



LEST WE FORGET



STAND TO

"THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE"

NUMBER 138—March 2008

VETERANS' NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL

ACT NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL

Defence White Paper: ideas wanted

People can contribute views to a Defence white paper commissioned by the Government last month.

The Minister for Defence, Joel Fitzgibbon, said, "The White Paper process will result in comprehensive policy guidance across the entire Defence portfolio

"It will align defence strategic guidance, force structure and capability priorities and resource strategies by taking a comprehensive view of the Defence enterprise."

He has also commissioned a series of accompanying reviews of a range of Defence areas to underpin the white paper. These critical studies will be a key input to developing Defence business and budget priorities until 2030.

Mr Michael Pezzullo, a deputy secretary of the Department, will be principal author.

Mr Fitzgibbon said, "I have also appointed a ministerial advisory panel to provide ... external advice on key issues associated with the white paper and to work with Mr Pezzullo. The panel, of three leading strategists, Professor Ross Babbage, Major General Peter Abigail (Retd), and Dr Mark Thomson, will bring valuable experience to the white paper process.

"The development of the White Paper will include a comprehensive community consultation process to encourage community interest in Defence issues and incorporate those views into the policy-making process."

For more information, access: <http://www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper2008>

A report in *The Canberra Times* of March 3 quoted Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner as saying that his "razor gang" would review defence spending.

"The pressures in defence spending with the very widespread commitments we've got overseas ... are considerable, so even getting savings to ensure we don't go beyond that 3 per cent real is a very important exercise."

Number's up

The Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia at Ryde City RSL is selling its Vietnam Veteran number plates.

They are of normal size and show the words *Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia* and *Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living*.

NSW plates can't be used for registration in the ACT but collectors may be interested. Price: \$15 each for an RSL bulk buy (minimum of 20) and \$20 separately. To order, dvvaa@bigpond.com or Len Schulz on (02) 9808 5222 or 0423 654 832

Happy birthday to the Army and RAN



A soldier of the Australian Federation Guard present arms in the ceremony at Defence Headquarters, Russell, on March 3 to celebrate the Australian Army's 107 years of service to the nation. March 1, 1901 was the day that authorisation of the formation of the Commonwealth Military Force was decreed. By contrast, the Royal Australian Navy celebrated its 107th birthday on March 1 by providing entertainment for fans attending the Brumbies v Queensland Reds Super 14 rugby match.

PM's advisers on ex-service matters

As outlined in the Government's *Plans for Veterans' Affairs 2007*, the Government promised to give the ex-service community a greater voice at the highest level of government by establishing the Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Ex-Service Matters.

The first step is the recent issue of a discussion paper seeking the views of the ex-service and defence communities, other key stakeholders and the public on the council's structure and terms of reference and proposing a comprehensive review of the Department's consultative arrangements.

Veterans may wish to comment on all or part of the paper, contains headings and questions to guide comments. Part three helps with preparing and lodging responses and gives contact details if you want help or more information. If you have related issues not canvassed in the paper, you can include your views as part of your response.

Comments on the paper are welcome. Submissions are required by **April 28**.

All submissions in response to the paper will be published on the DVA web site as they are received, unless you want yours kept confidential.

To access the discussion paper go to: www.dva.gov.au and find *Establishment of a Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Ex-Service Matters*.

HMAS Sydney found

The wreck of the missing Royal Australian Navy cruiser HMAS Sydney II has been found, 2,470 metres down.

Sydney and her 645-man crew was lost in November 1941 off Western Australia after a fierce engagement with the German raider Kormoran. The find was confirmed on March 15. She was 12 miles from Kormoran's wreck.

— Picture, page 8

New commander

in E. Timor

Brigadier James Baker was appointed on January 29 as the next commander of the Australian-led International Stabilisation Force in Timor-Leste at a time of political tension after the assassination attempt on President Ramos Horta.

Brigadier John Hutchison was commander from July 2007. Based in Dili, Brigadier Baker commands about 1000 Australian and New Zealand personnel deployed in support of the Government of Timor-Leste and the UN Police. The role of these troops — the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) — is to help local authorities and the UN to provide peace and stability in the country after the civil unrest in 2006.

After the assassination attempt the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, increased Australia's contribution to the ISF.

ASPI's outlook for East Timor
— Page 10

Voyager damages claims after 44 years — Page 2

Trouble and gold on Kokoda Track — Page 3

ANZAC Day March plan — Page 11

Voyager: 44 years too long to wait, says Minister Snowdon

On the 44th anniversary of the HMAS Voyager disaster, February 10, the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowdon, reaffirmed the Government's determination to progress all claims for damages.

The shock-waves from the collision between HMAS Voyager and HMAS Melbourne, off the south-east coast of Australia in 1964, were still being felt, he said. It was Australia's worst peacetime military tragedy, in which 82 lives were lost.

At present 34 claims for damages by former HMAS Melbourne crew and seven appeals are before the courts.

Two claims by deceased Voyager crew's dependants are also unresolved. "Labor promised during the election that we would appoint an eminent legal person to advise how to best progress and mediate the remaining cases, and to oversee the Department's conduct," Mr Snowdon said, "and we are in the process of drafting terms of reference and hope to soon appoint a retired judge or senior silk to the task."

Last year 50 cases were resolved by mediation and settlement negotiation, and two more have been settled by negotiation this year.

"Together with the review, I am hopeful that we can clear the way to ending years of frustration — 44 years is too long to wait," the Minister said.



HMAS Melbourne limps back to port after the collision with HMAS Voyager

New Special Operations Commander appointed

Major General Tim McOwan has been appointed the next Special Operations Commander Australia (SOCAUST). Special Operations Command (SOCOMD) provides command and control of the ADF's domestic and international terrorism response.

He replaces Major General Mike Hindmarsh, who has commanded SOCOMD since October 2004. Major General Hindmarsh will be taking up a position shortly as the next commander of all Australian Defence Force units deployed in the Middle East Area of Operations.

Enlisting in the Army in 1976, Major General McOwan gained his commission at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in 1980. He has had a remarkable career, serving in regimental appointments with the 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR) and the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR). His service with 1 RAR included an attachment to the Rifle Company Butterworth in Malaysia and his service with the SAS included a two-year secondment to the

headquarters commanding the British SAS and the Special Boat Service.

He has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for command and leadership during Operation WARDEN and the Conspicuous Service Medal for operational service during Operation MAZURKA with the Multinational Force and Observers, Sinai, Egypt, where he served as the Force Assistant Chief of Staff. Later he was deployed to the Arabian Gulf on Operation POLLARD as a member of the US CENTCOM-led Coalition Headquarters.

Major General McOwan assumed command of the Special Air Service Regiment in January 1999.

In 2001 he was appointed Chief Staff Officer Plans (J5) in Joint Operations Command. In this capacity he was responsible for operational planning of Australia's commitment to the War On Terror. He became Director, Strategy and International Engagement, in Army Headquarters in 2004 before assuming the appointment of Deputy Special Operations Commander, Australia

(DSOCAUST). In January 2006 he was appointed Chief of Defence Force Liaison Officer to the Chairman of The Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon, Washington DC.

RSL expresses regret

With deep regret, RSL ACT reports the death of Gordon Thomas Ormerod. He was a member of RSL Barton-Capital Sub Branch and Office Assistant with RSL Woden Valley as well as assisting ACT War Widows Guild administration.

The Executive, Council and members of the RSL ACT Branch, together with members of RSL National and States, offer heartfelt condolences to his wife Jan, daughters Kylie, Narelle and Kate and their respective partners and family.

A service was held at Norwood Park Crematorium at Mitchell on March 13 at which the RSL eulogy was delivered by Brigadier Neil Horne (Retd) President of RSL Woden Valley Sub Branch.

Excavation in April of WWI burial site

A limited excavation of a suspected World War I burial site will go ahead near Fromelles, France, in April.

It is believed the remains of up to 400 Australian and British soldiers who fought in the battle of Fromelles in July 1916 were not recovered by clearance teams at the end of World War I and may still be buried at the site.

Announcing the project on February 6, the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowdon, said the limited excavation would be carried out by the Glasgow University Archaeological Division (GUARD), the same team that undertook a non-invasive survey of the site in May 2007.

"GUARD was appointed by the Department of Defence following a recommendation [by] Nigel Steele, the co-secretary to the British All Party Parliamentary War Graves and Battlefield Heritage Group," he said.

"The ... work GUARD undertakes will determine, beyond doubt, the presence or otherwise of remains at the site as well as provide information on the quantity and condition of any remains.

"The work is being planned under the auspices of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission with approval of French authorities and the local land owner and assistance is being sought from the British Government."

Mr Snowdon commended the work of the Friends of the Fifteenth Brigade Association, a Melbourne group led by Mr Lambis Englezos, who first located the possible burial site. "I also commend the cooperation of the French authorities, which have been sensitive to Australian efforts to fully investigate the site," Mr Snowdon said.

Should the presence of remains be confirmed, any decision to proceed with a recovery operation will be subject to agreement from French and British authorities.

'Big truck' arrives

The Royal Australian Air Force's third Boeing C-17A Globemaster III arrived at RAAF Amberley on February 12.

It joined two others already in service with 36 Squadron. The C-17 project's \$2.2 billion budget includes construction of permanent facilities for 36 Squadron at RAAF Amberley.

The fourth Globemaster will arrive at Amberley in early March. The plane carries four times the payload of the RAAF's other workhorse, the C-130 Hercules. It can carry more than 70 tonnes of cargo or up to three Black Hawk helicopters.

