BUSTED BUGLE

CARDIFF RSL SUB-BRANCH NEWSLETTER

June 2025

Sub Branch Executive		
President	Geoff Kelly	
Vice Presidents	Ray Kelly	Jamie Purdon **BEng (Hons), MProjMgt, MSc (FTE), MIEAust CPEng**
Treasurer	Ben Coutman **BBus, PGDAFM, CPA**	
Secretary	Gary (Mick) James **AssocDipEng (Struct) JP**	

Committee		
Des Abberfield	Gary Griffith	Derek Kenyon JP
Peter Sneesby	Jennifer Kenyon	

Trustees		
Paul Feenan JP	Geoff Kelly	Dave Rebetzke

Wellbeing Advocate Peter Sneesby **Hospital Visitor** Gary Griffith

Compensation Advocate Paul McGlynn MBA, MBus(HRM) MEd

Wellbeing Support Officers.

Desmond Abberfield	Geoffrey Kelly
Douglas Baldock	Jamie Purdon
Noel Hillier	Dennis Tarren
Garry James	

Editor Bugle Magazine

Paul Feenan BSocSc (JusticeStud), AssocDip (PolStud), JP

Cardiff RSL sub Branch RSL Auxiliary

Co-Ordinator	Kerry Forrrester
Deputy Co-Ordinator	Ruth Crawford
Secretary	Paul Brien JP
Purchasing Officers	Stella Brien

ON THE COVER

The statue depicts a Turkish soldier, known as a Mehmetçik, carrying a wounded Australian soldier on Gallipoli. This scene is inspired by a real incident where a Turkish soldier, during a temporary ceasefire, carried a wounded Australian officer back to his lines before returning to his own. This act of compassion and bravery highlighted the shared humanity between the opposing sides, even in the midst of intense conflict.

LAST POST

The following member of the Cardiff sub Branch of the RSL passed away from May 2025

A511346	Leading Aircraftman	Mark Leslie BROOKE	RAAF
L/F956995	Petty Officer	Allan FIELDING	RN
134424	Leading Aircraftman	John (Jim) CARTER	RAAF

President's Report – Winter 2025

Wellbeing at RSL NSW - Cardiff: Taking Strong Steps Toward Veteran Support

Winter is a time to gather, reflect, and support each other. I am proud to lead a sub-Branch that lives these values with heart, resilience, and practical care.

As the chilly months set in, our sub-Branch remains committed to wellbeing, connection, and practical support — creating spaces where veterans and families can come together, heal, and thrive.

Expanding Health and Wellbeing

Chair Yoga and stretching classes have helped members stay active and connected. To join, contact the Secretary. *"Joining has helped me feel supported and part of a community,"* says Chair Yoga regular **Noel Hillier.**

We welcome new member **Ian "Ruby" Murray** from **Saltwater Veterans**, offering **subsidised** sailing courses in Newcastle. The gentle rocking of the boat and fresh sea air bring calm, confidence, and camaraderie. If interested, contact the Secretary. *"For many of us, being out on the water brings peace and perspective,"* says **Ruby Murray.**

Coffee, Conversations and Community

Our Auxiliary's Coffee Catchups offer a warm space to connect. In May, 55 attendees shared stories and built friendships—vital for wellbeing. **Be sure to join us next time!**

Leadership Driving Progress

Geoff McLaughlin now leads as **Wellbeing Coordinator**, building on the foundation laid by **Peter Sneesby, Wellbeing Advocate**. We have eight Welfare Support Officers (WSOs), including **Des Abberfield,** who says: "*Wellbeing at Cardiff RSL is about community, connection, and care, small steps that make a big difference*."

WSO **Peter McMahon,** assisting the Compensation Team while progressing through Level 1 Advocate training. Ten members are now certified in Mental Health First Aid.

Honouring History and Volunteers

In June, a well-attended trip to Sydney's Kokoda Memorial Trail, organised by **Milla Sneesby**, offered members time to reflect and connect.

Cardiff's expanding veteran support was proudly featured in June ***Reveille***

magazine.

Congratulations to **Ben Coutman**, recipient of the 2025 NSW Seniors Local Achievement Award, and to **Peter Austin** and **Garry James**, now Directors of Cardiff RSL Club. Thank you to all our volunteers — your dedication fuels everything we do.

Looking Ahead

We aim to grow membership and services through our partnership with RSL NSW Community Relations Partner, **Jye Martyn** — strengthening the bonds that support our veteran community. **I am proud of what we are building, and excited for what is ahead.**

Warm regards,
Geoff Kelly
President, RSL NSW - Cardiff

"What could be more special than presenting your dad with an RSL NSW 50 Year Service Certificate?

Congratulations to Laurie Kelly for your incredible dedication to the RSL.

Pictured: sub-Branch President Geoff Kelly proudly presenting the certificate to his father.

Honouring Merchant Mariners: Newcastle's 30th Annual Memorial Service

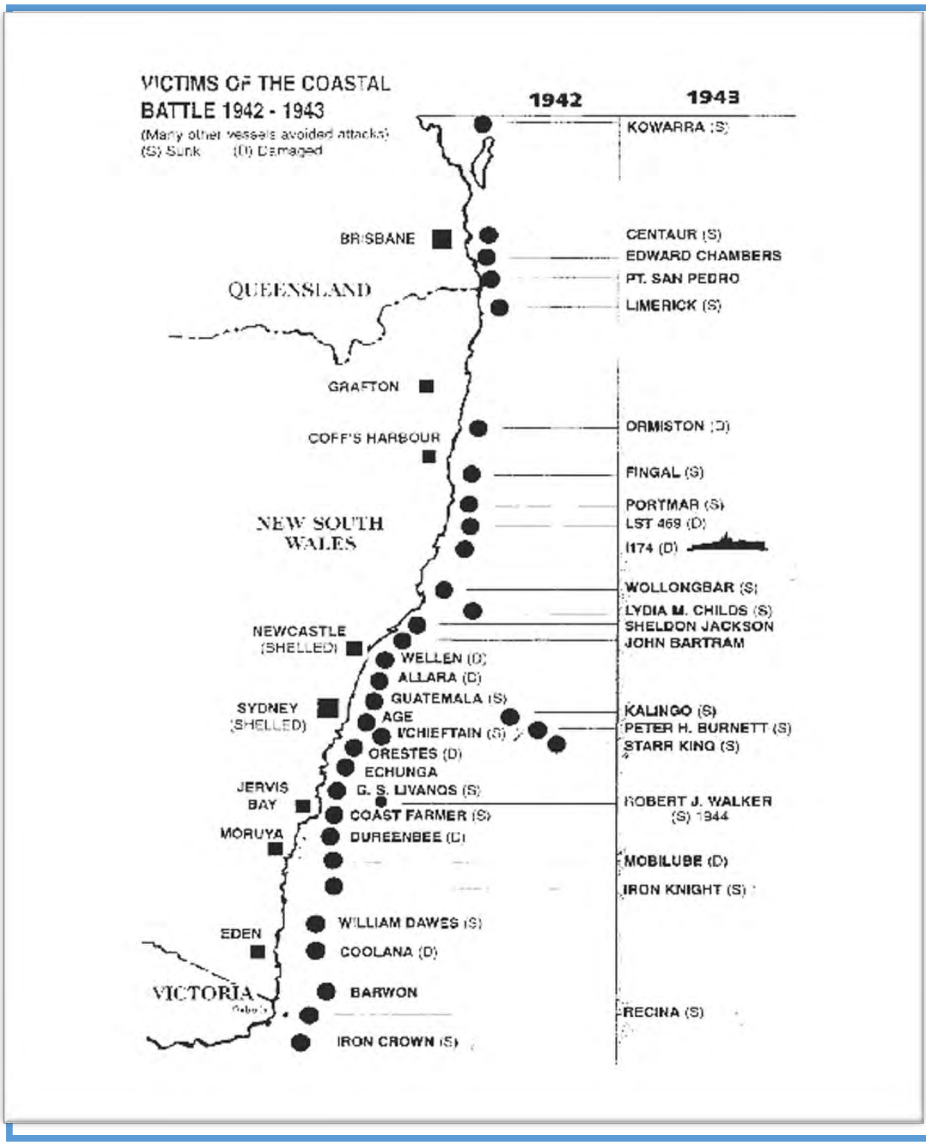
On Saturday, 7 June 2025, Newcastle hosted the 30th Annual Merchant Navy Memorial Service, a solemn tribute to the overseas wartime auxiliary fleet and merchant mariners who served during both World Wars. The event, held at The Mission to Seafarers Newcastle, bought together dignitaries, maritime industry representatives, and families to commemorate the sacrifices of those who kept supply lines moving through turbulent waters.

Originally installed as the BHP Memorial in 1950, Newcastle's Merchant Navy Memorial has evolved into a landmark of maritime remembrance. This years' service featured speeches by Newcastle MP Sharon Claydon, State MP Tim Crakanthorp, and delegates from the City of Newcastle, alongside industry leaders and union officials.

Cardiff sub-Branch was represented by Peter and Milla Sneesby with Don Urquhart.

Peter and Milla Sneesby with Sharon Claydon MP

Peter Sneesby with Don Urquhart



Mapping of the extensive shipping losses on the Eastern Coast of Australia in World War Two during 1942 –1943,

NEWCASTLE CRUISING YACHT CLUB

Ian Murray our sub Branch member as guest speaker informed the meeting about FRONT LINE SAILING, a program run by the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club for military veterans, first responders, and emergency service workers, The program provides sailing experiences offering a chance to enjoy the water, learn new skills, and experience the social and wellbeing benefits of sailing. Check with Ian or information from their website Ncyc,net,au/sailing-academy if you are interested in a great time.

