



Official Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

Why do we Commemorate?

We each have different reasons for commemorating events that have molded our lives, and for some it keeps our lives busy. My father and my wife's parents both served in WW2 in the UK, and we remember them for their service. I had 8 uncles on my Dad's side and another 3 on my Mum's side, and of those 11, 9 served in the Army or Navy, with the remaining members serving in the Fire Brigade or Ambulance Service. Everyone did their bit to fight for freedom and democracy. If it were our turn, we'd do the same! Thankfully wars are becoming less "labour intensive", with the leaders now using greater technology to blast each other apart from a distance. It still leaves those who are left to remember those who aren't, and every ANZAC Day we light a candle for our departed loved ones. Some light a candle every evening, such was their loss.

We started as a nation commemorating the Boer War, then WW1 and WW2, Korea and the Malayan Confrontation, followed by Vietnam. There are numerous occasions when we think of those who went before us, and wonder if it was all worth it. It sure was!

9 January 2020

80th anniversary of the first contingent of the 2nd AIF embarking for the Middle East

29 January 2020

75th anniversary of the first Death March to Ranau in WW2

18 February 2020

50th anniversary of the Battle for Long Hai (Operation Hammersley)

Inside this issue:

19 February 2020

Bombing of Darwin Day

22 February 2020

25th anniversary of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda, Operation TAMAR.

22 April 2020

30th Anniversary Kibeho Massacre, Rwanda

24 April 2020

Kapyong Day (Korean War)

25 April 2020

Anzac Day

1 May 2020

75th anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Atlantic

1 May 2020

75th anniversary of the Oboe 1 landings on Tarakan, Borneo

5 May 2020

Battle of the Coral Sea Day

8 May 2020

Victory in Europe (VE) Day

8 May 2020

75th anniversary of the Battle of Wewak

10 June 2020

75th anniversary of the Oboe 6 landings on Balikpapan, Borneo

25 June 2020

70th anniversary of the Korean War starting

27 July 2020

Korean Veterans' Day

6 August 2020

105th anniversary of the Battle of Lone Pine

6 August 2020

75th anniversary of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima

7 August 2020

105th anniversary of the Battle of the Nek

9 August 2020

75th anniversary of the Atomic Bomb on Nagasaki

15 August 2020

Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day

18 August 2020

Battle of Long Tan (Also Vietnam Veterans' Day)

31 August 2020

Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day

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The Battle for Milne Bay Part 2

Allies

The first troops arrived at Milne Bay from Port Moresby in the Dutch KPM ships *Karsik* and *Bontekoe*, escorted by the sloop HMAS *Warrego* and the corvette HMAS *Ballarat* on 25 June. *Karsik* docked at a pontoon wharf that had been hastily constructed from petrol drums by Papuan workers, who had been recruited by ANGAU and who subsequently assisted in unloading the ships. The troops included two and a half companies and a machine gun platoon from the 55th Infantry Battalion of the 14th Infantry Brigade, the 9th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery with eight Bofors 40 mm guns, a platoon of the US 101st Coast Artillery Battalion (Anti-Aircraft) with eight .50 calibre machine guns, and two 3.7 inch anti-aircraft guns of the 23rd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery. Company E of the 46th Engineers of the US Army Corps of Engineers arrived on *Bontekoe* with airbase construction equipment. Some 29 KPM ships had escaped to Australia after the fall of the Dutch East Indies. They were manned by Dutch and Javanese crews, and were the lifeline of the garrison at Milne Bay, making roughly two out of every three voyages there during the campaign, the remainder being by Australian, British and US ships. Five KPM ships would be lost during the fighting in Papua.

Work on the first airfield, which became known as No. 1 Airstrip, had commenced on 8 June, with the area near Gili Gili being cleared by Papuan workers under the supervision of ANGAU and by US 96th Engineer Separate Battalion personnel. Company E of the 46th Engineers began working on it on 30 June. In addition to the runway, they had to build camouflaged dispersal areas for 32 fighters, taxiways and accommodation for 500 men. To support the airbase and the garrison, a platoon was diverted to working on the docks and roads. Although the channels in Milne Bay allowed deep draught ships to approach within 40 feet (12 m) of the shore, they had to be unloaded onto pontoons and the stores man-handled onto vehicles, a labour-intensive process. Three Kittyhawks from No. 76 Squadron RAAF landed on the airstrip on 22 July, while additional aircraft from No. 76 and also No. 75 Squadron RAAF arrived on 25 July. They found that only 4,950 by 80 feet (1,509 by 24 m) of the 6,000-by-100-foot (1,829 by 30 m) runway was covered with Marston Matting, and that water was frequently over it. Landing aircraft sprayed water about, and sometimes skidded off the runway and became bogged.



A Kittyhawk comes in to land at No. 1 Airstrip, guarded by a Bofors 40mm anti-aircraft gun of the 2/9th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery.