STAND TO

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State Branch Headquarters

ACT ANZAC House
13 Moore Street
CANBERRA ACT 2601
PO Box 708
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6162 2670
Facsimile: (02) 6162 2673
Email: actrsl@netspeed.com.au

NSW ANZAC House
245 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Telephone: (02) 9264 8188
Facsimile: (02) 9264 8466
E-mail: statsec@rslnsw.com.au

Queensland

Level 1, 283 St Paul Terrace
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006
Telephone: (07) 3634 9444
Facsimile: (07) 3634 9400
Email: enquiries@rslqld.org

Victoria ANZAC House
4 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000
Telephone: (03) 9655 5555
Facsimile: (03) 9655 5500
E-mail: rslvic@rslvic.com.au

SA ANZAC House, Torrens
Training Depot, Victoria Drive

ADELAIDE SA 5000

Telephone: (08) 8232 0322
Facsimile: (08) 8232 0377
E-mail: admin@sa.rsl.org.au

Western Australia

GPO Box Y3023
East St Georges Terrace

PERTH 6832
Telephone: (08) 9325 9799
Facsimile: (08) 9325 7432
E-mail: rslwahq@iinet.net.au

Tasmania

68 Davey St, Hobart TAS 7000
Telephone: (03) 6224 0881
Facsimile: (03) 6223 1229

E-mail: rsltas@southcom.com.au

London

The Rt.Hon the Viscount Slim OBE
C/- House of Lords
Westminster
London SW1A 0PW
UK

Washington

Mr Neil Churches
Secretary
Washington DC RSL Sub-Branch
c/- Embassy of Australia
1601 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington DC 20036, USA

Registered office:

RSL National HQ
Cnr Constitution Ave
and Blamey Cres
Campbell ACT 2601
Postal address:
GPO Box 303
CANBERRA ACT
2601
Ph: (02) 6248 7199
Fax (02) 6247 7637
E-mail national.president@rsl.org.au
Web site:
<http://www.rsl.org.au>

Trouble — and gold — on the Kokoda Track

During my visit to Port Moresby, local newspapers and PNG television broadcasts were commenting on the dispute developing over the alleged intrusion of a gold-mining lease adjacent to part of the Kokoda Track.

There are claims that the Naoro village, about 55km north-east of Port Moresby, with the Naoro and nearby Kioari people of about 1000 in the immediate area, will be denied generous compensation and/or agreed revenue payments from the mining company for “intrusion and damages” to the traditional land owners’ property.

That compensation or agreed revenue would be lost to the traditional land owners if the mining company were not permitted to proceed with their intended mining operations toward that part of the Track on or close to the Naoro village lands involved.

Figures being quoted by a number of sources suggest that the surrounding area of Naoro village sits on gold, copper and molybdenum deposits estimated to be worth \$6.7 billion.

The mining company, Frontier Resources, wants to establish mining in the Naoro village area and claims full support of the villagers, who have been reportedly offered a 5 per cent stake in the mine that could net them, as a collective, more than \$110 million over the 10-year life of the proposed mining operations.

It is suggested that the proposed gold mining operation would affect only a small part of the Track — about 600 metres out of its 96km length — and that the section of the Track the company plans to mine, is a “dog-leg” to the original Track.

Further, comment has been made that the Australian Government has allegedly influenced the PNG Government for some time to prohibit the mine operations’ moving closer to the area of the Track that may be effected.

The Howard Government requested previously that the PNG Government not allow the Frontier Resources com-

By ACT RSL President Gary Brodie, who writes: I gratefully acknowledge that my comments on the Kokoda Track mining dispute have been drawn in part from my personal conversations with a number of persons in Port Moresby and comments also printed in PNG newspaper articles over the period of my visit to Port Moresby, February 5 to 8, and excerpts from an editorial in *The Canberra Times* of February 15. I have sought to offer here a balanced comment on the dispute from information available to me at the time of this *Stand To* edition’s going to print.



Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, who has walked the Kokoda Track, discussed with his New Guinea counterpart, Sir Michael Somare, the problems surrounding the proposed mining operation that would affect part of the Track.

pany “close” access to any area that may affect the Track.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd (who has walked the Track) announced in January that, with the support of the PNG Government, the Australian Government would now seek to fast-track an application to have the Kokoda Track included on the UNESCO world-heritage listing (an application

made originally made by the Howard Government) to protect the Track from mining and logging.

As the PNG people have said that they respect Australia’s sentiments regarding the significance and future of the Kokoda Track, because of what occurred there in World War II — the Australians’ stopping the invading Japanese Forces’ advance — so should

the Australian Government respect PNG’s sovereignty and the peoples of PNG’s claim of right to any economic self-determination they may desire or achieve.

If it is correct that the subject area of the Kokoda Track being put forward for mining development is in fact a “dog-leg” off the original Track in World War II and that the alleged dog-leg was not used as a prime route by the Australians or the PNG carriers at that time, the Frontier Resources mining company and the Naoro villagers would seem to offer a strong case for the mining proposal to proceed.

In fairness, it has also been mentioned that outright opposition to the area now sought to be mined might well be warranted if the proposed mine site were at Isurava, Imita Ridge or Kokoda Village, the areas of major confrontations and bitter close-quarters fighting in World War II by Australian troops.

However, no such claims have been made of the area around Naoro. Not yet, at least!

Indeed, it has also been stated that the nominated area was probably only a transit point for our soldiers going to and from the battle areas.

That latter comment, I would think, will attract the attention of war historians.

Examination of company and battalion records that may be available might confirm or refute the suggestion that the dog-leg was only a transit point and not part of the Track proper.

This current dispute between the respective Australian and PNG Governments, the Frontier Resources mining company and the traditional land owners of Naoro Village, with their conflicting interests in a specific area on or near the Kokoda Track, is now set for a lengthy and no doubt emotional debate and further negotiations before any satisfactory outcome is achieved for those involved.

Old soldier fights for the ‘ANZAC truth’ in new film series

One octogenarian army veteran of World War II and Korea has very firm ideas of what old soldiers do. He believes Australia’s World War I history is so badly recorded that he’s made a film called *Forging the ANZAC Tradition — The Untold Story*.

Alan Young says, “Go to Google, type in ANZAC and up comes over three and a half million references! Of these, nearly half a million refer to the eight months disaster of Gallipoli — and less than one sixth of that Gallipoli number refer to the great two and a half years’ ANZAC victories on the Western Front that won the war.”

In World War I Alan’s father, who advanced from private to half-colonel in four years and won two Military Crosses, believed in army discipline so much that he only ever punished his three sons with a Sam Browne belt — brass buckles and all!

Alan Young’s army age is 82 but his birth certificate says he’s 80.

Three years ago he read an article in the RSL magazine *MUFTI* that suggested Gallipoli had been given undue

prominence in the reporting of World War I history. The article went on to say that the Western Front was five times as important as the Holy Grail of Australia wartime endeavours.

As a wine author of 20 books he had visited France more than 30 times and this news really fascinated his excited mind. He was living in California with his American wife, Norma, and they decided immediately that their contribution to this year’s 90th anniversary of 1918 — and the ANZACs’ stunning victories — would be a factual film in honour of those great soldiers of both nations.

They decided to invest \$US100,000 of their retirement funds and make a non-profit film in their own digital studio, which was producing international award-winning wine-training films. Alan’s first serious wine lessons were learnt in the army when he was secretary of the 28th Battalion Sergeants’ Mess in Perth in the 1950s.

While early parts of the now nine-part DVD were made in San Francisco because of the ease of filming and

research trips to France and Belgium, the bulk of the film has been completed in a studio built at their experimental vineyard home in Romsey, Victoria.

In Young’s chequered career he has been a trainee tennis professional, a cowboy/roustabout, a cook and odd-job man in country NSW and Queensland before joining the army. He trained at Cowra just before the 1943 Japanese POW break-out. After Canungra jungle training he joined the 2/12th Battalion, 18th Brigade, 7th Division and saw service in the Pacific Islands and Borneo before volunteering to go to Japan with the occupation force.

After the war he became associated with many Australian Davis Cup players. When the Korean War was declared he enlisted in K Force in WA (5/400,006) and become an original member of 3 RAR K Force.

Wounded at Pakchon, he was sent to BCOF Hospital in Kure, Japan. On leave in Tokyo from the hospital, he became adviser to the first Japanese postwar Davis Cup team.

Back in Australia, he was sent to 6

Recruit Training Company, Guildford, WA, as a recruit instructor, then returned to tennis coaching on discharge in 1953. In 1954 he was assistant coach to the Indian Davis Cup team for their semifinal against the US in Perth.

Later, as secretary of the sergeants’ mess, he took up the study of wine, which led to his becoming manager of the Wine Information Bureau, opening a new international career. This has included writing wine books and making instructional films — and prompting him to research and make *Forging the ANZAC Legend*, a 3½-hour production, on sale March 15, \$34.95 for the three-disc set. Profits will go to the Kyneton, Victoria, RSL sub-branch to establish a travel fund for Macedon Ranges High School students to visit the Western Front in France and Belgium annually for ANZAC Day.

Another short 29min film, *Images of ANZAC Day 2007 – France & Belgium* from \$8 plus \$1 postage; to order: **Kyneton Sub-Branch 03 5422 6735 email: ynrs1@westnet.com.au web site: www.kyneton.rslvic.com.au**

Space monitoring system will help ADF in dealing with disasters in our region

Australia's Defence Force is renowned for not only its achievements on the field of battle; it has the highest reputation for delivering help and humanitarian aid in times of natural disasters.

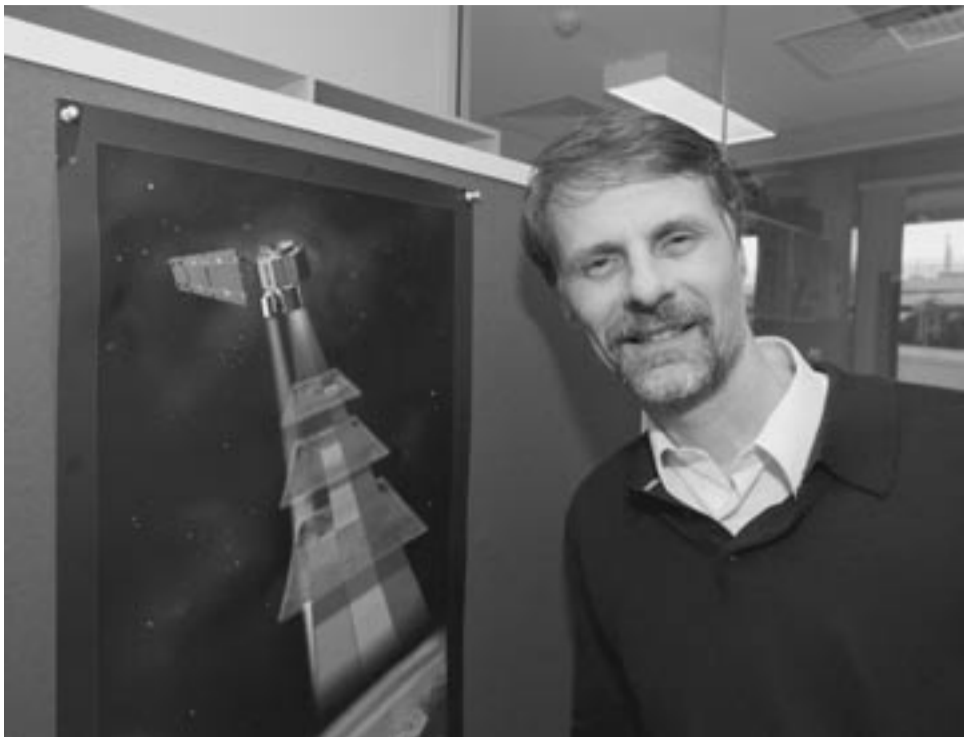
Now it shares a new piece of technology: a space-based international Earth observation network to detect and monitor natural disasters in the Asia-Pacific region.

