

WESTERN OUTPOST NEWS



WINTER 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:

The Presidents at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service
More photos on the back page

DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATION

Spring 2016 25 August 2017
Summer 2017 17 November 2017
Autumn 2018 24 February 2018
Winter 2018 22 May 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

I will start by reflecting on my thoughts about two years ago, at that time I said that, "openness and a willingness to learn and embrace change are key elements to the success of any organisation".

Little did I know at the time, but change was coming, decisions about the future operations of our Pension Officers was being discussed with absolutely no input from us.

What are they doing to us? We were told embrace the change or cease operating as a Veterans Welfare Centre. After hearing what the change was about, it really looked like the mat was being pulled from under our feet.

We were told about mentors and the need to requalify; of course we were not happy about the proposals and could not see the need.

Fortunately, our Pension Officers delved deeper into the new system and as a consequence, we now have three qualified mentors who can help others gain their credentials.

I also said that, "we, as individuals and especially as an organisation need to continually justify our importance and relevance". On your behalf, our Pension Officers have done just that. **Very well done.**

Recently, Greg Cant as President and Sam Vecchio as Vice President of the NSW State VVAA went to Canberra to attend the VVAA National Conference and I went along purely as an observer.

Spreading good Public Relations, we filled a table at the Annual ARVN Dinner and were very well looked after; the commentary was in Vietnamese and English which of course made it easier to follow the program, on your behalf, we also took part in their wreath laying ceremony the following day.

The Nepean Wives of Vietnam Veterans held their Annual "Big Morning Tea" on 22nd June it was, as usual a huge success, the variety of cakes and goodies deserve a "Big Round of Applause"; my thanks to the Train Washers for helping out with tables and chairs.

With the 18th August, Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration coming up very soon, I am happy to report everything is going along quite well. I can't promise a Huey at this year's event, but we do have a collection of Ex-Military Vehicles on show from 1:30 - 4:30 pm, the vehicle owners are freely giving up their time, so, please give them your support.

In closing, and, without naming names, my thanks go out to the many individual members of the Train, who carry out their voluntary duties on a regular basis with no fanfare and sometimes with very little recognition, without your combined help and dedication, this Train could easily derail.

Tony.Mullavey
President

EX-HMAS SYDNEY RETIRES TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Minister for Defence Personnel, Dan Tehan said Ex-HMAS SYDNEY would leave Sydney Harbour today, 18 May 2017 to be towed to Western Australia for recycling by Australian company Birdon Pty Ltd.

“Ex-HMAS SYDNEY had an illustrious career during her 32 years in service with the Royal Australian Navy,” Mr Tehan said.

“The Adelaide Class Frigate was involved in operations spanning the Middle East, East Timor, Fiji and the Solomon Islands and earned a Meritorious Unit Citation during the First Gulf War in 1991.

“She was built at the Todd Pacific Shipyards in Seattle, Washington, USA, and commissioned there on 29 January 1983.

“The former SYDNEY was decommissioned from the Royal Australian Navy on 7 November 2015 to make way for the Hobart class guided missile destroyers, which will provide Australia with an improved war fighting capability.”

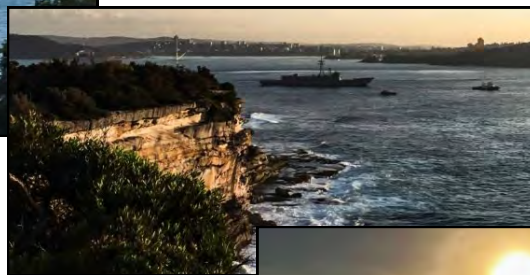
Ex-HMAS SYDNEY’s journey from Sydney to the Common User Facility at Henderson, Western Australia, will take up to 22 days.

SYDNEY had been offered to States and Territories for use as a dive wreck, however, there was no interest in the ship, so the Government decided to recycle her by scrapping.



HMAS SYDNEY VI

Decommissioned after 32 years, 959,627 nautical miles and operations in the Middle East, East Timor, Fiji and the Solomon Islands and the First Gulf War in 1991 departs Sydney Harbour on her final journey





DVA facts made easy

RECEIVE THE BENEFITS YOU DESERVE

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

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


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


- * War Widow/Widowers Pensions
- * Medals
- * Children's' Education
- * Scholarships
- * Bereavement
- * Transport
- * Hospital Visitation
- * Military Themed Funerals

We also have....

- * Social Events
- * Computer Classes
- * Outings

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







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





ST MARYS RSL SUB-BRANCH REPORT

Hi to all,

I hope this Newsletter finds you and your family well. With winter approaching, we can now feel a lowering of the thermometer. Our condolences go to the families of Allan Dwyer and Geoffrey Johnston, two of our Sub-Branch comrades we have lost recently – may they rest in peace.