With No. 1 Airstrip operational, work began on two more airfields. Some 5,000 coconut trees were removed for No. 2 Airstrip, and the site was levelled and graded, but its use first required the construction of at least two 60-foot (18 m) bridges, so work moved to No. 3 Airstrip near Kilarbo. Its construction was undertaken by the 2nd Battalion of the US 43rd Engineers (less Company E), which arrived on 4 August. That day Japanese aircraft began to bomb and strafe Milne Bay, focusing upon attacking the airfields and the engineers as they worked. Four Zeros and a dive bomb-

The Battle for Milne Bay

Part 2

er attacked No. 1 Airstrip. One Kittyhawk was destroyed on the ground, while a Kittyhawk from No. 76 Squadron shot down the dive bomber. Following this, the Australians established a workable radar system to provide early warning. On 11 August, 22 Kittyhawks intercepted 12 Zeroes. Despite their numerical advantage, the Australians lost three Kittyhawks, while claiming four Japanese Zeros shot down.

On 11 July, troops of the 7th Infantry Brigade, under the command of Brigadier John Field, began arriving to bolster the garrison. The brigade consisted of three Militia battalions from Queensland, the 9th, 25th and 61st Infantry Battalions. They brought with them guns of the 4th Battery of the 101st Anti-Tank Regiment, the 2/6th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, and the 2/9th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, along with the first Australian engineer unit, the 24th Field Company. Field assumed command of "Milne Force", a task force which exercised operational control over all Allied air, land and naval forces in the area, but only when an attack was imminent. He reported directly to Blamey's Allied Land Forces in Brisbane rather

than New Guinea Force in Port Moresby. His most urgent tasks were of an engineering nature. While the American engineers built the airstrips and wharves, the Australians worked on the roads and accommodation. The small force of sappers had to be augmented by infantry and Papuan labourers.



The terrifying "Sharks Mouth" painted on the noses of the Milne Bay Kittyhawks struck fear into the Japanese on the ground.

Although malaria was known to be endemic in the Milne Bay area, precautions taken against the disease were haphazard. Men wore shorts and kept their sleeves rolled up. Their mosquito repellent cream was ineffective, quinine was in short supply and many men arrived without their mosquito nets, which were stowed deep in the ships' holds and took several days to unload. A daily dosage of 10 grains (0.65 g) was prescribed but Field's troops were told not to take their quinine until they had been in the area a week. By this time, many had become infected with the disease. The Director of Medi-

cine at Allied Land Forces Headquarters was Brigadier Neil Hamilton Fairley, an expert on tropical medicine. He visited Port Moresby in June, and was alarmed at the ineffectiveness of the measures being taken to combat the disease, which he realised was capable of destroying the entire Allied force in Papua. He made sure that the 110th Casualty Clearing Station left Brisbane for Milne Bay with a fully equipped pathological laboratory and a large quantity of anti-malarial supplies, including 200,000 quinine tablets. However, some equipment was lost or ruined in transit, and the danger from malaria was not yet appreciated at Milne Bay. The 55th Infantry Battalion's companies were already badly afflicted by malaria and other tropical diseases, and were withdrawn and sent back to Port Moresby in early August, but the garrison was further reinforced with Second Australian Imperial Force troops of Brigadier George Wooten's 18th Infantry Brigade of the 7th Division, which began arriving on 12 August, although it would not be complete until 21 August. This veteran brigade, which had fought in the Siege of Tobruk earlier in the war, consisted of the 2/9th, 2/10th and 2/12th Infantry Battalions. Anti-aircraft and artillery support was provided by the 9th Battery of the 2/3rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, the US 709th Anti-Aircraft Battery and the 9th Battery of the 2/5th Field Regiment, while various signals and logistics troops provided further support.

Continued next month

Captain Paul McKay The Disappearing Soldier Part 5

One close Australian colleague visited Scarface and sent a note to McKay's parents, along with a photo of the cross and the cairn in the shadow of the boulder. "It was a very quiet spot," he wrote. "Sadly I didn't find Paul there. I think I lost him a long time ago."

"He disappeared like he had disappeared off the face of the Earth," recalled Reverend Brian Douglas, McKay's pastor back in Canberra. "But really, he had disappeared before he actually left. He had gone to another place emotionally, which you couldn't reach."

Long before he ever set foot in Saranac Lake, Paul McKay was already gone.

END

Editors Notes:

I have been communicating with Mrs Angela McKay, Pauls mother, for a number of months, and she has graciously permitted me access to some of her thoughts and pictures of this very sad affair. Captain McKay's name and service are commemorated on a plaque at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra ACT, along with the names of our fallen from Afghanistan, and also the names of soldiers whose deaths have been attributed to their service in Afghanistan and Iraq..



