a number of trips including luncheons, winery visits and our last was the Rooty Hill RSL Women's Auxiliary yearly luncheon which had a Fancy Dress theme. Michelle with her husband Bob won Best Dressed Couple, Bob won Best Dressed Male and the Best Dressed overall.

Our Auxiliary meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 11am in the St Marys RSL Club.



Best Dressed Couple

At present the Auxiliary has 15 members, and new members are more than welcome.

Kind Regards
Michelle

Train Washers Report

The washers still meeting every Thursday, and all are welcome. The washers do the gardens



and general maintenance at the train and make sure that all is well, the train is like the Harbour Bridge finish one lot of painting, then start all over again, we start work around 7 in the morning, do what is required then have morning tea and a small meeting then head home.

There is another group of men that get together on Monday and do work while this is still a fun morning serious work does get done. The Hall street side of the train is showing signs of rust and this is going to be our next project.

Over the months of July and August, besides the work on the gardens and the guns we had the work on the new memorial, Those of you that attended the Vietnam Veterans Day service, would have seen the best service held on the day, Tony Fryer and George Perrin along with their committee deserve a well done and justly so.

So if you find yourself with nothing to do on a Thursday, come along and join in, you are sure to meet someone that you have things in common with, but you can't afford to be thin skinned.

Fishing Report

The weather has not been kind to the fishing group, being rained out in July and August, but that was more than made up for in September.

Eleven men set out at 5 in the morning, one of the biggest turnouts we have had for a long time, Clark Point our destination, on arrival all the gear was taken down and Breakfast of Bacon and Eggs was enjoyed by all, and of course the U.N. convened to solve the troubles of the world, as the sun started to rise it was easy to see that God loves the Train washers and a glorious day was dawning.

While we set our ambush up around Clark Point, the fish seemed to have no trouble to avoid us, with the result for the day, I caught 4 toads Bob a small Bream John Barlow the only legal fish for the day, which Phil Parsons took home, heaps of prawns were expended for little result, but a great day was had by all.

We fished till lunch, and after lunch we headed home before the work traffic started.

Fishing is on the first Wednesday of the month and all are welcome, if you intend to come please let me know for catering. Please bear in mind that fishing is mainly a social day, and if fish are caught that is a bonus.



Shorty - Hard at Work



Reno - Station Master

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A dwarf goes to a very good but very busy doctor and asks:
"I know you are busy but do you treat dwarves?"
The doctor replies: "Yes but you will have to be a little patient"





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 - 12.00pm

Wednesday: 9.00AM - 12.00 pm (Ladies Class)

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.**

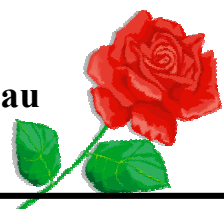
The Tuesday and Wednesday classes are informal and we teach mixed classes from the 'beginner' to the more experienced and retired seniors wanting to familiarise with current software and learn to use the Internet to send E-Mails and carry out research & other technology related issues.

**For more info call Keith 9833 4700 or email
vietvet@tpg.com.au**

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Western District Metropolitan Council Report

I attended the FWMDC meeting held in August 2016 and also the September meeting.

The main points raised from both meetings were:

- ⇒ The motion put by Windsor to be considered regarding Congress voting papers keeping and destruction. After 3 months we were advised that the motion has been withdrawn as unconstitutional.
- ⇒ The motion was put by Hurstville on the Roles and Duties of District Council this will be raised at the next District Presidents Meeting on the 7th October. I advised that St Marys did not agree with the proposal in its current form which in part wanted District Council to have controlling interest to the operation of the Women's Auxiliary and Day Clubs.
- ⇒ Regarding the sub-Branches buying Social Impact Bonds through State and get a 5% guaranteed return we are now advised not to proceed as there appears to be legal ramifications.
- ⇒ Regarding the new training program for Welfare Officers at this stage it appears no one knows what is going on.
- ⇒ Affiliate Membership, we have received an Email from the Operations Manager RSL NSW regarding the court advice given to the Ryde RSL indicating that sub-Branch Affiliates and Club Limited Associate Members have the same value. All sub-Branch members attending the September meeting were advised to inform their sub-Branches not to accept Affiliate Membership. St Marys is not accepting Affiliate Membership.
- ⇒ A number of concerns have been raised regarding the new Opal Card for Defence members, when I raised this matter we were advised that you are entitled to free travel if you receive a service related disability pension of 10% or higher, and it does not matter if it was in a warlike area or in peace time, this conflicts with the Transport NSW application form. I know this has affected one of our members and I will be taking it further.

