

WESTERN OUTPOST NEWS



SPRING 2018 ISSUE

St Mary's Outpost the
'Train of Knowledge'

St Marys Veterans Centre

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



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Various places throughout the 'News'

Front Cover:

Vietnam Veterans Day Service, National Memorial, Canberra

DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATION

Summer 2018.....9 November 2018

Autumn 2019..... 16 February 2018

Winter 2019..... 14 May 2019

Spring 2019..... 16 August 2019

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ST MARYS VIETNAM VETERANS OUTPOST

"WHERE IT ALL COMES TOGETHER"

At the going down of the Sun and in the morning; the best place to be is
"ST MARYS OUTPOST – WELFARE CENTRE"

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY, SATURDAY, AUGUST 18th 2018

Once again this year's August winds threatened to decimate our VV Day Outdoor Service at the Guns. Although the weather forecast had indicated a pleasant warm day, we were faced with a "Last minute" relocation to the RSL Auditorium, fortunately the auditorium was already set up for our dinner and,

I am pleased to say, that every able bodied person pitched in to do an ultra-fast relocation once I made the decision to move the service indoors. The RSL Club Limited staff also did a quick re-organisation of their facilities; my thanks to all involved.

I have also observed that we have been forced indoors because of inclement weather or high winds on 3 out of the last 4 VV Day Services, with this in mind, it appears that the time has come to adopt a more positive approach to our VV DAY Service, and, save everybody a lot of stress by having a permanent indoor booking. This idea was discussed at length by the VV DAY committee and a consensus was reached that future VV Day services be held indoors.

The formalities of the evening including the change in the order of service went off quite well; this year's theme was the 50th Anniversary of the many actions that took place during 1968, noting that 1968 was the Bloodiest, and, without doubt, the Deadliest year in the whole of the Vietnam War. Australia lost 102 service members KIA during the actions of 1968.

This year's guest speaker Capt. Robert J. O'Neill AO MID, a former member of 5 RAR first tour 1966-1967 gave an excellent address outlining the first stage of the Tet Offensive and pointing out Operation Coburg was an extremely ferocious battle. At the conclusion of his address he was given a rousing acclamation, and, following on he had many of our members wanting his ear right up to his departure. Capt. O'Neill's book, "Vietnam Task" is available from the 5 RAR Association web site.

The Catafalque Party were turned out well and did an excellent job as always.

We also had great representation from the Army and Air Force Cadets, some of which helped out with the Ceremonial Dressing of the Cenotaph. - Well done!

Thanks must also go to The Band of the 1st /15th RNSW Lancers who as usual did an excellent job. I really appreciate our reservists and cadets giving up their weekend to assist the Vietnam Veterans Association, St Marys Outpost with our annual service. Many thanks!

On The Social Side

The ST MARYS RSL auditorium was filled to capacity and buzzing with cross talk, the buffet was well organised with no shortage of food, our auditorium co-ordinators MC Frank Lawton and John Foeken, did a splendid job of controlling the tables and the unfortunate shortage of time available for eating and socialising did not stop members from enjoying themselves.

This year Veterans Day Celebrations started early with John and Di Foeken, Richard and Kerry Andrews and Kenneth Ward representing the Train at the NSW annual Premier's Luncheon at Government House on 11th Sept. it was a picture perfect day with great harbour views and ample food and drinks.

The ARVN Veterans Day festivities unfortunately clashed with our own very busy arrangements, thus, we reluctantly had to decline the offer to attend the dinner and wreath laying, our ARVN friends sent a small delegation to our VV Day service.

In closing, my sincere thanks go to all who make this great place function.

Tony Mullavey

President



St Mary's RSL sub-Branch
City of Penrith RSL sub-Branch
Blaxland/Glenbrook RSL sub-Branch

Centenary of Armistice Day 2018

Save the Date



SUNDAY | 11th | NOV 2018

PENRITH PACEWAY

Time | 8am to 3pm | Gates open 7.30am

Please note that there will be no service in St Marys

A unique "Freedom of the City"
by the Mayor of Penrith to the
Australian Army 5th Engineer Regiment
Commences | **8:00 am**

A Special Remembrance Day
Commemorative service
Commences | **10:30 am**

The day will include a wide range of military-related activities, demonstration of bridge building, displays including a Matilda tank, Poppy Park on a smaller scale and many other stalls including food and drinks.

Save the Date and join us for this once in a lifetime event!

Respectfully commemorate 100 years since the official end of WW1.
St Marys RSL Club will have a limited bus service in the morning and afternoon to ensure all can attend.

For further details on the bus service please ask at club reception or contact St Marys RSL sub branch Secretary on 0414 557 692 | Penrith CBD Corp office on 47 22556 | admin@penrithcbdcorp.com.au for further event information

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NEW NSW STATE PRESIDENT VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



Please be advised that as from 11th September 2018
NSW VVAA has a new State President
Mr Sam Vecchio.

Everyone at the Veterans' Outpost and
the St Mary's RSL
would like to say



CONGRATULATIONS SAM

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

"Giving back to the Community"

- Flat rate commission fee of 1.4% including signage, advertising and photography
- Further 10% Thank you discount to 000 staff, volunteer emergency services and defence force personnel
- 5% of annual net profit donated to Camp Quality and Beyond Blue
- Free Market Appraisal done within 24 hours

Please don't hesitate to compare my commission rate with other agencies. I know you'll be impressed with the thousands of dollars that will be left in your pocket!

Allan Duncan
Principal

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Lic. R.E.A & Lic. S & S.A

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WATER IN THE CARBURETTOR WIFE:

"There is trouble with the car. It has water in the carburetor."

HUSBAND: "Water in the carburetor? That's ridiculous "

WIFE: "I tell you the car has water in the carburetor."

HUSBAND: "You don't even know what a carburetor is. I'll check it out. Where's the car?"

WIFE: "In the pool".





ST MARYS RSL SUB-BRANCH

PRESIDENTS REPORT

A fairly quiet reporting period; with the Annual RSL NSW State Congress which was held in Albury NSW between the 21st - 23rd of May 2018. Attending congress from St Marys Sub-Branch was Myself, Ted Fish and Paul Hibbard. Congress and the outcome of the motions were discussed during the June General Meeting.

16th of May - The monthly Armistice Day committee meeting was held at the Penrith CBD offices, attending was Lesley Ayres, Tony Fryer, Frank Lawton and I.

28th of May - Ted Fish, Di Foeken, Judy Shephard and I conducted an RSL Tribute for David Handa, David was an associate member of the VVAA St Marys Outpost Sub-Branch.

June was also a quiet month, apart from the general running of the Sub-Branch, with the following items of interest.

