

# WESTERN OUTPOST NEWS



**SUMMER 2017 ISSUE**

St Mary's Outpost the  
'Train of Knowledge'

## St Marys Veterans Centre

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



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### Front Cover:

Fuzzy Wuzzy Memorial at the Kokoda Museum, PNG  
See Education Report page 8

#### **DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATION**

Autumn 2018..... 17 February 2018  
Winter 2018..... 15 May 2018  
Spring 2018..... 17 August 2018  
Summer 2018..... 9 November 2018

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

### 2017 OVERVIEW



"Where it all comes together", certainly describes what I feel about this place.

I can report without hesitation, that I am always amazed and thankful at how readily members volunteer to fill in for those absent through sickness or simply those taking a well-earned break, all members of the Vietnam Veterans Association, St Marys Outpost can be proud of their individual and group commitment to the "Trains" successful operation.

I am happy to report that the awareness we have been promoting since our new **Veterans Welfare** signage was installed last year, is now paying off with several younger veterans utilising our services, and there are also a number of serving members from all arms who have become clients; they are invited to spread the good word about what the "Train" has to offer.

Our Pension officers / Advocates have engaged the new requirements as directed and have established themselves as mentors who are now able to guide the prospective new pensions and welfare operatives through to qualification of VEA, MRCA and DRCA.

#### **Events:**

VV Day August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Our Commemoration Service was a huge success even though we were forced to re-locate into the RSL Club auditorium because of the August winds. Our theme was the 7RAR Battle of Suoi Chau Pha which took place August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1967. Almost 50 years to the day.

Mr Kenneth Ward who was a member of 7 RAR during this battle was invited to lay a wreath in memory of the six men who were Killed in Action.

A limited issue commemoration postage stamp and post card was created in honour of the battle and was date stamped as a first day of issue 6<sup>th</sup> August 2017, people are still asking for sheets of the stamps but there are no more Suoi Chau Pha stamp sheets available. There are a few first day of issue cards still available.

Our guest speaker Colonel Vo Dai Ton, gave a very passionate and awe inspiring address, he was very well received and had the whole auditoriums complete attention. The ARVN association was well represented at the service, by the Vietnamese community. We were well represented at the ARVN annual dinner and wreath laying the following day.

The St Marys Spring Festival was blessed with good weather and sizable crowds who showed a good interest in our memorabilia.

I was invited by 21 Army Cadet Unit at Penrith to attend a formal dining in night, it was a pleasure to see over 100 clean cut impeccably presented cadets who were very well-mannered, I was totally impressed.

#### **Programs:**

Our dedicated Pension Team, Welfare Team, Train Washers, Education Team, Computer Classes and Office Staff have all done a tremendous job in their own area of expertise.

Last year I related to a Public Relations awareness program and corporate interest, we have made some inroads using the Local Newspapers but there must be more that can be done. If you have an idea that can promote our cause put it forward for consideration.

It is not only about the physical things that we can see at the train, but, it is also very much about the unseen work carried out by of all our members away from the Train, that helps to make great P.R.

**Vale: “Honour The Dead ... but fight like hell for the living”**

It is with regret that I report the passing of the following members since the beginning of 2017.

Ray Bates 31 Dec 2016; Bob Humphries 20 Jan 2017; Ray Radford 24 Jan 2017; Les Patch 17 Apr 2017; Alan Dwyer 28 Apr 2017; Martin Reilly 7 Aug 2017; Terry Blackburn 8 Sept 2017; Don Watters 20 Sept 2017; Owen Hanson 8 Oct 2017; William (Bill) Tonkinson 11 Oct 2017 and David Patterson 23 Nov 2017

**In Conclusion:**

To all members that make our time at “The Train” memorable. BIG JOB, WELL DONE.

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Safe, Prosperous New Year!

**My sincere thanks to all.**

Tony.Mullavey  
President

**A reminder to all, our AGM will be held on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup>  
February, 2018 at 11.00 am in the RSL Northern Room.**

**Nominations for all positions close on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.**



	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ST MARY'S GOVERNOR KING DAY CLUB</b> Sponsored by St Marys RSL Sub-Branch “An RSL Service to the Community”</p>	
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This year has gone so fast but we have had some great times, we celebrated our 13th year birthday with a Party where we invited Smithfield Day Club to join us with our celebrations, the entertainer was good, singing jazz songs not really the oldies choice.

We have had several outings Fathers & Mother's day, Christmas in July, guest speakers and entertainers.