As you may or may not be aware I will be moving in January and will be looking for a replacement as Delegate to FWDC, I would be please if you would consider the role. I have enjoyed my time as Delegate and will be sorry to go.

R McCallum

Delegate

Two nuns were shopping in a food store and happened to be passing the beer and liquor section. One asks the other if she would like a beer.

The other nun answered that would be good, but that she would be queasy about purchasing it.

The first nun said that she would handle it and picked up a six pack and took it to the cashier.

The cashier had a surprised look and the first nun said, "This is for washing our hair."

The cashier, without blinking an eye, reached under the counter and put a package of pretzels in the bag with the beer saying, "Here, don't forget the curlers."



VVAA ST MARYS OUTPOST

EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORT

The Outpost Education Program continues to deliver school presentations across the year and soon will complete its 13th year of operation. Having penned a report for every edition of the Western Outpost News across that time highlighting the many positive outcomes of the program, this edition will focus on other topics either directly or otherwise connected to the Outpost Education Program and Australia's Military History.

Having five great uncles who were KIA on the WW1 Western Front Battlefields, a pilgrimage to that part of the world to visit their grave sites, place a tribute and reflect on their service to country has always been on my 'to do' list.

This year featured the Centenary Anniversary Services at Fromelles and Pozieres, organised by our Dept of Veterans' Affairs, so a good time to visit. No doubt you have read and viewed recent reports on these two occasions. Being part of the gathering at these historic commemoration services was an honour and a memory to cherish.

Walking the battlefields of the Somme, viewing the fields covered by enfilading machine gun fire, that our men had to cross, seeing the weapons of WW1 that were simply designed to maim, and rip and tear a human body engenders a level of emotion perhaps not always felt at a military service.

Different levels of connection with the fallen are felt through various acts of commemoration. Reflection on comrades and family passed, whilst reciting The Ode, or placing a poppy next to a name on the Roll of Honour at our Australian War Memorial or placing a wreath on some other memorial site are regular acts of remembrance, but standing in front of a headstone bearing the name of a relative in a Commonwealth War Grave on foreign soil brings another level of connection and emotion, closure even, that has not been felt previously.

There are hundreds of war grave sites across the Somme, every one of them beautifully maintained and respectful of those who paid the supreme sacrifice. While we commemorate our Australian Military History so to do our other allied nations with equal reverence and desire to acknowledge their fallen comrades and, indeed our enemy of that period do likewise. These combined sentiments across the battlefields, along with all manner of personal tributes (including a boomerang) and floral wreaths and poppies of every design and composition give all the war cemeteries a special character and feel, ... often enhanced by a striking monument eg Cobbers Memorial.



Thiepval Memorial – Tributes

Leaving the Western Front Battlefields there was a clear knowledge that my great uncles' grave sites, along with the many thousands of others there, are well cared for and respectfully maintained. The beautiful words of The Ode ring true.



Menin Gate, Ypres -
the evening service here inspired the Last Post Closing
Ceremony at the AWM

If you have never visited the WW1 Western Front Battlefields, please do so if you can. Names of places such as Menin Gate, Ypres Salient, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Hill 60, Fromelles, Australian Memorial Park, VC Corner, Pheasant Wood, Essex Farm Cemetery (where John McCrae wrote 'In Flanders Fields'), Thiepval, Messines, Vimy Ridge, Bullecourt, Villers-Bretonneux, Adelaide Cemetery (where the unknown Australian Soldier lay for 75 years before being returned to Australia in 1993), Hamel and Pozieres will bring to life much of our military history of that period.

Of equal interest, while you are in France, take a few days to look around the Normandy Battlefields (US Sector) and visit the D-Day landing beaches and the beautiful American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer. Evidence of the D-Day landing and following days are still clearly visible.

A further thought - a short train trip on the Euro Star travelling at around 300 kph you could also visit the Imperial War Museum in London to complement your tour of the Western Front Battlefields.