21st of June - Tony Fryer, Ted Fish and I meet to discuss the proposed new route for our 2019 ANZAC Sunday March. After tweaking a couple of things, Tony and I meet with Inspector Matt Shervington from Nepean Local Area Command on the 26th of June, to finalise a suitable outcome for our march and service. A one-off Traffic Management Plan (costing approx \$500) has been submitted to NSW Police, and a request sent to Penrith Council to hold the march.

3rd of July - After finalising the logo and colour for our new RSL S-B polo shirts. I placed an order for 60 shirts; sizes will range from small to 5XL. They will be at the August 8th General Meeting and are available at a cost of \$25 each.

6th of July - Lesley Ayres, Tony Fryer, Frank Lawton and myself, along with Gai Hawthorn Penrith CBD, Cr Karon Mc Keown and with representatives from Penrith and Glenbrook RSL's, gathered at Penrith's Memorial for the presentation of cheque for \$45,455.00 from Emma Husar MP Member for Lindsay. This is a grant from the Federal Government, and to be used for the upcoming Centenary of Armistice march and service, to be held at the Penrith Paceway, on Sunday the 11th of November 2018. A separate advertisement has been included into this current Spring Issue, please read for full details.

16th of July - Monthly Armistice Meeting at Penrith CBD offices, attending that meeting was Lesley, Frank and Tony F.

Ron Blakely
President

DID YOU KNOW.....

A recent study found that the average Australian walks 900 miles a year. Another study found the average Australian consumes 22 gallons of alcohol a year.

That means on average AUSSIES get 41 miles to the gallon.

MAKES YOU PROUD TO BE AN AUSSIE. DOESN'T IT?





Veterans support gets a new look

The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) is getting a new name and a new look.

From October, VVCS will become *Open Arms*, with the tagline *veterans and families counselling*.

“This new brand better represents how the service has evolved and is more recognisable,” National Manager Dr Stephanie Hodson said.

“Open arms are a very powerful symbol of support, safety, and security, particularly for Vietnam veterans, whose lifeline was the Huey helicopter.

“The Hueys would either take them out to safety, or provide critical supplies. But to let the pilot know where to land, one soldier had to stand in a field with open arms, completely vulnerable.

“Our new logo reminds us of those brave soldiers, while also representing so much to contemporary veterans –families welcoming soldiers home, land crew directing planes—and, of course, our policy to welcome those who need support.

“This brand change comes at a time when we are expanding eligibility to anyone who has served for one day or more and their immediate family, who can now seek counselling about any issue they face.

“It was developed after extensive consultation with Vietnam and contemporary veterans, current personnel, reservists, partners, families, and peer network advisers across Australia.”

The nationally accredited service has been the cornerstone of the Australian Government’s veteran mental health support for more than 35 years, when it was established to support Vietnam veterans.

It provides 24-hour free and confidential counselling to former and current Australian Defence Force personnel and their families.

“As a contemporary veteran, I fully understand and appreciate the amazing legacy the Vietnam veterans have provided to my generation.

“Since 1982, we have provided more than 1.6 million counselling sessions to close to 300,000 veterans and family members,” Dr Hodson said.

“With this more memorable brand that clearly represents what we do, we hope to better connect with current and former ADF personnel and their families, so that even more can get the support they need.”

If you need support, call 1800 011 046 any time of day or night.

For more information about the name change please visit -

<http://www.vvcs.gov.au/openarms/index.htm>



Nepean Wives of Vietnam Veterans, Women's Support Group Winter Report

President: Maree Johnson

Phone: (02) 96237126

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Phone: (02) 96753998

Treasurer: Kay Hibbard

Phone: (02) 98323562

Remembrance Day

2018 sees the Anniversary of the Armistice and our members will be joining with the RSL and Sub-Branch to commemorate the end of WW2. The war to end all wars, if only that was true. Please join us at the Penrith Paceway, at 1100 hrs. on the 11th of the eleventh.

11/11/18 at 11am!

Morning tea for Cancer

The much planned and cooked for Morning Tea for cancer, was a huge success this year, with \$4286.25 raised for oncology services in the Nepean Area. All funds raised on the day, have been given to local cancer services, as these are the ones that assist the people in our community. Our members also delivered turbans to the Cancer Clinic at Nepean Hospital. This is an ongoing exercise as the ladies make them all year.

Christmas Boxes for deployed Defence Members

Our parcels to the troops for Christmas in July, were packed, and we sent away 70 boxes. Beanies, toiletry bags and laundry bags were part of the packages and funds from the Sub-Branch went to the purchase of other items to be included. Our thanks to the ladies from the Blacktown PVA for helping out on the day.

Social Outings

We celebrated Christmas in July at Berowra Waters again this year. Hiring a bus gave us an opportunity to partake in the generosity of the wine waiter! Roland Storm again entertained us for the afternoon. It was great to see some Blacktown members join us as well. You're always welcome ladies.

Vietnam Veterans Day

Apparently the service went off well. Its the first one I have missed, though I was too ill to attend. All reports were positive and having it indoors, made for a more comfortable commemoration.

Retreats

Thirteen ladies had a great time at our Winter Retreat to Leura. A lovely house was rented out for the week and we enjoyed lots of space to relax. The log fire burns all day and its really cosy. It was a great week of laughter, shopping, drinking and eating! We enjoyed a nice lunch at the 'Garage', great food! Some of the girls took their sewing machines and made some lovely bags. Thanks to Jeanette Hitchcock for guiding them through to the excellent results.

A few of our ladies went to the pictures at Glenbrook to see 'The Book Club'. A very funny movie. We all enjoyed the show and the company. This may become an ongoing event, as they have some great movie s there.

There is to be a change in our group from March next year. We are changing to a social group, as most of our members have been attending for years. We have decided to continue meeting, though we'll meet for lunch at a different restaurant or club, each month. The group will be celebrating our 20th year in 2019, a great milestone for many of us. Our Aims and Objective will continue to be our goal and we look forward to many more years as friends.

We will keep our name and hopefully, continue with our charity and donations. There will be a steering committee that can develop a calendar of dates and venues, as well as making bookings. Time for a change, we are all getting older and need to take pressure off those with other commitments. We'll give it go and see what happens. That just about covers our news for now.


Keep on, keeping on

Cheers

Maree Johnson JP.
President




Cnr Great Western Highway &
Rupertswood Rd, Rooty Hill 2766
(02) 9625 2222



Minchinbury Community Hospital

Rehabilitation
Surgical
Medical

Minchinbury Community Hospital has been providing expert rehabilitation and nursing care to the local community for the past 10 years.