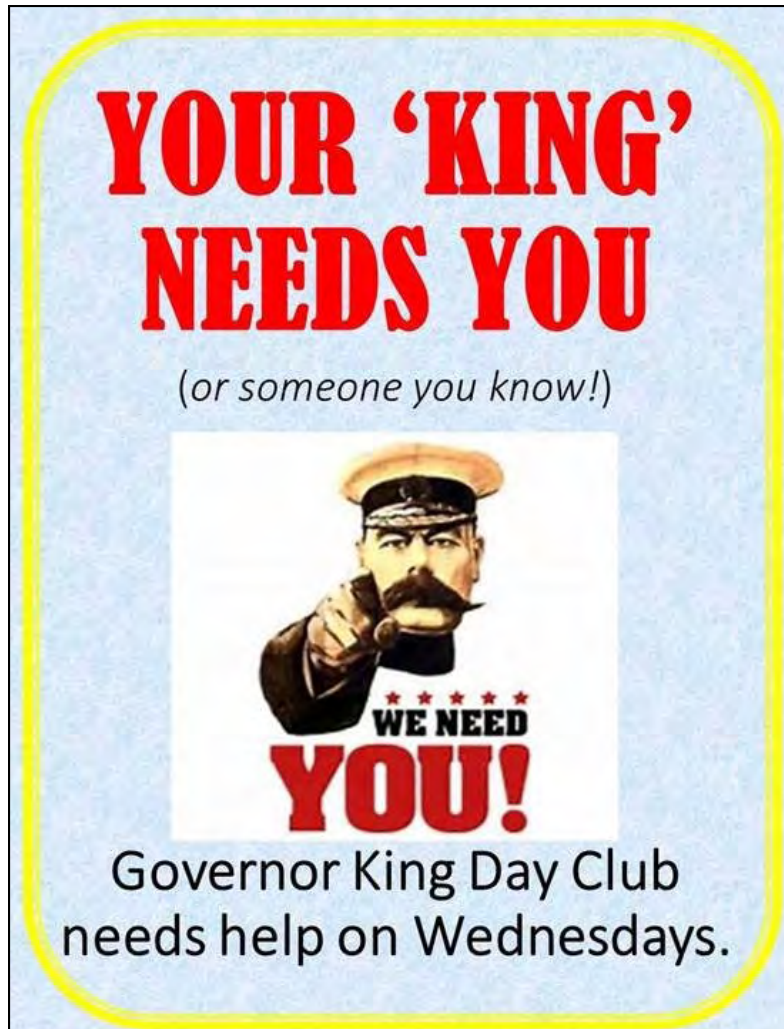
We had our Christmas prize day, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December we managed to put together 5 gift baskets full of goodies, made up from cash & food donated from our people, RSL and Train members who I would like to thank for their generosity.

Next week is our last day which will be our Christmas lunch at the RSL club.



I would like to thank the Club Limited for the use of the youth club for our meeting room and the financial support which has helped us for a lot of years  
I would also like to thank our Sub Branch for their financial support this year because of the no raffles rule, revenue was scarce they helped us keep our plans for the future.

Michael Reilly  
Day Club Co-ordinator



St Marys RSL Sub-Branch is sponsor for a weekly activity which brings so much joy to the elderly in our community – if only for a brief few hours on Wednesdays.

Early in 2018, a couple of ‘old dependables’ will be away for a few months – and we wish them well. However this will leave the Day Club too short of volunteers to keep it running in their absence.

Can you (or someone you know) lend a hand for just a few hours on a Wednesday? The task is not onerous ... just helping to set up the room around 10am, assist prepare and serve the lunch, have a brief conversation with the elderly from time to time, then cleaning up the room by about 2pm.

Even if you can do every second Wednesday ... that’d help us out!

**If you can help, please call Allan on 0407 003 289 for further details.**



## ST MARYS RSL SUB-BRANCH REPORT



First of all, I hope everyone and their families are well. If not, I wish one and all a speedy recovery.

This reporting period was both sad and happy. Firstly, we sadly lost sub-Branch members, Terry Blackburn, Owen Hanson, Don Watters and Daryl Phillips, but then we happily announced the birth of sub-Branch member Melissa Phillips' new daughter Parisa Kavoosi.

**September** – A good number of sub-Branch members gave their time to sell Legacy Day Badges, although sales were less than last year we appreciate your participation, with thanks to Reno for organizing the day.

Later in the month found 14 sub-Branch members in the capable hands of Ted Fish in his Council bus heading to Randwick Army Barracks, to help pack 2500 care packages for Christmas for the troops overseas. Whilst there I presented AFOF organizer Ann Taylor a donation cheque for \$9,000 from St Marys RSL sub-Branch.

A couple of days later we found ourselves relaxing at the Penrith Paceway, enjoying a hearty meal, good company a few drinks and some, a good return from the trotters – thanks Sam for organising this.

**October** – This month saw the start of the NSW State Government's collection of soil from 1699 locations from around NSW. This soil is being collected from areas that Men and Women volunteered and signed up to serve Australia in WW1. All the soil collected will be placed in the new extension of the Hyde Park ANZAC Memorial. Tony Fryer, Frank Lawton and myself have taken part in collecting soil from Luddenham, Kingswood and Werrington. Our sub-Branch member Peter Collins and wife Jannine generously allowed the Werrington collection to occur in their heritage property – Thanks Peter.

Other activities that have been attended by sub-Branch members included:

- Afternoon tea with NSW Ministers David Elliott and Stuart Ayres, at Penrith RSL Club after their soil collection at Memory Park Penrith, and in the same week,
- The Train hosted Men's Health Week, with a great turn out of members from both organisations. This was followed by a healthy BBQ, which was enjoyed by all - especially the Ripples staff.

**November** – This month is our second busiest of the year, starting with the official unveiling of the 1/15<sup>th</sup> Royal NSW Lancers fully restored WW2 Matilda Tank. Many thousands of volunteer hours have been spent especially by sub-Branch member Paul Martin-Jones. Tony Fryer and I represented the sub-Branch.

Remembrance Day was held at Kokoda Park. It was probably our best ever attendance with an estimated 230 at the service. This included Federal Minister for Defence, Senator for Western Sydney, Marise Payne, NSW Minister for Health, Women and Aged Care and Patron Tanya Davies MP, State Member for Londonderry Prue Car MP, Councillors Greg Davies (Patron), Trish Hinchens, Todd Carney and Patron Jackie Greenow OAM. It was especially pleasing to

see so many sub-Branch members and their families as well as many students from our local Schools. I would also like to thank Jasmin Tiatia, the Erskine Park High School Concert Band, with a special thank you to 5ER, our Piper and Drummer, and 21 ACU for their involvement in our service.

Straight after our service 14 sub-Branch members and 4 wives made their way to Grenfell NSW, to attend Grenfell RSL sub-Branch's formal dining in night dinner. A good but long night was had by all and it was good to catch up with some old friends. The next morning, we meet up at Grenfell's new sub-Branch office and meeting room, at the old Grenfell railway station to have a look at their setup and memorabilia. Those who went to Grenfell are: Ron and Joy Blakely, Frank and Lorraine Lawton, John and Di Foeken, Tony and Nora Fryer, Gary and Lesley Ayres, Steve and Dawn Tolsher, Phil and Trish Parsons, Ken and Betty Ward and Ross and Helen Pearson. Thank you to all who made the trip, I'm sure you all enjoyed it.