It has been formed with a substantial contribution by Australian science.

Called Sentinel Asia, the network of information-delivery web sites has its roots in the Australian bushfire tracking system Sentinel Hotspots, developed in 2002 by CSIRO, Geoscience Australia and the Australian Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation.

The coordinator of Australia's input, senior CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research scientist Dr Alex Held, says, "This will be a critical information-delivery system on wildfires, flooding, drought and landslides in our region, where those events can be seen by Earth observing satellites in real time."

"Australia has had a pivotal, strategic role in developing the system, which has the potential to benefit billions of people in our region by assisting authorities in a recovery response," he said.



The coordinator of Australia's input, senior CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research scientist Dr Alex Held: "This will be a critical information-delivery system on wildfires, flooding, drought and landslides in our region."

The system has been activated 10 times by seven countries, including Australia, in the last 12 months, mostly in response to earthquakes and floods. Planned improvements include more nodes in other countries, use of high-bandwidth communications satellites

and access to a wider range of Earth-observation satellites. Dr Held said many of the causes and impacts of natural disasters, including droughts, are observable, often in real time, from space by orbiting or geostationary systems.

RAN personnel return from Iraq duty

Naval personnel of Task Force 158 returned from the Middle East Area of Operations on January 31.

Commodore Allan du Toit and his team of 30 Royal Australian Navy personnel were deployed for more than four months as part of multinational force efforts to develop a secure and stable environment and facilitate self-government in Iraq.

Command of TF158 is rotated between the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia and Commodore Allan du Toit was the third Australian to hold the position. He said his team had amassed a number of significant achievements, including overseeing the safe loading of more than 100 tankers — or approximately \$US17 billion worth of oil exports — at the two Iraqi oil terminals.

The team had also trained and certified the Iraqi Marine Force as being mission-ready for point defence of the Iraqi oil terminals and boarding and inspecting oil tankers and support craft.

The group was welcomed home by the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowdon, the Commander of the Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Nigel Coates AM and the Deputy Chief of Joint Operations, Air Vice Marshal Gregory Evans AM DSC.

Military personnel honoured on Australia Day

On Australia Day 2008, 92 members of the Australian Defence organisation were recognised with Australia Day honours.

Some recipients in the following list cannot be identified for security reasons.

Companion in the Military Division of the Order of Australia:

Air Chief Marshal Angus HOUSTON AO AFC, ACT: For eminent service to the Australian Defence Force as Chief of the Defence Force.

Officer in the Military Division of the Order of Australia

Rear Admiral Rowan Carlisle MOF-FITT AM RAN, ACT: For distinguished service as Maritime Commander Australia and Deputy Chief of Joint Operations.
Major General Michael Simon HIND-MARSH AM CSC, NSW: For distinguished service to the Australian Defence Force in senior command and staff appointments.

Major General Mark Andrew KELLY AM, NSW: For distinguished service to the Australian Army in the fields of training, personnel and operations, in particular as the Commander of the 1st Division and as the Land Commander Australia.

Distinguished Service Cross

Brigadier Michael Peter CRANE AM, ACT: For distinguished service in command and leadership in the Middle East Area of Operations as the Commander Joint Task Force 633 for Operations CATALYST and SLIPPER.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael MAHY, NSW: For distinguished command and leadership in action as Commanding Officer, Al Muthanna Task Group Three and Operational Overwatch Battle Group West.

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony John RAWLINS, ACT: For distinguished command and leadership of Overwatch Battle Group West: Two in Al Muthanna and Dhi Qar Provinces, Iraq, during Operation CATALYST.

Colonel Mark Andrew SMETHURST AM, ACT: For distinguished command and leadership as Commander of the Special Operations Task Group during Operation SLIPPER Rotation 3.

Member in the Military Division of the Order of Australia

Colonel David Peter COGHLAN, USA: For exceptional performance of duties as the Deputy Commander, Joint Task Force 633 in Afghanistan and Chief Plans Officer at Headquarters Joint Operations Command.

Colonel Mark Graham FRENDIN, Qld: For exceptional service as Commanding Officer of the Pilbara Regiment and in senior staff appointments at Land Headquarters and Headquarters Joint Task Force 633.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Barry RYAN, ACT: For exceptional performance of duties as Commanding Officer of the 1st Reconstruction Task Force deployed to Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, as part of Operation SLIPPER.

Colonel Simone Louise WILKIE, ACT: For exceptional performance of duty in command appointments within Training Command: Army.

Air Vice-Marshal John Paul HARVEY, ACT: For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force and Royal Australian Air Force as the Program Manager, New Air Combat Capability.

Air Commodore David Ernest TINDAL, Vic: For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force and Royal Australian Air Force as Director General, Technical Airworthiness.

Conspicuous Service Cross

Captain Stuart Campbell MAYER RAN, NSW: For outstanding achievement as Chief Staff Officer (Operations) at Maritime Headquarters.

Commander Bruce James SHEARMAN RAN, ACT: For outstanding achievement as the Manager Logistics Data and Allowances.

Lieutenant Ben Martin WELLER RAN, NSW: For outstanding achievement as a Boarding Party Officer aboard HMAS SUCCESS in support of Operations RELEX II and RESOLUTE.

Colonel Brett Lawrence BILLETT, Vic: For outstanding achievement as the inaugural Director of Occupational Health and Safety, Army.

Major Kevin John CUTHBERTSON, NSW: For outstanding achievement in the field of explosive ordnance safety.

Lieutenant Colonel Dean Gregory FRANKLIN, NSW: For outstanding achievement as Commanding Officer of the School of Infantry and Senior Army Representative: Singleton.

Major David Charles HAFNER, Qld: For outstanding achievement as the Officer Commanding B Squadron, 5th Aviation Regiment and Combat Team Vigilance.

Major George Witold KOSCIUSZKO, NSW: For outstanding achievement as the Operations Officer of the Defence National Storage and Distribution Centre, particularly operations logistic support.

Major Wayne Leslie REED, Qld: For outstanding achievement as Acting Officer Commanding, Joint Movements Control Office Townsville and Officer Commanding, Joint Movements Control Office Darwin.

Major David Michael SIENKIEWICZ, Qld: For outstanding achievement as the Executive Officer of the 6th Engineer Support Regiment and as the Operations Officer on Operation SUMATRA ASSIST.

Warrant Officer Kevin James WOODS OAM, NSW: For outstanding achievement as Regimental Sergeant Major: Army.

Wing Commander Jason Werner AG-IUS, Vic: For outstanding achievement as the Officer in Charge of Aircraft Structural Integrity within the Directorate General Technical Air Worthiness.

Sergeant Gladstone Gerard BROHIER, Qld: For outstanding achievement as Maintenance Sergeant at Number 36 Squadron.

Wing Commander Ian Grant MURPHY, Vic: For outstanding achievement as Base Commander at Royal Australian Air Force Base East Sale.

Wing Commander Kenneth John ROBINSON, NSW: Outstanding achievement as Director Personnel Reserves: Air Force.

Medal for Gallantry

Major Daniel Sebastian CASH, Qld: For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances during operations against Taliban and Anti Coalition Militia while deployed on Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan, from June to October 2006.

Corporal Jeremy Thomas HOLDER, NSW: For an act of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances as a Medical Assistant within the Special Operations Task Group: Task Force 637, while deployed on Operation SLIPPER Rotation 3 Afghanistan, from May to September 2006.

Distinguished Service Medal

Corporal Benjamin James DALY, NSW: For distinguished leadership in action as an infantry section commander during Operation CATALYST in Iraq.

Corporal Bradley Ronald WATTS, WA: For distinguished leadership in action as a Medical Assistant with the Special Operations Task Group: Task Force 637, while deployed on Operation SLIPPER Rotation 3 Afghanistan, May to September 2006.

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Army vehicles in 'Convoy for Kids' rally



The Department of Defence and Serco Sodexo Defence Services (SSDS) collaborated to take part in this year's 'Convoy for Kids' rally, organised by the Eden-Monaro Cancer Support Group, which was welcomed to Queanbeyan by the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, Mike Kelly AM, on February 16. The rally is an annual fund-raising activity for the group, which was established in 1985 to support children and families living with cancer in the region. Eight Defence vehicles were entered in the rally, including a range of trucks, a gun carriage, an ambulance and a UniMog. The drivers of the vehicles volunteered their time for this event and are made up of Defence and SSDS employees. The picture above shows part of the very large convoy on its way. **INSET:** Part of the military contingent.

Defence Export Unit launched

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Procurement, Greg Combet, launched the Defence Export Unit on January 30 at the Pacific 2008 International Maritime Exposition.

The unit's work includes identifying future overseas opportunities for Australian defence companies and coordinating with other government agencies, including Austrade.

The DEU is headed by Mr Terry Whelan. For more information on the Defence Export Unit, access the Defence web site at:

www.defence.gov.au/dmo

RAN in exercises with Kiwis and French

Hundreds of Royal Australian Navy personnel from 22 ships were involved in the annual Fleet Concentration Period (FCP-08) in waters off Townsville and on the NSW south coast towns Jervis Bay and Eden from February 4 to early March.