Calling All Veterans: Experience the Healing Power of Horsemanship at Spur Equine

Transitioning to civilian life can be challenging, but at RSL LifeCare Spur Equine Program, veterans find strength, connection, and renewal through the power of horsemanship. Located at Spur Ranch in Picton, this veteran-led program offers a unique escape, where participants develop confidence, resilience, and camaraderie alongside fellow service members.

Whether you're learning the basics of horse handling, riding through scenic trails, or testing your skills in cattle mustering, Spur Equine provides an experience that goes beyond riding—it's about healing, personal growth, and rediscovering purpose.

More than just a program, Spur Equine is a lifeline, proving that sometimes, the best way forward is on horseback.

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RSL Lifecare Equestrian Program

Submitted by member Noel Hiller.

During the latter part of 2024 and early 2025, I had the pleasure of attending an Equine Therapy course held at Spur Ranch near Appin, NSW.

This course is open to veterans and an immediate family member free of charge including meals and accommodation. Travel to and from the venue is at the veteran's expense.

The program starts with a two-day familiarisation course. This takes everyone from step one on how to approach a horse, grooming and care, horse psychology and behaviour patterns and concludes with you actually getting in the saddle late on the second day.

Following the two-day course is a four-day session with revision of the two-day program and a lot more saddle time, mostly in the confines of the round yard but, hopefully, finishing with one or two walks through the obstacle course.

Those who successfully complete the four-day course may then be invited back for a five-day intensive which, again, refreshes the basics of the two and four-day courses but then hones your saddle skills with the view of attaining sufficient competencies to do an actual cattle muster.

I was hoping to write this report after having done the muster at a property

at Scone so it would be a full coverage, however Cyclone Alfred was about to hit when we were about to pack so we had to postpone for safety reasons. RSL Lifecare are yet to advise me of the new arrangements for muster.

Accommodation is in small self-contained rooms and meals are in a common kitchen/recreation area. The staff are all professional riders themselves and are absolutely marvellous with their patience and instructing skills. The area is picturesque rural setting and on the grounds of Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, a grand old set of buildings currently awaiting refurbishing. Adjacent is a Veterans' Care facility including self-care units and a modern Nursing Home.

I have absolutely enjoyed my four visits to the program. It is a wonderful opportunity for some down time while also engaging with some wonderful animals and great people (staff and veterans).

It's Like my Mum always said, "You may not be the dumbest person in the world, but you better hope he doesn't die".

Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway

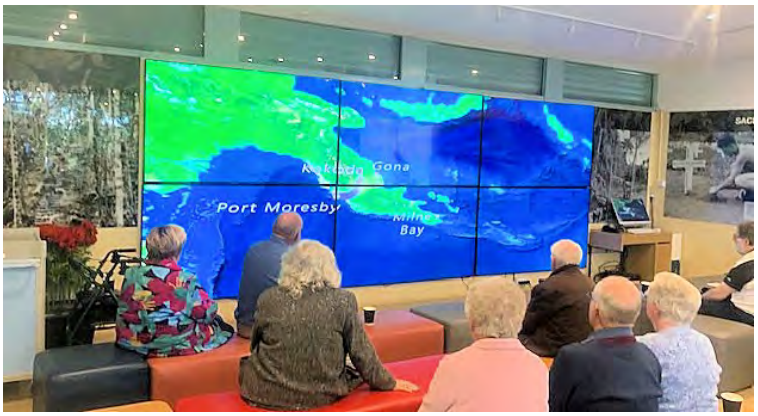
Tuesday the 10 June 2025 was the sub Branch trip to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in Sydney.

A living tribute to the soldiers who fought in the Kokoda Campaign during World War Two.

Located between Rhodes Railway Station and the Concord Hospital this is an 800 metre walkway that features 22 stations each commemorating a significant battle of event in the Campaign. The walkway is designed to reflect the conditions of the original Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea, with lush tropical vegetation and a granite memorial wall etched with images from the campaign. At its heart lies the Memorial Rose Garden, which features plaques dedicated to individuals and military units who served. The site also includes the Ralph Honner Kokoda Education Centre, offering educational resources and a digital honour roll of Australians who lost their lives during the Kokoda campaign.

Milla Sneesby our travel coordinator reports, *"It proved to be extremely emotional as well as educational and interesting. The tour guides were amazing in their knowledge and information. The presentation and graphics were exceptional. The human face behind war was put into perspective when the 102 year old Kokoda survivor told his story.*

The stroll through the lovely gardens was followed by a delicious lunch at the Briars Sports Club. A good day had by all."


Port Moresby
Bay

Australia's Involvement in the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) Since 2011.

Australia's involvement in the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) has been significant and multifaceted, spanning over two decades. This article explores the key aspects of Australia's military engagement in the region from 2011 onwards, highlighting the contributions, challenges, losses, bravery awards, and the eventual withdrawal of Australian forces.

Early Deployments and Objectives

Australia's military presence in the Middle East began in the early 2000s, following the September 11 attacks. The primary objectives were to support international efforts in combating terrorism, stabilizing Afghanistan, and contributing to the reconstruction and development of the region. By 2011, Australia had a substantial number of personnel deployed in Afghanistan, primarily in Uruzgan Province.

Key Operations and Contributions

1. **Operation Slipper (2001-2014):**

- This was Australia's primary contribution to the war in Afghanistan. Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel were involved in combat operations, training Afghan National Security Forces, and providing humanitarian assistance.

2. **Operation Highroad (2015-2021):**

- Following the conclusion of Operation Slipper, Australia continued its commitment through Operation Highroad. This operation focused on training, advising, and assisting Afghan forces as part of the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission.

3. **Operation Okra (2014-Present):**

- Australia's involvement in Iraq under Operation Okra began in response to the rise of ISIS. The ADF provided air support, training, and assistance to Iraqi Security Forces. This operation also included contributions to the broader international coalition against ISIS.

(Continued on page 13)

Challenges, Sacrifices, and Losses

The deployment in the MEAO was not without its challenges. Australian forces faced harsh conditions, complex combat environments, and the constant threat of insurgent attacks. The psychological toll on personnel was significant, with many veterans experiencing long-term mental health issues upon returning home.

Tragically, Australia suffered significant losses during these operations. Forty-one Australian soldiers lost their lives in Afghanistan, and two soldiers were killed in Iraq. Additionally, many personnel returned with lasting physical and mental trauma.

Bravery Awards

Australian service members have been recognized for their extraordinary bravery and dedication. Several personnel received prestigious awards for their actions in the MEAO:

Star of Gallantry: Awarded to individuals for acts of great heroism or conspicuous gallantry in action in circumstances of great peril.

Medal for Gallantry: Recognizes acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances.

Commendation for Gallantry: Acknowledges gallant conduct in action.

Victoria Cross Recipients

The Victoria Cross (VC) is the highest military decoration awarded for valour "in the presence of the enemy." Since 2011, several Australian soldiers have been awarded the Victoria Cross for their actions in the MEAO:

1. **Trooper Mark Donaldson:**

- Awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia on January 16, 2009, for his actions in Afghanistan. Donaldson exposed himself to enemy fire to draw attention away from wounded soldiers and assist in their evacuation.

2. **Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith:**

- Awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia on January 23, 2011, for his actions during the Shah Wali Kot Offensive in Afghanistan. Roberts-Smith displayed extraordinary bravery by storming enemy positions under heavy fire.

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3. **Corporal Daniel Keighran:**

- Awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia for his actions during the Battle of Derapet in Afghanistan on August 24, 2010. Keighran repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to draw attention away from his comrades and enable the evacuation of a wounded soldier.

4. **Corporal Cameron Baird (posthumous):**

- Awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia for his actions during an engagement with insurgents in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, on June 22, 2013. Baird displayed conspicuous gallantry and leadership, ultimately sacrificing his life while leading an assault on an enemy-held compound.

These awards highlight the courage and selflessness of Australian soldiers who went above and beyond the call of duty in extremely challenging situations.

Withdrawal and Commemoration

In July 2021, Australia marked the end of its military operations in Afghanistan, with the last ADF personnel departing the country. This withdrawal brought an end to Australia's longest participation in a foreign conflict. The Australian government and various organizations have since focused on commemorating the service and sacrifice of those who served in the MEAO.

Legacy and Impact

Australia's involvement in the MEAO has left a lasting legacy. The efforts of Australian forces contributed to the training and development of Afghan and Iraqi security forces, the disruption of terrorist networks, and the provision of humanitarian aid. The experiences and sacrifices of Australian personnel have also shaped the nation's approach to veteran care and support.

Conclusion

Australia's engagement in the Middle East Area of Operations from 2011 onwards reflects a commitment to global security and the fight against terrorism. The contributions and sacrifices of Australian forces have had a profound impact on the region and continue to be remembered and honoured through various commemorative efforts.

Is this the smallest RSL Hall in Australia?

submitted by Member Col Sanderson

Delegate is a small town in the Southern Monaro, close to the border with Victoria. However, although small, it has a significant military history of which the locals are immensely proud, and it also boasts its own RSL NSW sub-Branch, with what is claimed to be the smallest RSL Hall in Australia!