Physiotherapy & Hydrotherapy

Our highly qualified and talented visiting Specialist Surgeons provide specialist care including:

- Ophthalmic Surgery
- ENT Surgery
- General Surgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Dental Surgery
- Plastic Surgery
- Gastroscopy & Colonoscopy procedures

Minchinbury Community Hospital offers inpatient and day patient personalised rehabilitation services to suit your needs. Our team of caring professionals are here to assist patients reach their individual goals and work in conjunction with their families to meet any of their concerns.

Contact our friendly Administration team for more information on (02) 9625 2222.



DVA Gold & White Cards are accepted as payment with a GP referral

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

When I was young, I decided I wanted to be a doctor so I took the entrance exam to go to Medical School. One of the questions asked us was to rearrange the letters "PNEIS" into the name of an important human body part which is most useful when erect.

Those who answered "spine" are doctors today.

The rest of us are sending jokes via email.



VVAA ST MARYS OUTPOST

EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORT

A check of the Outpost Education Program calendar shows 46 bookings across 2018, involving school and community engagements. School presentations generally follow a well rehearsed and documented program with variations provided for the study/research timeline of the group being visited. Some schools prefer to use the program as an introduction to the Vietnam topic while others utilise the program for revision of class work. Other schools use the program as a 'top up' prior to written assessments and assignments. As always, across 14 years of program delivery to government and non-government schools/colleges the Outpost Education Program continues to be highly evaluated by students and staff.

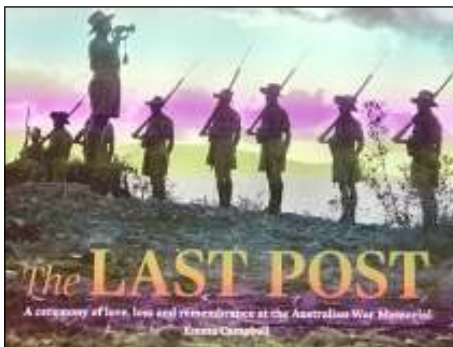
Since the last Newsletter several veteran community programs of special interest have occurred:

11 August: The Honourable Gladys Berejiklien MP Premier of New South Wales together with His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Rtd) Governor of New South Wales and Mrs Linda Hurley gave a reception to honour Vietnam War Veterans (and their guests) at Government House. Attendance was by direct invitation following an expression of interest. Previously the yearly reception was limited to Vietnam Veterans only, however, now includes the veteran's guest, for many their wife/partner. Personally, it was pleasing to see 'non-veterans' present and enjoying the reception.

Those of you and partners (wives) who have not attended a Premiers Vietnam War Veterans Reception are encouraged to take the opportunity when next extended. An opportunity to hear the words - Thank You for Your Service and to enjoy the Premiers hospitality.

15 August: Book Launch by the Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP Prime Minister of Australia and the Honourable Bill Shorten MP Leader of the Opposition:

"The Last Post. A ceremony of love, loss and remembrance at the Australian War Memorial"
..... by Emma Campbell.



The Last Post - Dust Cover

It was a particular honour to have been invited to the above function at Parliament House by Mr Kerry Stokes AC Chairman, Australian War Memorial and Dr Brendan Nelson AO Director, Australian War Memorial.

The book has 6 chapters, 213 pages, of historical military interest to veterans and families along with accompanying photos. The Memorial's Last Post Ceremony helps visitors better understand the service and sacrifice of more than 102,800 Australians whose names are set in bronze on the Memorial's Roll of Honour.

The book also explores why Australians commemorate war, and how we have done so since Federation in 1901 revealing the central role that the Australian War Memorial plays in our



The Premier and entertainers



Members of St Marys Outpost

national history. It will take nearly 300 years for the Last Post Ceremony to commemorate every person currently on the Roll of Honour. The Memorial is committed to ensuring that each story of a life lived and a person loved will eventually be told.

18 August: Vietnam Veterans Day Remembrance Service at the Vietnam Veterans Forces National Memorial, Anzac Parade, Canberra.

With typical Canberra weather - sunshine, light rain, moderate wind and fluctuating temperature a crowd of veterans and families gathered at the National Memorial. The age of veterans evident by the passage of time on the faces present.



Brendan Nelson OA
Director Australian War Memorial



Top brass gathering for Last Post Ceremony, VV Day, AWM

The number present also an indication of those who have 'marched on, as we say.

A single F/A-18A Hornet Aircraft conducted a single level flypast to commence the service.

The address on behalf of the Australian people was given by His Excellency, The Hon General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret'd). The address on behalf of Vietnam Veterans was then delivered by Major General, The Hon, Michael Jeffery AC, CVO, MC (Ret'd).

As brothers-in-arms these two old soldiers are emotive speakers who engender pride in service and remembrance of fallen comrades. The reading of the Honour Roll i.e. 18 names of a representative group who paid the supreme sacrifice in the Vietnam War, is always a sad reflection of young lives lost.

The Vietnam Veterans Australian Capital Territory and District gave a commitment to continuing services at the National Memorial across the 50 year anniversary periods of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War including significant battle anniversaries.

17/18 August: THE LONG TAN CROSS - HOME AT LAST

Veterans will be aware of the Long Tan Cross coming home late last year and being put on temporary display in the Reg Saunders Gallery at the Australian War Memorial.

On 17 August the Cross was unveiled in its permanent home in the Vietnam Gallery for public display in a protective glass cabinet. The theatre housing the Cross has two audio visual presentations. The Long Tan Battle Story with original photos and visuals accompanied by narratives from soldiers involved in the battle. The other presentation



Long Tan Cross
in its permanent home in
The Vietnam Gallery, AWM

tells the Long Tan Cross story from its construction by Assault Pioneer Barry McAvinue 6RAR/NZ ANZAC Battalion to its erection at the battle site in 1969, then through its history post the Vietnam War. Leaving aside the politics surrounding the Long Tan Cross across the years it is simply beautiful to be able to stand in front of the Cross, now located in our National Memorial in Australia.

Also a pleasure and honour to meet Barry McAvinue, Long Tan Cross builder. His story of how he built the cross is not well known, but now explained as part of the story.



Barry McAvinue
Builder of the Long Tan Cross

Next time you go to Canberra allocate a few hours to visit the Australian War Memorial and experience the Vietnam Gallery with its recent updates around the Long Tan Battle and including a revised presentation of the Coral/Balmoral Battle.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL - HAVE YOUR SAY

.....in shaping the future of the Australian War Memorial

Since opening in 1941, the Australian War Memorial has recognised, honoured and shared the stories of our defence force personnel and their experiences in war, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

The Memorial's ability to respectfully commemorate and display these stories is now at capacity; visitor numbers remain strong and modern conflicts are currently under-represented in gallery spaces. A significant redevelopment is required to improve the visitor experience by increasing gallery space and improving amenities.