Your local RSL Sub-Branch has certainly been pretty active in fulfilling RSL aims and objectives since the last edition despite the regretful distractions occurring at State Branch. As a reminder, (and to summarise) the aims and objectives of our RSL, are to:

- ◆ Look after the welfare of our Sub-Branch members (via regular meetings, social media access, welfare account, access to welfare and pension services);
- ◆ Look after the welfare needs of serving and ex-service members of the Australian Defence force (via support of selected struggling sub-branches, access to welfare and pension services, tangible assistance through the Outpost Support Centre, involvement in activities of the Australian Forces Overseas Fund);
- ◆ Promote the objectives of the RSL within the local community (via Colin Shepherd OAM School Scholarships, assistance for school excursions to points of military history/culture, school and other facilities ANZAC Addresses); and
- ◆ Provide relevant and accessible opportunities for all in our community to commemorate those ADF members lost or injured in conflict (via Services at ANZAC, Vietnam Veterans Day and Remembrance Day).

So, in relation to all these, we can report that your Sub-Branch has been successful in contribution to all four points this year. Apart from our very successful ANZAC Services in April, we have been able to:

- ◆ Conduct more than twenty ANZAC presentations and Services at schools and aged care facilities within the St Marys area (additional school presentations were made on behalf of the VVAA Outpost);
- ◆ Assist in packaging 2,400 'care packages' for our troops in overseas areas of conflict;
- ◆ Followed up with our support for each of the five country Sub-Branches that we assist;
- ◆ Set up and launch the 2017 Colin Shepherd School Scholarship program;
- ◆ Conduct a school art-display project which High Schools in conjunction with ANZAC 2017;
- ◆ Provide half-a-dozen schools with assistance to visit places such as the AWM in Canberra;
- ◆ Attend school functions by invitation (Cambridge Park High School and Emmaus Catholic College);
- ◆ A bus-load of members attended the Dedication Ceremony for the new National Boer War Memorial in ANZAC Parade Canberra;
- ◆ Executives and others attended a variety of other Commemorative Services (such as

Governor Philip, Hellenic ANZAC Service, Battle of Crete, The War in Afghanistan [specifically the battle of Eastern Shah Wali Kot]);

- ◆ Presentations to Rotary and Probus on the activity of the RSL & Outpost Support Centre;
- ◆ Distribute numerous welfare and information emails regarding upcoming points of interest, keep our website updated and release important notices via Facebook; and
- ◆ Several Sub-Branch members and members of the VVAA St Marys Outpost attended the Seniors Forum held by Emma Husar MP at the St Marys Community Centre.

For all of the above, may I say a sincere 'thank you' to all who have been involved. We are so very fortunate to have such an active and participative set of members; none of the above would be possible without the generosity of you all. In particular, I thank the ANZAC Planning Committee who planned and co-ordinated this year's

ANZAC 2017

We are very grateful to Dr Daryl Chamberlain who honoured us as our guest speaker at the Sunday ANZAC Service - Daryl has been our Patron and key supporter for many decades. We were privileged and proud to host the descendants of Capt Reginald Saunders MBE at our ANZAC Services to focus attention on the forgotten conflict, the Korean War. Glenda, Judith and Dorothy together with three of Glenda's grandchildren (Breanna, Summer and Billy) added so much meaning to our commemorations; Glenda gave a splendid comment on her Dad. An estimated 6,000+ attended our Dawn Service - I'm unsure if we have the capacity to expand it any further! - and it seems it was well received.

Thank you to 5 Engineer Regiment, 21 Army Cadet Unit, the Erskine Park High School Band (especially Jasmine Tiatia on the trumpet) and singers from Cambridge Park High School who all combined to ensure our Services were respectfully and professionally presented. Also, a special **thank you** to the four schools which took up the School Project Challenge - Erskine Park and St Clair High Schools and Emmaus and Montgrove Colleges. Many other groups also contributed, and for this, we are very grateful.

While our State Branch continues to be the subject of numerous serious investigations, there is no early end in sight to this embarrassing situation. Once the extent and nature of these financial queries are more clear, only then can accusations be seen as valid. We encourage members to keep abreast of the news as it occurs (the ABC and Sydney Morning Herald seem to be very able to publicise the continuing saga); we'll continue to provide updates via group email as they are released. In the meantime, we at St Marys are able to provide access for members to our own financials at any agreed time, as we are comfortable that no such issues spread to our Sub-Branch. We will continue to uphold the aims and objectives of the RSL and simply get on with the job at hand.

Finally, an early reminder for next year - Sunday 11th November 2018 - the Centenary of the end of WW1 - we will be conducting a major activity jointly with Penrith and Grenbrook Sub-Branches at the Paceway. A committee has already commenced detailed plans for the event which will include the Commemorative Service along with many other activities and stalls. More info on that next year!

Tony Fryer

Honorary Secretary

For President Ron Blakely (*currently overseas*)

Experts in Wills and Estates



Many of us think our death will be many years in the future, so we often delay putting in place the necessary arrangements. If you die without a valid Will, the law applies a series of rules to determine who will receive your estate and how much they will receive. But these rules may not necessarily reflect your actual wishes.

Our experienced Estate Lawyers can guide you through the estate planning or administration process and help you make the essential arrangements to ensure you, your family and assets are appropriately managed in the event of death or loss of capacity.