Delegate RSL Hall, 57 Bombala Street, Delegate NSW

Delegate was one of the NSW towns where a "Snowball" recruiting march took place in World War One. The "Men from Snowy River" march, following the lead of Gilgandra and its “Coo-ee “march. The Snowy River march commenced in front of the Delegate School of Arts on 6 January 1916, then went to Bombala via Craigie and Mila, before eventually arriving in Goulburn. They marched under a recruiting banner (above) which was is now in the Australian War Memorial.

Delegate sub-Branch was established in February 1932 with meetings being held in the Delegate Hotel until the sub–Branch’s Hall was officially opening on Anzac Day 1940.

The Argus Newspaper wrote,

"The building is in a good position in the main street and there is room on the land for it to be enlarged if desired later. The building is 20ft by 15ft and is of neat design, with a porch in front."

The Hall has never been enlarged, and members say, *"we are fortunate to have a decent sized grassed area behind it, for BBQs and the like”.*

RAAF Officer Training School Anniversary

Participants in the Officers' Training School 75th anniversary parade

In April 2025, the Royal Australian Air Force Officers' Training School (OTS) commemorated its 75th anniversary with a grand parade at RAAF Base East Sale. The event also celebrated the graduation of Initial Officers' Course 01/25, honouring the next generation of RAAF leaders.

Established on April 12, 1950, at RAAF Rathmines, OTS has shaped thousands of officers, instilling discipline, leadership, and resilience. Commanding Officer Wing Commander Samantha Couper highlighted the school's evolving role in fostering ethical leadership in an era of technological advancements.

The parade featured marching formations, formal inspections, and a tribute to alumni who have contributed to Australia's air defence. Current and former officers stood side by side, reflecting on the school's legacy while embracing its future.

The celebration was not just a milestone but a reaffirmation of OTS's commitment to training officers to lead with integrity. As the RAAF continues adapting to global challenges, the school remains the cornerstone of officer development, ensuring the force remains ready and resilient for the decades ahead.

Turning on your lights and siren after you lose a drag race is just poor sportsmanship.

The Red Sash

In the Australian Army, the red sash is a ceremonial item worn by sergeants and warrant officers during formal parades. Its origins trace back to the British Army, where it was once a crucial tool on the battlefield.

Historically, the red sash was more than just a mark of rank—it served a practical purpose in close-quarters combat. During intense engagements, senior non-commissioned officers were responsible for maintaining order and ensuring wounded soldiers were safely removed from the fighting. The long wool sash allowed them to drag injured comrades off the battlefield, while maintaining unit cohesion. In chaotic skirmishes, the sash also helped distinguish experienced leaders, making them easily identifiable to troops.

Made of red wool fabric with decorative tassels, the sash is now worn over the right shoulder, signifying leadership, and responsibility within the unit. Though its function has evolved, it remains a symbol of rank and tradition, carried forward through modern ceremonial occasions.

From sub Branch secretary

Incorrect and misleading information is being circulated online and directly to veterans and veteran organisations about the *Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Act 2025* (VETS Act) and what it will mean for entitlements from 1 July 2026. The Department of Veterans' Affairs website is the source of truth for information about the VETS Act, including FAQs and factsheets relating to specific entitlements and circumstances.

Veterans do not need to engage fee-for-service advocates (especially commission-based advocates) to get good advice and support in engaging with DVA processes. The VETS Act was developed in consultation with the veteran community, and DVA will continue to provide you with information.

Visit DVA's website for the correct information.

'It’s about pride and gratitude for what others have done.'

AWM Memorial article by Claire Hunter 2019

It’s the end of another long day in Iraq or Afghanistan, and an Australian sapper is helping his explosive detection dog out of its gear. They are both tired after being out on patrol; the dog lying on top of a rocky outcrop, its back leg dangling, its eyes level with its handler’s.

Standing nose to nose, they are equals, looking lovingly into each other’s eyes as they prepare to take a well-earnt break and play a simple game of fetch.

It’s a special moment between a soldier and his dog, immortalised in a bronze sculpture, titled *Elevation of the senses*, at the Australian War Memorial.

Scientists got bored after watching the earth turn for 24 hours so they called it a day.

The Australian Defence Force in the MENA Region: A Legacy of Service

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has a long history of involvement in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. From early 20th-century conflicts to contemporary peacekeeping and humanitarian missions, the ADF's contributions have been pivotal in promoting stability and security in this volatile region.

Early Involvement: World War One and Gallipoli

The ADF's presence in the MENA region dates back to World War One, with the Gallipoli Campaign being one of the most significant early engagements. Australian forces fought alongside Allied troops in a bid to secure the Dardanelles Strait, a campaign that has since become a cornerstone of Australian military history and identity.

Peacekeeping Missions: Arab Deterrent Force

In the late 20th century, the ADF participated in various peacekeeping missions. One notable example is the Arab Deterrent Force, an international peacekeeping force created by the Arab League in 1976 to stabilize Lebanon during its civil war. Although primarily composed of Syrian forces, the ADF's involvement in such missions underscores Australia's commitment to international peace and security.

Gulf War (1990-1991)

The Gulf War marked a significant chapter in the ADF's history in the MENA region. Australian naval and air units were deployed as part of the coalition forces to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. This operation demonstrated Australia's readiness to support international efforts to uphold global security.

Iraq War (2003)

In 2003, the ADF played a crucial role in the Iraq War. Australian forces

(Continued on page 20)

participated in the initial invasion and subsequent stabilization efforts. The ADF's contributions included special forces, naval units, and air support, highlighting Australia's commitment to the coalition forces led by the United States.

Operation Accordion

Operation Accordion is the ADF's support mission for all activities in the Middle East region. This operation enables contingency planning and enhances regional relationships. ADF personnel assigned to Operation Accordion provide support to Australian operations and activities throughout the region, including communications, administration, logistics, airbase operations, and command and control.

Operation Okra

Established in 2014, Operation Okra was Australia's contribution to the international coalition against Daesh in Iraq and Syria. More than 4,800 ADF personnel were deployed as part of this operation, which included an Air Task Group, Task Group Taji, a Special Operations Task Group, and personnel embedded in coalition positions. Operation Okra significantly enhanced the Iraqi Security Forces' ability to independently undertake operations against Daesh.

Humanitarian Assistance: Operation Beech

In response to the recent Middle East conflict, the Australian Government deployed ADF personnel and aircraft as part of Operation Beech. This operation involved Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) personnel, alongside other coalition forces, in providing humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

The big news out of Macquarie Street is the 2025-2026 State Budget.

Our region needs significant investment in public infrastructure and services to manage the growing number of people calling Lake Macquarie home.

The biggest win for us was the extra $5 million committed to the upgrade of Speers Point roundabout, bringing total funding for the project to $16 million.

The additional funding demonstrates the Government's commitment to finally delivering much needed upgrades to this notorious bottleneck. Planned upgrades will add capacity and improve the traffic flow through the roundabout to make journeys safer and more reliable.

I have made it clear to Transport for NSW that getting construction underway is a priority – $16 million for this project is fantastic, but the upgrades must now be delivered. I have had good discussions with Transport and the Minister for Roads about progress on the project.

Other key Budget announcements for Lake Macquarie include:

$2 million for the continued development of the $76 million Mandalong Road upgrade, which is being co-funded by the State and Federal Governments.

$3.8 million for social housing, including new supply for the Modular Homes pilot and upgrades to existing social housing stock.

$40 million confirmed for the Morisset Sports Facility project, with $700,000 allocated in the coming year.

There are, of course, many other local projects which need funding. I will continue to pursue these priorities with the relevant Ministers. The NSW Government must invest in Lake Macquarie if it expects our region to support housing targets and continued growth.

If you have questions or issues with State Government matters, you can contact my Electorate Office. My wonderful staff also offer JP services and can arrange congratulatory messages for significant anniversaries and birthdays. Please visit us at 126A Cary Street, Toronto, or phone: 4953 3200, or email: lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Kind regards

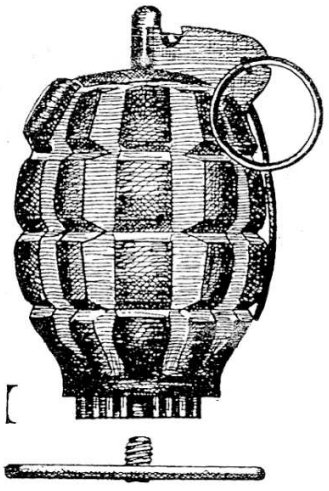
The Anzac class frigates

Are a series of warships built for the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN). These frigates are designed for a variety of roles, including air defence, surface and undersea warfare, surveillance, reconnaissance, and interdiction.

They are based on the German MEKO 200 design with construction from 1992 to 2006. Eight were build for the RAN and two for the RNZ The Anzac class frigates have been in service since 1996 and continue to be a vital part of the RAN's fleet.

William Mills – inventor of the Mills hand Grenade.

The Mills bomb, also known as the No.36 grenade, was the primary hand grenade used by British and Imperial forces during World War One, invented by Sir William Mills in 1915.



Prior to its invention, soldiers made grenades themselves, often resulting in danger to the thrower. Mills' design featured a spring-loaded firing pin and a four-second fuse, leading to its widespread use with 75 million units supplied during the Great War.