The Memorial is developing a detailed proposal to submit to the Federal Government for funding for this project, and is also developing a Precinct Masterplan to create a vision that will guide the Memorial for the next 50 years.

THEY WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

The Australian War Memorial is currently seeking feedback on five key themes in order to help shape the future of the Memorial. The themes are:

A Place For Veterans And Their Families:

How can we best serve veterans and their families when they visit the Memorial?

Precinct Priorities:

What are the priority areas for the Australian War Memorial precinct and how could we make the external experiences at the Memorial better?

The Visitor Experience:

What are the access and functionality needs you would like to see in the Memorial in the future?

Telling More Stories To More People:

What are the important things to consider for the planning of future gallery spaces at the Memorial?

Future 50 - Commemoration, Museum And Research Themes:

What would you like future generations to experience when they visit the Memorial in the 2060s?

The consultation program closes Wednesday 26 September 2018....

Email: haveyoursay@awm.gov.au.

MENIN GATE LIONS - Located at the entrance of the Australian War Memorial

Pre WW1 the Menin lions flanked the road to Menin. During WW1 most of the town of Menin was razed to the ground by constant German bombardment between 1914 and 1918.

Although badly damaged by shellfire, the lions were still present at the end of the war. In 1936 the Burgomaster of Ypres presented them to Australia as a gesture of friendship from the Belgium people.

After the war, the devastated town was completely rebuilt, in an almost exact replica of its original medieval form. In 1927 a major new addition, the Menin Gate Memorial was opened, bearing the names of more than 54,000 British and Dominion (including Australian) soldiers who died in Belgium but have no known grave.



Vin and Nancy
Menin Gate lion at
the AWM entrance

In 1987 reconstruction and repair of missing parts and damage to the lions was undertaken and in 1991 the refurbished lions were placed on permanent display at the entrance of the Australian War Memorial.

Quote: Dr Brendan Nelson AO, Director, Australian War Memorial:

'Most Australians who fought and died on the Ypres Salient in Flanders marched to battle past the Menin Gate lions. For our 13000 dead in and around Ypres, the lions often represented the last glimpse of a civilised normality.'

(See the back page for photos of the Menin Gate.)

In September 2017 the Australian government announced that it would present replicas of the lions to Ypres for permanent display outside the Menin Gate Memorial. To that end stone has been sourced from the original quarry, computer generated images detailed for use in sculpting the replica lions.

A completion date and presentation program are yet to be announced.



Heavenly Celebrations
Celebrate a loved one's life

Contact Michelle for
Pre-Planning and Pre-Paid Funerals

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Mobile: 0418 250 242

Office address:
196 Queen Street
ST. MARYS
(Directly Opposite Library)

DARWIN AND RETURN APRIL – MAY 2017

PART 6

An adventure by Ross Pearson, known to you all as a member of the Veterans Outpost,

Richard had booked another tour for the next day this time to Kakadu. Ken and I went to the old oil storage tunnels. When Darwin was bombed in 1942 one of the main targets was the oil storage tanks at Stokes Hill. It was decided to dig storage tunnels so they couldn't be bombed. One of these tunnels is open as a tourist attraction. It is well worth the visit. Lining the tunnels are photos of the construction and digging the tunnels and also their history.



We then rode the 70 kilometres to the Adelaide River on the Jabiru Road to see the jumping crocodiles. The tour on the river goes for about an hour, and you not only see the crocodiles but bird life and other animals that live on and around the river. Another must see if you go to Darwin.

That night the Mindil Beach Markets were on again. As before, the population of Darwin must have been there. I bought sweet and sour barramundi for tea, Ken also had Chinese. We sat on the beach with a lot of others and watched the sunset. We were watching *The Alamo* again when Richard got back from his tour. It was being shown 2 nights in a row on channel 41, we saw the ending this time.

Col and Richard went to the tunnels the next morning, then Don and I at the Wave pool. This is a new attraction in Darwin. Because you can't go swimming at the beaches or harbour they have built a wave pool. It's like going to the beach but there are no stingers or crocodiles present. The waves are operated for about 20 minutes and then there is calm for the same period. The cost in for us was \$5 and that includes a pass out and is good for all day. Life guards are present and floats are supplied as are shade umbrellas. Not bad value for a day's entertainment.

We walked from there to the wharf again, had a sandwich for lunch, and then visited the Virtual Reality Show and Exhibition on the bombing of Darwin and the Flying Doctor which is also at the wharf. Walked back to the wave pool for another dip then returned to base.

Ken did another one of his cook-ups for tea that night, sausages, tomato, eggs, onions and mashed potatoes. We watched TV until 2330 then toddled off to bed in our own rooms.

We were booked out the next day, Tuesday, it was hoped that the starter motor had turned up. Ken and I said we would wait at Edith Falls for the other 3 as we wanted to take photos of the plywood models of the planes used during the war that were at the old Strauss Runway, just out of Darwin on the Stuart Highway. This was one of many Airforce bases built in the NT during WW11. I received a text from Don that they were working on Richard's bike, so I sent back we would wait for them at Adelaide River.

We were still refuelling when they turned up. From Adelaide River we turned off the Stuart Highway to the right and travelled along the original road that comes out just north of Pine Creek. It is a good diversion and you get away from travelling the main road. Don and I had been on this road back in 2004 when we went to the Top End Odyssey of that year that was at Bachelor. As before, I let the others go ahead, I caught them up at Pine Creek where we had lunch.

Our destination that day was Edith Falls, 50 kilometres north of Katherine. The falls



The Camp at Edith Falls

themselves are across a lake, and during the winter, it's still hot that far north, you can swim out to the falls. It was too early in the season for that; the rangers hadn't cleared the salt water crocodiles from the lake or river. They don't worry about the fresh water ones. Still it is a good place to camp, there are plenty of bush trails to walk and also walk to the upper falls. The camp and surrounds are in Katherine Gorge National Park and is well maintained. (photo) The amenities are good and there are plenty of free electric barbeques around. We used one to use the rest of the

sausages and eggs we had with us.

Col, Ken and I walked to the lake and over the foot bridge that crosses the river running from the lake. There were a lot of other campers there, I would say the place was full, and we talked to some of them before we had our barbeque. There was a landline phone there, so I was able to use my phone card and ring home. Back to early night again, in bed by 1930, not much else to do when travelling as we were.

The next morning Don and Richard said they were going to walk to the upper falls, a few kilometres walk. Col, Ken and I packed up and rode on to Katherine where we booked into the same Tourists Village that we did 10 days earlier. Richard and Don weren't that far behind us. They went for a swim at the upper falls pool and said the water wasn't too bad and worth the walk.

Richard found he had small tack in his rear tyre and it was going down. We put a string bung it and used my compressor to inflate the tyre.