Vin Cosgrove OAM JP

VVAA Outpost Education Program



Fromelles - an Unknown Australian
Soldier ... identified and new headstone
revealed during Centenary Service



Headstone uncovered -
Pte W Burke identified 100
years on





Nepean Wives of Vietnam Veterans, Women's Support Group.

As the group head toward their 17th year, we are still attracting new members and the need to assist the younger wives of veterans is becoming all too clear. We have tried this on other occasions, though being an older group, it would be easier to assist them start their own group.

Some of our ladies are currently getting support from the V&VFCS. Our group meetings are an opportunity to voice problems in a safe and caring environment. Discussions are kept confidential and we don't discuss our husbands. The group is for the wives, and activities are offered to prevent social isolation and build social supports.

Twelve ladies recently enjoyed a week in Leura, Blue Mountains. We stayed at a different house than before, though it still catered for our needs. Kerry kept the fire going the whole week and we found ourselves enjoying the comforts of a mountain winter. We had lunch out one day at the Garage Restaurant, and bumped into some friends from the outpost! The food, the company and the warmth of all those attending, made for a great respite.

Our social organiser June, has organised a bus shopping trip for September. Hopefully we can do some Christmas shopping, save the rush in December. The activity is open to everyone, visitors pay \$25, toward the cost of the bus. Get your comfy shoes on ladies, fill those purses and let's go shopping! The bus returns around 5 pm, dinner at the club sounds good to me!

We are going on the Postman's Run in October. This will be for the celebrations of our birthday. The group will pay for the bus, though members and guests pay \$45 for the boat trip. There are vacancies for anyone wishing to attend. Bus leaves the Youth Centre at 8.00 am.

Marilyn Bell, our Patron, has written a book about our group. Marilyn has been aware of our group for most of the time we have been operating, in her capacity as the VAN representative. The book has been a great success and we thank her for all the trouble, research and talent that she has put into the final copy.

The Management Committee is working toward making our meetings more interesting by inviting speakers on interesting subjects.

On behalf of the members, Maree and Trish met with Fairy Sparkle recently, and purchased a table and chairs for the Oncology Unit at Mt Druitt Hospital. They are out in the pergola in the back yard, and we are looking at supplying blinds around the pergola to protect patients and their family/visitors from the wind and rain. Hopefully this will be completed in the near future. The purchases are from funds raised at the Cancer Morning Tea in June.

A big thank you to Barbara and Carol for all the hats and beanies that have been delivered to the Cancer Centre at Nepean Hospital. We have also purchased some good hats for patients recently diagnosed.

We are currently collecting for our parcels for the Troops Christmas Boxes. Any items can be donated at the youth Hall, any Tuesday between 1pm and 4pm (1300hrs to 1600hrs.

New items of personal products ie deodorants, magazines, lollies, playing cards, etc. Things that bring them pleasure/comfort during a testing time that they are away from their families. We also add some scarves and beanies to their parcels as Christmas over there is freezing!

Till next time....

Maree Johnson JP
President.

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VVAA ST MARYS OUTPOST EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORT

COMMEMORATING VIETNAM VETERANS DAY AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN, CANBERRA

***** SPRING 2016 *****

2016 was an occasion to meet with mates in Canberra for the above mentioned significant events. The national capital did Vietnam Veterans proud with three days of services and functions. An overview follows.

17 AUGUST:

*Starrs Productions in association with the Australian War Memorial presented 'Vietnam. Dusted Off.' Featuring Brett Hunt, son of Frankie Hunt - 'I was only 19'. A simply brilliant performance.

*A single performance of the song 'I was only 19' by Mr John Schumann and Mr Hugh McDonald was performed in the Hall of Memory. It was an honour to be one of the 108 veterans to be invited to be part of this special event conducted by the Australian War Memorial.

*The story of Private Ken Gant, KIA at Long Tan, was told at the Last Post Ceremony. Over 100 of Pte Gant's family attended and it was a privilege to lay a wreath at this service. At the conclusion of the service a recording of 'Danny Boy' made by Kenny Gant for his mother prior to going to Vietnam was played. Not a dry eye around the Pool of Reflection.

*Reception at the Great Hall, Australian Parliament House 6:00 pm.