The program involved assets of the New Zealand Navy and French Naval Forces stationed in the Pacific.

Study to check on health of East Timor and Bougainville veterans

As Australia commits more troops to Timor-Leste, the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowdon, has called on those who have served in the past to take part in a continuing health study.

The study will be of the physical, emotional and social effects of service in Timor-Leste from Operation Faber in mid-1999 through Spitfire, Warden,

Tanger, Citadel and Spire up until May, 2005. Undertaken by the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health (CMVH), the independent study will also approach personnel deployed on peace monitoring duties to Bougainville between 1997 and 2003 as part of Operations Belisi I and II.

CMVH involves input from the University of Queensland, University of

Adelaide and Charles Darwin University. CMVH will approach more than 12,000 current and former Defence personnel to take part in the Timor-Leste and Bougainville Health Study. The centre will also approach a comparison group of personnel who did not deploy but were otherwise eligible, so that the health of veterans can be placed in context.

Data on soldiers deployed in the Solomon Islands has already been collated.

Former and current service personnel and their families seeking more information about the DHSP can contact the Research Team on 1800 886 567 or by emailing dhsp@cmvh.uq.edu.au or viewing the web link www.uq.edu.au/dhsp

Australia Day Military Honours Continued from previous page

Distinguished Service Medal (Continued)

Corporal Wesley Dean WOOD, Qld: For distinguished leadership in action as an infantry section commander during Operation CATALYST in Iraq.

Public Service Medal

Mr George Ernest VEITCH, ACT: For outstanding public service in the field of financial management and budgeting.

Medal of the Order of Australia in the Military Division

Commander Stephen John BOWATER RAN, ACT: For meritorious service to the Royal Australian Navy in the field of Operations.

Lieutenant Commander Gordon William BURNS RAN, NSW: For meritorious service to the Royal Australian Navy, particularly as the Fleet Exercise Program Coordinator.

Commander Ian Arthur PICKERING RAN, NSW: For meritorious service to the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Defence Organisation in a variety of operational and support roles.

Chief Petty Officer Penny Valerie STONE, WA: For meritorious service as the Fleet Petty Officer Dental in support of Maritime operational capability, and for outstanding achievement in the development of Australian Defence Force Dental

Auxiliary operational training and new career structures.

Chief Petty Officer Peter James STRZELECKI, NT: For meritorious service to the Royal Australian Navy as a Marine Technician, particularly as the Senior Technical Officer aboard HMAS WOLLONGONG and Armidale Class Patrol Boat Crew ATTACK FIVE.

Warrant Officer Class One Robert Charles DAVISON, Qld: For meritorious service to the Australian Army in the field of Supply Chain Management.

Warrant Officer Class Two Roderick Edwin MASON, ACT: For meritorious service as the Australian Defence Force Academy Band Sergeant Major and as a member of the Australian Army Band Corps.

Warrant Officer Class One Graham Athol TURNER, NSW: For meritorious service as the Artificer Sergeant Major of the 162nd Reconnaissance Squadron and as the Artificer Sergeant Major of the 171st Aviation Squadron.

Wing Commander James Dennis HOOD, Vic: For meritorious service to the Royal Australian Air Force in the field of major capital acquisition associated with the P-3C Maritime Aircraft Upgrade and Airborne Early Warning and Control.

Wing Commander Anthony Michael O'LEARY, Qld: For meritorious service to the Royal Australian Air Force in the field of operational sustainment.

Squadron Leader Jeffrey Charles STEPHENSON, NSW: For meritorious

service to the Royal Australian Air Force in the field of base and operational health support within the Air Force Specialist Reserve.

Conspicuous Service Medal

Commander Stephen Peter COLE RAN, NSW: For devotion to duty as the Royal Australian Navy Environmental Manager.

Lieutenant Commander Jayne Vanessa CRAIG RAN, Vic: For devotion to duty as Deputy Director Navy Employment Conditions and Navy Pay Case Manager in support of Navy personnel.

Leading Seaman Sean Anthony CRYER, ACT: For devotion to duty as Executive Assistant to the Chief of Navy.

Warrant Officer Simon John KELLY, NSW: For devotion to duty as Officer in Charge of the Transient Personnel Management Cell and Establishment Warrant Officer of HMAS PENGUIN.

Petty Officer Shane Anthony NESBITT, NSW: For meritorious achievement as Second in Command of a Boarding Party aboard HMAS SUCCESS in support of Operations RELEX II and RESOLUTE.

Lieutenant Commander Philip Francis RIDGWAY RAN, WA: For meritorious achievement as the commissioning Engineering Officer of HMAS SIRIUS.

Lieutenant Peter Mathew RUSSELL RAN, WA: For devotion to duty as the Navigation Officer in HMAS ARUNTA.

Commander Neville Andrew TEAGUE

RAN, ACT:)Operation CATALYST.

Captain Gregory John SAMMUT CSC RAN, NSW: For distinguished performance of duties as Commander Task Group 158.1 during Coalition operations in the Northern Persian Gulf in direct support of Operation CATALYST.

Captain Peter Michael SCOTT CSC RAN, NSW: For distinguished performance of duties as the Chief of Staff Headquarters Joint Task Force 633 during Operations CATALYST and SLIPPER.

Leading Seaman Anthony Errol WESSLING, NSW: For distinguished performance of duties as an Assistant Battle Watch Captain and communications watch-keeper on the staff of Commander Task Force 158 during Coalition operations in the Northern Persian Gulf in direct support of Operation CATALYST.

Colonel Ashley Warren GUNDER, Qld: For distinguished performance of duties as the Australian National Representative in Iraq and Principal Staff Officer within the United Kingdom's Multinational Division South East.

Captain Nicholas Peter ROSE, NSW: For distinguished performance of duties as the Intelligence Officer of the Special Operations Task Group, Task Force 637, while deployed on Operation SLIPPER Rotation 3 Afghanistan, May to September 2006.

Colonel Richard Hugh STANHOPE AM, ACT: For distinguished performance of duties as the inaugural Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force 633 on Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan in 2006.

Australian Peacekeepers: an exhibition and progress for a memorial



This selection of pictures is from *Peacekeepers*, the photographic exhibition of Australian Defence Force peace operations in the past 10 years, opened last month by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance. The exhibition is on until May 4.

TOP LEFT: *A common language* — Captain Matthew Colquhoun doesn't need words to communicate with young local cricket enthusiasts in the earthquake-affected Dhanni region of Pakistani Kashmir, February 2006.

Photo: Sergeant John Carroll

LEFT: *Maintaining the Peace* — An Australian stands guard at As Samawah, Al Mythanna province, Iraq, as local youths look on, in May 2005.

Photo: Lance Cpl Neil Ruskin.

ABOVE: *Communication* — Signaller Anthony Hill, of Katoomba, NSW with local boys at Honiara, Solomon Islands, October 2003.

Photo: WO2 Garry Ramage

Minister praises peacekeepers' world role

A photographic exhibition of Australian Defence Force peace operations during the past 10 years was opened on February 6 by the Minister

for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance. The exhibition is on until May 4.

Peacekeepers draws on the photographic work of the Australian Army Public Relations Service Corps in Afghanistan, Bandeh Aceh, Bougainville, East Timor, Iraq and elsewhere.

Mr Griffin announced that he had approved a grant of \$10,000 under the Australian Government's Commemorations program *Saluting Their Service* to

contribute to the cost of the exhibition.

"We are committed to honouring the service of all Australians who have served in wars, conflicts and peace operations and this exhibition is an excellent way in which to acknowledge our most recent peacekeepers," he said.

"Australia has a proud record in peace operations since 1947, involving more than 30,000 members of the Australian Defence Force, police

forces, and government and other agencies.

"Our peacekeepers are often called upon to serve in situations of high risk, great instability and where the local population is traumatised [by its] experiences.

"They play a vital role in seeking to restore order and are respected for seeking to build relationships with the local people in the countries in which they are serving."

Memorial to peacekeepers planned for ANZAC Parade

Australian military, police and civilian peacekeepers have been involved in peace operations around the world for more than 60 years.

The Canberra National Memorials Committee has allocated a site for an Australian Peacekeeping Memorial to be built in ANZAC Parade, Canberra, to recognise the sacrifices and contributions of these peacekeepers.

The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project (APMP) is established as a public non-profit organisation under a

constitution as a business incorporated in the ACT. A committee for the APMP has been convened with elected office-bearers and representatives of the Australian Defence Force, the Australian Federal Police and peacekeeping veterans. Details of the project's vision, purpose, structure and progress are outlined on the APMP web site at www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au

The former Western Australian Governor and peacekeeper Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC, well-known

ABC presenter Ms Geraldine Doogue AO and the Australian Federal Police Commissioner, Mick Keelty APM, are patrons of the APMP.

The Australian Government has donated an initial sum of \$200,000 to assist in the construction of the memorial and has also approved deductible gift recipient status for donations that are made to the project, which means all donations are tax-deductible.

Other donors are shown on the web site.

The construction costs have been estimated to be \$3.5 million and it is anticipated that the memorial will be open by September 14, 2009.

A design competition is under way and four entrants have been short-listed to further develop their concepts for consideration in stage 2 of the competition.

For more information about the Project, to become a member of the APMP or to make a donation, please visit the web site.

Meanwhile, Australia's other military activities proceed as usual

RIGHT: Northern Territory Army Cadets keep communication lines open supervised by L-Cpl Jamie Akers (right) at Robertson Barracks, in preparation for the Chief of Army's Challenge. In the annual event, state and territory cadets vie for the national championship. They compete in physical fitness, Army values, military knowledge, first aid, leadership, endurance, telecommunications and basic engineering.



BELOW: Holland's Defence Minister, Eimert van Middelkoop, visiting Wide Bay training area, Queensland to meet Australian soldiers training for deployment to Afghanistan, is briefed by Bushmaster Infantry Mobility Vehicle commander Corporal Craig Batchelor.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Diggers give kids pencils and books after inspecting the construction of a new primary school while on patrol in Dhi Qar Province, Iraq. The school is being built in Al Salim village, to replace a primitive one.