Ken, Richard and I rode out to Katherine Gorge. They wanted to do a tour of the Gorges. I waited for them at the Information Centre. I'd been up the Gorges, 3 main ones, before and didn't want to do them again. I used the time sitting waiting writing up notes on our trip. I keep a diary when I do long bike trips, notes to look back on in years to come. Back at camp Ken said he would be leaving us in the morning, he wanted to get home; his wife wasn't feeling too well. The others bought tea; I had packets of cup of soup so I had that with biscuits for tea.

I learnt later that his wife, Shirley, had a Sliding Hiatus Hernia, and that's the reason she'd not been feeling well for a some time. She'll have to go Townsville for the operation as they don't do that surgery in Mt Isa.

The next morning Ken was packed and ready to leave early, he would be back in Mt Isa in 2 days. We were back to 4 again, but we were on our original schedule. Richard's tyre had gone down again and he decided he would get a new one if he could. There was a Honda dealer in town, I bought a tyre from them in 2011, Richard went to them and was fortunate enough to have a *Michelin Pilot Road 4* which he bought and they put on for him, the price comparable to Sydney. I went to the hospital while this was going on and had an INR blood test which was due. I then went to the shopping mall and had a cappuccino while I waited for them. I filled my 10 litre spare fuel container before we left Katherine, it would be the cheapest fuel for a while at \$1.389 a litre

Part 7 in the next issue

UNTAMED FLOWERS

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It has finally been worked out why the US Military Disciplines squabble all the time They don't speak the same language.

For example take the following order "Secure the Building."

The Army: Will post guards around the building's perimeter.

The Navy: Will turn the lights out and lock the building up.

The Marines: Will storm the building, killing everyone inside and set up a HQ.

The Air Force: Will take out a five-year lease with an option to buy!



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL HALL OF VALOUR



Victoria Cross

The Hall of Valour honours the one hundred Australians who have received the Victoria Cross and the nine Australian Defence personnel who have directly received the George Cross.

The Victoria Cross, the highest award for bravery in the face of the enemy, was instituted in 1856 by Queen Victoria and made retrospective to 1854 to cover the period of the Crimean War. It was awarded to Australians for valour in several major conflicts since the Boer War until replaced by the Victoria Cross for Australia in 1991. The change was minimal; the bronze cross and maroon ribbon was retained and the new award carried all the prestige and tradition of the Imperial Victoria Cross.



George Cross



Blacktown and Districts TPI Social and Welfare Club

Blacktown and Districts TPI Social and 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

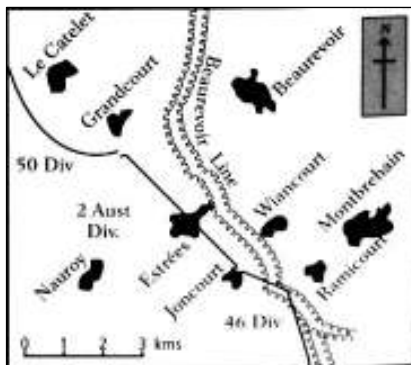
THE BATTLE OF MONTBREHAIN

France, 5 October 1918

Montbrehain, fought on 5 October 1918, was the last action involving Australian infantry on the Western Front during the First World War. Following the successful breaching of the main Hindenburg Line on 29 September - 1 October (see St Quentin Canal), the exhausted and depleted 3rd and 5th Australian divisions which took part in that attack were relieved by the 2nd Australian Division under Major General Charles Rosenthal on the nights of 1 and 2 October. The next day this formation was set to the task of breaching the final network of defences called the Beaurevoir system.



Montbrehain



Map detailing the trenches around Montbrehain

The attack begun at 6.05 a.m. by the 5th and 7th Brigades (between them totalling no more than 2,500 men) was launched from around Entrees and directed at Beaurevoir village. Further south, the British 46th Division of the 9th Corps was to attack towards Montbrehain, capitalising on a small breach of the German system won at a salient east of Joncourt a day or so earlier. The Australian attack was a success, though it was stopped just short of its goal; the British, too, broke through and for a time held Montbrehain - village until driven out after midday.



The bodies of German machine gunners in the trench along the roadside at Montbrehain

After a mishandled attempt to press ahead against Beaurevoir early on 4 October, before noon that day the 2nd Division's 6th Brigade was ordered to make an attack on Montbrehain the following morning. The operation was a brilliant success, the attackers taking 400 Germans captive. The victory was gained, however, at a cost of 430 casualties-a tally which, at that stage of the war, was more commensurate with participation in a general attack rather than a relatively small local attack. That night the 6th Brigade followed the remainder of the AIF out of the front-line and into a rest area west of Abbeville.

Extracted from the book
produced by Chris Coulthard-Clark,
*Where Australians Fought - The
Encyclopaedia of Australia's Battles*,
Allen and Unwin, Sydney.



The remains of a bombed farm house in Montbrehain

DVA - 10K STEPS - 2018

Centenary of Armistice

NATIONAL 10,000 STEPS CHALLENGE 2018



Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs



Invitation to walk in the footsteps of heroes

All members of the veteran community, including current and former serving ADF personnel and their families, are invited to celebrate the Centenary of the Great War by participating in this National 10,000 steps challenge.

CHALLENGE

Challenge yourself to reach a new milestone, challenge your colleagues to reach 10,000 steps per day or challenge other teams to improve their best efforts. At the end of the day, it's reaching your personal goals that provides the greatest rewards.

RECORDING STEPS

Starting on Sunday 11th November 2018 and finishing on Saturday 8th December, teams of five will record their daily steps then log them onto the official 10,000 steps website. Each week the teams' steps are mapped against the significant milestones in the lead up to the Armistice of 1918. Steps can be recorded directly through either a smartphone app, the official 10,000 steps website, your team captain or through the DVA national 10k steps coordinator.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Each week we will send out a newsletter with progressive results, stories or photos from participants, and instant challenge quizzes. In addition, each week we will send out a postcard from a significant battle or milestone related to our theme and announce that week's random draw winners.

CATEGORY WINNERS

This year DVA will introduce two perpetual trophies, one for the ADF category and one for the ESO (Ex Service Organisation) category. Everyone has a chance to win a prize, you don't have to take the most steps to be a winner. Refer to the Fact Sheet on our web page for more information.

Winners at State/Territory and National level will be announced and prizes distributed at the end of the challenge.

Armistice
1918-2018 | Australia Remembers

Get a new team together, join an existing team or call up last year's team and get on track for better health as you walk in the footsteps of heroes.