Lee Scaggs and Scott van Laer at the McKay Memorial Cairn

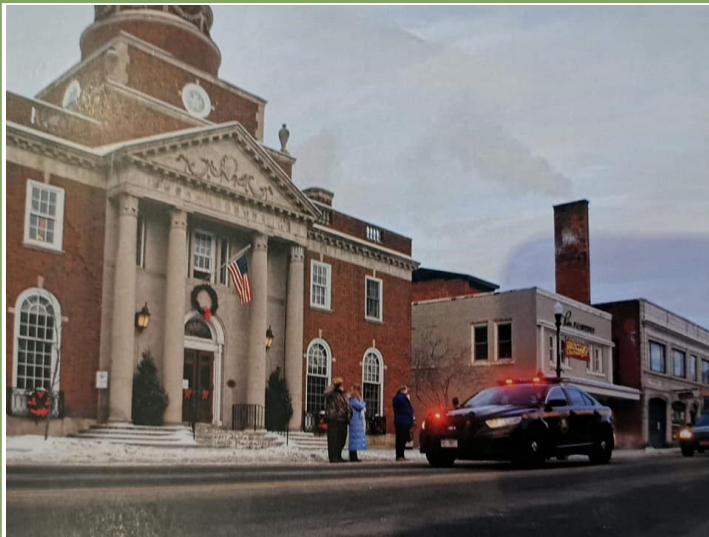
Mrs McKay adds, *"As a family, we have always stayed out of the limelight, but we do allow people to produce stories about Paul if it highlight mental health issues but I do believe that a good human interest story could be written about the small town of Saranac Lake. Population 5,000 it is located an hour's drive from the Canadian border and about 5 hours from NYC. On 30 Dec 2013 an Australian Army officer was in the town for less than 24 hours but he has left an indelible mark on the place and the people."*

I have included some photos from the day our son commenced his long journey home from Saranac Lake to Adelaide. The coffin was 45 minutes late leaving but people lined the route and waited in freezing conditions. Paul's coffin was carried by people involved with the search - police, park rangers, veterans etc. There was a US flag draped over his coffin which is an incredibly high honour to award to a foreign national. Everyone involved with the Catholic primary school came out and formed a guard of honour as the hearse drove by - pupils, teachers, admin staff and the parish priest, they were all present.

Contrast this to our son's arrival at the Adelaide airport where his body was deposited in the transport cargo warehouse of the domestic terminal at the Adelaide airport. 45 minutes later an undertaker rang me and said "I wish to advise you that I now have CAPT McKay in my care."

As I mentioned previously, every year Saranac Lake now holds an ANZAC day ceremony with a climb to our son's final resting place. The photo of the ADF members is ANZAC day 2018 which was very special because an Australian MAJ who was a friend of Paul's was on secondment to a hospital in Toronto and was able to attend, making him the first person who knew Paul to actually attend the ceremony. The other photo shows our son's memorial cairn (where he was found) on Scarface Mountain.

Captain Paul McKay The Disappearing Soldier Part 5



In the pic are Lee Scaggs (a Freemason, like Paul, he got up at 4.30am to arrive at Saranac Lake in time to make the climb) and Scott van Laer the park ranger who climbed Scarface Mountain from a different route and finally found Paul after 16 days of searching. He was actually on his day off but still continued searching.

The next photo is of Brad MacDowell, an amazing man and PTS sufferer from Vietnam. He wrote to us because Paul's death touched him so deeply. He lived in a log cabin on the shores of the lake and could see Scarface Mountain from his deck. Every morning he would stand and salute the mountain, he said, "I am keeping CAPT McKay's memory alive". We did meet him in mid 2014

and sadly he passed away in Mar 2017, aged 68. His sister found writings from him during the search and after Paul had been found and clearly it showed how much he identified with our son and how he envied him that he had finally found peace.



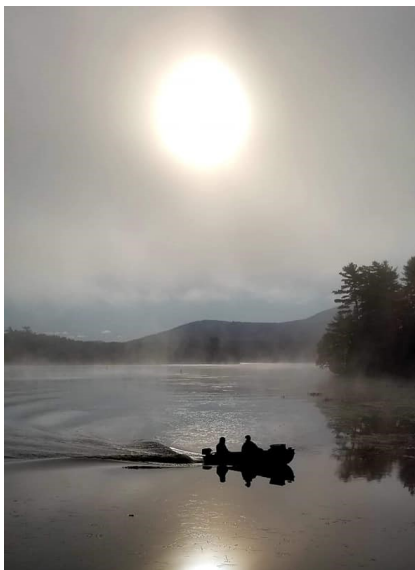
The Australian Officer on the left is LTCOL Sam Benveniste, next CO of 10/27 Battle Group

The final 2 photos are from a Saranac Lake local, Janet Simkins, we have never met but she regularly sends me photos because she and her husband live on the lake and see Scarface Mountain from their property. They think of Paul daily, The photo shows her husband and son heading off across the lake at

sunrise. They were Brad's neighbours.