BOTTOM LEFT: A Seaking helicopter of 817 Squadron, Nowra, conducts training aboard HMAS Kanimbla just after sunset off the east coast of Australia, in preparation for the Fleet Concentration Period.



Advice on medicines always available

DVA's Veterans' Medicines Advice and Therapeutics Education Services (MATES) gives news about antiplatelet medicines that help to prevent heart attack or stroke.

If you have a family member or a friend who has suffered a heart attack or a stroke and you are interested in finding out about which medicines can help prevent these conditions, the next module (Module 13) of Veterans' MATES program will help.

It contains helpful information on the beneficial use of aspirin and clopidogrel in the management of heart attack, unstable angina or when a stent is implanted.

Many veterans have suffered a heart attack or stroke and a brochure has been developed to provide them and their families with information about the management of these medical conditions and advice about ways of managing medicines correctly.

This information has been sent already to veterans who are taking aspirin or clopidogrel. However, people can access this information from the Department of Veterans' Affairs web site:

www.dva.gov.au/health/veteransmates

If you have any questions about how to manage medicines or other aspects of health care, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

It might be useful to take the Veterans' MATES brochure when visiting a doctor or pharmacist. Also, it is useful to write down any questions to ask them and take the list with you. Your

They didn't have much time left



HMAS Sydney II's crew parade at Sydney's Martin Place after Mediterranean victories, on February 11, 1941 — only nine months before their ship was sunk off Western Australia in a battle with the German raider Kormoran. Her hull was found this month, as was that of the Kormoran.

Navy picture

doctor and pharmacist will be happy to try to answer your questions about aspirin or clopidogrel or other aspects of your health care.

The Project Team is seeking feedback through ESO representatives in the Veterans' MATES Reference Group from veterans and war widows who

have received any of the Veterans' MATES brochures. Anyone willing to provide comments on the benefits or otherwise of these brochures should contact Mickey Michaelis at RSL ACT Branch, 13b Moore Street, Canberra ACT 2600; Telephone 6162 2670 or email to actrsl@netspeed.com.au

Children helped by RSL in Philippines

Activities of the RSL Angeles City Sub-Branch, in the Philippines, include trips outside Angeles City; the establishment of an emergency fund for members; assisting with Operation Smiles to help more than 80 children receive surgery for hare-lip and cleft-palate deformities.

Duyan ni Maria Orphanage benefited by visits of members, quarterly supplies of rice, clothing and medicines and vitamin supplements throughout the year and a visit by Santa Claus with gifts for each of the 50-plus children.

Membership has grown after a concerted recruiting effort. Australians and their Defence Force compatriots located at Angeles City have been joining the sub-branch and a new sub-branch in Subic Bay.

President James E. Curtis-Smith reports, "We have instituted a weekly chook raffle (without chooks) at Shano's Irish Pub (held on Saturdays at the present and maybe Fridays when the footy season starts) and the comradeship and involvement of the RSL in the pub atmosphere is very reminiscent of what we remember back in Australia. Needless to say the Charity Fund of the RSL is a grateful beneficiary."

For full annual report, email: michaelis@netspeed.com.au

41112 Major Reginald Bruce Dittmar (Ret'd)

OBITUARY

It is with regret that Gungahlin Sub-Branch reports the death of Bruce Dittmar, member of the Gungahlin RSL Sub-Branch, who passed away on February 9 aged 78. Bruce is survived by his wife Judy, children Jim, Percita, Joanne and Robin, eight grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Born on October 2, 1929, in Adelaide, Bruce enlisted into the CMF in Adelaide on September 23, 1948, serving with the 8th Transport Company AASC. He remained with the unit until June 2, 1950 when he discharged for an extended holiday around Australia. On May 17, 1951 he re-enlisted in the CMF and served until his transfer to the ARA on July 9 the same year.

Bruce joined the Regular Army in Adelaide, South Australia at Keswick Barracks. As he had enlisted as a fully qualified motor mechanic and had previous service in the CMF, he enlisted with the rank of Craftsman. In December 1951, within months of transferring into the Regular Army, Bruce was deployed to Korea as part of the United Nations response to the North Korean invasion of South Korea.

He served in a small Australian contingent of mechanical engineers in the 16th Infantry Workshop (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) as part of the 1st Commonwealth Division.

Conditions in Korea were harsh and, in the frozen winter months, mechanics had to heat their tools until they were so hot that they could only just hold them. They would then rush to repair or service the vehicles before their hands

began to stick to the freezing tools. At this point they would return the tools to the heaters and begin the whole process again.

Even though service in Korea was by no means easy, servicemen found time to rest and relax. Bruce was an excellent athlete who loved to run and he took great delight in competing in the Championship Unit Sports Day, coming first in the 440-yard (400m) dash.

After returning to Australia Bruce was promoted through the ranks. As a recovery mechanic he had a wide variety of assignments, including recovering a nuclear-contaminated tank from the atomic testing site and returning in to Woomera in December 1953.

In November 1957 he was promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2 and in January 1959 he was posted to Murray Barracks, Papua-New Guinea, where he was responsible for running workshop trade training and trade repair. In December 1960, the Dittmar family returned to Australia and in July 1961 Bruce was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 1.

One of the personal highlights of Bruce's service was leading the recovery team that supported Donald Campbell in his successful world land-speed record attempt at Lake Eyre in July 1964.

In September 1964 Bruce was commissioned with the rank of lieutenant at the RAEME Training Centre at Bandiana; and in 1967 promoted to captain and posted to Puckapunyal, where he became the first Officer Command-

ing of the newly formed 1st Armoured Squadron Independent Workshop.

When the Government announced the decision to send tanks to South Vietnam, Bruce led the advance party to Nui Dat on December 29, 1967. It was during his service with 1st Armoured Squadron Workshop that Bruce forged some very strong friendships and bonds with his men that remained until his passing. In July 1968 he was posted as Workshop Officer of 102 Field Workshop, 1ATF HQ in Vung Tau until his return to Australia on December 10, 1968.

In January 1969 Bruce marched into Bandiana as a workshop officer at the tank-rebuilding facility at 4th Base Workshops Battalion. From there he transferred to Ordnance Corps and was promoted to major, serving in the Supply Battalion at Bandiana until his discharge from the Army on the November 14, 1973.

He also enjoyed a long history of service with the RSL, having joined the Adelaide RSL Sub-Branch in 1953, transferred to the Albury Sub-Branch in 1969 and then the Corowa Sub-Branch in 1977. During his 15 years as a member of the Corowa Sub-Branch he served most years on the executive or committee, as president, vicepresident, welfare officer and assistant welfare officer.

Bruce was named Corowa Citizen of the Year in 1987 in recognition of his work in support of the citizens of his community, including his work with the League, Legacy, St John's Anglican

Church and the Salvation Army Committee.

In November 1988, in recognition of his tireless work in assisting veterans and their families, Bruce was presented with the highest RSL honour — Honorary Life Membership of the League.

In 1992, Bruce and Judy moved to Canberra "to retire". In 1999, Bruce transferred from Belconnen Sub-Branch into the newly formed Gungahlin Sub-Branch.

Over the last 55 years Bruce remained an active member of the League and was a valued member of our team right up until his passing. There's an old saying, "They don't make things like they used to", and that was so true in Bruce's case.

Bruce Dittmar, who served his country with pride and distinction from Craftsman to Major during his 24½ years of service in the CMF and ARA, was awarded the following medals:

Australian Active Service Medal 1945–1975 with clasps Korea and Vietnam; Korea Medal; United Nations Service Medal with clasp Korea; Vietnam Medal; Australian Service Medal 1945–1975 with clasps Japan and PNG; Australian Defence Medal; Long Service and Good Conduct Medal; and Vietnamese Campaign Medal.

Lest we forget

For more details contact the Secretary, Darryl Corbett, on 6242 5413 or by email at:

dmandjcorbett@optusnet.com.au

Busy team boosts veterans' interests

We enjoy a much-respected and heightened profile in our community. I believe we have the right mixture of priorities and are engaging very successfully with more relevant work of value to the veteran community.

The efforts of teams and individuals involved with the hospitals and home visiting, the continuing invaluable work of ACT State and Sub-Bran­ches welfare and advocacy officers, ACT State Branch trustees and those who also give their time so unselfishly to the Woden and Gungahlin day clubs are to be particularly commended.

It is also pleasing to see more of our sub-branches and individual members engaging positively with schools and colleges and a committed involvement on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

Many of our members are involved with these activities and they all truly deserve our support and assistance when requested.

I believe we are fortunate to have serving in RSL ACT State Branch the current members of the State Executive and our appointed State Secretary, Mr Davidson. They can be counted on to offer sound decisions not only on the more routine issues we deal with, sometimes almost daily but, most importantly, on the matters that are brought before us at the monthly Executive or State Council Delegates meetings on the more complex matters that arise.

I receive favourable comments frequently relating to the dedicated work they perform either as individuals or as a collective.

I sincerely thank your delegates to the monthly meetings of our State Council for their many decisions taken on issues raised there and for the support to our State Executive they provide.

Your delegates continue to reflect the views and directions sought by respective sub-branches to further enhance the over-all objectives of the League and the veteran community we all serve.

Fund-raising and investment portfolios

RSL ACT continues to enjoy success in fund-raising efforts and investment portfolios. We continue to set records each year among our sub-branches relating to moneys raised in our traditional fund-raising operations — the sales/donations of ANZAC Day pins and the RSL poppies for Remembrance Day.

Thanks are due in no small part to the insights, dedication, professionalism, loyalty and hard work of the many people of our State Executive and in our sub-branches over the last four years.

Among some ambitious long-term projects already in the pipeline and well under way are our financial management plans/portfolio and a property development project.

Regarding the latter: our feasibility study for the RSL ACT Community Village continues, required registrations and company details complete.

The excellent work of ACT State Treasurer Mr Michaelis is reflected in

For unselfish service



Photo: Dave Mills

At a morning tea at the Canberra RSL Memorial and Citizens Club in Moore Street, the State President, Mr Gary Brodie OAM, presented Australia Day medallions to Paul Bohun, Laurie Dillon, both of City of Canberra Sub-Branch, and Mrs Betty Mills, Woden Sub-Branch, for their services to veterans and their dependants.