COUNTING STEPS IS EASY AS 1..2..3

- 1 - USE A FITNESS TRACKER
- 2 - USE A SMARTPHONE APP
- 3 - USE A PEDOMETER

CONTACT

CONTACT US FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS FUN AND REWARDING CHALLENGE OR TO EXPRESS AN INTEREST TO REGISTER AS A TEAM OR AN INDIVIDUAL.

EMAIL THE DVA NATIONAL 10K STEPS COORDINATOR AT 10ksteps@dva.gov.au

GO TO www.dva.gov.au/10ksteps FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGULAR UPDATES

OR CALL US
REGIONAL CALLERS - 1800 555 254
ASK FOR THE DVA 10K STEPS COORDINATOR

ST MARYS RSL CLUB



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Check Board for Specials

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TAB FACILITIES

Sports Bet

FOX Sport

SKY Channel

WHAT'S ON

MONDAY

- Rock and Roll Dancing 7-10 pm

TUESDAY

- Bingo 7.00 pm (electronic pads available)

WEDNESDAY

- Monthly Raffle 7pm 2nd Wed of Month

THURSDAY

- Bingo 11.30 am

- Texas Hold'em Poker 7 pm

- **MEMBER'S Badge Draw** \$3000-\$5000 from 7 pm

FRIDAY

- Bingo 11.30 am

- CLUB BRASHS—Playing Retro Music 8 pm-12 am

SATURDAY

- Meat Run RAFFLE 4-6 pm

- Rock'n'Roll Bands, Shows and Lounge Music 7.30 pm - Midnight

**** Check "WHAT'S ON BOARD" for Details ****

Is gambling a problem for you? G-Line (NSW) is a confidential anonymous and free counselling service
FREECALL 188 633 635

"TWA 2341, for noise abatement turn right 45 degrees."

"Centre, we are at 35,000 feet. How much noise can we make up here?"

"Sir, have you ever heard the noise a 747 makes when it hits a 727?"





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

19



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"

Some days are better than others.

There I was sitting at the bar staring at my drink when a great huge, trouble-making biker steps up next to me, grabs my drink and gulps it down in one swig.



"Well, whatcha' gonna do about it?" he says, menacingly, as I burst into tears.

"Come on, man," the biker says, "I didn't think you'd CRY. I can't stand to see a man crying."

"This is the worst day of my life," I say. "I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car had been stolen and I don't have any insurance. I left my wallet in the cab I took home. I found my wife with another man and then my dog bit me." "So I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all, I buy a drink, I drop a capsule in and sit here watching the poison dissolve; then you show up and drink the whole thing! But enough about me, how's your day going?"



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 and other technology related issues.

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

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"Thank you," the blonde says, and hangs up.



ST MARYS RSL BOWLERS CLUB

The bowlers 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



A Ukrainian immigrant goes to the Motor Vehicles Registry to apply for a driver's licence. He has to take an eye test.

The clerk shows him a card with the letters: C Z W I X N O S T A C Z

"Can you read this?" the clerk asks.

"Read it?" the Ukrainian replies, "I know the guy."



THE MYSTERY BOATS

Author: Geoffrey Barker Date: 28/11/2003 Publication: Australian Financial Review Section: Magazine Page: 16 Source: AFR. It's the great untold story of Australian Naval history.

Now for the rest of this fascinating article

The RAN acquired its six O-boats over 10 years from 1967 to replace a British submarine squadron that had operated in Australia since World War II. Built in Scotland, the O-boats were in service for 30 years. With refits and updates, they were the most silent and capable conventional diesel-electric submarines of their time and ideal for coastal intelligence collection.



The submerged displacement weight of the O-boats was 2,400 tons; their draft was 5.5 metres. Their maximum speed was 12 knots on the surface and 17.5 knots submerged. Their maximum safe dive depth was 200 metres. Fully armed, the O-boats carried 28 torpedoes that could be fired from six torpedo tubes. They could carry 100,000 gallons of diesel fuel in internal tanks and in numbers three and five of the main ballast tanks. In theory, they could circumnavigate the globe without refuelling.

Designed to accommodate a crew of five officers and 57 ratings, the so called 'mystery boats' usually went on patrol with more than 70 people on board. In addition to their normal complement, there were always some submarine service trainees and civilian 'spooks' operating specialised intelligence-collection equipment. Among the crew, monitoring communications from shore facilities and vessels at sea, were specialist linguists, fluent in Russian and regional languages, who could warn of any indication that the submarine had been detected.

During patrols, perhaps not more than 10 people on board would know the boat's location. A curtain was placed around the chart table to discourage curious crew members. Once on patrol, crews quickly adjusted to the crowding and the stink of diesel and sweat; to 'hot-bunking' or sleeping on torpedo racks; to careful water use and to the need for minimal noise.

Initial personal tensions evaporated quickly once patrols were under way, although some COs noted that they tended to resurface as patrols ended and crews neared home. One O-boat had an unpopular executive officer named Trevor. The crew smuggled a budgerigar aboard, named it 'Trevor the Budgie' and trained it to shit on the officer's white shirt.

On top of the crowded, uncomfortable conditions, O-boat crews had to endure occasional food shortages. One crew famously survived for weeks on omelettes, scrambled eggs and pavlova when its supplies reduced to egg powder alone. Another ran out of toilet paper in the first week of a six-week patrol.

More generally, life on the O-boats was lonely and isolated, as well as perilous. There was no communication with families. Personal bad news was withheld from crew members until patrols ended. And there was always the possibility of death at sea, or capture and imprisonment - or execution - as spies.

To the dismay of some O-boat veterans, the Australian Government has refused to recognise their service as warlike and denied their request for an active service medal. The issue particularly rankles with Bob Woolrych. "In the event of capture, there were quite specific instructions on what to ask for in order to get better treatment. We thought it an exercise in pissing into the wind at the time ... We would have been thrown to the sharks," he says.

The O-boats were organised in two watches and could be brought to action on either watch. Crews worked six-hour shifts and had four meals per day. Commanding Officers, though, tended to survive on only two to two-and-a-half hours' sleep in every 24-hour period on patrol. "You were always prowling," one CO recalls.

The story of the O-boats is a salutary reminder of the seriousness of the long Cold War nuclear standoff that ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union. The derring-do of underwater looks wasn't the main activity of the O-boats. During their six-week patrols, mostly out of HMAS Platypus, their base in Neutral Bay, Sydney, they spent most of their time submerged in the South China Sea, with antennas raised above the water, conducting electronic surveillance. "Hoovering stuff out of the atmosphere," is how one former commander describes the activity.

Their other task was to record the acoustic signatures of Soviet surface ships and submarines. The O-boat would lie submerged and silent, passive sonar hydrophones switched on, to record the sounds of passing ships and submarines. "We have been able to identify signatures for individual ships. Hulls, air-conditioning, pumps, have characteristic sound signatures," a commander recalls. The recorded sound signatures were fed into the computers of Australian, American and British submarines. This would enable them to identify the vessel and its capabilities in the event of hostilities. Again the combat edge would be important.