After the climb there is a ceremony at the town's war memorial and then a fund raising luncheon which raises money to help this Rehab Centre. This is a new initiative by the Mayor, Clyde Rabideau, who believes that the ANZAC day ceremony needs to now not only include a climb to our son's final resting place and a ceremony at the town's war memorial but to also have a fund raising luncheon afterwards in support of the local organisations that help Veterans with

Captain Paul McKay The Disappearing Soldier FINAL



Saranac Lake local Janet Simkins lives in the shadow of Scarface Mountain. Janet and her husband think of Paul McKay wherever they look towards that area. The pic taken by Janet is her husband and son heading out on the waters of Lake Saranac

mental health issues.

For a town of only 5,000 people they do a simply outstanding effort at raising awareness of the mental health issues of Defence Members, and are now attempting to help them also in a financial and practical way. Simply wonderful people.

I actually spoke to Brendan Nelson (when he was Director of the AWM) about the town and believe that a display should be included in the new AWM complex to highlight the wonderful people of this small community who had an Australian Infantry officer in their town for 24 hours but managed to touch all their lives in so many ways.

This year about 10 veterans from St Joseph's Rehab Centre in Saranac Lake made the climb. All of them have at-

tempted suicide at least once. One of them was asked to write his own personal feelings from making the climb. You can read his comments [here](#).



Vietnam veteran Brad MacDowell salutes the area where Paul McKay was found.
Photo taken by Angela McKay

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Jim Grant May 2019

Anzac Day is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand that broadly commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders "who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations" and "the contribution and suffering of all those who have served".

The day is now also observed in Saranac Lake, in particular remembrance of Australian Army Captain Paul McKay who, suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, traveled to Saranac Lake and ended his life of Scarface Mountain.

On Anzac Day each year, members of the St. Joseph's family join a growing number of officials, veterans, and other residents of the extended community to honor Captain McKay's, and his family's, service and sacrifice. In the process, the day has become meaningful to Veterans in treatment at St. Joseph's Col. C. David Merkel, MD Veterans Residence.

This past week, Veteran resident, Richard S, climbed Scarface Mountain with a contingent including Captain Hinds and Sergeant Malcolm of the Australian Army to remember Captain McKay, and I share his thoughts below:

On April 25 of this year I was given the unique opportunity of participating in a hike to commemorate ANZAC day, a day Australian and New Zealand citizens alike recognize the sacrifice made by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps in the Gallipoli campaign of 1915 where over 10,000 soldiers lost their lives attempting to open the passageway to the Black Sea for Allied forces in World War 1. The hike also holds special significance for the community of Saranac Lake and Lake Placid as a member of the Australian Army, Capt. Paul McKay tragically took his own life on Mount Scarface where his body was found on January 15, 2014 by New York State Forest Rangers. The opportunity to par-

Captain Paul McKay The Disappearing Soldier FINAL

participate in this hike was an incredible honor and a very emotional one for me personally as Capt. McKay reportedly suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from his time serving in Afghanistan in 2011, a condition I suffer with myself from my time served in Iraq and Afghanistan from 1998-2001. During the hike I had the opportunity to speak with Capt. Hinds and Sergeant Malcolm of the Australian Army who flew up from Washington DC to take part in the hike as well as the ceremony held afterwards in Saranac Lake commemorating ANZAC day. They were able to explain the significance of ANZAC day to them and what having our small town and the veterans of St. Josephs participate in remembering Capt. McKay meant to them. Upon arriving at Capt. McKay's final resting spot, I was overcome with emotion at the realization that I was standing in the very spot Capt. McKay chose to end his life. Seeing that very spot and looking out at what Capt. McKay saw as he drew his final breath was incredibly emotional, a feeling I still remember to this day. Looking around at the sombre faces of my fellow veterans reminded me of the frailty we all have as human beings and especially as ones who have served in similar AO's (Areas of Operation), the sacrifice we all made during our time served. The tragedy of Capt. McKay highlights the trauma many of us endure, even years after our service has ended. The emotions I felt, as well as the emotions etched on the faces of my fellow veterans as we took in the moments shared with Capt. McKay on the mountain that morning are poignant reminders of the horrors of war and the debilitating effects of PTSD long after. I was honored to have been given the opportunity to remember a fellow soldier on his final tour of duty on Scarface Mountain and to share that experience with other veterans and can only hope that Capt. McKay's story is one that can offer a beacon of light to the hardships many of us endure on a daily basis and offer hope to those who may feel how Capt. McKay must have felt as he sat against that boulder atop Mount Scarface on that fateful day gazing into the abyss of despair and hopelessness. May his sacrifice never be forgotten and his story never lost. Jim Grant

Editor: The story of Paul McKay's final journey is one that I have included in this newsletter, as it highlights the ongoing need for the care and welfare of our service personnel not only whilst on deployment but also when they return and go about their daily lives. Our attempts to understand the scourge of PTSD are only just allowing us to reach out to these men and women and offer them the care they so rightly deserve. Paul McKay has gone down in history as a warrior who did more than he was asked to, but still his inner demons caused him to take his life when he obviously saw no other way out.