Recruit a mate today

Increased membership is the life-blood of the League. Thank you for your individual and collective efforts throughout the ACT and overseas sub-branches to increase membership, which have had some modest gains. Still, we must do more.

There are RSL National strategies in the pipeline to assist the League's recruitment. Recent surveys suggest that for the post-Vietnam War period there are about 100,000 eligible recruits for the RSL who have served with the ADF in Australia, in overseas deployments and missions in war or as peacekeepers/peacemakers in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Sudan, the Solomons, East Timor, Bougainville and Cyprus. There are

hundreds of Australian civilian police, too, eligible to join.

Each of us might know personally at least one such post-Vietnam War service member who is eligible to join. All that is required is the commitment of each of us to recruit just one of those service personnel this year. The maths are simple — RSL ACT membership would double.

I seek a commitment by each of you to seek out the "just one" in the coming weeks — to make each welcome as a new member of the League and encourage him or her to become involved in our responsibilities and activities to assist our veterans and the ADF service community we serve.

the continuing investment strategies he has in place for our welfare funds management. Those strategies, now bearing results and evident each month, continue their initial justifications and we are now seeing the rewards for his efforts and the rationale he offered us to proceed with them.

State Congress date: Engagements already scheduled for State Branch, particularly for ACT State Secretary Mr Davidson and myself, are already indicating another very busy six months ahead in the run-up to the State Congress on June 13.

I represented RSL ACT State Branch for a **Forum of RSL State Presidents** who, together, are the RSL National Directors of the League. The forum, held in Sydney on January 21 and 22, was chaired by RSL National President Major General Bill Crews AO and included the RSL National Secretary, Mr Derek Robson AM.

These special forums enable the directors of the League, through their

joint discussions and state submissions, to enhance the operations of the League on a range of national and state objectives and strategies.

This is particularly so now a new federal government is in place.

RSL ACT members honoured: We also congratulate RSL ACT members who were listed in the 2008 Australia Day Honours & Awards:

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Rawlins DSC, City of Canberra Sub-Branch; **Colonel** Adrian Roberts OAM, Woden Valley Sub-Branch; **AFP Federal Agent** Vince Pannell APM, Peacekeepers' Sub-Branch.

2008 ANZAC Day planning: The committee meetings for the Dawn Service and the march that follows have begun, our ACT ANZAC Day Committee members already past the initial planning stage with our senior counterparts with the Australian War Memorial Ceremonial and Events staff.

Order of ANZAC Day March: Page 11

From the President's desk
RSL ACT STATE BRANCH



Gary Brodie OAM

Overseas sub-branches active

Overseas sub-branches under ACT responsibility continue to do some great things, such as the work Angeles City Sub-Branch in the Philippines is doing with the orphanages and the underprivileged people in that area.

The RSL Port Moresby Sub-Branch continues wonderful work in allocating scholarships and arranging for doctors from Port Moresby for specialist operations or clinical advice and studies.

The ACT RSL Branch has become increasingly involved with commemorative activities and nominating suitable people to serve on ESO Veterans' and ACT Government Committees.

From February 5 to 8 I was in Port Moresby for the **RSL ACT Port Moresby Sub-Branch** AGM and to take part as a trustee in allocating scholarships and welfare funding for continuing medical services to PNG and the 2008 requirements of the Wally Lussick OBE Trust Fund.

The trustees' meeting was chaired by the Australian High Commissioner to PNG, Mr Chris Moraitis.

Sub-Branch President Mr Joe Filipini, Senior Vice President Mr Rick Stanford and Treasurer Mr Garth McIlwain CBE were re-elected unopposed.

This highly regarded and hard-working sub-branch is respected throughout Port Moresby for its work among the expats and ADF personnel and the remaining surviving World War II PNG "carriers" who assisted Australians on the Kokoda Track.

With Sub-Branch President Joe Filipini I visited the beautifully tended grounds and graves at Bomana War Cemetery, outside Port Moresby. He briefed me on the 2008 ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Bomana.

The Office of the Australian War Graves, Canberra, can feel justly proud of the restorative work being undertaken at Bomana.

I attended the annual sub-branch buffet dinner at the residence of Ms Ann Harrop, Deputy Australian High Commissioner.

Among the official guests were their Excellencies Mr & Mrs Moraitis, the Rt Hon Mr Mal Smith, Governor of the PNG Eastern Highlands, Commander Peter Eluhh, CDF PNG and the Port Moresby Sub-Branch Executive and members.

military reading military reading military reading military reading military reading

Australia's interests in E. Timor's continuing crises

When Bob Lowry wrote his *Strategic Insight* on Australia's interests in Timor-Leste [ISSN 1449-3993] for the Australian Strategic Policy Institute in November 2007 he could not have foreseen the consequences of the recent assassination attempts on President Jose Ramos Horta and the Prime Minister, Xanana Gusmao.

As President Ramos Horta recovers from serious injuries in Darwin and Prime Minister Gusmao takes over a critical security situation with more Australian troops being sent there, Bob Lowry's paper assumes even more importance.

He concluded last year, "The path of cooperation assumes a functioning and effective state which the current UN mission supported by various bilateral programs is helping to resurrect.

"However, as the de facto internal security guarantor of last resort, Australia has a special interest in seeing that these efforts succeed.

"It should also be prepared to intervene if policy directions are likely to threaten the viability of the state, if it wants to avoid the cost to the Timorese and its own interests of another state collapse. ..."

Bob Lowry's prophetic concerns are a timely reminder of the fragility of nations in our region.

Remuneration Tribunal

The Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal made its 22nd report to the then Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations. The RSL is one of the organisations that seek leave to intervene in most matters coming before the tribunal. The tribunal reports that the need for more flexible pay structures and systems in the ADF has occupied much of its time over the last year. For more information call (02) 6257 3795 or email dfrt@dfrt.gov.au

Government publications

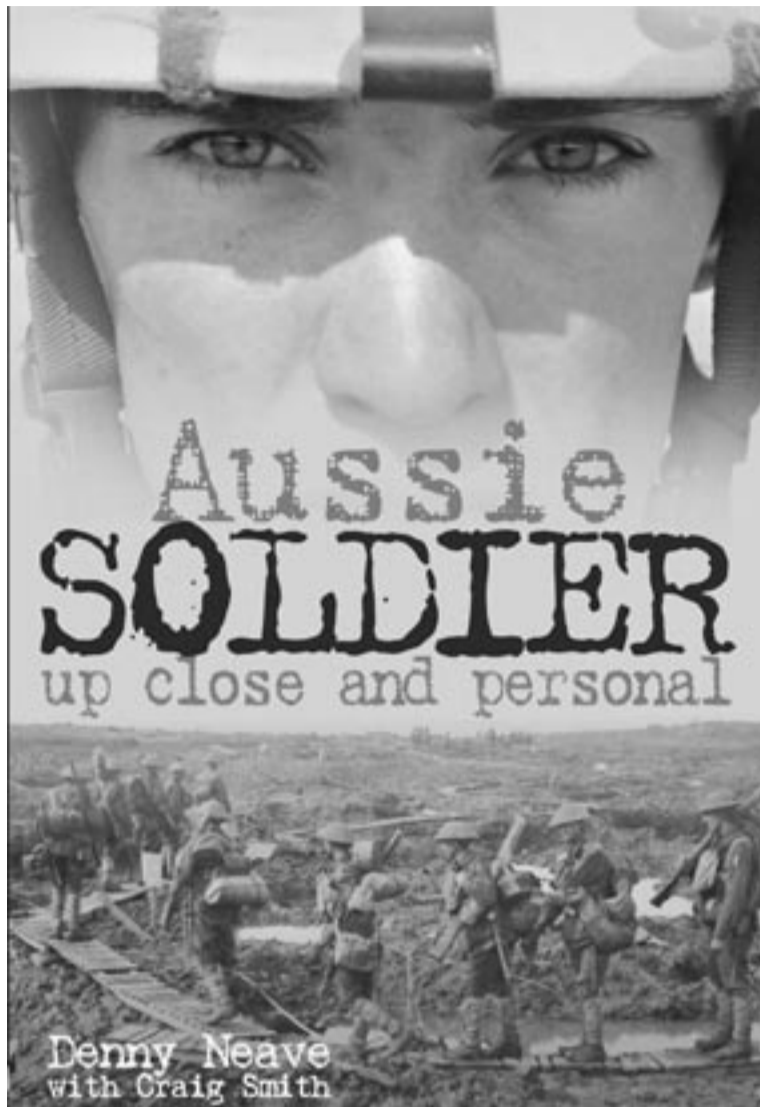
Stand To readers are reminded that a wide range of government publications, include departmental annual reports, committee reports, books and other documents can be obtained through your local federal MP's office or any of the senators representing your territory or state.

Terrorism trial prompts questions on forms of Islam at home

As *Stand To* goes to press, Australia is witnessing its first trial in Sydney of a group of nine alleged terrorists charged with conspiring with each other, and others, to do acts in preparation for a terrorist act or acts.

To complement the daily coverage — much of it sensational in the beginning then hard to find until the verdict — it would be worth revisiting an Australian Strategic Policy Institute Insight report, *Beyond belief: Islamism,*

Real soldiers, real stories



Aussie Soldier Up Close and Personal by Denny Neave with Craig Smith is published by Big Sky Publishing [ISBN 978 0 9803251-1-9]. It retails for \$34.95 and is on sale from March 1 at all good book shops or online at www.aussiesoldier.com.au

A percentage of *Aussie Soldier* book sales will be donated to Legacy.

The publisher's notes say:

"*Aussie Soldier* is a vivid account of the unique characteristics that shape an Australian soldier.

"Author Denny Neave has created an exceptional book featuring the personal anecdotes and experiences of Aussie soldiers from World War I to current conflicts. With the assistance of more than 200 Australian soldiers, *Aussie Soldier* provides up close and personal perspectives on what being a soldier means to them.

"A compilation of confronting, thoughtful and often humorous anecdotes plus excerpts from previously unpublished diaries and interviews, *Aussie Soldier* takes us from the battle grounds of Europe to the jungles of Vietnam and New Guinea, the desert sands of Iraq and Afghanistan as well as peace-keeping missions in Rwanda, Timor and Somalia.