We can assist you with:

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Superannuation • Decision-making after loss of capacity • Applications for court-made Wills Powers of
Attorney and Enduring Guardianship • Estate Administration, including application for
Grants of Probate and Letters of Administration • Family Provision claims

For further information please contact Kelly Morgan on 8644 9517

Level 6, 175 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Vietnam Veterans Association "Train" by appointment

www.barkerhenley.com.au



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**

**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!

Traffic Camera

A man was driving when he saw the flash of a traffic camera.

He figured that his picture had been taken for exceeding the limit, even though he knew that he was not speeding.

Just to be sure, he went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly, but again the camera flashed.

Now he began to think that this was quite funny, so he drove even slower as he passed the area again, but the traffic camera again flashed.

He tried a fourth time with the same result.

He did this a fifth time and was now laughing when the camera flashed as he rolled past, this time at a snail's pace.

Two weeks later, he got five tickets in the mail for driving without a seat belt!!!

You can't fix stupid





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

President: Maree Johnson

Phone: (02) 96237126

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

Secretary: Maureen Clements

Phone: (02) 96753998

Treasurer: Kay Hibbard

Phone: (02) 98323562

Our membership is currently 35 members, though the wintry days sees the numbers drop with the temperature. Monthly dinners have approx 10 attending. Exercise group averages 8 members.

Craft group has 16 attending, some are community members. The ladies have made some beautiful quilts over the years and have improved their sewing skills. Some of these ladies make beanies, scarves and turbans etc. for cancer patients. These hats are delivered to the Nepean Cancer Centre, regularly during the year. Thanks to Barbara Woolfenden, Maureen Clements and Carol Moskel for co-ordinating the knitting, packing and delivery of the turbans.

Last month we had a speaker from Aussie Hero Quilts (AHQ). Jan-Maree Ball, the co-ordinator, gave an interesting talk about the organisation, as well as displaying some quilts and laundry bags. Maree Johnson is also a quilter with this group that send quilts and laundry bags to deployed defence members. The troops are very appreciative of them and send some heart felt messages back.

Next month we are having a talk from Penrith Legacy, about the services they offer to the veteran community.

Many of our members will be attending the winter Retreat at Leura in August. We always have a great time, and keep the open fire burning!

Our Morning Tea for Cancer is held in June each year, and numbers grow every year. We have raised thousands of dollars over the past few years. These funds are used to purchase items for hats, scarves and turbans etc., which are sent to the Nepean Cancer Clinic, Nepean Hospital, Mt Druitt Palliative Care and the Look Good Feel Good organisation. We have also purchased an outdoor table setting for Palliative Care Mt Druitt, which allows family members to visit patients in a less sterile environment.

Our recent morning tea, was a huge success with 149 people attending. We raised \$3,264, which is an all time high. Thank you to everyone that attended and contributed to the beautiful cakes, sandwiches, slices, scones and hot food. The ladies presented the Cancer Clinic Penrith with bags of turbans, which were very appreciated. During the morning tea, the Penrith Cancer Clinic presented our support group with a certificate of appreciation.

Late November sees our ladies packing goodies into boxes to be sent to deployed service personnel. We started doing this about five years ago, sending about 10/12 boxes. Now we send approx 60 to 100 and all items sent are donated by our members, and from members of Blacktown PVA. during the year. We welcome any donations of items that servicemen and women could use. New items, personal items such as soaps, deodorant, moisturiser, shaving cream etc. Books magazines, cards, games etc., as well as lollies, chips and biscuits.

We ask for small items, as we need to keep the weight under 2kg for free postage. Any items can be left at the Youth Hall any Tuesday between 1300hrs and 1600hrs.

Our ladies also knit beanies and scarves to add to the boxes, as its really cold in the middle east during our Christmas time. Recent advice shows that these must be pure wool, due to OH&S.

The Nepean Wives Support Group, thanks the Sub-Branch for their generous donation of \$200 to purchase wool for these beanies. Also to the individual Sub-Branch members that donated money for these special gifts for our deployed personal.

Till next time - Maree Johnson JP.



Cancer morning tea 2017



Members enjoying morning tea in Bowral.

More Photos from the Morning
Tea on Page 24



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michelle@heavenlycelebrations.com.au

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MOBILE: 0418 250 242

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ST. MARYS

(Directly Opposite Library)

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VVAA ST MARYS OUTPOST EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORT

As always the Anzac period was a busy one for the Outpost Education Program presenters.

The **RSL and Schools Remember Anzac Commemoration Service** was held on 5 April 2017 at the Anzac Memorial Hyde Park South. The service was conducted by NSW State Branch RSL in conjunction with the Department of Education, the Catholic Education Commission and the Independent Schools Association. This was the 65th year this ceremony was conducted.