As mentioned previously, Captain McKay's name and service are commemorated at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra ACT, and rightly so. However, Captain McKay's family have taken steps to have his name added to the Middle East War Memorial at the Two Wells RSL, which contains the names of all the soldiers who were killed in Afghanistan, plus the names of two other soldiers who took their own lives as a result of their service.

After initially being given the go-ahead by the Two Wells RSL executive, the McKay's have been advised by the RSL SA/NT State Branch that "RSL policy does not allow for veterans who have taken their own lives to be included on Sub Branch memorials."

I have searched the RSL Constitution, Model Rules and Bylaws and cannot find any such policy, anywhere. The Premier of SA Mr Steven Marshall, being the Minister for Veterans Affairs has written to the RSL SA/NT asking them to review their decision in this case, but they stand fast behind their policy. (Which I can't find.)

Captain McKay's name and service are to be added to a memorial garden in Yungaburra, a small town of 1,200 people about 67 kms from Cairns on Remembrance Day this year. The McKay family will fly there for the service.

Since the above was written, RSL have done a backflip and formulated a new policy on 22 July 2020 advising that veterans who have suicided as a result of their service can now be included on Memorials within Australia. Sanity prevails, although its strange the "previous" RSL SA/NT State policy on veterans who have suicided being excluded from memorials, still cannot be found! (The new protocol is attached at Page 11 and 12)

Editor.

Letters to the Editor

Over the past weeks I have received many, many emails, phone calls and text messages about the sad loss of our Presidents wife, Cheryl. I have passed them onto Rod and his family, and have chosen to include just a few here, to indicate how our members are held in such high regard by the people we support in the ADF. Rod tells me he has had numerous calls which are really appreciated, and it is at these times that he feels the strong relationship between the RSAR Association and the battalion is really worthwhile.

David Laing—Editor

David,

Please pass on my condolences to Rod, after his own recent battle I can imagine how this will have struck him.

Regards

Craig

Craig Thomson

Warrant Officer Class Two

Operations Warrant Officer

NORFORCE

North West Mobile Force

Bldg 196 | Larrakeyah Barracks | Packard St

Darwin NT 0820

Good afternoon David,

Please pass my sympathies on to Rod. Very sad to read about Cheryl's passing. I met her a few times while I was posted as the 10/27 RSAR Adjutant and her and the association's support to the current battalion members was very appreciated.

Regards,

James

JD Hill

Major

OC Centre Squadron

North West Mobile Force

David

I have just seen the sad post about Rods wife Cheryl. I see the family would like a private funeral. If allowed by Rod and his family I would be honoured to represent the Battalion as I feel Cheryl was and always will be part of 10/27.

Deepest sadness

Mark

SGT Mark Blondell

PLT SGT

10/27 Battalion

2020 Presidents Report

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Once again, I have great pleasure and honour to present my Annual Presidents Report.

Our secretary has already provided a good coverage of events so I won't go over these parts again. (Page 10)

After my brush with cancer in 2019, I found our last AGM to be a real boost in confidence from the number of serving members, the band, and the words of support from 2 former COs in Graham Goodwin and Trent Burnard. The support I get from you all, keeps me going.

We continued to support the Band and they provided some fabulous performances around town.

The question was raised.... "What does the Association actually do?" We always say we're busy, but doing what?. So with some help from Signaller Foote, a channel 7 cameraman, we put together 2 short videos with interviews from the Band and also showing the committee packing and sending the Christmas packs for the deployed troops on Christmas Day. You would have read about it in Sitrep Over. We also featured our Christmas BBQ in the videos.

In January, the new RSM, John Craig, marched in. I met with him briefly before he departed to Kangaroo Island to meet the CO, and familiarise himself with the Battalion and their mission. His introduction to the Battle Group was literally an induction by fire. He has been a great supporter of the Association.

As David reported, we combined with the other Battle Group Associations and served a Friday BBQ to the families and those assigned to the Adelaide Hills fires. This ran very smoothly until the clean-up was almost complete. My wife noticed the young lady who brought the farm animals for the children to feed and pat, was packing up on her own and needed a hand. I offered and it was gratefully accepted.