The grenade remained effective and was used by British and Commonwealth forces until 2004, earning Mills a knighthood in 1922 for his contributions. Before this, Mills had established an aluminium foundry and produced early aluminium golf clubs, showcasing his engineering background and interests.

Did you know...

Bob The Builder and Jack The Ripper have the same middle name.

Stolen Hero's medals replaced

In May 2025 Deputy Surgeon General ADF and Head of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, Brigadier Isaac Seidl, presents Sir 'Weary' Dunlop's granddaughter, Diana, with a set of miniature medals.

Colonel Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop was one of Australia's most famous military surgeons who became a prisoner of war in 1942 and continued to advocate for veterans in post-war service. Although he passed away in 1993, his legacy remains strong. In December 2022, thieves broke into his granddaughter's home in Melbourne and stole a safe containing his war medals and personal letters. These items were never recovered.

Weary as Australian of the year

However, in 2025, Defence Honours and Awards replaced the medals and presented them to his family. During this process, it was discovered that Dunlop qualified for several other awards that had never been formally awarded.

Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop was an Australian surgeon, soldier, and war hero whose legacy endures as a symbol of courage, compassion, and leadership.

Born in 1907 in Wangaratta, Victoria, Dunlop initially trained as a pharmacist before studying medicine at the University of Melbourne.

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Statue in front of the AWM Canberra

His nickname, "Weary," was a playful reference to Dunlop tyres, as "weary" was slang for worn-out tyres.

Despite the nickname, Dunlop was known for his tireless dedication, strength, and resilience, especially during World War Two, when serving in the Australian Army Medical Corps he became a prisoner of the Japanese.

In the camps he played a pivotal role in caring for fellow POWs, particularly on the infamous Thai-Burma Railway, where brutal conditions claimed countless lives.

His leadership, medical expertise, and unwavering dedication saved the lives of many prisoners, earning him profound respect and admiration.

Dunlop was knighted in 1969, receiving the title of Knight Bachelor in recognition of his extraordinary service. Later, he was also named a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC), and in 1976 he was named the Australian of the year, further cementing his place as a national icon.

His contributions are honoured through various memorials, including a statue at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, created by Peter Corlett in 1995. The sculpture pays tribute to Australian doctors and medical staff who served prisoners of war in the Asia-Pacific region during World War Two.

It portrays Dunlop as a humble and gentle figure, reflecting his lifelong dedication to humanity.

Dunlop passed away in 1993, but his legacy remains strong in Australia.

Was she born to be an author?

An award winning author having sold over one million copies world-wide. Her name Page TURNER.

The Most Decorated Tank Crew of World War One

An early Mark IV tank

In 1917, during the Battle of Passchendaele, the British tank corps was still in its infancy, using the newly developed Mark IV tank. These tanks were often large, cumbersome, and prone to malfunction. One particular tank became disabled in a shell crater and started sinking into the soft mud.

The British crew members were Captain Donald Richardson, Second Lieutenant George Hill, Sergeant Robert Missen, and Gunners William Morrey, Ernest Hayton, Frederick Arthurs, Percy Budd, James Binley, and Ernest Braedy. Eight of the nine crew members ended up spending three days and two nights stranded in No Man's Land, between the Germans and their own forces.

Sergeant Missen and Gunner Braedy exited the tank through the side sponson doors. Tragically, Braedy was immediately shot in the head and fell under the side of the tank, which was sinking into the mud. His body was never recovered. Missen tried to apply unditching gear to get the tank back onto firmer ground, but about 30 German soldiers began heavy firing from around 30 yards away, forcing him to retreat back inside the tank.

The crew endured continuous machine gun fire, snipers, grenades, and artillery from the Germans. They also came under fire from their own military, as the British could not risk the Germans capturing one of their tanks. They were willing to sacrifice the crew to prevent this.

For the next sixty hours, the Germans tried to approach the tank but were repelled every time. Due to the angle at which the tank was sinking, its guns were useless, and the crew had to use their personal weapons and Lewis guns to fend off the attackers. At one point, a German soldier managed to get onto the tank and drop a grenade inside, but the British soldiers threw it back out before it exploded.

Miraculously, eight of the nine crew members survived those terrifying three days, despite most being wounded by flying metal inside the tank. Knowing they couldn't let the tank's weapons fall into enemy hands, the injured men

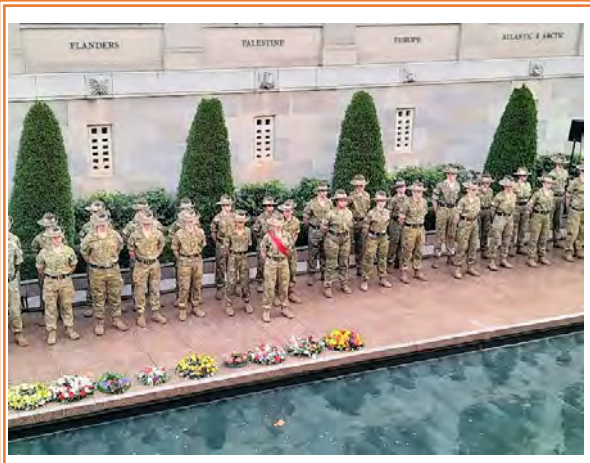
211 Army Cadet Unit (ACU) Newcastle

Since the last edition, both 211 ACU and the wider 21 AAC Battalion have remained highly active. The Battalion has extended its reach across the region, with six units supporting 23 Anzac Services over the Anzac period. 211 ACU alone contributed to ceremonies at the Combined Schools Anzac Service, Cardiff RSL, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Gallipoli Legion Club, Valentine Bowling Club, and Rosebuds Soccer Club.

211 ACU – ANZAC Commemorations

Over the King's Birthday weekend, 211 ACU formed part of joined a 60-cadet contingent that travelled to Canberra. The cadets were allocated seats to witness the Trooping of the King's Colour, performed by Staff Cadets at the Royal Military College, Duntroon (RMC-D). They also received a guided tour from a retired Lieutenant Colonel who had served as a Staff Cadet during the very first Trooping of the Colour at RMC-D.

Lunch was a novelty in itself — sandwiches collected from HMAS Harman's Mess, enjoyed in the Staff Cadets' Mess. The next day saw our cadets undertake the Ten Stand Leadership Reaction Course at Majura,



followed by an afternoon visit to the Australian War Memorial (AWM). The day concluded with participation in the Last Post Ceremony, a solemn and meaningful experience.

Though the AAC has no designated ceremonial winter uniform, I instructed the cadets to wear their Summer Ceremonial attire — despite the wind chill of -4°C. They stood proudly, unflinching as true guardsmen, and received numerous compliments from members of the public.

AWM – Last Post Ceremony & Leadership Development

Many 21 AAC Bn cadets will use the upcoming holiday break to attend promotion courses. I am pleased to announce that CDTWO2 Scarlett Lewis — who led the Cardiff Dawn Service Catafalque Party on Anzac Day — has now been appointed and promoted as the 21 AAC Bn Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major.

To the members of the Cardiff Sub-Branch: rest assured, the cadets you support continue to thrive, grow in number, and represent our Battalion with pride. Your ongoing support makes this possible, and I thank you sincerely.

MAJ (AAC) Peter Lockwood
Commanding Officer, 21 AAC Battalion

fought on. Eventually, they removed the Lewis guns and crawled back to the British lines one at a time.

For their bravery, all eight men received medals for gallantry, including the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the Military Cross for the officers, and Military Medals for the rest of the crew. This made them the most decorated tank crew of the war.

The 1st ANZAC Cyclist Battalion

Members of the 1st Anzac Cyclist Battalion in France May 1917
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL PHOTO.

In 1916 the British New Army established a unique role of using cyclists within each Division as despatch riders.

When the Australians arrived in France they were reorganised as Corps troops with a cyclist battalion to each Corps, and the 1st and 2nd ANZAC Cyclist Battalions were formed.

As in the infantry battalions, the Cyclist Battalion had four companies, each of four platoons with the primary roles of despatch riders operating in the semi open warfare periods of 1917 and 1918.

Not as mobile as cavalry, they were more cost effective to maintain to secured communication across the large battlefield.

In 1917 the II ANZAC became XXII Corps and the cyclists of the 2nd Cycle Battalion returned to the Australian Corps as reinforcements,

Casualties were recorded amongst the cyclists who contributed significantly to communication and mobility during the war, bridging gaps between units and ensured the efficient coordination on the battlefield.

Kids who receive trophies and medals for no reason become adults who believe they deserve things for no reason.

Urban Myth?

Is this an urban myth that came from a real incident only to be exaggerated over time especially as it is known that both sides did build replicas of planes, armaments and vehicles.

During World War two the Germans build a fake airfield with wooden aircraft, vehicles, and hangers in order to trick the allies. The RAF having known of the secret project for months, patiently waited for them to finish and then dropped a single fake wooden bomb on it.

REAL HEADLINES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS.

- MAN WITH 8 DUI's BLAMES DRINKING PROBLEM.
- MOST EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE IS CAUSED BY SHAKING.
- SURVEY SAYS AMERICANS GETTING TIRED OF SURVEYS.
- STUDENTS GET FIRST FHAND JOB EXPERIENCE.
- BETTY CROCKER DEAD AT 88. RICH BUT NO LONGER MOIST.
- HOW TO BUY A $450,000 HOME FOR ONLY $750,000.
- PARENTS KEEP KIDS HOME TO PROTEST SCHOOL CLOSURE.

100 years ago, everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars.
Today everyone has a car and only the rich own horses.