School Scholarships - this being our 15<sup>th</sup> year of scholarships it was good to see the time and preparation that was put into the students' entries - all winners were deserving of their prize. Our Guests for the night were Ray and Pauline James RSL State Councillor, Judy Shepherd, our three Patrons Tanya, Jackie and Greg. Ted Fish did a marvellous job as MC, and thanks to Tony Fryer, Frank Lawton, John Foeken and Lesley Ayres for their part in the presentations. It was most pleasing to see a good number of sub-Branch members and their wife's.

Uralla RSL sub-Branch Dinner - Ted and Shirley Fish with John and Di Foeken represented this sub-Branch at Uralla's annual Dinner on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. An update in the next reporting period.

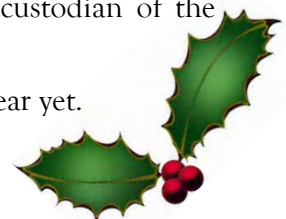
Also on the 18<sup>th</sup> several members attended 5ER and 8ER's amalgamation Regimental Parade at Holsworthy Barracks, where we presented 3 trophies - Best Soldier, Best Troop, and Best Squadron. These trophies are awarded annually and are a way of supporting 5ER as they have supported us and it is a link between us and serving service personal. An update on this event in the next reporting period.

During the month of September, we were to have Norma Thorburn from the St Marys Historical Society to give a talk about St Marys. Unfortunately, she wasn't able to attend, but we will invite her back next year. In October and November we had the pleasure of speakers from 2 groups, they were as follows - Chris Miller from St Marys Rotary and Dallas James, filling for Robyn Collins from RSL DefenceCare. Both speakers informed the members of how each group could be of benefit to them.

I ask everyone to take a moment to visit the Corridor of Honour, as there has been many changes to the items within the cabinets and to the audio-visual sequence on the televisions. With that I would like to thank Frank Lawton for taking on the role as custodian of the Corridor.

Finally, best wishes for the upcoming Christmas and may 2018 be your best year yet.

Ron Blakely  
President



THE CYNICAL PHYLOSOPHER....  
I read that 4,153,237-people got married last year ..... but shouldn't that be an even number?  
Relationships are like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?  
If you think nobody cares whether you are alive, try missing a couple payments !!!





## REMEMBRANCE DAY DINNER AT GRENFELL

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November, following a dignified and well attended Remembrance Day service at Kokoda Park, St Marys, several members made the journey to Grenfell for a formal "dining in" dinner at the Grenfell Bowling Club. Some had travelled the day prior and attended the service at Grenfell, which was also well attended and appropriate.

Following the trip, six couples had a "bonding session" at the Grenfell Motor Inn before departing for the bowling club for the dinner.

A well attended event ensued, with approximately 90 persons, including local dignitaries and members of the Grenfell Sub-Branch, and some members of the public. The President, Glen Ivins, cordially welcomed the St Marys group.



Following an explanation of Naval Mess procedures and traditions by the "President of the Mess", the group took their seats and enjoyed a very nice three course dinner over a period of two plus hours. Included were "accusations, defence and penalties handed out by the president", which were always the guilty shouting a round of drinks.

A guest speaker rounded out the night, in which he spoke of leaving his home town of Eugowra at a young age and joining RAN for an interesting career of nearly 40 years.



St Marys Sub-Branch sponsor the Grenfell sub-branch with an annual grant. On Sunday we attended their rooms at the old railway station for an inspection and hear what the group wishes to do with a grant now that they have a secure accommodation.

Farewells were made and the homeward journey by most on a beautiful Sunday.

Steve Tolsher



### THE CYNICAL PHYLOSOPHER....

Did you know dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

Money talks ... all mine ever says is good bye.

You're not fat, your just ... easier to see.

A recent study found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.







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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Contact Michelle for**

**Pre-Planning & Pre-Paid Funerals**

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## **VVAA ST MARYS OUTPOST EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORT**

The Outpost Education Program will complete 13 years of operation come Christmas. Throughout the year the program has delivered over 140 hours of presentation time to senior school student groups. Additionally the program has entertained and informed several community groups and responded to individual student interview requests and research questions. The total number of students involved with the Outpost Education Program across 2017 exceeds 5,200. School donations to the VVAA St Marys Outpost in appreciation of Education Program presentations will exceed \$9,000.00 by years end.

Considering the above 2017 tallies i.e. total program presentation time, student participation and involvement numbers and in appreciation donations to the Outpost, the Outpost Education Program has again completed another very successful year of operation interacting with senior students from Government and Non Government schools across the Sydney metropolitan area and including Outreach visits to Cooma, Illawarra, Bathurst, Orange, Mudgee, Gilgandra and Parkes.

It is certainly worth noting for those who ponder the Outpost Education Program's value, the following 13 year cumulative achievement totals ie school presentations 700+, senior student involvement and participation 60,000+, total \$ donations to the Outpost \$100,000.00+. Significant achievements and outcomes by any measure for the Vietnam Veteran cause.

Thank you to the Outpost Executive and members for their support, involvement and participation in the Education Program across the years.

### **Off the Bucket List:....**

#### **Papua New Guinea, Kokoda Track and Northern Beachhead Battlefields, Gona, Buna and Sanananda Pilgrimage.**

The Outpost Education Program on Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War and the impact of that war on veterans and their families has important and significant links to our military history across the years. The war in Papua New Guinea (WW2 1942), the battles along the Kokoda Track/Trail and the beachhead battles at Buna, Gona and Sanananda are equally etched into Australia's war history. I understand the jungle training centre at Canungra (Qld) was developed by Kokoda Veterans post WW2 initially and certainly has lasting memories for those of us Vietnam Veterans who 'experienced' the battle efficiency course there, prior to embarking for active service in South Vietnam.