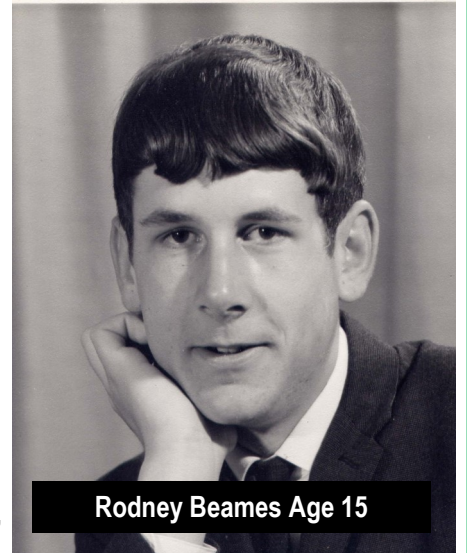
All the animals were in a temporary enclosure on the lawn outside the Sergeants mess and secured by one gate. The ducks, chooks and rabbits were first, carried by me and a couple of soldiers, while the young lady methodically packed them in the horse float. My wife became the gate steward, opening and closing as we ferried the animals to the trailer. What could possibly go wrong with that? Little did she know that the piglet and baby goats were quite up with this packing up routine and when they saw an inch gap in the gate, they bolted, leaving the gate steward, flabbergasted. What happened next was the funniest military exercise I think I have seen, 3 soldiers in cams trying to catch a pig, a goat and a lamb, they can be slippery critters when they want to be.

Anzac 2020 was different. Norm Tregenza came up with a good idea for promoting private dawn vigils at home on April 25th when in coronavirus lock-down. The committee will work on this further. We didn't march on Anzac Day this year but my doctor has given me the all clear for next year so I hope he's right.

There has been a lot of work done in the Battalion Headquarters at Keswick. Painting inside and out, rooms refurbished, and a new front fence. The RSM has plans to move the memorial garden we helped build and I support him with this. Any plans to privatise Keswick Barracks by Greek developers has gone out the window.

Coming up in the later part of the year, I understand that if circumstances permit, the Battlegroup will return to Kangaroo Island for a "Thankyou March" through the streets of Kingscote. The Association will be invited to witness this parade. There will be more in Sitrep when it comes around.

In closing, I wish to thank all the volunteers who help the Association with its activities, I refer to Colin Abel, Graham and Julie Elliot, Norm and Lyn Tregenza and many more. Also the committee, for all their support, in particular, our secretary/editor David Laing. It's been a trying year for all of us.



Rodney Beames Age 15

Rod Beames

2020 Secretary's Report

I start this report with one word. WOW!

So many things have happened since last August, it's hard to know just where to begin.

We started with a bang as bushfires engulfed NSW, Victoria and South Australia, devastating parts of the Adelaide Hills and almost wiping Kangaroo Island from the world map. Our gallant firefighters, professionals and volunteers, supported by soldiers from our own Battle Group fought the fires and then supported communities with the very daunting clean-up task. Our own Sgt Mark Blondell had so many photos and videos taken of his rugged looks his family had to buy a larger screen TV to watch them.

One man was on television more than any other, and that was Mark Jones, the head of our Country Fire Service. He led a team of dedicated and brave volunteers putting their own lives in danger so that many homes would be saved.

Tragically, lives were lost, but the toll would have been much higher without our emergency services.

Mark Jones is to be our guest speaker at our October 4th luncheon. I urge you all to attend what promises to be a very interesting talk. The Association responded by hosting a BBQ at Keswick for the families and friends of the Battle Group soldiers who had deployed to the fire grounds, and later another BBQ at Keswick to support a Battle Group training weekend. The Battalion asks, and we do. On time. Every time.

No sooner had the fires been quelled, a dangerous virus escaped from Wuhan in China and invaded the world. The Coronavirus has killed nearly a million people worldwide, with America now being the epicentre, thanks to fantastic guidance by their President. We are still under certain restrictions, and the experts say it will be years before we are back to any sense of normality. We still live in fear of a 2nd wave hitting SA, but are optimistic that we can do better than some other states.

We have recently provided "plaques of gratitude" (once again made by those marvellous guys at the Murraylands Men's Shed) to be presented by the soldiers of the Battle Group to individual people and groups who have helped the soldiers on the COVID-19 front line. People like the motel owner who allowed groups of soldiers to use his motel rooms free of charge, rather than sleep under canvas in the field, with temperatures around freezing. People like a local farmer who bought load after load of free firewood to the soldiers manning some of the lonelier checkpoints, and a rural coffee shop delivering free latte to the troops at the front. We support the communities who support our soldiers who support SA Health. A win, win situation by all accounts.

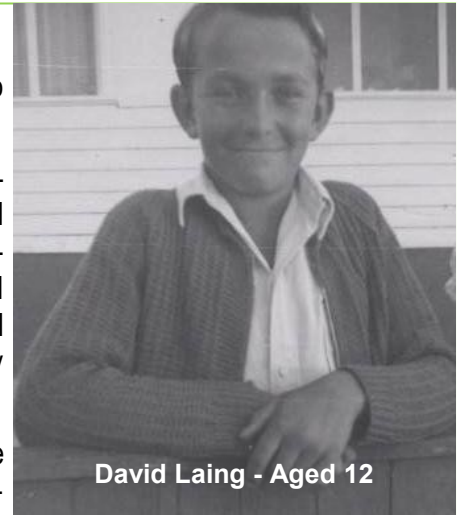
And during these uncertain times we lost some dear loved ones, including Cheryl Beames, who succumbed to cancer after a long battle. The RSAR family has closed ranks around Rod and family and given as much support as they can, all appreciated by the Beames family. RIP Cheryl.