Soldiers or Sailors?

The answer is Sailors of the Royal Australian Navy. They were:

THE RAN BRIDGING TRAIN.

The 1st Royal Australian Bridging Train (1RANBT) was formed in Victoria on the 28th February 1915 from Naval Reserves, the intention was for a horse drawn engineering unit attached to the Royal Naval Division being trained in bridge building, which would be valuable on the Western Front. Many of the sailors were rated as drivers, others were rated as artificers or sappers.

Commanded by Lieutenant Leighton Seymore Bracegirdle he had seen action in the Boxer rebellion in China and served as a military officer in the Boer War. He had been a staff officer in the Joint Naval and Military Force capture of German colonies in the Pacific in September 1914 after the outbreak of war.

Three hundred men formed the RANBT and trained in engineering and pontoon building before embarking in June 1915 for England, with 400 horses and 50 assorted vehicles to join the Royal Naval Division on the western Front. However, on route the Admiralty diverted the RANBT to support the landings at Suvla Bay, north of Anzac Beach, Gallipoli.

The Uniform

Due to the nature of their work ashore, the men of the 1st RANBT were dressed in the khaki uniform worn by soldiers of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Special badges were adopted to distinguish them as a naval unit which included oxidised brass anchors that were worn on the hats, caps, sleeves and collars of ratings' tunics.

Chief petty officers retained the normal naval pattern cap badge worn at that time. Varying patterns of AIF styled colour patches, depicting a red anchor on a navy-blue background, were also sewn to the shoulders of tunics and army badges of rank chevrons were sometimes used on sleeves to denote rank if naval equivalents were not available:

RANBT built pier on Suvla Bay, Gallipoli

Three chevrons - Chief Petty Officers
Two chevrons - Petty Officers
One chevron - Leading Seamen

The adoption of these distinguishing marks was approved by the Naval Secretary on 28 May 1915. Officers attached to the 1st RANBT continued to wear naval pattern badges on their caps coupled with naval pattern shoulder boards, worn on khaki, military styled tunics.

Ordered to construct a pontoon for the Gallipoli landing of supplies for a disorganised and ill-conceived campaign by the British troops, it quickly bogged down. The RAN Bridging Train was heavily shelled and bombed setting up their camp at what became known as Kangaroo Beach.

(Continued on page 32)

(Continued from page 31)

It became responsible for a wide variety of task including building and maintaining wharves and piers, unloading stores from lighters, controlling the supply of fresh water to front line troops, stock piling engineering equipment, building a light railway for stores movement and carrying out repairs in an open-air workshop.

Engineering materials were scarce on the Gallipoli Peninsula and faced with a lack of suitable bolts and iron dowels essential for pier construction, the men turned to a wrecked sand dredge to acquire the necessary material. Its artificers removed guard rails and rungs cut from the steel ladders to fashion their own fasteners using a portable forge.

The Train was an unusual unit, hybrid by nature, and not cleaving to any clear-cut military identity. *“They are quite cut off from their own force,”* wrote C.E.W. Bean, the AIF's official war correspondent. *"They scarcely come into the category of the Australian Force and scarcely into that of the British; they are scarcely army and scarcely navy. Who it is that looks after their special interests I do not know."*

No doubt they looked after themselves and were conscientious men. They were well respected and served between 1915 and May 1917.

The Bridging Train went from Gallipoli to the Suez Canal area, carrying out bridge construction and control duties. Early in 1916 the group became the focus of inter-command rivalries, which were finally resolved by its redeployment in Egypt.

By the next year the Train had outlived its purpose in the Middle East where it supported the ANZAC and Imperial Camel Corps defending the Suez Canal. They were the only Australian Naval unit who served in the European theatre and, with many members wanting to be more involved in active fighting, as well as continuing indecision about its further use, the unit was disbanded.

Fifty of its members transferred to the AIF and the rest returned to Australia; the Bridging Train had rendered a valuable service in its small but vital support role.

Before the invention of the crowbar did crows just drink at home?

ANZAC DAY ON FLANDERS FIELDS where they are still remembered.

Some of our sub Branch members have friends in Belgium who report on the ongoing remembrance services that are held by Belgium and French people in reverence of the sacrifice of soldiers in protecting their country from invasion.

Polygon Wood is known for its significance in World War One, particularly during the Battle of Polygon Wood in September 1917 where it was part of the larger Third Battle of Ypres leading to Passchendaele. There Australian and British forces launched a well-coordinated attack against German positions.

The name comes from a plantation forest that once stood in the area, when though heavy shelling it was reduced it to stumps and broken timber by the time of the battle. The battle was notable for its "bite and hold" tactics, where troops advanced behind a creeping artillery barrage, preventing German defenders from mounting an effective resistance. The Australians played a crucial role, securing their objectives despite fierce counterattacks, but at a heavy cost—5,770 Australian casualties. The location was voted by the Australians of the Fifth Division AIF as most significant to erect their memorial.

"The service started. It was lead by a Commander from the Australian Navy and an Australian Army Chaplain and all the service was (as expected) good. The addresses by the Australian and New Zealand Ambassadors were not too long and had an interesting contents. The catafalque guard was provided by a unit from the Belgian Army and the buglers from the Last Post Association sounded the Last Post and Reveille. Pipers from the "Field Marshal Haig's own Pipes and Drums" played hymns".

During Operation Cottage—an Allied tactical manoeuvre marking the end of the Aleutian Islands campaign in World War Two—United States and Canadian forces mistakenly engaged each other in combat.

The operation took place on August 15, 1943, on Kiska Island, which had been occupied by Japanese forces since June 6, 1942. The Japanese, initially landing with 500 Special Naval Landing Forces under Captain Takeji Ono, were later reinforced with anti-aircraft units, engineers, and infantry.

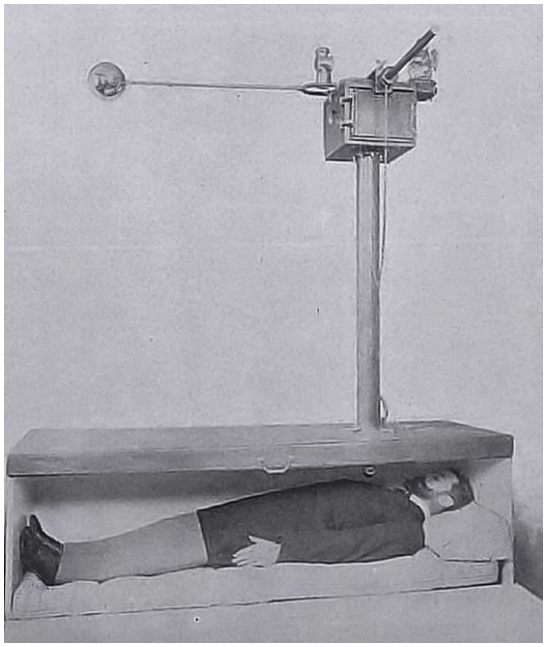
Unbeknown to the Allies, the Japanese had secretly evacuated the island two weeks prior to the landing. The Allied forces—comprising the U.S. 7th Infantry Division, the 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment of the 10th Mountain Division, and the 13th Canadian Infantry Brigade of the 6th Canadian Infantry Division—approached from opposite sides of the island.

Under dense fog, Allied troops advanced through the rugged terrain and, mistaking one another for Japanese soldiers, opened fire. This friendly fire incident, combined with Japanese-laid landmines, booby traps, and vehicle accidents, resulted in over 300 casualties, including 32 dead.

Operation Cottage concluded by August 17, 1943.

TAPHOPHOBIA

One of a common phobias in the world is taphophobia, or the fear of being buried alive.



A patented special “safety coffin” with a variety of extra featured capable of alerting people above ground.

For centuries in the days before sophisticated medical equipment, people were declared dead and then buried. The phobia was fuelled in some cases when, before burial, of ’corpses’ knocking on the inside of the coffin alerting the outside world and, in some cases, the grave diggers. There are other reported cases of bodies being exhumed for other reasons and the finding of fingernail scratches on the inside of the coffin wall and lid.

This inspired inventions and precautions to prevent such a burial. One of the most famous examples of these inventions was the safety coffin during the 18th and 19th century, a special type of coffin that allows the occupant to signal for help in case they are mistakenly buried alive.

They had a variety of features, such as bells, flags, tubes, or alarms, which could alert the outside world of the presence of a living person inside the coffin. Some safety coffins also have mechanisms to provide air, water, or food to the trapped person until they are rescued, in some cases, by watchmen stationed in cemeteries for the purpose of listening for the sound of a bell.

Expressions that have their origins during war time.

War leads to innovations both in material and development of words that form part of everyday language. Some expressions that were popular.

Taking flak.

Most people know this means to be on the receiving end of some pretty harsh criticism. The word “flak” is slang for anti-aircraft gunfire. It comes from the German word *fliegerabwehrkanone,* for an anti-aircraft gun which, literally translates ‘aircraft defence cannon’, shortened to “flak.” So when a plane was on the receiving end of anti-aircraft fire, the pilot and crew would have felt they were in a situation of immense pressure and stress. With people quite literally trying to shoot them down out of the sky, they were “taking flak.”

Jeep

Another famous WW2 word that eventually became not just a widely-used word but also a brand name and registered trademark is the word “Jeep.” A widespread theory holds that the word “Jeep” came from the abbreviation used for the all-purpose vehicles used by the US Army in WW2, which were known as General purpose vehicles or GPs that sounded like Jeep when spoken.