Students conducted the ceremony so it had particular relevance for students of primary and secondary age. Only the Guest of Honour and Hosts were of adult age. The student Guest Speaker, Amaani Siddeck from Al-Faisal College delivered a very good address and members found great heart in the fact that their service continues to be recognised by the youth of today. Other student representatives involved in delivering the service were Dominique Bergman, Loreto Kirribilli, Ellie Bennetts, Sefton High School, Blaise Pereira, All Saints Catholic College and CUO Jack Egan and The Scots College Cadet Unit with choral performances by the NSW Public Schools Junior Singers including piano accompaniment by Rachel Collis. A significant number of schools attending this service enjoy a relationship with the Outpost Education Program presenters. Outpost members are encouraged to attend this annual service in the future.



'Yininmadyemi'

Thou didst let fall (Hyde Park)
Aboriginal artist Tony Albert
whose family has over 80 years
of combined military service
has created a public artwork in
Hyde Park to honour the
sacrifices and bravery of
Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander service men and
women.



Student Wreath Layers
Hyde Park Anzac Service



Students' Wreaths of
Remembrance Hyde Park Memorial



Vin & Nancy Cosgrove with
Education Program students at
Hyde Park.

The 66th **Field of Remembrance Memorial Service**, was held on 21 April 2017 at St Andrews Cathedral, Sydney with the Governor, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Rtd) and Mrs Hurley attending. This was a special service for widows of war and their families, a beautiful legacy, steeped in rich history and tradition. It was a special time to

recognise their loss, a time for quiet and personal remembrance of loved ones who gave their lives in service of our country. The first Field of Remembrance Service was held in the grounds of St Andrews Cathedral in 1952. Members of the congregation placed small crosses adorned with a sprig of rosemary and inscribed with the names of their loved ones in the Cathedral. At the completion of the service the crosses were transferred to a prepared garden at the War Memorial in Hyde Park where they remain until sunset on Anzac Day. Joining the large number of war widows and, in particular, the significant number of war widows and children from the more recent conflicts was deeply emotional. The Outpost Education Program is regularly invited to provide speakers to address various service clubs and community groups.

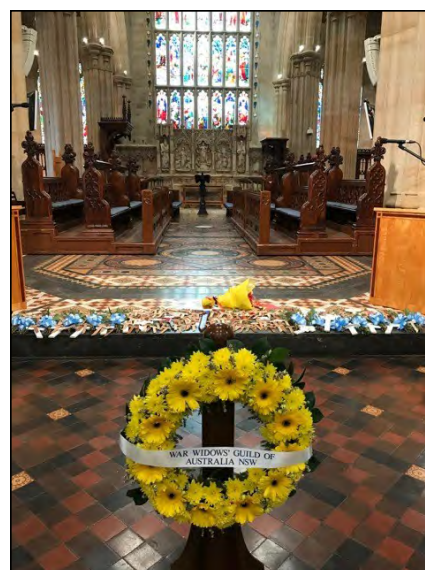
Report continued on pages 16-17.....



Large Cross for The Unknown Warrior laid by His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Rtd) Governor of New South Wales surrounded by crosses laid by members of the congregation.



Crosses inscribed with the names of loved ones
St Andrews Cathedral



St Andrews Cathedral
66th Field of Remembrance
Memorial Service

MICHAEL JOHN FITZGERALDSOLICITOR

Level 8
65 York Street Sydney 2000

Phone: 9283 2500 or 0419 440 990

FAX: 9283 2600.
ABN 18095746334



MILITARY CULTURE ALIVE IN WESTERN SUBURBS

Story and photographs by Hayley Schoenherr (Uwe Schoenherr's grand daughter)
(Target publication: Penrith Press)

Military culture and history is thriving in Western Sydney thanks to the dedication of the St Marys Vietnam Veterans Outpost and the RSL Sub-Branch. The non-for profit organisation is comprised of 45 volunteers who educate and have provided support for over 25 years.

The St Mary's Outpost's primary role is to provide aid and support to past and present service men and women who have donned the Australian Defence Force uniform through the facilities, services and support centre on site.

The support centre aims to provide assistance in regards to financial aid, social support and also assist in referring to other contacts for further assistance.

"Approximately 650 pension claims to the Department of Veteran Affairs were made through the team of Pension Officers and Advocates in the support centre last financial year," said, Tony Fryer, a St Marys Outpost's Pension Officer and Secretary for the RSL Sub-Branch .

"Our welfare team of 20 people visit hospitals and offer guidance to ex service personnel and their spouses and family. We assist in maximising re-cooperation and alert them of their Department of Veteran Affairs entitlements and aid. Around 450- 500 people in hospitals are visited by the welfare team each month."

The Outpost also provides technological support through computer classes that give a basic introduction into the operation of computers. This is open to the general public as well.



Volunteers in the computer lab at St Marys Outpost



Volunteers at work in the Support Centre at the St Mary's Outpost

In conjunction with the RSL Sub- Branch, the St Marys Outpost assists the wider community in learning and understanding military culture, history and traditions. The educational aspect the Outpost provides aims to educate students through discussions and invitations to participate in activities.

The St Marys outpost educates Secondary School students through a two-hour presentation on the Vietnam War to year 10 students to aid in that aspect of the curriculum.