Before I go into the last part I'd like to thank Rod Beames for his sterling efforts in maintaining our status quo. Rod has been through some extremely tough times over the past 18 months, so it is only due to his commitment and efforts that he has maintained in his role as our President that our relationship with the Battle Group has grown. Thank you Rod.

And to finish off this report, despite the Coronavirus our membership has been steadily growing, including a number of serving ADF members with our total now standing at 137, compared to 87 in August 2019. Amongst that number is LTCOL Sam Benveniste who is to take up the posting of Commanding Officer of the 10/27 Battalion Group in 2021. Sam is our newest Life Member, which shows the commitment of the Serving Members to the Association. In closing I'd like to thank the soldiers who have provided articles and photos for "Sitrep, Over!" this past year, particularly PTE Zach Normandale, and SGT Mark Blondell. It's these stories which keep the newsletter going. Thanks guys.

See you all at the AGM.

David Laing - Secretary/Editor



David Laing - Aged 12

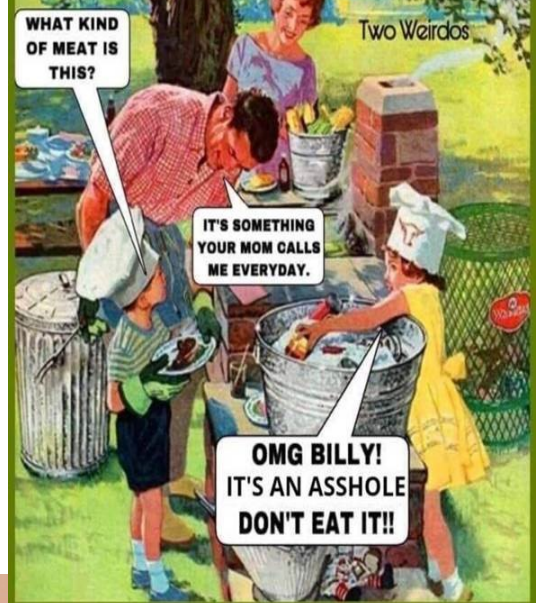
PRIVATE TED'S HUMOUR



"THE COMPUTER SAYS I NEED TO UPGRADE MY BRAIN TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH ITS NEW SOFTWARE."



DAD COOKS DINNER AND USES DEER MEAT, BUT DOESN'T TELL THE KIDS. DAD GIVES THEM A CLUE...



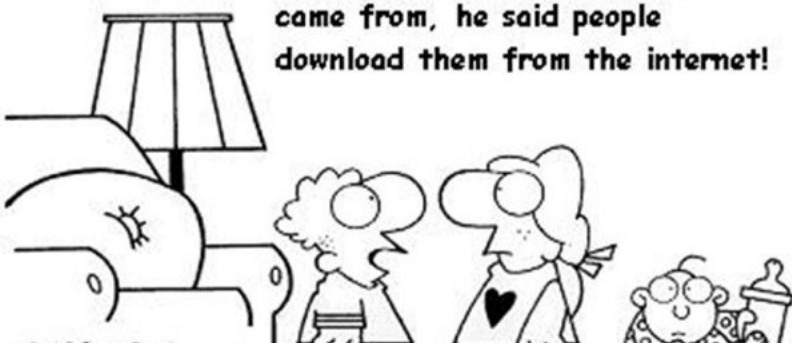
Perfume

© 1996 Randy Glasbergen. E-mail: randyg@norwich.net



"I want my husband to pay more attention to me. Got any perfume that smells like a computer?"

I asked my dad where the children came from, he said people download them from the internet!



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www.glasbergen.com



"My name was David, but that sounded old fashioned. So I shortened it to DVD!"

Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc.



Pro Patria

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Hard copies of this newsletter are kindly printed by the office of the Member for Barker, the Honourable Tony Pasin MP, in Murray Bridge.

Some members don't have internet access or email, therefore the only way we can keep them informed is by snail mail hard copies. This is made much easier thanks to Tony and his hard working staff.

Thank you Tony Pasin MP and Staff.

Fees and Merchandise can be paid by EFT through the following Bendigo Bank account:

RSAR Association

BSB 633 000

Acc. 1616 585 88

Cheques etc can be mailed to David Hope at:

**The Treasurer RSAR Association
Katoomba Rd**

Beaumont SA 5066

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ARE YOUR FEES OVERDUE?

EDITORIAL

The RSARA Annual General meeting is to be held on Sunday 30th August at the Avoca Hotel from 11 a.m. It is hoped for maximum attendance, however numbers at this date are low, so please register your attendance ASAP.

It is expected that Treasurer David Hope will stand down and make way for incoming serving member Christian Bennett. Chris has been "shadowing" David for most of this year and is now capable of managing our finances and fees. While we welcome Chris to our extended family we also say a very big thank you to David Hope for keeping us honest for the past 4 years.