Although they operated under rules of engagement that prevented them from trespassing on the territorial waters of littoral states, they were permitted to pursue interesting targets if the CO judged the intelligence payoff was worth the risk. The strictly enforced rule, however, was that the O-boats had to stay on the high seas.

As one former Commander says: "There was no need to enter territorial waters, and the penalties were too high if you were caught. Most of the navy didn't know what we were doing, and probably only two politicians - the prime minister and the defence minister. You had an obligation to get it right, because if you stuffed up you could bring down a government." The O-boats were certainly not permitted to make pre-emptive torpedo attacks against potential adversaries, but they were permitted to go within six feet (1.8 metres) of vessels for those 'underwater looks'.

With the growth of the Soviet nuclear submarine fleet in the Atlantic theatre in the 1970s, the US navy set itself the task of achieving timely indications and warnings 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Assisted by the smaller British submarine fleet, the US succeeded. A main focus of the British activity was high-quality intelligence collection, including from British Oberon class submarines.

Australian O-boat commanders agree that the Australian program grew out of the British program and from the strong historical and cultural links between the British and Australian submarine services. According to some authorities, however, the patrols may have acquired special urgency following the New Zealand Government decision in 1984 to exclude nuclear armed American warships, and indeed all nuclear-armed vessels, from NZ waters.

The Americans responded to what they saw as a major crisis in the Western alliance by excluding New Zealand from what was known at the time as the 'Five Eyes' - the intelligence-sharing arrangements between Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK and the US. The group was known secretly as 'AUSCANNZUKUS'. It held annual conferences with plenary, working and top-secret sessions.

The US eventually agreed that New Zealand could remain a member of the Five Eyes, but that it could not continue to receive the top-level information.

At the time, despite its opposition to the NZ nuclear-ship policy, Australia found itself disadvantaged by regional association with New Zealand. Australian delegates at the 1984 and 1985 conferences, held in Washington and Ottawa, sensed that they too were being excluded from what one authority called "the really sexy stuff".

They were certainly excluded from the top-secret sessions. The result was a more intense Australian effort to regain US favour and full Five Eyes access by producing more and better intelligence information from its O-boat patrols. It was a gambit that worked to Australia's great advantage.

But long before these developments Australia had selected Orion and Otama to be its 'mystery boats'. They were given a specialised fit with, among other things, upward-looking cameras, detuned hydrophones to record unfiltered noise, and other sensors. Initially, however, the program did not have strong political or even navy support. "A lot was done by blokes on an ad hoc basis," Rear Admiral Clarke remembers. "The Defence Science and Technology Organisation and the Defence Signals Directorate worked on bits and pieces and so did some Navy boffins. It was good stuff, done on a wing and a prayer. They did outstanding work."

Another former CO remembers that Orion, at least, was worked up for its role as a 'mystery boat' before it left the UK for Australia. "The Royal Navy were very good to us," another CO says. "They took out a lot of old gear and we got better cameras." A typical O-boat patrol would last from six to eight weeks from its beginning to its end at HMAS Platypus.

The first eight to 10 days would be a fast surface transit at about 12 knots. Then a surface-dive transit would follow at seven to 10 knots before a so called 'discreet transit' into the area of operations. During three to three-and-a-half weeks on station - listening, recording, watching - the O-boat remained submerged, with only masts raised, operating in what was called 'ultra-quiet' state.

The vessel might move out to sea from its offshore position at night in order to perform noisy tasks, including discharging wastes and charging batteries. On its return home, the boat's performance would be affected by the drag created by barnacles that grew quickly in the warm South China Sea waters, clinging even to periscope lenses. Some O-boat commanders surfaced and scraped the barnacles at sea before entering port; others preferred to remove them with high-pressure water hoses once they were docked.

Despite the dangers they faced and the extraordinary intelligence they collected, there seems a consensus among former O-boat commanders that their patrols into the Pacific, South China Sea and the Indian Ocean were relatively less intense and less important than the US and British patrols in the Atlantic, Arctic and northern Pacific regions. "For Washington," a former commander says, "the primary interest was the Atlantic. It was more politically sensitive. Washington and London saw the Atlantic threat as more immediate than the Pacific threat."

“I think we were always up against the second 11,” says another. Russian technology was never as good as ours. The Russians out of Cam Ranh Bay were not built for the tropics. They relied on Petty Officers and a crew of conscripts who knew very little. Their operations in the Pacific were at the lower end of the scale. They may have been better in home waters.”

None of this diminishes in any way the Cold War contribution of the O-boats. Senior figures in the US administration acknowledge the importance of their role and estimate that the Collins class submarines now boost US naval capability in the Pacific by 20 per cent. At the very least, as one O-boat commander puts it, the secret patrols admitted Australia to one of the biggest big games in the Cold War and demonstrated the capacity of the Australian submarine arm at a time of high international tension.

And where are they now? Onslow is at Sydney's Darling Harbour; Oxley is in a park at Holbrook in southern NSW; Ovens is in Fremantle, WA; Otama is being prepared for display at Hastings, Victoria; Oxley's fin is on display at HMAS Stirling, WA; and Orion will be scrapped.

Mystery boats no longer, the O-boats are now museum attractions, climbed over daily by children and parents who marvel at the equipment and machinery packed into their claustrophobic narrowness. They ask how more than 70 human beings managed to exist for nearly two months at a time inside these cramped and dangerous spaces far below the surface of the sea. The answer is simple: they were brave and balanced men who knew they were doing vital work for their country.

A test of their medal

“The work was known to very few in government, defence and Navy. The missions were conducted as ‘war patrols’ and the tasks undertaken by these submarines [were] considered ... to be among the most hazardous undertaken by RAN seagoing units for many decades.”

These words were written by the national president of the Australian Submarine Association, Captain Barry Nobes (Rtd), to the Defence Force Chief General Peter Cosgrove as part of a plea for the Australian Active Service Medal (Special Operations) to be awarded to submariners who served on the secret spy patrols.

Reflecting the submariners' view that they had not been adequately recognised with the award of the Australian Service Medal (with Special Ops clasp), Nobes reminded Cosgrove that the O-boat patrols “were of great importance to the nation in the era of the Cold War.”



But Cosgrove was unmoved. Whether the AASM or the ASM was the appropriate medal, he replied in August this year, hinged on the definition of ‘warlike’ and ‘non-warlike’ operations ‘under current regulations’. And the reviewing officers had determined the O-boat service warranted the ASM with special ops clasp because the operations were non-warlike.