"Presentations have been given to over 50 schools in New South Wales, provided at no fee to the schools," said Tony Fryer.

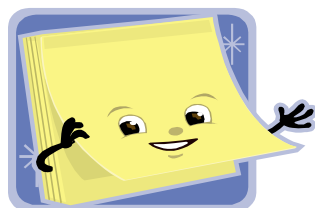
The association along with the support of the RSL Sub-Branch provide school scholarships to those in year 10 to further their education in years 11 and 12.

Currently schools have the opportunity to engage in developing a visual display board that emphasises the theme 'The Forgotten War' in relation to the Korean War that will be featured in the memorial located in the St Marys RSL Club.

References:

Primary source: Interview with Tony Fryer, St Marys Outpost's Pension Officer and Secretary for the RSL Sub-Branch.

Secondary source: Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia. St Mary's Vietnam Veterans' Outpost Home Page. Retrieved from <http://www.vvaastmarys.com.au/>



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

A man is about to cross the road when he's stopped by a funeral procession. Just behind the hearse is a chap with a Doberman straining at his leash and a long line of men behind them. Overcome with curiosity, the bloke catches up with the fellow with the dog and asks, 'Excuse me, I'm sorry to trouble you at this time of grief, but I've never seen such a long funeral procession. Can you tell me who it's for?'

'Yes,' he replies, still trying to restrain the Doberman, 'it's for my mother-in-law. You see, Brutus here, he attacked and killed her.'

'I'm very sorry to hear that,' he says. 'Um, it's probably not the time to ask, but do you think I could borrow your dog?'

The mourner jerks his thumb over his shoulder and says, 'Get to the back of the queue, mate.'





ST MARYS RSL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

For more information contact:

Honorary Secretary - Kerry Squires Email: kerrysquires6@gmail.com

Our Easter raffle was a huge success, ANZAC Day raffle was also fantastic and well supported. Our ladies from the Auxiliary helped in the kitchen with breakfast and sold raffle tickets.

Mother's Day also was a great result for our Women's Auxiliary.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who purchased tickets in our raffles, as we could not achieve these results without your support.

We are also looking for new members to join our Women's Auxiliary.

Our next major fund raiser will be the St Marys Spring Festival, on Saturday 2nd September, 2017, come along and say hello.

I would like to thank the St Marys Vietnam Veterans Outpost for all their support.

Our regular meeting is on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at 11.00am. Our regular meat raffle is on the first Thursday of each month at the RSL from 6.00pm, we look forward to your continuing support.

Kerry Squires

Honorary Secretary

FISHING REPORT



When Aussie Fishermen Meet

Hiyamac.	Lobuddy.
Binearlong?	Coplours.
Cetchenny?	Goddafew.
Kindarthay?	Bassencarp.
Ennysizetoom?	Couplapowns.
Hittinhard?	Sordalike.
Wachoosen?	Gobbawurms.
Fishanonaboddum?	Rydononaboddum.
Whatchadrinkin?	Jugajimbeam.
Igoddago.	Tubad.
Seeyaroun.	Yeahtakideezy.
Guluck.	

The House of Lords (English Parliament) must be the only institution in the world that is kept efficient by the persistent absenteeism of its members.....1st Viscount Samuel.

Too much of a good thing can be wonderful.....Mae West.

Can anybody remember when the times were not hard and money not scarce.....R W Emerson.

Parents are people who bear children, bore teenagers and board newlyweds.....Anon.



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Gourmet baskets

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Fruit baskets

Roses for "I love you" & "just because"

Funeral flower specialist

Contact Colleen 02 9623 0585

Weddings by appointment only

Credit Cards Welcome

I've sure gotten old!

I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, ought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia.

Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends.....But, thank God, I still have my driver's license

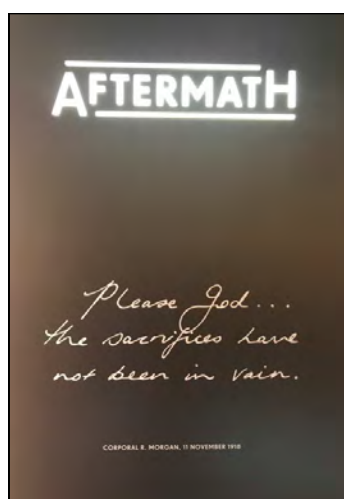
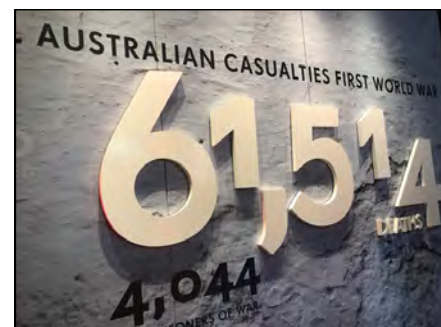


The **Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience** visited Sydney across the Anzac period. This was the final destination for this world-class First World War exhibition. Highly experiential and interactive, the *Experience* featured more than 200 artifacts from the Australian War Memorial. This travelling exhibition told the story of Australia's involvement in the First World War and all war, conflicts and peacekeeping operations to the present day. Walking through this experience with a group of war widows from the Hawkesbury District and including the parents of an Australian soldier killed in action in Afghanistan, provided a further insight of how devastating and indiscriminate war can be.