The Secretary's job is once again up for grabs, but I don't expect to be swamped with volunteers wishing to take over my role. I'll keep on doing what I do until I can no longer keep up, then it will be up to you all to find my successor. Good luck with that!

I decided to "jazz up" the Presidents and Secretary's Reports a little with photos of a few years back. A couple of handsome young dudes, if I may say so? However.....look at the size of the ears on both lads? Like an African Elephant!! It made me curious, so after referring to Mr Google, it so happens that LARGER EARS in males increases wind resistance, and that's why you won't see any Olympic sprinters with large ears, but, on the brighter side, it increases HEARING capacity! What? Another interesting fact is..... Male ears stop growing during puberty, whereas the head and body increase proportionately until the mid twenties. Thank God for that! If not, Beamsey and I would look like the Elephant man by now! Imagine that? We wouldn't need air conditioners in our cars. We'd just flap our ears to keep cool!

Some time ago I asked for people to contribute to a new segment called "Where are they now?" I've had no responses what-so-ever, so I'm going to pick out some names and let you answer the questions. Sounds fair, eh?

That's what I think. Cheers

David Laing - Secretary/Editor



Protocol for the Inclusion of Names on War Memorials

RSL Australia Ltd, Protocol on the Inclusion of Names on War Memorials - V1 July 2020 Adopted by the Board at their meeting on 22 July 2020

The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd

1. INTRODUCTION

Australian war memorials have long been the focus of community commemoration of our servicemen and women. Each ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day local communities gather around memorials to commemorate those who served their community and their country in the defence of freedom. And given that the policy to repatriate war dead back to Australia for burial if possible was not introduced until 1966, war memorials were especially important in giving family and friends a focal point for remembering.

Regional war memorials come in a multitude of forms; obelisks, columns, gates, memorial stones and cairns, Honour Boards and Rolls of Honour. Because these are not 'official' memorials for which the Australian Government takes responsibility, it is up to the custodians of the particular memorial to set the inclusion criteria.

More than 90 per cent of local war memorials include a list of names. The criteria for inclusion of names varied. Sometimes only those who were born in or enlisted in the town were included. Other memorials listed those who were living or working in the town when they enlisted, or even those who became associated with the town after their military service. Only in Australia is it common practice to include the names of those serving men and women who returned as well as those who died.

For many years there has been debate and distress over who is eligible to be included on a local War Memorial.

Traditionally, committees were established to create memorials in recognition of the service and sacrifice of members of the local community who had served their country, and over the years the responsibility for the care and management of most of these Memorials has fallen to local RSL Sub-Branched and/or local and regional Councils.

More recently there has been much debate about the eligibility of serving and ex-serving members of recent conflicts who have committed suicide to be included on war memorials; especially considering the reluctance by some to recognise their suicide as being linked to their operational service. It has been reported that of the thousands of Australians who served in the ADF between 2001 and 2016, 56 died during deployment and another 373 died by suicide - an alarming statistic by any measure.

2. OBJECTIVE

RSL Australia recognises the long history of the adverse effect of conflict on mental health and that, while many believe the sacrifices of these serving and ex-serving members should be remembered, how best to recognise military suicides is a difficult question.

While the difficulty that some face on how best to commemorate military members who served in war and then died by suicide is understood, RSL Australia also considers that there must be equality in recognition of national sacrifice and that all traumatised by war deserve the nation's compassion and their families deserve the public's support.

3. ELIGIBILITY PROTOCOL

i. RSL Australia considers that recognition of the cause of death by suicide of serving members and recently returned veterans as being attributed to their service should be acknowledged as criteria for eligibility for inclusion on a War Memorial or Roll of Honour.

This aligns with the criteria used by the Australian War Memorial in determining who is eligible to be included in their Roll of Honour:

" AWM Roll of Honour

The AWM Roll of Honour records and commemorates members of the Australian armed forces who have died during or as a result of war service, or for Post-1945 conflicts, warlike service, non-warlike service and certain peacetime operations.

Post-1945 conflicts

To be eligible, an individual must:

- have died during service as a member of the Australian armed forces or the Australian Defence Force, or as a result of that service; and
- have died during or as a result of service in a conflict or operation either,
 - classified by the Department of Defence as warlike, or
 - classified by the Department of Defence as non-warlike, or
 - classified by the Department of Defence as peacetime, and which Council agrees is appropriate for inclusion in the Roll of Honour; and
- have died between the defined start and end dates of that conflict or operation; or as a result of service in that conflict or operation within two years of returning to Australia."

ii. RSL Australia considers that all nominees who meet the eligibility criteria should be considered for inclusion on a Memorial or Honour Board, but acknowledges that meeting the eligibility criteria does not automatically denote inclusion.

iii. The ultimate decision should reside with the custodians of individual memorials who should, before accepting any nominee for inclusion, conduct extensive consultation to ensure that the cause of death is service related.