Having 2 of my wife's uncles KIA during the Kokoda Campaign, a pilgrimage to visit their grave sites in PNG has been on the 'to do list' for many years.

Recently we completed that pilgrimage by visiting their graves at Bomana Commonwealth War Cemetery located just outside Port Moresby. Accompanying photos will show Bomana Cemetery is a beautiful resting place for our servicemen who paid the supreme sacrifice in PNG WW2. The cemetery maintenance staff do a wonderful job. Bomana is equal to any of the Commonwealth War Cemeteries we have visited in our travels.



**Vin & Nancy Commemorating the  
Service and Sacrifice of 2 Uncles  
at Kokoda Memorial**



Bomana War Cemetery - Looking Down



Bomana Cemetery - Looking Up to Cross of Sacrifice

Journeying to McDonald's Corner, on to Owens' Corner, walking on the track and then participating in the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service of the Raising of the Australian Flag at Kokoda was a memorable and extremely emotional experience, bringing back images and experiences of infantry operations in Vietnam; extremely hot temperature, humid to the point of being wet all over and physically drained of energy.

A gathering of 30 or so local natives dressed in traditional and tribal attire (see photos) thumping ornate drums and chanting words of welcome in the local dialect, along with a multitude of colourfully dressed locals from surrounding villages, some many hours walk away from Kokoda, welcomed our group to the Kokoda Memorial site enthusiastically. The magnificent Owen Stanley Ranges surround the Kokoda Plateau, the peaks of the mountains clearly visible above the low lying cloud formations. A well disciplined group of local school children, all in uniform, sang our National Anthem as part of the Service. Again, very emotional. Those gathered were addressed by local dignitaries including the Governor of Northern Province, the Hon Gary Juffa MP and our Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator the Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells.

It was a most memorable official remembrance service 75 years on from the battle retaking Kokoda from the 'Japs'.



Part of the Traditional Welcome to Official Guests  
at 75th Anniversary Service at Kokoda



Purpose Built 75th Anniversary Dais  
at Kokoda





McDonalds Corner - The Track Begins

The opportunity to lay a wreath on the Kokoda Memorial to commemorate our two uncles' sacrifice and that of the many other Australian men who served, suffered and were killed during the Kokoda Campaign is a memory to cherish.

We also visited memorials in Port Moresby, Kokoda and Popondetta in particular to commemorate the 'Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels' who supported and carried our wounded men across the track. The gentle and caring nature of the indigenous people was very obvious to us as we moved amongst them.

The beachhead battlefields of Buna, Gona and Sanananda gave particular insight into the conditions and environment that 'our boys' endured in 1942. The heat, humidity, mozzies, flies, lack of sanitation, cold showers, bully beef, biscuits and jam, sleeping on the jungle floor etc etc would have been very difficult conditions for our men.

Each native village we visited had a small 'museum' of artefacts that the jungle continues to give up as new vegetable gardens are developed. Accompanying photos will better show highlights of our PNG and Kokoda Track visit.

### **Best Christmas Wishes to all Outpost members and family.**

Vin Cosgrove OAM JP  
VVAA Outpost Education Program



Owens' Corner Memorial



Our Native Welcome to Owens' Corner



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



**THEN IT'S TIME FOR A CHAT WITH OUR WELFARE OFFICERS  
VISIT THE VETERANS CENTRE, LOCATED IN  
“THAT TRAIN”  
CNR MAMRE ROAD & HALL STREET ST MARYS**



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

#### A DAY AT THE RACES ....

Two female teachers took a group of students from grades 1, 2 and 3 for a field trip to Rosehill Racecourse. When it was time to take the children to the 'bathroom' it was decided that the girls would go with one teacher and the boys would go with the other.

The teacher assigned to the boys was waiting outside the men's toilet when one of the boys came out and told her that none of them could reach the urinal. Having no choice, she went inside, helped the little boys with their pants, and began hoisting them up one by one, holding on to their 'wee-wees' to direct the flow away from their clothes and shake them dry.

As she lifted one boy up, she couldn't help but notice that he was unusually well endowed. Trying not to show that she was staring at his equipment the teacher said, "You must be in Grade 3?"

"No ma'am," he replied. "I'm riding Black Caviar in the next race, but I really appreciate your help."



# DARWIN AND RETURN APRIL – MAY 2017

## PART 3

*An adventure by Ross Pearson, known to you all as a member of the Veterans Outpost, St Marys RSL Sub-Branch and a member of the Ulysses M/C.*

I fuelled up at Ti Tree, and then set off again. About 20km north of Ti Tree there is a rest area at Central Mount Stuart. When Stuart crossed the country from south to north by his reckonings this was the geographical centre of Australia. I have stopped here before, but this time there is a mobile hotspot. There was a few of these on the Stuart Highway, most in truck rest areas. You have to put your mobile in the cradle provided and use the loud speaker on the phone. The hot spot is just that, no coverage away from the cradle. At 1331 I rang home, I had to leave a message, Helen was out. The weather was very warm now and I was looking forward to getting to Wycliffe Well to get in the pool. I pulled into Barrow Creek, another 109km from Ti Tree, only to take a photo of the old Telegraph Station. I stopped again about 40km north of Barrow Creek for rest and a cup of tea and biscuit.