"Author Denny Neave says, 'I wanted to create a book that personalised the Australian soldier and showcased the core values that make them do the things they do. *Aussie Soldier* isn't about the glorification of war or detailing military history, it's about recognising individuals and what goes through their mind and heart when placed in unimaginable situations. From the mundane to the heroic, it's the soldiers who are the main players in these events.'

"Created as 15 separate chapters, *Aussie Soldier* includes those focusing on the core values of compassion, mateship, courage, initiative, loyalty, integrity and trust as well as others on close calls in battle and diggers' diaries. In addition, a 30-page battle book provides an accessible snapshot of some of the major conflicts mentioned in the individual stories.

The anecdotes of Australian soldiers from 87-year-old veteran Captain Bede Tong, who served in World War II in New Guinea, including Kokoda, to Corporal David Hawkins, who served in Rwanda, Somalia and Timor, provide an insight that extends beyond the mainstream perception of the tough Aussie soldier."

History begins yesterday – and goes on today

We are advised constantly to learn the lessons of history, the suggesting being that we hark back to some vaguely similar event to work out how to tackle a problem facing us today.

The trouble is that history begins yesterday when it's not considered history at all.

Rod Lyon, Program Director, Strategy and International with the government-funded Australian Strategic Policy Institute, asked last August *Whither the Bush doctrine?* in an ASPI Special Report No.8 [No ISSN — access www.aspi.org.au].

Dr Lyon is of the opinion that whoever occupies the White House after George W Bush vacates it may well be forced to follow some of his policies on the war on terror — a vague, indefinite, catch-all description of security concern.

Writing months before the current Turkish-Kurdish conflict and in the then belief that the "surge" of more US troops would lead to US withdrawal, Dr Lyon has this to say about the next US president, "After the problems of Iraq, it would be no surprise if a follow-on president [were] more reluctant than Bush has been to commit US ground forces to open-ended missions in the name of democratic regime change but, given [a continuing] pattern of large-scale terrorist attacks around the globe, that succeeding president would be just as determined to pursue counterterrorism, including through military options, and would not be prepared to disengage the US even from troubled regions like the Middle East ..."

Welfare and the Aged

Two annual reports concerning welfare and the aged were tabled in Parliament before the federal election:

Australia's Welfare 2007, published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; and

Report on the Operation of the Aged Care Act 1997 for 2006–2007.

The 530-page Institute's report covers children, youth and families; ageing and aged care; disability and services; housing for health and welfare; dynamics of homelessness; welfare services resources; and indicators of Australia's welfare.

An online version of the report is at: www.athw.gov.au

radicalisation and the counter-terrorism response [ISSN 1449-3993].

Written by Anthony Burgin, ASPI's director of Research Programs, and by Queensland academics Dr David Martin Jones and Dr Carl Ungerer, this report was published last September.

In defining current terrorism — it is by no means new, as the Romans were well aware — the authors make the distinction between state-boundary wars and ideological wars.

They write, "Islamism seeks not only to expose the incoherence at the heart of secular modernity but to engineer an apocalyptic confrontation with it. ..."

They make the necessary differentiation between violent, political Islam and the broader Australian Islamic community.

Law enforcement agencies now have the difficult task of finding "home-grown terrorists" in a sea of law-abiding Australian citizens who practise

Islam. The answer, according to the authors, is for security, police and national leaders to reassure the majority of Australian Muslims that they can practise their faith freely and that they have a place in a pluralistic Australian society integrated into wider social networks.

This way, Australian Muslims are less likely to experience the rejection and alienation that Islamists seek to exploit.

BULLETIN BOARD and ANZAC Day March plan

Field Ambulance reunion

Second Field Ambulance Past Members' Association will hold a reunion in Adelaide on October 17-19. A full program of events is planned including a meet-and-greet evening (17th) reunion dinner (18th) and bus tour, AGM and BBQ (19th). If you were in 2nd Field Ambulance and would like to attend, contact Phil on 07 3869 0250 or dha09232@bigpond.net.au

Membership Fees

Membership Fees for 2008 of \$26.50 were due on January 1. They can be paid either through your Sub-Branch or direct to the ACT Branch Office at GPO Box 708, Canberra ACT 2601 (a stamped, addressed return envelope would be appreciated). Alternatively, you can pay by bank transfer to RSL ACT Branch General Account, BSB 082962, Account No 699114545. If paying by bank transfer, please include your name in the payment details.

Korea Veterans' Day

The president and members of the ACT branch of the Korea and South East Asia Forces Association of Australia invite all veterans of the Korean War to attend the Korea Veterans Day Commemorative Ceremony at the Australia National Korean War Memorial, ANZAC Parade, Canberra ACT on Sunday, July 27 at 11.30am. Please be seated by 11.15am. Dress: Lounge suit/uniform, with decorations and medals.

RSVP by June 27 to
Ceremonial Officer: (02) 6241 8587
11 Mawalan Street
Mawalan ACT 2913

Day club for seniors

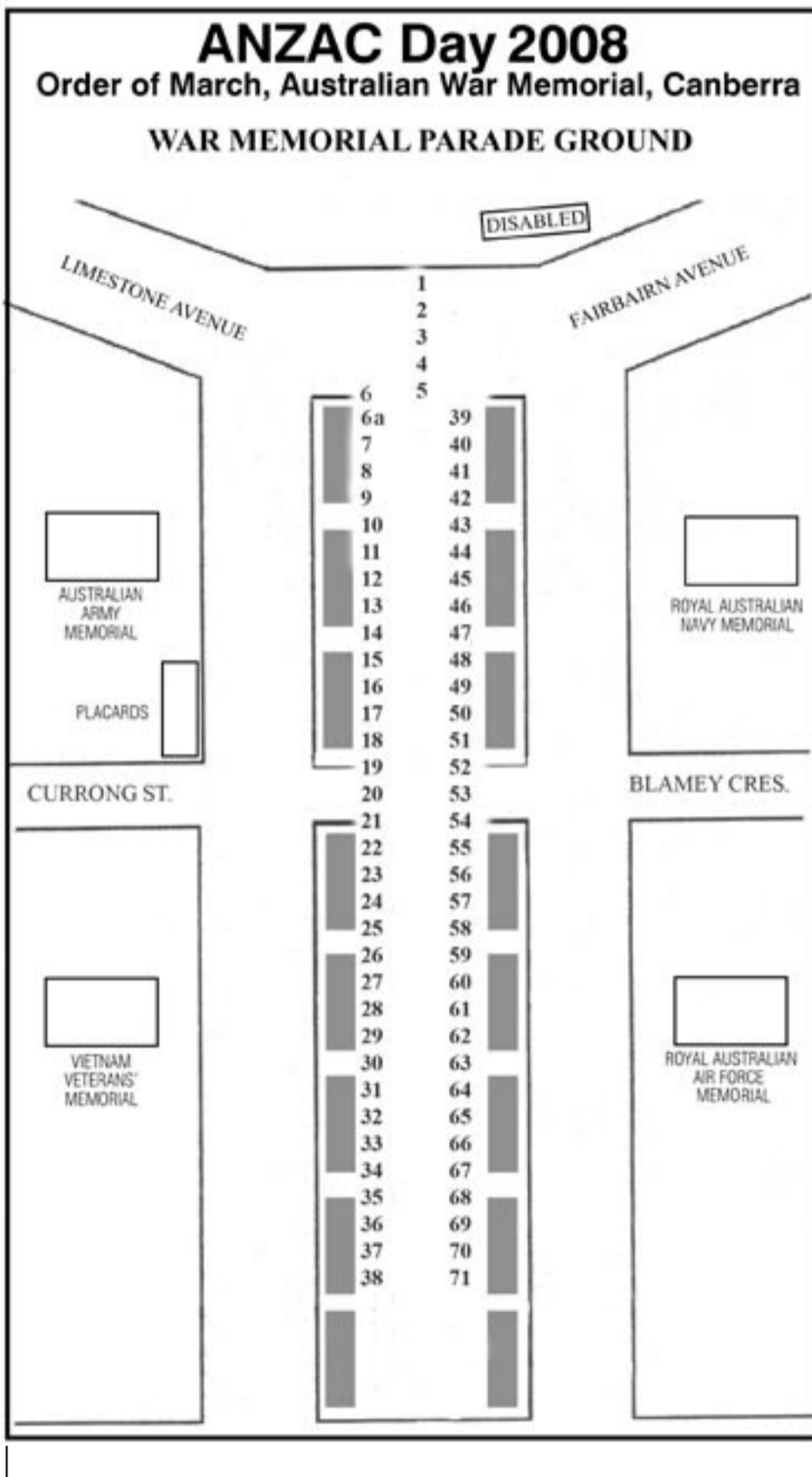
Every Tuesday at 10am the Gungahlin Day Club meets at the Gungahlin Lakes Golf and Community Club.

The Day Club is run entirely by volunteers with some support from the Department of Veterans' Affairs for the original set-up then NHW Gungahlin, RSL Gungahlin and the wonderful people at the Gungahlin Lakes Club for continuing support.

Activities begin with some gentle exercise, usually sitting down, accompanied by laughter and song—you are not pushed—you do as much as you want. Morning tea and gossip time follows; then come various games in group of 2 to 6. After lunch and the drawing of the raffle there are quizzes, entertainment and special events. The Day Club also has theme days—Melbourne Cup Day; Christmas, Easter Bonnet and Irish Day. There are also guest speakers on all sorts of topics plus bus outings to Yass and Braidwood.

For inquiries and bookings phone Christine on 6241 8587

Where to find your place in ANZAC Parade for the march



Choir on AWM duty — possibly New York too

The Australian Rugby Choir will continue to present a balanced male choir at all Australian War Memorial ceremonies, particularly those involving the dedication of unit plaques.

The ARC resumed operations on January 22 and has received bookings already for several choral performances, especially by the AWM, to perform at all Brumbies Games at the Canberra Stadium.

At the final ceremony in 2007 the Director of the Memorial, Major General Steve Gower AO (Ret'd), expressed thanks again for the valuable contribution of the Royal Military College band and the Australian Rugby Choir at these

ceremonies and the appreciation of the members and families of the units concerned for the musical contribution.