Invitations to this event were issued by the Australian Government following expressions of interest. These days security is a particular concern.

The Great Hall was filled to capacity, with very little seating made available much to the discomfort of many in attendance. The average age of Vietnam Veterans is 70+ these days.

Addresses were given by the Governor General, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition along with Graham Smith ex 6RAR Long Tan veteran.

All speeches were well received along with the food and drinks that followed.

18 AUGUST:

*A 'Stand To' ceremony was held at the Stone of Remembrance in front of the Australian War Memorial 7.00 a.m.

His Excellency The Hon General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Rtd) gave the address. A quality address acknowledged by the veterans present. By Canberra standards the morning was crisp!

*'Breakfast in the Park' at Reid Oval; courtesy of ACT Government and Lions Club. Much appreciated.



Photo of Pte Ken Gant -
prior to Last Post Closing Ceremony



Commemoration Service and gathering at Vietnam Forces National Memorial

*Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day Service 10.00 a.m. at the Australian Vietnam Forces Memorial on Anzac Parade, 3000+ attended.

The Welcome Address was given by VV Pete Ryan; the Commemoration Address by VV Sir Peter Cosgrove and the PM, Malcolm Turnbull spoke on behalf of the Government of Australia. Each address was warmly received by the veterans and family gathered. The names and ages of a representative group who paid the supreme sacrifice were read. Extremely moving!

The usual Huey fly over happened during the service turning the crowds' attention skyward – but there was more! Close behind came a Bell chopper, a Caribou, then a Herc plus other VV era aircraft following – the grand finale of the flyover, who would have thought it possible, two B52 Bombers made a low pass over Anzac Parade. The crowd was amazed and impressed. The B52's came all the way from Guam to participate in our commemoration program.

A very significant gesture by the US Government – our major ally.

The Remembrance Service was blessed with perfect weather.

An occasion to remember and reflect upon for all the veteran community present. Thank you to Pete Ryan and the Vietnam Veterans of ACT and District for organising this 50th Anniversary Commemoration Service.

Well done those men as the good general would say.

*Lunch and a camaraderie afternoon was held following the service at Ainslie Football Club.

A good roll-up of veterans and families enjoyed the food and drink.

*The story of Lieutenant Gordon Sharp, KIA at Long Tan was told at the Last Post Ceremony. A large gathering of Gordon Sharp's family, school friends, OTU colleagues and D Coy 6 RAR personnel attended. The service was a beautiful occasion. The AWM services are presented by dedicated staff and maintain a high standard of excellence.



Lt Gordon Sharp -
Last Post Closing Ceremony

19 AUGUST:

'Music by the Lake' from 12 noon to 3.00 p.m. concluded the commemorative functions with 'Old 45' playing Vietnam Era rock and roll music. Those in attendance had a wonderful afternoon and a sore head the next morning no doubt.

A very memorable commemorative few days.

Lest We Forget

Vin Cosgrove OAM JP

VVAA Outpost Education Program



Remembrance Stone - after 'Stand To' Service



Lest We Forget -
521 Fallen Comrades

MICHAEL JOHN FITZGERALD SOLICITOR

**Level 8
65 York Street Sydney 2000**

Phone: 9283 2500 or 0419 440 990

**FAX: 9283 2600
ABN 18095746334**



SUNSET STATION SINGERS

Contact: Rhonda 0408218965 or Graham 0416332775

SSS had a difficult start to this year with a couple of long term members facing some serious health issues and another couple of long term members deciding to have a break from the choir. I am happy to say that our ill members have made a full recovery and are back singing with us. We have recently had three new ladies join up and they appear to love the fun and camaraderie of our group. Their joining has helped out immensely the group sounds so much better with more singers.

We are still getting regular gigs from various locations and have a busy few week's leading up to Christmas. We started the year with our annual performance at the Returned Servicemen's Day at St Marys, then Fairfield RSL Women's Auxiliary annual fund raising lunch, Concord Repat Veterans Health Day, Edinglassie Village, and a new gig at the Yennora nursing home are performances that are coming up in the next few weeks: however, it goes without saying any memorial/military special day requests get first preference. We are always happy to perform at any Nursing homes that would like us to entertain the residents.