I pulled into Wycliffe Well, the UFO capital of Australia, and booked a camp for 2 nights. The Roadhouse now has United fuel and was worked by a family of Indians. After I set up camp I was ready for a dip but the pool was locked. I went and asked about it and was told it was being repaired as was the rest of the area. I had spent 3 nights there 3 years before after leaving Alice and it wasn't too bad. It seems the previous owner had let the whole place run down and was a shamble when United took it over. Also the people running the place were having trouble with the locals. Apparently there was fighting going on in the community. I should have pushed on to Wauchope about 30km further on, too late as I had paid to stay there. Perhaps I would meet some aliens or see a UFO.

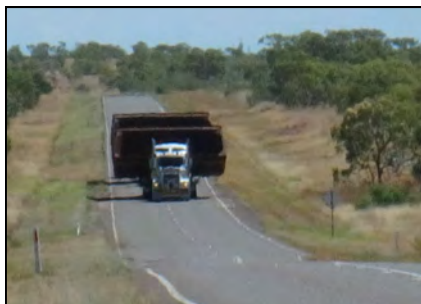
The one thing that was good there were the washing machines, so I caught up with cleaning all my dirty clothes. I had 2 boiled eggs, some spam and some candied honey I had bought at Alice, I put them in the fridge in the camp kitchen, with a bottle of lemonade I had. I bought a plate of chips with a litre of flavoured milk for tea. There is no mobile coverage there, but there was a phone box 3 years earlier, it had been destroyed. The people allowed me to use their phone to ring home, which I did about 1700 every day to let Helen know I was still okay. When I went to the fridge the next day all that was left was my 2 freezer blocks. The locals had struck. They also had tried to break into the Roadhouse but the alarm had gone off. Workmen were there repairing the framework that had been broken. I spent a long day there talking to other travellers in the camp and watching the workmen put wire mesh over the front of the Roadhouse. The original owner of the Roadhouse had put in a lake and built a large restaurant on site. The restaurant building was rotting away and parts had been stripped or stolen. There was a narrow train that ran around the area and lake, but it looked like it hadn't been in operation for a while. The lake had been drained when they were looking for Peter Falconi. I had chips again for tea that night.

The next morning I decided that because the weather was getting so warm I would wear my camouflage trousers instead of my thick bike ones. I was up and packed and ready to go by 0730. I wanted to be at Three Ways, 160km, as early as I could to meet Ken who was coming across from Mount Isa. There were no clouds about so it warmed up very quickly.

I turned off and rode through the Devils Marbles, just a few kilometres north of Wauchope, where I should have stayed. I only stopped a few minutes there to take photos

before moving on to Tennant Creek. I refuelled at Tennant Creek, it would have been 20c dearer at Three Ways.

Ken was already there when I rode in. He had camped there overnight instead of staying at Barkley Homestead. We greeted each other, then went into the shop and had a cup of coffee; it had been a while since we last met. We first met in 2006 at the Top End Odyssey, and have been to many together since then. He rides the same as Don, a BMW GS1200.



We set off again, but just out of the Roadhouse we had to pull off to the side of the road because of 2 wide loads coming south. These were as wide as the road so you needed to give them a lot of room.

We stopped again at Renner Springs; we had done 235km by now since Three Ways, so a rest stop was needed so we had lunch there. We stopped again at Elliott, had a cold drink and refuelled again, before doing our last leg of the day to camp at Dunmarra, another 100km. I had ridden 500km that day. Doesn't sound much but the weather was warm and so it takes it out of you.

I have stayed at Dunmarra many times and know the owner, Gary Frost. I had planned to stay there 2 days, and catch up with him. Ken had never stayed there before, but after this trip said he would again. The camping area at the Roadhouse is excellent, green grass, a swimming pool, much needed, good clean showers, washing machines and clothes lines. The only drawback was there is no mobile coverage. That problem was solved by buying a Telstra phone card and using one of the two land line phones there. Ringing home was no problem.



## **MICHAEL JOHN FITZGERALDSOLICITOR**

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**FAX: 9283 2600.  
ABN 18095746334**



After setting up camp we headed for the pool. It was cool in but very refreshing and I must say much needed.

We decided to have tea down in the Roadhouse so we could talk with Gary and the locals that come into the licenced bar. We had rissoles for tea with chips and vegetables. The meals at the Roadhouse are famous.

The next day was another lazy one, time in the pool and catching up with what each of us had been doing. Ken was always cleaning something on his bike.

I wanted to go and chat with Gary but was told he had gone to Elliott, then Tennant Creek as he wasn't feeling the best. To me he didn't look well when we got there the day before. We heard later that he had an ulcer behind his eye, but was okay.

The Saturday night at Dunmarra we had homemade pies for tea, another of the good meals made at the Roadhouse.

He was back by the time we left the next morning but we didn't see him, he would have had a late night coming back from Tennant Creek Hospital.

We left about 0830 on the Sunday morning stopping at the next Roadhouse 50km further north. We would have fuelled up at Dunmarra but it would be cheaper at the Hi Way inn.



Ready to leave Dunmarra

It was here that I had my first mobile coverage since Central Mount Stuart. While travelling I put my phone on aeroplane mode, this saves the battery as the phone won't be trying to find coverage. I took my phone off aeroplane mode and straight away text messages start coming through. One was from Richard telling me that Don had broken down at Barrow Creek and his bike had been trucked back to Alice.

The universal on his shaft drive had disintegrated. Col had ridden back to Alice, not wanting to ride back in the dark. Don waited for the truck to come and pick him up. Richard left them and was about a day behind us, staying at Wauchope that night.



I had told Ken about a Pie Shop at Larrimah, the next town north, and that we would stop for there for morning tea. Ken was partial to pies, so he wanted to stop. It was Frannies Pies on the Highway north of the town. It has signs out the front, all kinds of pies, sausage rolls, pasties and expresso coffee. I had stopped there in 2006 and the place was pretty good. Not a good place to stop now. We parked and walked in, Frannie was serving another couple, and the way she was talking and the prices weren't reasonable.