While we Outpost veterans often focus on the 521 personnel who paid the supreme sacrifice during the Vietnam War, yearly casualty figures displayed across the WW1 images and memorabilia (1914 to 1918) were almost unimaginable in today's conscience (see Spirit of Anzac photos below).

If you missed this exhibition, plan a visit to the Australian War Memorial. A walk around the Memorial helps to understand and appreciate the big picture of Australians in War across our history.



The **2017 Hawkesbury-Hills Student Leadership Program** launched 30 March provides Year 12 students from the area with a unique opportunity to cultivate their intellectual foundations and develop the skills needed to be effective leaders in their careers and in the community. During the launch students were addressed by 2017 patron, former Chief of the Defence Force and Air Chief Marshall Sir Angus Houston AC AFC (Rtd) and NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian MP. It was a pleasure to attend this function as many of the schools/colleges involved utilise the Outpost Education Program across their history studies. Each year the Student Leadership Program concludes with a service project meant to provide a meaningful alternative to the excesses of 'Schoolies Week' eg. a previous student group walked the Kokoda Track. This program was initiated by Dominic Perrottet MP Member for Hawkesbury, Treasurer and Member of Industrial Relations.

Outpost Education Program achievements to date May 2017. A tally of Semester 1 activities shows 19 school/college presentations and 7 community group involvements. Information on these activities will feature in the next Outpost newsletter. Bookings for Semester 2 are proceeding.

Vin Cosgrove OAM JP

VVAA Outpost Education Program



**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

DARWIN AND RETURN APRIL – MAY 2017

PART 1

*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.*

It all started about six months earlier. My brother Don said he and a couple of others were going to do a trip to Darwin and would I be interested. Would I be interest, of cause I would but a few years ago we did a trip to South Australia and I had to leave my bike there and fly home then ended up in hospital for quite a few weeks. This I knew would play on my wife, Helen's mind. I had also developed arthritis in my wrists and right knee, and I wasn't sure how I would cope. I held off telling Helen but when I did, she to my surprise agreed it would be a good trip. My fate was sealed. I would be going. We also contacted a friend, Ken Green, from Mt Isa and told him of our trip and he said he would like to join us for a week.

The time had come and after a week of packing and unpacking, deciding what to and what not to take all was ready. My trailer is a camper and is usually packed with cooking gear, food and blankets, also tools which could be useful. I also carried gear in my panniers, my right hand one full of thermal underwear as we would be returning in May and could be quite cool at night. On my passengers seat I have a rack which carries my thermos and water.

All prepared I left on Saturday 8th of May and rode to Warrimoo where I met up with Kim Kennerson who was going to ride to Lithgow with me and have a coffee. After leaving Lithgow I rode to Forbes via Blaney and Canowindra, where I was to stay four nights with my daughter and partner before meeting Don at Cobar the following Wednesday.

On that Wednesday my daughter's partner Andrew rode with me to Trundle where we had a cup of coffee and a pie before he rode back to Forbes. The morning was cool to start with but warmed up, so at Trundle I was able to take my jumper off. I then travelled via the Bogan Way to Tullamore, Tottenham, the closest town to the centre of NSW, then on to Nyngan. Between Tullamore and Tottenham I turned off the main road and went to the small village of Albert.

I met a fellow traveller whilst getting fuel at Nyngan; he was on a Triumph Rocket and was on his way to Perth. He had made an extra fuel tank, made of aluminium which he had on the rear carrying rack and also his rear tyre was of a car type, I suppose he didn't intend on doing much cornering on his straight run to WA.

After leaving Nyngan on the way to Cobar I also turned off into another town, Hermidale. I like to see these little towns, see how they're fairing and also if they have a Memorial or Honour Roll of which I would take a photo. I stopped in Hermidale and had a cuppa from my thermos. No need for lunch, the pie at Trundle was filling.

I fuelled up at Cobar then went to the caravan park. The others were already there and set up. There was Don, his ex-son in law Richard from Newcastle and Col who lived near Don at Tweed Heads. Don was on a BMW GS1200. Richard on my old bike a BMW1150 Rockster, whilst Col was on the same bike as me a Suzuki GSX1400. We were all towing trailers, two campers and two conventional bike trailers.



Our Camp at Cobar

The park had a reasonable camp kitchen and we all had our own food, I had spam and tomato on a sandwich biscuit for tea. I had 2

small freezer blocks, so kept the leftover meat for the next day. I made my thermos up for the next day, as usual black tea.



Hard boiling the eggs

The night was coolish, but there was no need to use other than my thin blanket. We were up about 0640, which seemed to be the time we rose for the rest of the trip. I had packed enough Weet-Bix and 200mm satchels of long life milk to last me for about five weeks, so that would my breakfast that morning and most of the morning for the rest of my travelling.