We are looking for a new members to join the group, and especially some more men, if you can talk we reckon you can sing. It is good fun and gets us out of home a little more. We meet on Monday nights at the RSL in the northern room at 7.30pm, come along and check us out if you think you might enjoy singing. We also welcome non-military members of the community.



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.

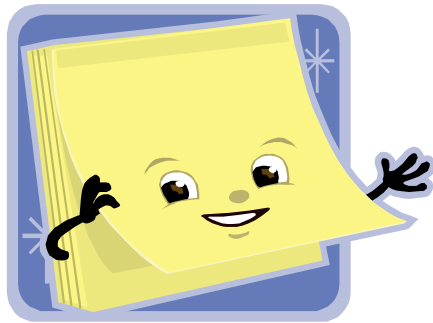
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- * Military Themed Funerals

We also have....

- * Social Events
- * Computer Classes
- * Outings

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



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 9.00am to 1.00pm, 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

A TOUR OF WORLD WAR I BATTLE SITES

Having now returned from our visit to Pozieres (and other WW1 Battle Sites) we can provide a brief report on just how we represented St Marys RSL Sub-Branch, local schools & students and the St Marys community in general, at the various Commemorative Services and activities associated with the recent centenary of the Battle of Pozieres where the greatest loss of Australians has ever occurred. Our Sub-Branch members included John Barlow and wife Gloria, Ron Blakely & wife Joy and myself and my wife Nora.

Among the various events at Pozieres that we participated in, three special activities which may be of interest (photos attached) are:

- ♦ **Pozieres Memorial Park:** The new Park was formerly opened by the Mayor of Pozieres on the morning of 23rd July. It is located immediately abutting the major former battle site, The Windmill, located on the eastern edge of Pozieres. 7,000 white crosses adorned with large red poppies were arranged in the form of the Australian Army Rising Sun badge, extending across the entire park. It was here that we were able to lay floral tributes and to disperse the ashes of the burned crosses that our local students had decorated last year as part of the research they conducted in our ANZAC School project “St Marys Served Australia in WW1” – in this way we completed the circle from where we had, in 2013, taken soil that we presented to each school within display cases at the 2015 ANZAC Service in St Marys. This dispersal of ashes formally brought our ANZAC School Project to completion.



St Marys Sub-Branch Representatives with the NSW Governor - General David Hurley



The Ashes from the School Crosses burnt at the ANZAC Service 2016



Pozieres Memorial - 7,000 crosses and poppies (looking from the Windmill site)

- ♦ **Commencement of the New Australian School at Pozieres:** NSW Governor, General David Hurley, presided at the unveiling of the plaque on the wall of the existing school, to indicate commencement of building a new school on the site, to be called ***The Charles Bean School***, named after the legendary and official Australian War Correspondent and Historian. The Governor, who is Patron of the project, was accompanied by the Mayor of Pozieres, the Australian Consul to France and Will Davies, Historian and Project Convenor. The new school will provide a multi-lingual curriculum with a true Australian flavour & will include an Australian teacher exchange program as well as a capacity to accommodate visiting Australian school groups. It will be built around the current school and offer its distinctive curriculum on a regional basis, thus drawing students from outlying villages.



School to be developed



Dignitaries including NSW Governor, General Hurley unveiling Commencement Plaque for the New School



Commencement Plaque for the New School

- ♦ **The Australian Government official Centenary Commemorative Service:** This Service was conducted at the 1st Division Memorial on the western edge of Pozieres in the afternoon of 23rd July. Several thousand Australians attended; we were privileged to be able to lay tributes on behalf of our Sub-Branch and also on behalf of RSL NSW.

We also attended the local village Commemorative Service on the 22nd July and, that evening, the special light n' sound outdoor re-enactment of their WW1 experiences by around 70 of the local villagers. The four days we spent in the Pozieres/Albert region were very busy and most enjoyable. The local population have a special fondness for Australia and Australians. We were extremely proud to represent our RSL Sub-Branch, our local 32 schools and the local community at each of the activities. We have reported the outcomes of our France visit to each of our schools.