Why? “... the nature of these patrols was not warlike,” Cosgrove wrote, “because the application of force was not authorised, there was no expectations of casualties, there was no state of declared war, there were no conventional combat operations against an armed adversary [and] they were not peace-enforcement operations.”

Cosgrove's ruling offended O-boat drivers who had operated under rules of engagement that allowed hot pursuit of intelligence targets and permitted submarines to move to within feet of surface ships for intelligence-collection purposes. But Cosgrove was adamant, telling the submariners that they could be proud of their ASM with special ops clasp, and concluding: “I regret that I can be of no further assistance to you in the matter.”

Some submariners were annoyed by Captain Nobes' subsequent advice to them: “... we should accept this decision with the knowledge that we have done our best to secure a favourable outcome, but the regulations ... are very unlikely to be changed [and] do not permit it. I believe that any further submissions will be futile and possibly counter-productive in other areas, such as health and welfare, where we really do need support.

It is unlikely that this will be the last word on the medal issue. Submariners are tough and determined old salts and their claim for the AASM does seem to have been sunk by regulations that define warlike service very narrowly indeed. If the nature of the patrols and the dangers to which they exposed crews were not in the ordinary meaning of the word ‘warlike’, then it is hard to see just what would qualify.

Certainly to describe such patrols as ‘non-warlike’ is to play down the hazards and the accomplishments. Service in the O-boats required courage and daring. It was more sustained and more active than much of the military service that now qualifies as active service.

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



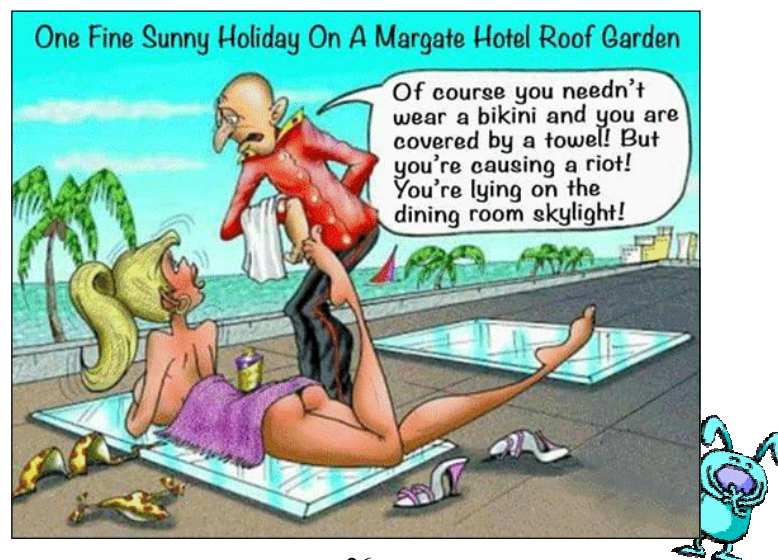
**THEN IT'S TIME FOR A CHAT WITH OUR WELFARE OFFICERS
VISIT THE VETERANS CENTRE, LOCATED IN**

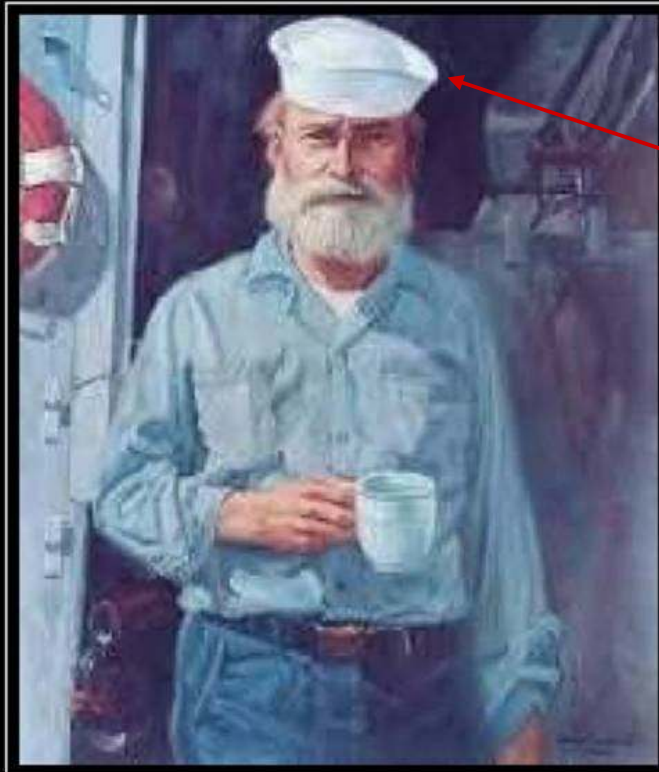
“THAT TRAIN”

CNR MAMRE ROAD and HALL STREET ST MARYS



THE BEST TIME TO ACT IS NOW!





I know - it's
the wrong cap
..... Editor



QUESTION: HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE AN
AVERAGE PERSON TO BECOME A SAILOR?
ANS: AN AVERAGE PERSON CAN NEVER BECOME A
SAILOR.



Paddy and Mick were walking along a street in London.

Paddy looked in one of the shop windows and saw a sign that caught his eye.

The sign read "Suits £5.00 each, Shirts £3.00 each, Trousers £4.50 per pair".

Paddy said to his pal "Mick look at these prices! We could buy a whole lot of those and when we get back to Ireland we could make a fortune. Now when we go in, you stay quiet, okay? Let me do all da talking 'cause if they hear our accents, they might think we're thicko's from Ireland and try to screw us. I'll put on me best English accent."

"Roight y'are Paddy, I'll keep me mout shut, so I will. You do all da business" said Mick.

They go in and Paddy said in a posh voice "Hello my good man. I'll take 50 suits at £5.00 each, 100 shirts at £3.00 each and 50 pairs of trousers at £4.50 each. And oy'll back up me truck ready to load 'em on, so I will."

The owner of the shop said quietly "You're from Ireland, aren't you?"

"Well yes" said a surprised Paddy. "What gave it away?"

The owner replied, "This is a Dry-Cleaners."





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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- * 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.

There was a old sailor sitting in the bar when three soldiers came in and sat at the bar with him. “I know a great Army joke,” the sailor said, “want to hear it?” The soldier look at him as said; “I’m 6-foot tall, weigh 15 stone and in the Infantry. The bloke next to me is 6 foot 2 inches tall, weighs 17 stone and also in the Infantry. The guy on the end is our Corporal and he’s bigger than both us. Still wanna tell ye joke?” “Nah,” says the sailor, “don’t wanna explain it three times!”



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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**.

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ST MARYS VETERANS CENTRE COMMITTEE
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John Davison - Editor

THE MENIN GATE

(See the Education Report - Page 8)