We were on our way about 0800, it was a fine day but cool travelling. We stopped at Emmdale for fuel and a welcome cup of hot chocolate, before pushing on again. The others travelled a bit quicker than me, I was happy to sit on between 100 and 105 k/h.

We then stopped for lunch at Topar, I finished off my tin of meat and a tomato. I put \$10 of fuel in there just to be sure of not running out before Broken Hill. I had hot tea and peanut butter on biscuits for lunch, simple but good. It was quite warm by now, good weather for riding..

The next stretch was an easy ride to Broken Hill where we went to the Caravan Park on the Adelaide road on the way out of town. I'd been there before and it was a good place to spend the night. The only thing was they'd laid pine wood chip throughout the camp. Alright if you were in a caravan, but no good if staying in a tent. We seemed to find bits of wood chip for the next few weeks. A cup of soup and a small tin of baked beans for tea. The weather was hot at Broken Hill and also cloudless, still that night was cool. You have early nights when travelling; the same was with us, going to bed about 1930.

Up again and on the move, it was cool travelling in the morning but warmed up during the day. We stopped for a quick stretch at Manna Hill. There is no fuel between Broken Hill and Yunta, where we had a longer break and morning tea. I sent the others ahead, I looked around the town, it was school holidays and there was a fete of some kind in town. It was worth a look around. I stopped again about 15km out of Yunta at Dead Mans Hill. So named by the railway years ago, but when National Rail Corporation started they put a large cross and a sign there naming the hill.

I caught up with the others at Peterborough where they were having lunch in the rest area in town. I had a cup of tea and spam and vegemite on a biscuit.

Moving on again the next town was Orroroo where I stopped to take some photos, I caught up with at the turn off to Quorn at Wilmington, to which we rode as a group. The camping area at Quorn is good, excellent camp kitchen and facilities. We sat in the camp kitchen talking and gave a toast to Richard as it was his birthday. I had a tin of corn, baked beans for followed by rice cream for desert. The Pichi Richi train doesn't run out of Quorn on a Saturday, it runs up the hill from Port Augusta, so we were packed up early and headed off to Port Augusta where we would see the train. The road from Quorn to Port Augusta is a good bike road, plenty of curves and great scenery. It is 40km longer to go from Wilmington to Port via Quorn than going down Horricks Pass, but if time permits it is worth doing.

We fuelled up before we went to the Railway station, where we fuelled ourselves up with a cup of coffee from the café there, while waiting for the train to be shunted to the platform. Once photos were taken we headed off again. At the junction where the Stuart Highway starts and turns to the right to head north towards Alice Springs the Darwin, I stopped for more photos, telling the others I would catch up.



....Watch out for Part 2 in the Spring Edition....



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"



ST MARY'S GOVERNOR KING DAY CLUB

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NO REPORT RECEIVED



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

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



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The Chemist

Arriving home, a husband was met by his sobbing wife.

"The Chemist insulted me this morning on the phone. I had to call multiple times before he would even answer."

The husband drove down to confront the Chemist to demand an apology.

Before he could say more than a word or two, the Chemist said, "Now, just a minute...Mate, hear my side of it."

This morning the alarm failed to go off, so I was late. Without breakfast I hurried out to the car to realise I'd locked the house with house and car keys inside. I had to break a window to get at my keys. Driving a little too fast, I got a speeding ticket then, about three streets from the store, I had a flat tyre. When I finally got to the store a bunch of people were waiting for me to open up.

I started waiting on these people.

All the time the damn phone never stopped ringing.

Then I had to break open a bag of coins against the cash register drawer to give change and they spilled all over the floor! I had to get down on my hands and knees to pick up the coins and the phone was still ringing. When I came up I cracked my head on the open cash drawer which made me stagger back against a showcase with bottles of expensive perfumes on it. Half of them hit the floor and broke.

Meanwhile, the phone was still ringing with no let up.

I finally got to answer it.

It was your wife and she wanted to know how to use a rectal thermometer. And believe me, mate, as God is my witness, all I did was tell her."



ST MARYS RSL BOWLING CLUB

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

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

Social Bowls Programme

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

Contact the Bowls Office via Club Reception on 9623 6555



Bowling Club Greens and Function area.

A Doctor was addressing a large audience in Penrith. "The material we put into our stomachs is enough to have killed most of us sitting here, years ago.

Red meat is awful. Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with MSG.

High fat diets can be disastrous, and none of us realizes the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water. However, there is one thing that's the most dangerous of all and we all have eaten, or will eat it. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?"

After several seconds of quiet, a 75-year-old man in the front row raised his hand, and softly said, "Wedding Cake."



MORNING TEA FOR CANCER

JUNE 2017





Two Irishmen were waiting at a bus stop when a truck went by carrying rolls of turf.
 Jimmy said, "I'm gonna do dat when I win da lottery."
 "What's dat den?" asks Mikey.
 "Send me lawn away to be mowed."