I tried to ask her for service, the reply was, I'm F\*\*\*\*\*g busy. We felt like walking out. We should have. We ordered a pie, I had a ginger beer. The pie didn't even look like one, sure didn't taste like one. The ginger beer was good though. When she noticed we were on bikes she said she always gave presents to bike riders. She gave Ken a little fluffy cat which he called Lucky. I also received a strange looking animal, I called mine "Anything."

Part 4 in the next issue ....



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SUCCESS: How true this one is.

At age 4 success is . ... . Not piddling in your pants.

At age 12 success is . ... . Having friends.

At age 17 success is . ... . Having a driver's license.

At age 35 success is . ... . Having money.

At age 50 success is . ... . Having money.

At age 70 success is . ... . Having a driver's license.

At age 75 success is . ... . Having friends.

At age 80 success is . ... . Not piddling in your pants.



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

**President:** Maree Johnson

**Secretary:** Maureen Clements

**Treasurer:** Kay Hibbard

**Phone:** (02) 96237126

**Phone:** (02) 96753998

**Phone:** (02) 98323562

Registered Office  
C/O VVAA St Marys Outpost  
Cnr Mamre Road & Hall Street  
St Marys NSW 2760  
(All Mail To the PO Box)

In its 18th year, the Wives of Vietnam Veterans, Women's Support Group currently has 34 active members.

The dynamics of the group changes, with new members joining all the time, we have gone back to the original group support and sharing. We are always trying to add different activities and speakers to our agenda. Keeping the information current and correct, is ongoing.

Ten of our ladies went to Leura for our winter retreat in August. Though our numbers dropped during the week as two members had to return to sick husbands. The remaining ladies enjoyed lunch at "The Garage", a lovely cafe in Leura. We were joined by Jason Mullavey (Cherryl's son), as a token male. After lunch we made some time to visit Cherryl's memorial and pay our respects by everyone placing a poppy.

We enjoyed, the company, the food, the shopping and the rest. Lots of knitting, sewing, crocheting eating and a little drinking. So what happens in Leura, stays in Leura!

We have had a speaker about Legacy, and send our thanks to Jeff Townsend for an excellent presentation and informative session. The group members were interested in the subject that can affect any of us. We were shocked that so many people of the community do not know about Legacy. This became obvious when selling badges in ex-service clubs.

We celebrated Christmas in July at Berowra. The food and entertainment were excellent, with a lovely day to have a bus trip. Our 18th birthday was celebrated at the Band Club, where we all enjoyed a lovely lunch.

The group laid a book in place of a wreath at the Anzac Day Dawn Service, Remembrance Day and the Vietnam Veterans Day. We purchase books for primary aged children. Thanks to the members for their respectful actions at the Memorial.

We recently supplied, packed and sent, sixty boxes to the deployed servicemen and women. Thank you to everyone that donated, knitted and packed all the boxes. This year we were able to send hand knitted 'beanies' with the funds donated by the Sub-Branch.

Many thanks to everyone for your donations.



The girls packing parcels for the overseas troops.





The girls are now preparing to go to Terrigal for their Summer retreat, we hope the weather holds out so we can use that lovely pool.

The year is coming to and end, very quickly, so I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. Have a safe and happy break, so we can get together again in March.

Thanks for your support, hopefully we can continue working together for our members.

Maree Johnson JP  
President.



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Community Hospitals

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



## ST MARYS RSL SUB-BRANCH ATTENDED 5 ENGINEER REGIMENTAL PARADE.



It was a great privilege today for members of our sub-Branch to be guests at the amalgamation parade of 5 Engineer Regiment and 8 Engineer Regiment at Holsworthy on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November. 8ER has been removed from the order of Battle, providing 5ER with additional personnel and resources.

Congratulations to all on parade and especially to RSM Peel and his team who conducted the parade. The actual symbolic integration movement on parade was well executed by the entire amalgamated Regiment.

This was followed by a handover to the incoming Commanding Officer, Lt Col Renee Kidson who will head the enlarged unit for its next term. While it is an Army Reserve unit, the Regiment is working closely with 1 Brigade to ready it for operations if required.

We were sad to hear that RSM WO1 Russ Peel is moving on - but congratulate him on his move. We look forward also to meet in due course with RSM Bill Lynch to continue our close association with the Regiment.



Following the Parade, a less-formal awards ceremony was conducted after a well-catered afternoon tea. At this event, our Vice President Frank Lawton welcomed the opportunity to present our sub-Branch awards for 'Best Section', 'Best Troop' and 'Best Squadron' to the inaugural winners. In addition, our sub-Branch member WO2 Brad Scaroni took out 'Best in Regiment' congratulations Brad.

We also took the opportunity to address the Regiment in this informal gathering to congratulate them on their parade and to advise them of what the RSL and the Train can offer them. We encouraged all to consider joining their local RSL sub-Branch or come over to St Marys.

All-in-all, a great afternoon





# ST MARYS RSL CLUB

Corner Mamre Road & Hall Street St Marys

Ph) 9623 6555

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

**Members' Courtesy Bus – Friday From 6pm and Saturday From 1.30pm**

*Ring Reception for details.*

## DINING @ ST MARYS RSL - **TERRACE CAFE**

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## WHATS ON

**MONDAY** - Rock & Roll Dancing 7-10pm

**TUESDAY** - Bingo 7.00pm

**WEDNESDAY** - Monthly Raffle 7pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of Month

**THURSDAY** - Bingo 11.30am

Texas Hold'em Poker 7pm

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

**FRIDAY** - Bingo 11.30am

FREE Entertainment 8pm- 12am– Alternating Weeks

- Voices of Sydney Karaoke
- Rock'n'Roll Band (See noticeboard/website for details)

**SATURDAY** - Meat Run RAFFLE 4-6pm

Live Music in Lounge Area 7.30pm – Midnight

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## ST MARYS RSL SUB-BRANCH'S ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



On Saturday 25th November, Sam Vecchio and his volunteers arrived at the Club's Youth Hall to prepare it for the next day's Christmas Party for members' children and grandchildren. Early preparation is vital for this event.