For the information of interested members of these units, *Stand To* will publish periodically a list of all future performances of the ARC, especially those at the AWM.

Musical Director Andrea Clifford received the Patron's Annual Award for outstanding service to the ARC. Her efforts culminated in the ARC's receiving a personal invitation from the British Musical Director of the massed male choir presentation at the Opera House last November to perform at Carnegie Hall, USA, in September.

Key to march plan as at February 13

RIDERLESS HORSE

- 1 Parade Commander And Party
- 2 Youth Flag Party
- 3 New Zealand
- 4 Royal Aust. Armoured Corps Assoc.
- 5 Forward Air Controllers
- 6 8 Field Ambulance
- 6a WWI Banner
- 7 Heritage Troop
- 8 WWII Navy
- 9 WWII Army
- 10 1939-45 Under 16s
- 11 Commando Association
- 12 Rats Of Tobruk
- 13 New Guinea Survey Section
- 14 WWII Air Force
- 15 Korea
- 16 HMAS Sydney – Escorts – VLSA
- 17 AATTV
- 18 1 Civil Affairs Unit
- 19 161 Reconnaissance Association
- 20 9 Squadron – RAAF Association
- 21 Vietnam Veterans' Association
Vietnam Veterans' Federation
- 22 Ex-Servicewomen's Association
- 23 Naval Association Of Australia
- 24 Fleet Air Arm Association
- 25 HMAS Perth Association
- 26 Submarine Association
- 27 RAN PTIs
- 28 Communications Branch RAN
- 29 WRANS Association
- 30 Royal Naval Association
- 31 Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery Association
- 32 Royal Australian Engineers Assoc
- 33 Royal Aust. Survey Corps Assoc
- 34 Royal Australian Signals Association
- 35 Royal Australian Regiment Assoc
7 RAR
- 36 SAS Association
- 37 Australian Intelligence Corps
- 38 Royal Australian Corps of Transport/
Royal Australian Army Service Corps/
Royal Aust Engineers (Transportation)
- 39 Royal Aust Army Med Corps Assoc
- 40 Australian Defence Force Nursing
- 41 Royal Aust Army Dental Corps Assoc
- 42 Royal Australian Army Ordnance
Corps Association
- 43 Royal Australian Army Electrical and
Mechanical Engineers Association
- 44 Royal Australian Army Pay Corps
- 45 Royal Australian Corps Of Military
Police Association
- 46 CMF And Army Reserve
- 47 Royal Australian Air Force Assoc
- 48 Airfield Defence Association
- 49 28 (City Of Canberra) Sqn RAAF
- 50 RAAF
- 51 RSL Woden Valley Sub Branch
- 52 RSL Tuggeranong Sub Branch
- 53 RSL Hellenic Sub Branch
- 54 British Sub Branch
- 55 RSL Vietnamese Sub Branch
- 56 RSL Peacekeepers Sub Branch
- 57 Malaya And Borneo Veterans Assoc-
iation & Families Association
- 58 Gulf War Association
- 59 East Timor
- 60 National Service Association
- 61 National Service & Combined Forces
Association
- 62 Polish
- 63 Netherlands
- 64 France
- 65 USA
- 66 Turkey
- 67 Australian Navy Cadets – TS Canberra
- 68 224 Regional Cadet Unit
- 69 Air Cadets
- 70 Australian Air League
- 71 Bands
- 72 Marshals

Schoolchildren and an author bring the ANZAC legend to life

Primary school kids' tribute in poetry

After the 2007 ANZAC and Peace Ceremony held in Eddison Park, in the Canberra suburb of Woden, 5th and 6th class students at Garran Primary School compiled a book of the ANZAC theme poems they had created.

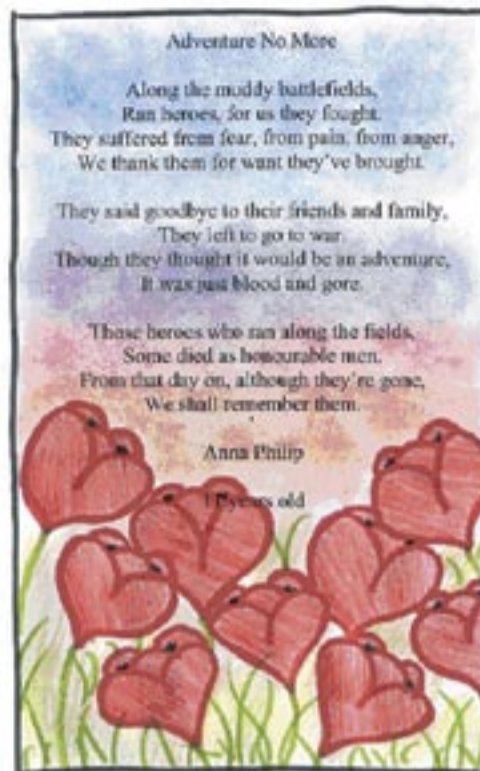
The book is striking and the poems and their presentation are deserving of high praise.

Some of the poems are displayed on the web named site below. They have been chosen not because they have particular merit above others but simply because they are among those that are more likely to display to advantage because of their colours and illustrations. Their titles are

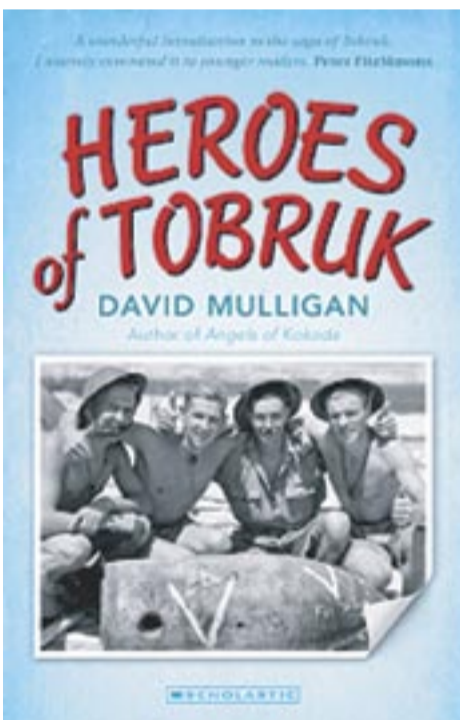
Adventure No More
Journey to War
The Woman that was Left Behind
War Brings No Glory
What is War

Please visit the web site below for all their valued contributions:

<http://www.rslwoden.org.au/Garran/20Primary/20Poems.htm>



Book's title says all that needs saying



Like Gallipoli, Dunkirk and Kokoda, the name Tobruk is seared into the memory of both the men who fought there — and their military successors.

David Mulligan has written a novel about this iconic Australian battle but it is one that has been researched thoroughly and includes maps and photographs as it traces the young characters' journeys through their ordeals.

Its publisher, Scholastic, describes it as a moving story about the horror of war and the courage of ordinary soldiers.

It has been endorsed by Peter FitzSimons, author of *Tobruk*, and has an introduction by Lieutenant General Peter Leahy, Chief of Army.

Radio Ron calling

Ron Metcalfe's radio show, focusing on veterans, is on in the ACT region on the first Thursday of every month at 9.15am and then again at 8pm on Radio One (1120 AM Band).

TRIBUTE TO OUR KIWI MATES

A Message from New Zealand's Minister of Defence, Hon Phil Goff.



"Tribute08 is an opportunity for us, as a country, to formally acknowledge the contributions of our Vietnam Veterans, apologise for the mistakes that have been made, and pay proper and fitting tribute to those who served. It will be preceded by the passing of a parliamentary resolution acknowledging Vietnam Veterans and a formal apology tendered by the Prime Minister. I encourage all Vietnam Veterans and their families to register for Tribute08."

Hon Phil Goff

THE TRIBUTE08 PROGRAMME

Tribute08 will be a commemoration and reunion event for all Vietnam Veterans and their families. It will be held in Wellington, New Zealand, over the weekend from **Friday 30 May to Sunday 1 June 2008**.

Friday 30 May 2008

Check In

9am to 11pm at the TSB Bank Arena, Queens Wharf. Collect Registration Packs and visit the EVSA and Tribute08 booths.

The Civic Welcome

From approx. 4pm at Civic Square followed by **The Beating of the Retreat** – at sunset.

Sub-Unit Family Gatherings

In the evening at the TSB Bank Arena and Town Hall

Saturday 31 May

The Tribute including:

The Honour March to Parliament

Gather at Civic Square from 8am and commence marching at 9am to arrive at Parliament at 10am.

The Whakanoa followed by

The Parliamentary Welcome Home

and the commencement of **The Vigil**. Inside Parliament Grounds, Molesworth Street, 10am to noon.

The EVSA Annual General Meeting

From approx. 1.30pm at the Town Hall, Wakefield Street. All EVSA members welcome. Light buffet lunch provided.

Theatre performances of 'Ka Mate'

Capital E Theatre in the Civic Square. Performances held at 2pm and 5pm.

Sub-Unit Family Reunions

From 3pm onwards and held at various venues.

The Tribute Concert

To be held at the TSB Bank Arena, Queens Wharf Saturday evening.

Sunday 1 June

The conclusion of **The Vigil** at 8am

The Memorial Service

Held at the National War Memorial, Buckle Street from approximately 9:30am.

The Commemoration followed by The Celebration

Held at the Basin Reserve, from approximately 11am.

Formal part of the weekend concludes at approximately 12noon on Sunday 1 June.

The Theatre season of **'Ka Mate'** runs from 14 May to 2 June and Veterans and families can attend a performance at 2pm or 5pm throughout the weekend.

The Vietnam Era Exhibition will be open over the weekend, with the full season running from 27 May to 8 June.

Please note that the special Accommodation Subsidy (see registration form) is available to all Veterans and their family members (including Australians).

Register for Tribute08 on the website or request a registration form by email or phone +64 4 499 4928

Tribute08

a vietnam
commemoration

honouring veterans' and
their families' contribution
to New Zealand

PO Box 11034

Wellington New Zealand

telephone +64 4 499 4928

facsimile +64 4 499 4604

mail@tribute08.co.nz www.tribute08.com

Australian Veterans and families are very welcome to attend.