ST MARYS RSL YOUTH CLUB

ACTIVITIES FOR ALL



BOXING

0425 302 432

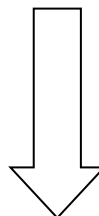
JUDO

0403 218 871

KARATE

0417 285 128

GENERAL ENQUIRIES 0451 144 797



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

THE HAREFIELD FLAG

Anzac Day on 25th April, is remembered every year in the English village of Harefield. This is the story why.

Three months after the outbreak of the First World War, Mr and Mrs Charles Billyard-Leake, a wealthy Australian couple living in Britain, offered the use of Harefield Park and its extensive grounds to the Minister of Defence in Melbourne. It was to be a convalescent home for wounded soldiers of the Australian Imperial Force.



Ethel Grey from Melbourne set up the hospital with 80 beds. Harefield was staffed by members of the Australian Army Medical Corps together with a strong contingent of volunteers from Mrs Billyard-Leake's circle who organised the canteen, ran entertainment for recovering patients and offered the use of their cars for trips. It had two



purposes: a rest home for officers and other ranks, and a depot for soldiers who were invalided and due to be sent back to Australia.

The first casualties arrived from Gallipoli in June 1914. Within three weeks over 300 casualties had arrived. At first tented accommodation was erected, but the ferocity of the war required fully equipped accommodation and Nissen huts were erected to cope with the 1000's of patients.



By November 1916 the hospital was functioning as a general hospital with an operating theatre, an X-ray department and specialists in eye, ear, nose and throat conditions. By now there were 1,000 beds and the hospital occupied nearly 50

buildings around the estate, including ward huts, garages, recreation rooms and a mortuary.

Of some 50,000 patients treated at Harefield, 112 did not recover. These men, and one female nurse, were buried in the parish churchyard. Francis Newdegate, a local MP whose family had long connections in the village and who was later knighted and appointed Governor of Tasmania, offered a plot of land next to the churchyard to extend the cemetery. He also covered the funeral expenses for all the burials.



Their coffins were carried through the village before they were laid to rest. It was during the first procession that the headteacher of Harefield Junior School, a Mr Jeffrey, noticed the coffins had nothing to cover them – unusual for a soldier’s funeral procession. He grabbed a Union Jack Flag from the classroom wall and rushed out to drape it over the passing coffin. From then on, the school’s flag was used to cover every coffin as it was carried through the village. Turnout for the funerals was always huge, with most of the village lining the streets to pay their respects.

After the war Mr Jeffrey presented the Union Jack Flag to Lieutenant Colonel Yeatman, the last officer commanding the hospital, with a request that he give it to an Australian school willing to send its own Union Jack Flag in exchange. The officer chose Adelaide High School, which had been sending relief packages to Harefield, and the school’s patriotic fund arranged for the return gift.

Over the years the condition of the flag had deteriorated. With the assistance of the Anzac



Harefield are not forgotten. Every year since 1921 the local school and the Cubs, Scouts and Girl Guides lead a parade through the village to the graves of the Australian soldiers where they lay flowers on every grave in the cemetery.

Day Commemoration Fund the Adelaide High School was able to have the flag restored.

Today Harefield is considered one of the world’s leading heart and lung transplant centres. Its patient services unit is known as the Anzac Centre. Hundreds of patients are treated each year for heart blockages and heart attacks.

Whilst the original manor house has fallen into disrepair and the huts built for the Anzacs are long gone the Australian soldiers nursed at



MY NAVY

With apologies to Dorothea Mackellar

The love of beer and women, of wine and song and dance,
 Of racehorses and stables just holds you in a trance
 Strong love of pints of liquor and dolls with flirty eyes
 I know but cannot share it: My love is otherwise.
 I love a modern cruiser, with six or eight inch guns
 Or even a destroyer, manned by Australia's sons
 I love a trip to Hobart or even Trincomalee
 To Pompey or to Kure, this is the life for me.
 The dark and light grey outlines, all tragic to the moon
 The semaphore, the bunting, the lovely meal at noon
 A cosy little bunk where I can sleep at will
 A spacious bridge to sunbake on, and a sickbay when I'm ill.
 Core of my heart the Navy, Best in the whole wide world
 What greater joy than to salute the white Ensign unfurled
 Core of my heart the Navy, land of the rainbow gold
 Through Stoppage and Number 10 she pays us back threefold
 Over the Pay Bob's table watch after many years
 The great reward for all your toil, and sweat, and work, and tears
 And when you're twelve is finished, you're free to join once more
 To serve another five at sea or even on the shore
 An open hearted Navy with wilful lavish hand
 All you who have not loved her, you will not understand
 Though Earth holds many splendours, wherever I may die
 I know to what great Navy, my loving thoughts will fly



The end of many a
'Run Ashore'

Penned by an anonymous Australian sailor in the late 1940's or early 1950's.

Reproduced from a copy typed on signal paper found amongst the effects of the late Signelman Donald PALLISTER, 29328

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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

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John Davison - Editor

ANZAC DAY 2017