Basket case

During World War One the term basket case was used to describe troops who had to be transported from the battlefields in baskets rather than stretchers, due to extensive injury suffered.

Strafe

A word that popular in both military parlance and video gaming speak. Originating from the First World War, it did not come directly from the English-speaking troops. Instead, the word is directly lifted from German, where it means ‘punish’. This was because the phrase *‘Gott strafe England!’* translated to *‘God punish England’* that was widely used in German propaganda posters.

Some come from the generation, “If you stop crying, I’ll buy you something”. We came from, “If you don’t stop crying I’ll give you something to cry about”.

The Tragic End of Guy Gibson VC, DSO & Bar, DFC & Bar.

He is best known for leading the famous Dambusters raid in 1943, where he commanded No. 617 Squadron in a daring mission to breach the Mohne and Eder dams in Germany's Ruhr Valley.

This operation was a significant blow to the German war effort and earned Gibson the Victoria Cross, the highest military decoration awarded for valor in the face of the enemy

On the night of September 19, 1944, Wing Commander Guy Gibson, a prominent figure in the Royal Air Force, was flying a de Havilland Mosquito over the Netherlands. He was on a mission to support Operation Market Garden, an Allied effort to secure key bridges in the region.

During the flight, RAF Sergeant Bernard McCormack, was part of a formation of 227 Lancaster bombers and 10 Mosquitoes on a mission over Germany on the night of September 19, 1944.

As they were returning to RAF Woodhall in Lincolnshire, McCormack spotted an aircraft approaching from behind and mistaking it for a German Junkers 88 and he opened fire, discharging 600 rounds of machine gun fire. He had mistakenly identified Gibson's Mosquito as a German Junkers 88. The Mosquito was hit and subsequently crashed, resulting in the deaths of both Gibson and his navigator, Squadron Leader Jim Warwick.

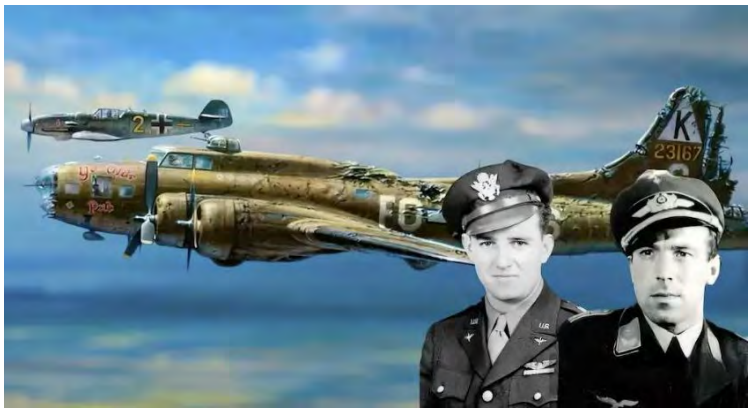
When McCormack was debriefed by RAF intelligence officers, he realized the grave mistake he had made. He was asked what made him think the aircraft was a Junkers 88, to which he responded that it had twin engines and a single rudder. The officer pointed out that a Mosquito also had these features and suggested that Gibson might have been trying to follow the Lancaster bombers back to base after losing his radio and radar.

McCormack later recounted the events in a taped confession giving clarity to the mystery of the cause of Gibson's death, as over time it was unclear with theories ranging from mechanical failure to enemy fire.

The friendly fire theory gained attention when McCormack's taped confession was discovered years later. In his confession, McCormack expressed deep regret for the mistake that led to the fatal incident.

From Enemy to Friends

Here's the story of US Bomber pilot Lieutenant Charles Brown and German fighter pilot Franz Stigler.



On December 20, 1943, Second Lieutenant Charles "Charlie" Brown, at 21 years old, was piloting his B-17F Flying Fortress, named "Ye Olde Pub", on a bombing mission attacking the Focke-Wulf 190 aircraft facility in Bremen.

The mission was this bomber crews first mission against a target reportedly heavily defended by anti-aircraft emplacements and fighters,. They were to fly on the left of the bomber formation, itself considered to be a dangerous position.

During the mission, "Pub" was severely damaged by German fighters and flak on the bombing approach, suffering gaping structural holes and damaging the engines. With the oil pressure dropping, Brown managed to successfully release his bombs and start his home run, nursing the heavily damaged aircraft flying on one engine with wounded flight crew, and now a sitting duck as it flew over a German airfield.

Luftwaffe pilot Franz Stigler, a veteran fighter pilot attached to Jagdgeschwader 27, had already shot down two B-17s noticed the B17 limping home and eager to secure one more victory to earn the Knights Cross took off in pursuit.

On closing with the bomber Stigler was struck by the extent of the damage and the visible suffering of the wounded crew, noticed that the tail gunner never moved his guns. It prompted a moment of profound moral reckoning by Stigler, and in an extreme act of chivalry, Stigler chose not to fire on the crippled bomber. Rather he flew alongside the “Pub” and gestured at Charlie to land, either in Germany or neutral Sweden, however his signals were misunderstood. Stigler then respected the crew’s apparent continued attempt to continue home, and Stigler, saluted and peeled away leaving “Pug” to its fate.

(Continued on page 39)

(Continued from page 38)

The B17 managed to England with only one crew death. Debriefed, the crew related the story of the German fighter pilot's mercy; a storey that was immediately suppressed as being too controversial for wartime morale.

Years later in 1986, Brown began his search for the German pilot, and in 1990 he received a letter from Stigler, who was then living in Canada,

A bond of friendship was created bound by a moment of compassion years before. Their friendship that lasted until Stigler's death in March 2008. Brown died only a few months later, in November.

World War Two plane Identified by Royal Australian Air Force.

A joint expedition by mining billionaire Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest and Ocean Ecology in 2023 has led to a remarkable discovery off the coast of Papua New Guinea: the remains of Australian air force servicemen from a World War Two mission. The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) confirmed the identities of the four crew members from No. 100 Squadron Beaufort Bomber A9-374, reported missing in 1943.

RAAF Air Marshal Stephen Chappell said the wreckage, found dispersed over a large area in about 16 meters of water, had been verified the wreckage of A9-374. The crew, aged in their 20s and 30s, hailed from South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania, though none were related to Forrest.

Beaufort crew from left; Sergeant James Sugg, Flying Officer Roy Herbert Woollacott, Sgt Reginald William Stolzand Harley Joseph Williams. Woollacott, Sugg and Williams were all lost on operations when their Beaufort bomber was shot down on a raid over Gasmata on September 5, 1943

(Continued on page 40)

Flight Lieutenant Roy Herbert Woollacott, Sergeant James Sugg, Sergeant Reginald William Stolz, and Flight Sergeant Harley Joseph Williams were among the crew.

This discovery follows the 2022 identification of Beaufort A9-186 in the same area with the two aviators' remains being honoured in April 2024 with a memorial service at RAAF Amberley buried at the Bita Paka War Cemetery near Rabaul.

The Fifth Columnists: Who They Were & What They Did,

A fifth column refers to secret groups within a country who support enemy forces by engaging in espionage, sabotage, propaganda, or infiltration.

The term originated during the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939) when Nationalist General Emilio Mola claimed he had supporters inside Madrid undermining the Republican government.

Spanish Civil War: Franco's sympathizers secretly worked against the Republican resistance.

World War Two : Nazi agents infiltrated resistance movements; fears of Japanese-American sabotage led to internment camps in the U.S.

Cold War: McCarthyism targeted suspected communist infiltrators in the U.S.

Modern Conflicts: Governments monitor extremist threats and foreign influence.

Common Activities

Espionage: Spying for enemies.

Sabotage: Disrupting infrastructure.

Propaganda: Spreading misinformation.

Infiltration: Gaining power in key institutions.

Assisting Military Operations: Providing intelligence or logistical support.

The idea of fifth columnists remains relevant as governments continue to guard against internal threats.

School Cadets: how times have changed.

"The Torch and the Sword: A History of the Army Cadet Movement in Australia 1866–2004" by Craig A.J. Stockings offers a comprehensive exploration of the history and development of the Army Cadet Movement in Australia. The book examines its evolution from its inception to modern times, shedding light on a unique aspect of youth education within the Commonwealth.

The author recalls vivid memories of seeing uniformed cadets traveling on trains and buses for their regular training sessions, often carrying SMLE rifles slung over their shoulders—an enduring tradition across generations. Interestingly, the cadet program was not originally designed as a preparatory system for military enlistment. Instead, its aim was to shape young individuals into enterprising citizens, aligning with a broader Commonwealth initiative.

The book delves into competitive matches held annually between cadet units across Commonwealth nations. These events evaluated the efficiency of cadets by compiling scores from the top 3,000 participants in each country. South Africa, at one point, emerged as the dominant competitor. The array of weaponry used in these competitions included .303 SMLE rifles, Lewis guns, Vickers machine guns, Bren guns and even mortars. Remarkably, cadets under the age of 15 regularly trained with the SMLE rifle using live service rounds for decades.

Mentone Grammar School cadet unit in 1948,

Before 1929, a significant number of cadet units were mounted, possibly tracing their heritage back to the traditions of the Light Horse. The book also recounts fascinating anecdotes, such as cadets at the annual camp in Puckapunyal assembling functional Bren guns from

(Continued on page 42)

deactivated parts. A memorable story involves cadets discovering a shed filled with decommissioned equipment and managing to assemble three working Brens. Returning to camp, they enthusiastically proposed using the weapons the next day for training, an idea their commanding officer had to swiftly veto.