Regards

Tony Fryer
RSL Sub-Branch



Laying tributes at main Service



Pozieres

More Photos - next page



Dispersing ashes (Tony on left) and laying wreaths of tribute at Memorial Park 23 July



Ron dispersing ashes at Memorial Park, The Windmill, with Tony and John 23rd July



Tony dispersing ashes at Memorial Park, The Windmill, 23rd July



The St Marys Sub-Branch Party

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.

A short gun story.

A guy walked into a crowded bar, waving his pistol and yelled,
"I have a 45 calibre Colt 1911 with a seven round magazine plus one in the chamber and
I want to know who's been sleeping with my wife."

A voice from the back of the room called out,
"You'll need more ammo!"





We have had a busy month even with a few of our members away with one illness or another and the cold weather, but we managed to keep going with 15 to 20 members attending.

Last Thursday and Friday I attended a Co-ordinators Annual Conference in Sydney where it was acknowledged that the Governor King Day Club was one of the better and well run Day clubs, I would like to thank all the volunteers for their efforts in us to receive this accolade.

During the month we had a speaker from Corrective Service who gave an enlighten talk on the Prison system which was very informative and well received and we were also entertained by Tom Hamilton and his wife.

Our monthly raffle raised over \$105.00 a good effort and again I would like to thank the Ladies Auxiliary for their continued support and contribution.

Our Fathers day luncheon was held at the Kemps Creek Bowling Club with 35 members and volunteers attending.

We received a Club Grant from the St Marys RSL Club Limited and I would like to thank the Club Limited for the grant. Its donations and grants like this plus our monthly raffles that keep our Day Club running.

I would like to advise that this will be the last year as the Bus Driver as I will be moving North and as such we are now looking for a Bus Driver for our Wednesday run. The bus is a 12 seater so we need a Driver with a LR licence.

Finally, we are seeking a volunteer to assist in setting up the tables from about 8.15am to 8.45am as Don has the heart problem and can not do it by himself.

If you require further information please come and see me or ring on 0418 601 238.

Bob McCallum

Coordinator

His request approved, the photographer used a cell phone to call the local airport to charter a flight.

He was told a twin engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport.

Arriving at the airfield, he spotted a plane warming up outside a hanger. He jumped in with his bag, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go".

The pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off. Once in the air, the photographer instructed the pilot, "Fly over the valley and make low passes so I can take pictures of the fires on the hillsides".

"Why" asked the pilot.

"Because I'm a photographer for Fox Cable News," he responded. "And I need to get some close up shots."

The pilot was strangely silent for a moment, finally he stammered, "So, what you're telling me, is ... you're NOT my flight instructor".



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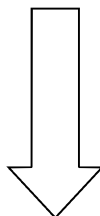
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ST MARYS RSL YOUTH CLUB
(NEXT TO RSL CLUB)
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**IF YOU, OR A VETERAN YOU KNOW,
IS FEELING**



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

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Lemons ...

The women applying for the job in a lemon orchard in country Queensland, seemed to be far too qualified for the job; given her Arts and Education Degrees from Melbourne University and her job as a Social Worker and a Teacher at the local TAFE College.

The foreman frowned and said, "I have to ask you this: "Have you had any experience in picking lemons?"

"Well as a matter of fact I have!" she replied: "I've been divorced three times, owned a Ford station wagon, a Leyland P76, supported Carlton the last four years, voted for Tony Abbot and brought shares in Dick Smith!"





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"

An elderly couple were at home watching TV.

Larry has the remote and was switching back and forth between a fishing channel and the porn channel. Susan became more and more annoyed and finally said, "For God's sake, Larry... leave it on the porn channel... you know how to fish!"



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 Kelly	0408 684 276
V/President:	Ron Blakely	02 9623 6555
V/President:	Frank Lawton	02 9623 6555
Treasurer:	Ted Fish	02 9623 6555
Secretary:	Tony Fryer	0414 557 692
A/Secretary:	Ron Blakely	0411 131 849
Committee:	Tony Mullavey	0416 231 993
	Michael Wiesel	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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Treasurer:	Ted Fish	02 9833 4700
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Assistant Treas.	George Perrin	0412 824 219

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



Top Left: Gas masks of WW1 - Passchendaele Museum.

Top Right: A horse at War - Flanders Field Museum

Above and below: ADF Colour Parties - Centenary Commemorations, Pozieres

Left: Aussie Digger - Western Front