Early on a fine and warm Sunday the working group, including the sub-Branch executive committee, arrived at the hall to finalise and organise the set up, including the drinks tent. Amusements arrived and set up in an orderly fashion, as directed by Sam. Members soon arrived to set up their sites, and a "gazebo city" sprung up on the northern side of the hall.

St John Ambulance and the local Cadet Unit (21 ACU) were attendance.

Soon a good crowd started to arrive to enjoy the day. Children were able to enjoy amusements such as playing slot car races, slippery dip, drive dodgem cars, a merry-go-round, jumping castle, monster maze, tattooing and painting plaster of paris figurines.

Children and parents were able to enjoy free ice creams, slushies, fairy floss, soft drinks, fruit and tea and coffee. Other food available to buy was sausage sizzle manned by Erskine Park Rural Fire Service, and barista coffee.

As usual, a multi prize raffle, conducted by Reno, Frank and Jeff was held.

At 2 pm the RFS fire truck sounded its siren to herald the arrival of Santa. Santa entered the hall and led the excited children in the song "Santa's Coming to Town". He then took up his seat and began handing presents to the children. Most children were keen to sit with him, but a few were a little shy.

Once again, gifts for the children were of very good quality. Again Sam and Kitty organized the selection and wrapping of the 135 Christmas Gifts.

As usual, the sub-Branch committee and volunteers ran a very successful event.

Congratulations to all involved.



Drinks Tent



Santa and his helpers



Getting ready for a busy day



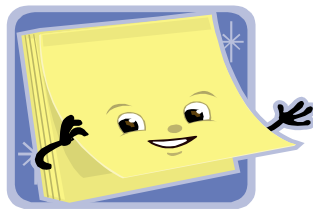
Presents all ready for Santa to hand out





**The North Koreans.**

They haven't gone to war in 60 years, but look at all the medals their generals are wearing.  
We should be able to defeat them with just a large MAGNET.



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

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

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

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

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



My Mother wanted me to be a priest. Can you imagine giving up your sex life; and then once a week people come in to tell you the details and highlights of theirs?

## SOIL COLLECTION PROGRAM



In 2016 acclaimed artist Fiona Hall was selected to create an artwork for the ANZAC Memorial's new Hall of Service – a civic space that architecturally and artistically mirrors the Hall of Memory in the original building in Hyde Park, Sydney.

Fiona Hall proposed that a plaque be created for every town, suburb and locality around NSW that enlistees for the First World War gave as their place of address. A sample of soil collected from the area will be displayed alongside the place name. Close to 1700 plaques will be displayed on mass around the walls of the Hall of Service.

### Determining where soil was to be taken ...

An initial list of NSW place names for the artwork was created by extracting the address information from a database of First World War enlistees.

This initial list of addresses was checked by staff of the Geographical Names Board, representatives of the Veterans community and the NSW Office for Veterans Affairs (OVA). Finally, close to 1,700 NSW locations were confirmed.

### The soil collection ...

At these locations soil samples are being collected either from a town or suburb's First World War memorial, or a suitable alternative such as the local school or a reserve if the locale does not have a memorial.



### On the project's completion ...

When Fiona Hall's artwork is complete and on display, Memorial visitors will be able to view interesting information on each listed location via digital devices. Information will include the details and date the local soil was collected, the names of every enlistee who gave that location as their home address, and pinpointed maps showing the local area and its surrounding memorials and schools.



Artist view of the Program Display

### So, What about St Marys?

A small number of the 1700 locations are within our sub-Branch area.

These include:

- St Marys WW1 Rotunda at Victoria Park
- Werrington Public School
- Kingswood Public School

We are working with our State Member, Prue Car to co-ordinate or assist the collections at St Marys and Werrington; and with Stuart Ayres, Member for Penrith, regarding the Kingswood collection. We were also invited to assist in the collection at Luddenham on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October, organised by our Patron, The Hon Tanya Davies, Member for Mulgoa.

We are hoping to include the St Marys Rotunda collection within our ANZAC Sunday Commemorative Service in April 2018.

When complete, this will form a magnificent display in the extended ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park.



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## COMPUTER TRAINING CLASSES

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

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

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

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

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



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## ST MARYS RSL YOUTH CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR ALL



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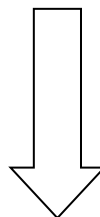
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**ST MARYS RSL YOUTH CLUB  
(NEXT TO RSL CLUB)  
CNR MAMRE RD & HALL ST  
ST MARYS 2760**

## 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



The Prime Minister was sick and tired of all the bad press coverage. Deciding to do something about it, he held a press conference under the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

He then proceeded to walk on the water across the harbour.

The next morning, he reads the headlines in the Sydney Telegraph....

**Prime Minister Can't Swim!**

The Sydney Morning Herald proclaimed...

**Government Rorts: Prime Minister Avoids Payment of Bridge Tolls!**





## Textiles Conservation on The Harefield Flag from Adelaide High School

The Harefield Flag, as it is known, is a large and very battered Union Jack belonging to the Adelaide High School. The story behind this Flag is fascinating. During World War 1 many Australian soldiers were stationed near Harefield, north of London. They worshipped at the local church and wounded soldiers were treated at the Harefield hospital.

The Flag, which belonged to the local school, was draped over Australian soldiers' coffins when they were taken from the hospital to the Australian cemetery within the Harefield churchyard.

During this time the Adelaide High School community also sent relief parcels to Harefield. After the war the Harefield School presented the Union Jack to the Schools Patriotic Fund, who in turn presented it to Adelaide High School as a token of thanks. The much loved Flag has belonged to the school since this time.