One photograph featured in the book depicts the Mentone Grammar School cadet unit in 1948, well-equipped and prepared for training. The narrative also highlights the resourcefulness of cadets and the enduring legacy of the Army Cadet Movement as a distinctive and integral part of Australian history.

From the pages of the Newcastle Morning Herald August 1944 the school cadets from Newcastle Boys High School Waratah, march at the Greta camp.

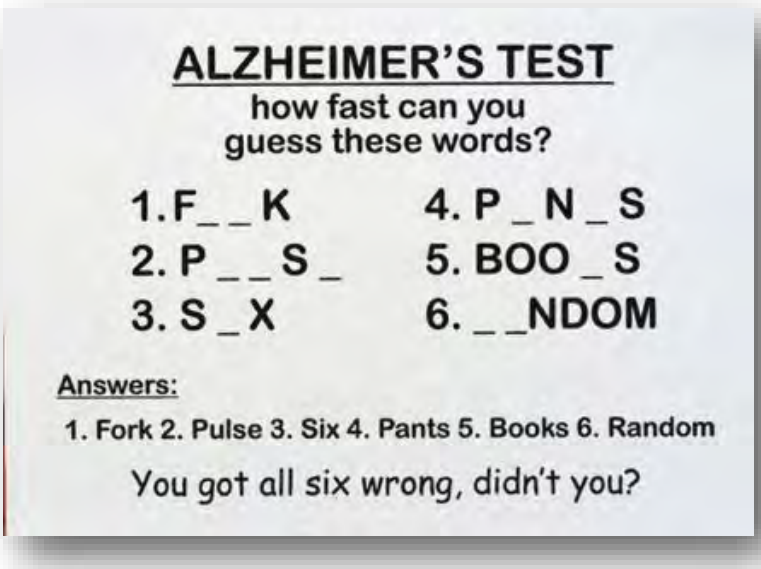
This was a time when school cadets travelled to and from school in military uniform carrying their issued .303 rifle.

How times change to the present when we are reluctant to allow our ADF members wearing uniform while travelling or on leave.

More on how times have changed. What would Mum and Dad say today?

This is a picture of boy scouts during the 1960's playing a game that we called PEGGING.

It was also known as *'split the kipper'*. A simple game as you threw a sheath knife that all boy scouts carried into camp, into the ground at your opponent's feet. If it stuck in the ground parallel with the foot you have to move your foot to where the knife was. The person who could not stretch any further lost the game.



The Torpedoing of SS Allara off Newcastle

About six weeks after the Japanese submarine shelling of Newcastle, the city faced another stark reminder of the war's harsh realities. On July 23, 1942, the SS Allara, an Adelaide Steamship Company freighter, was torpedoed by the Japanese submarine I-175 while carrying sugar from Cairns to Sydney. The attack occurred about 25 nautical miles off the coast of Newcastle at 5:15 am.

The I-175 fired two torpedoes at the Allara. One torpedo struck the ship's stern, blowing off the propeller and rudder and wrecking the wireless antenna. The explosion was devastating, killing four crew members instantly and seriously injuring three others, one of whom later died from his injuries. The blast occurred directly beneath the spot where 22 men were sleeping, adding to the chaos and tragedy.

Despite the severe damage, the crew managed to keep the Allara afloat. The ship's skipper, Captain Colin McLellan ordered the helm hard over seconds after the torpedo impact, even though the propeller and rudder were gone. A second torpedo narrowly missed the ship's stern. The crew struggled to the deck with their injured mates while the submarine surfaced nearby. Japanese sailors emerged and fired a shell from a deck gun across the ship's bows, signalling the Australians to abandon ship which they did. Believing the ship would sink, the submarine dived and left the area.

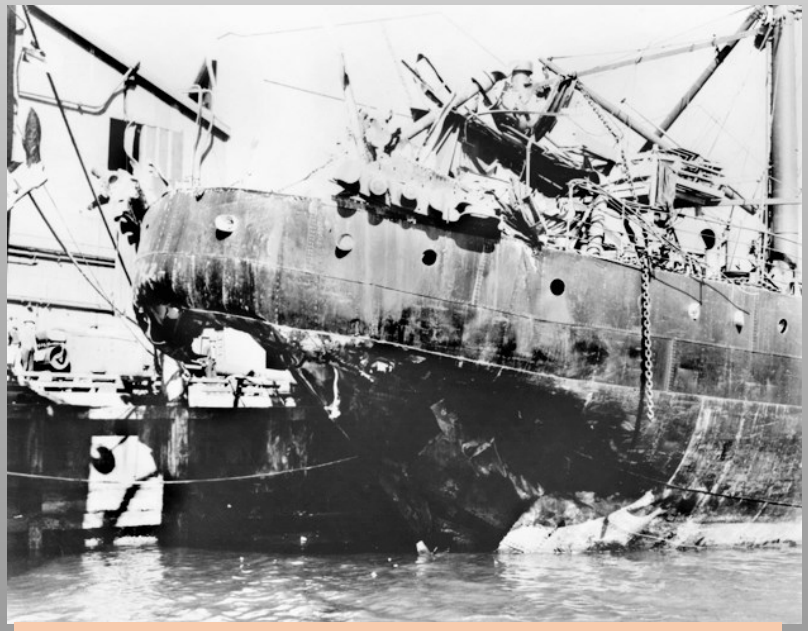
After an hour in the lifeboats, it became clear that the Allara wasn't in immediate danger of sinking, so the men went back aboard. The wireless operator had sent out 40 distress calls, but the ship's aerial had been blown away.

The crew worked the pumps full-time to keep the vessel afloat while two navy tugs raced to the rescue. Later that day, the tug Heroic from Newcastle arrived alongside at 9:45 am. The ship was so badly damaged that it seemed incredible it was still floating.

The authorities tried to conceal much of this aspect of the war to prevent damage to morale and photographs of the torpedo-damaged Allara were never published at the time due to censorship. The Allara was towed to Sydney for repairs and was back in service by April 1943. The ship continued to operate in Australian waters until the 1950s.

The I-175 continued its destructive path, sinking other ships before it was eventually lost with all hands later in the war. The names of the Allara's dead crewmen—J.D.A. Bromilow, F. Noble, A. Smith, A.T. Sundell, and H. Talbot—commemorated on a memorial to merchant mariners lost in the war.

SS Allara in Newcastle Harbour



SS Allara's damage

If a tree falls on your ex in the bush, and no one hears it, you should probably still get rid of the chainsaw, just in case. Stay tuned for more counselling advice.

Billy Cans

By a digger who was there.

The image on the billy consists of a kangaroo on the Gallipoli peninsula using his tail to knock out a Turkish soldier.

Private James Gillispie Blain, 15th Battalion Australian Infantry, wrote from Egypt on 28th December 1915 to thank those who had sent the Christmas billy can he had received. He had been evacuated from Gallipoli after aggravating an old back injury.

"*This gives me great pleasure in writing and thanking you for the very nice billycan and also the nice wishes you have sent. I know you will be pleased to know that a Queensland boy was the lucky one to get the can; also, another boy from Toowoomba got one from Mackay, for which he will no doubt write to thank the sender himself.*

On Xmas Eve we were all like a lot of happy school children. When we looked in our stockings in the morning, we all had some good laughs over what we got. I am sure that everyone who got a billycan is like myself, unable to express how pleased we all are about the way our Queensland friends have worked to give us all a good time this Xmas.

I hope you will accept my humble thanks. Wishing you one and all a very merry Xmas and Prosperous New Year is the sincere wish from your sincere friend."

Editor note: Private Blain continued to serve in France until he was blown up on the 6th August 1916. Unconscious for 5 days from his head wound, he was invalided to Australia on the 2nd December 1916 suffering from his wounds and shell shock for discharge.

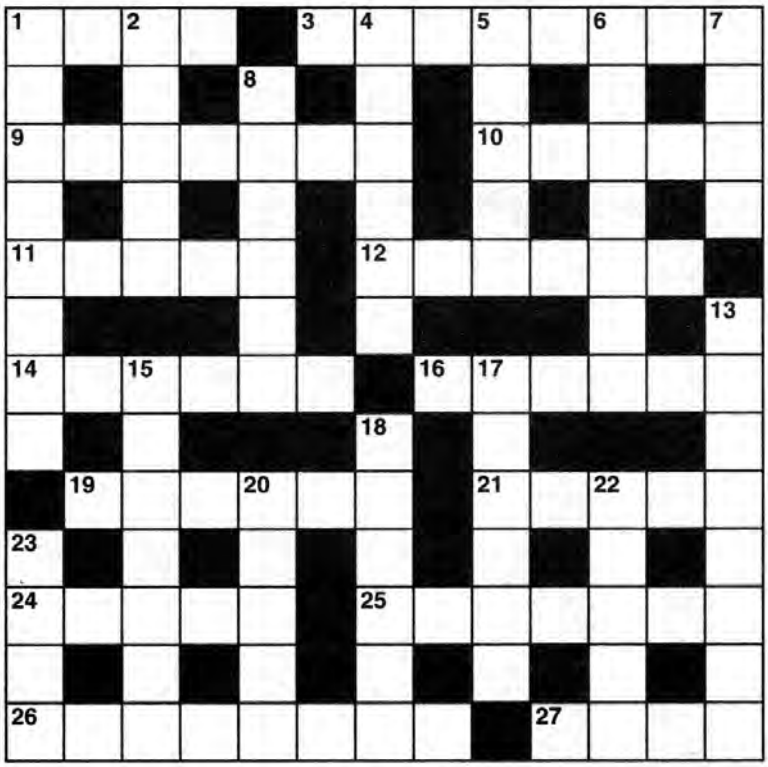
This digger is referring to an organisation in Australia similar to the ALEXANDRA CLUB in Melbourne who had programs whereby they handed out billy cans to interested citizens who would fill them with gifts for soldiers at Gallipoli. According to an article in THE ARGUS Newspaper on 22 September 1915, 20,000 billies had been distributed to that date.