Adelaide High School later sent Harefield an Australian Flag which they still have. To this day, the children of Harefield continue to tend the graves of the Australian soldiers buried in the Australian section of the cemetery and the village celebrates Anzac Day each year by raising the Australian Flag at the churchyard and placing flowers on the soldiers' graves. The Union Jack (Harefield Flag) housed at the Adelaide High is still mentioned. An extract from the Herald Sun dated April 21, 2009 reads,

*"In a small English village, hundreds of school children have this week been given the morning off to hunt wild flowers in the forest to carry in an annual procession. The unusual spring-time ritual has been quietly happening for 90 years in Harefield, an hour north west of London for one reason only - to ensure the town never forgets the ANZAC diggers that forever changed the face of their tiny community".*

Links between the school and the Harefield community continue and students from Adelaide High School are hoping to visit Harefield as part of a proposed trip to the Western Front celebrate the centenary of ANZAC Day.

The love of this Flag has also been responsible for its fragile condition. Constant display has resulted in the Flag being very fragile and faded. The school has taken the Flag off display in recent years but this year has decided to undertake its conservation. At some point in its life the Flag has undergone restoration with sections of the blue and cream replaced. Since then it has been displayed with the back to the front as this side is less faded. It was decided not to remove the previous restoration and leave it displayed as is. The repairs are very much part of its history and reflects the effort and care taken to look after the Flag by the school community.

### Conservation Treatment of the Harefield Flag

The Flag was initially wet-cleaned. This allowed many years of dirt and acidity to be removed. As it was very damaged, the Flag was sewn between two layers of nylon net before washing, to hold it in place during the delicate washing procedure. After washing the nylon net sandwich was removed. New wool fabric was dyed to match the flag as closely as possible.

The next stage, as the Flag is still undergoing treatment, the new wool will be used as a lining and this lining will be cut and sewn together to match the Flag. The full lining will provide much needed







physical support. The front of the Flag will then be covered with sections of fine nylon net dyed to match the different colours. Extensive hand stitching will also be carried out to secure the Flag to the lining and the net overlay. Velcro will be used as a hanging device at the top edge.

After Artlab's textiles conservators have completed the treatment the Flag will once again be returned to the Adelaide High School community. Unfortunately it will never be able to withstand the rigors of long-term display. In the future it will be displayed for short periods of time for special occasions. When it is not on display it will be rolled and placed in conservation grade storage. The Adelaide High School, with the advice from the textile conservators at Artlab, will continue to work hard on a long-term plan for the care and preservation of this much loved and fascinating piece of history.

**Editors Note:** this is a follow-up to a story in the Winter 2017 "News".





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.

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Principal

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ABN 20 122 912 209





This guy calls me at least once a week just to aggravate me.

Mujibar was trying to get a job in India .

The Personnel Manager said, "Mujibar, You have passed all the tests, except one. It is a simple test of your English language skills. Unless you pass it , you cannot qualify for this job."

Mujibar said, "I am ready."

The manager said, "You must make a sentence using the words **Yellow**, **Pink**, and **Green**."

Mujibar thought for a few minutes and said, "Mister manager, I am ready."

The manager said, "Go ahead."

Mujibar said, "The telephone goes **green**, **green**. And I **pink** it up, and say '**Yellow**, this is Mujibar'."

Mujibar now works at a Call Centre.

No doubt you have spoken to him..... I know I have.



# NAVY VETERAN

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, MANY YEARS AGO  
 I JOINED THE NAVY, WHY, I DON'T KNOW  
 I SERVED MY TIME, WITH HONOR, AND PRIDE  
 FOR THIS YOUNG BOY, IT WAS QUITE A RIDE  
 I WENT TO PLACES, I'D NEVER DREAMED  
 TIME WENT FAST, SO IT SEEMED  
 I MET PEOPLE, I'LL NEVER FORGET  
 AND SOME, I WISH I'D NEVER MET  
 BUT AS I THINK BACK ON THOSE DAYS GONE BY  
 MY SHIP, MY SHIPMATES, BRINGS A TEAR TO MY EYE  
 I DIDN'T KNOW IT THEN, NEVER GAVE IT A THOUGHT  
 BUT MY TIME IN THE NAVY, COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BOUGHT  
 I GUESS WE ALL FEEL THE SAME, AFTER WE'RE OUT  
 THE PRIDE WE FEEL, THAT'S WHAT IT'S ABOUT  
 HAVING SERVED OUR NATION, KEEPING IT FREE  
 PROTECTING OUR WAY OF LIFE, AND OUR LIBERTY  
 AND THE FRIENDS I MADE, ALONG THE WAY  
 WOULD I DO IT AGAIN? ANY DAY  
 AND TO ALL MY SHIPMATES,      ANCHORS, AWEIGH...



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

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

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

**ST MARYS RSL SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE**

President:	Ron Blakely	02 9623 6555
V/President:	John Foeken	0409 329 688
V/President:	Frank Lawton	02 9623 6555
Treasurer:	Ted Fish	02 9623 6555
Secretary:	Tony Fryer	0414 557 692
Assistant Sec.:	Lesley Ayres	0422 083 717
Committee:	Tony Mullavey	0416 231 993
	Michael Wiezel	02 9623 6555

**ST MARYS VETERANS CENTRE COMMITTEE**  
**PHONE: 02 9833 4700 FAX 9833 4022**

President:	Tony Mullavey	0416 231 993
V/President:	George Perrin	0412 824 219
V/President:	John Foeken	0409 329 688
Secretary:	Sam Vecchio	0418 247 325
Treasurer:	Ted Fish	02 9833 4700
Assistant Sec.:	Graham Breckell	0488 775 325
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



## COMBINED CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT ORCHARD HILLS