These billies contained items like plum pudding, chocolates, cigarettes, soap, playing cards, and handwritten messages from Australians back home. The initiative was part of a broader effort to bring comfort to troops spending Christmas in the trenches throughout the war.

Crossword No.28

(Solution on page 51)

THE Sun 28



ACROSS

1 Military flute (4)
3 Bony (8)
9 Hot desert wind (7)
10 Admit (3,2)
11 Cheshire railway town (5)
12 Annual receipts (6)
14 Wichita's state (6)
16 Wattle plant (6)
19 Skilled opinion (6)
21 All together, musically (5)
24 More accurate or real (5)
25 Acquire in a will (7)
26 Remove poison from (8)
27 Fifth of twenty (4)

DOWN

1 Seafood patty (8)
2 Loud, in music (5)
4 China clay (6)
5 Light purple (5)
6 Emblematic, tribal (7)
7 Narrow road (4)
8 Skin ailment (6)
13 Container (8)
15 Assuredly (2,5)
17 Memorable (tune) (6)
18 Doctrine (6)
20 Stadium of Rangers FC (5)
22 Human trunk (5)
23 Simple earring (4)

33

Word search No. 28

(Solution on page 51)

28 Composers of Musicals

H	C	L	T	M	L	M	A	H	R	E	N	S	M	B
E	L	F	M	A	N	T	O	H	K	K	E	P	L	N
R	T	E	R	O	B	S	R	Z	R	B	O	K	H	E
N	E	M	I	R	A	N	D	A	A	V	S	E	C	I
E	I	P	D	V	E	T	L	R	E	R	A	D	I	R
T	T	R	U	E	U	C	N	N	L	L	T	X	R	B
N	A	T	O	A	P	U	U	O	I	E	E	C	D	O
A	G	T	S	S	L	F	F	L	S	H	I	X	L	O
R	T	O	M	R	E	D	C	A	M	L	C	U	O	Z
G	R	Q	Z	X	S	T	H	G	I	E	L	N	G	T
X	F	S	E	L	L	I	E	R	A	B	J	I	I	A
E	Z	W	K	X	G	S	I	S	P	O	A	O	W	M
L	O	S	O	N	D	H	E	I	M	R	A	P	H	I
R	T	L	E	H	M	A	N	N	U	V	P	O	J	N
O	L	L	E	V	O	N	R	O	D	G	E	R	S	O

AHRENS
BAREILLES
CLARK
ELFMAN
GOLDRICH
GRANT
JOHN
LAUPER
LEHMANN
LEIGH
MACDERMOT
MINCHIN
MIRANDA
MOZART
NOVELLO
O'BRIEN
RODGERS
ROWE
SONDHEIM
TESORI
WILLSON

Dead left on Anzac

General Sir Harry Chauvel, Sir Alexander Godley, and Sir William Riddell Birdwood.

Shortly before the final evacuation of ANZAC, Lieutenant General Sir Alexander Godley (centre), commanding the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, wrote regarding the care of the graves they would leave behind.

I have written to the Turkish Commander who will come in when we leave asking him to take steps to preserve the graves of our men, I feel sure this will be effected, as the Turks have been most honourable during the eight months we have been fighting them, and will not do anything to desecrate our resting places,

The Turks did honour this request.

In 1934 is Mustafa Kemal who was a Colonel commanding the Turkish forces facing the Australians on Gallipoli who later became the President of Turkey as Atatürk's left his heartfelt message to the mothers of soldiers who lost their lives at Gallipoli:

(Continued on page 50)

"Those heroes that shed their blood

and lost their lives...

You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.

Therefore rest in peace.

There is no difference between the Johnnies

and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side

here in this country of ours...

You, the mothers,

who sent their sons from faraway countries

wipe away your tears;

your sons are now lying in our bosom

and are in peace.

After having lost their lives on this land they have

become our sons as well." - Atatürk, 1934

The Turkish people have always respected the graves of soldiers buried on the Peninsula.

Buying Tickets from the Box Office.

The term "box office" has an interesting origin! It dates back to the early days of theatre in England. In the 17th and 18th century, the term box office at theatres referred to a physical box placed at the entrance where people would drip their money for entrance to the venue.

This literal box was referred to as the "box office."

Over time, the term "box office" evolved to not only represent the place where tickets are sold but also to indicate the financial performance of a show or a film. Today, when we talk about box office success, we're referring to how well a movie or a show performs in terms of ticket sales.

Crossword solution No. 28

No. 28

F	I	F	E	■	S	K	E	L	E	T	A	L
I	■	O	■	E	■	A	■	I	■	O	■	A
S	I	R	O	C	C	O	■	L	E	T	I	N
H	■	T	■	Z	■	L	■	A	■	E	■	E
C	R	E	W	E	■	I	N	C	O	M	E	■
A	■	■	■	M	■	N	■	■	■	I	■	C
K	A	N	S	A	S	■	A	C	A	C	I	A
E	■	O	■	■	■	B	■	A	■	■	■	N
■	A	D	V	I	C	E	■	T	U	T	T	I
S	■	O	■	B	■	L	■	C	■	O	■	S
T	R	U	E	R	■	I	N	H	E	R	I	T
U	■	B	■	O	■	E	■	Y	■	S	■	E
D	E	T	O	X	I	F	Y	■	F	O	U	R

Word Search No. 28 solution

28

H	C	L	T	M	L	M	A	H	R	E	N	S	M	B
E	L	F	M	A	N	T	O	H	K	K	E	P	L	N
R	T	E	R	O	B	S	R	Z	R	B	O	K	H	E
N	E	M	I	R	A	N	D	A	A	V	S	E	C	I
E	I	P	D	V	E	T	L	R	E	R	A	D	I	R
T	T	R	U	E	U	C	N	N	L	L	T	X	R	B
N	A	T	O	A	P	U	U	O	I	E	E	C	D	O
A	G	T	S	S	L	F	F	L	S	H	I	X	L	O
R	T	O	M	R	E	D	C	A	M	L	C	U	O	Z
G	R	Q	Z	X	S	T	H	G	I	E	L	N	G	T
X	F	S	E	L	L	I	E	R	A	B	J	I	I	A
E	Z	W	K	X	G	S	I	S	P	O	A	O	W	M
L	O	S	O	N	D	H	E	I	M	R	A	P	H	I
R	T	L	E	H	M	A	N	N	U	V	P	O	J	N
O	L	L	E	V	O	N	R	O	D	G	E	R	S	O

Cardiff RSL

WHAT'S ON

Entertainment

THURSDAY
10:30AM - 12:30PM
Morning Melodies

FRIDAY
8PM
Karaoke

SATURDAY
8PM LIVE BANDS
See reception for a Gig Guide

Weekly Raffles

WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY
Tickets 6PM | Drawn 7PM

THURSDAY & SUNDAY
Tickets 5:30PM | Drawn 6:30PM

$1300 IN PRIZES TO BE WON EACH RAFFLE!

Dining Options

EASTERN TIGER RESTAURANT
OPEN 7 DAYS
11:30AM - 2PM | 5:30PM - 9PM
Bookings essential
SCAN FOR MENU

BLUEY'S BISTRO & SMOKEHOUSE
WED - SUN 12PM - 2PM
WED, THURS & SUN 5:30PM - 8PM
FRI & SAT 5:30PM - 8:30PM
Bookings recommended
SCAN FOR MENU

CAFÉ 45
OPEN DURING CLUB HOURS
SCAN FOR MENU

APL POKER
Monday
1PM $12 Max Spend
5PM $20 3 lives
Saturday
1PM $2 Buy-in $10 Lifeline
Sunday
6PM $2 Buy-in $10 Lifeline

EUCHRE
Tuesday & Thursday
From 7PM
18 GAMES WITH CASH PRIZES

POOL COMP
CASH PRIZES
8Ball Friday from 7pm

BINGO
WIN REWARD POINTS & CASH JACKPOTS
Eyes Down:
Monday 6:30PM **Thursday** 7PM
Tuesday 11:15AM **Friday** 11:15AM

ONLINE RAFFLE
DRAWN FRIDAY AT 5:30PM ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
$2000 IN PRIZES.
Scan the code for tickets or find the link on our Website or Facebook page.

Courtesy Bus
Wed & Thurs 5PM - 10PM
Fri & Sat 4:30PM - 12AM
Sunday 3PM - 9:30PM
Bookings essential at Reception

Members Happy Hour

WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
4PM - 6PM

$4.00
House Wine & Schooners of Regular beer

$6.00
For Premium beer

6 AT 6 FRIDAYS
$6 House Spirits 6pm - 8pm
Conditions Apply

All times, promotions and events subject to change at anytime.