

Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

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"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"

Newsletter

Issue 79

July 2017

SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE—2014—2017

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- Bankstown City Aged Care Ian Muirhead, Gary Roser JP
- Webmaster Max Stone



EDITORIAL ** *Gary Roser, Editor*

There are a number of things that happen in our life time that cause anxiety, depression and the general feeling of being unwell that we cannot put a finger on what has made us this way. The longer we leave it the more the problem exacerbates.

In this Issue 79 there is a loose leaf handout supplied by our Pensions/Welfare officer Kevin Mahony.

It is a list of Crisis contacts and Counselling and Support Services that can be rung for assistance.

Please put it some place safe. You may not need to use it, but someone you know may need it.

***The editorial is entirely my own opinion and does not reflect the Sub-Branch Executive.*

Sub-Branch Meetings	
<u>Committee</u> Mondays 5.30pm	<u>Sub-Branch</u> Sundays 10:30am
17 th July	NO MEETING
Tuesday, 1 st August, Bus Trip	
21 st August	27 th August
18 th September	24 th September
16 th October	22 th October

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since the last newsletter, not a lot has happen with the regard to the sub-Branch. We intended to hand this issue out on the bus trip, but it was not quite ready. Better late than never.



At the beginning of June, I managed to get away for a few days in at Burrill Lake and also to Lake Macquarie in July. A very relaxing time and I needed the breaks. I am now planning for the next trip up north later this month.

In no particular order:

Gary and I took the Women's Auxiliary on their monthly bus trip on Monday 5th. We ended up at Richmond Service Club for lunch. Gary was sick for the July trip, so I roped in Laurie Scutts as a co-driver and we went to Hornsby RSL for lunch. On the way home and after dropping the ladies off at the club, I was at the roundabout at Buist Street and the clutch thrust bearing start squealing. Just what I needed to round of the day.

On Friday, 16th June, a number of Members attended the ARVN Day Dinner at the Crystal Palace. A good night all round. The next day Ian led a delegation to the Memorial at Cabra Vale Park.

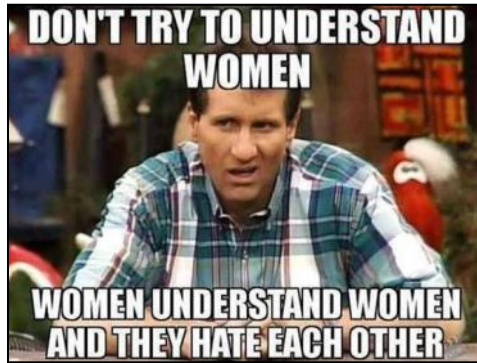
Wednesday 21st, Max and I attended the Legacy Luncheon at the Bankstown Sports Club.

Our Christmas in July bus trip went over with a bang. An excellent day was had at the Waterview Restaurant with Roland Storm putting on a great show. For morning tea we stopped at the Cumberland State Forest, where I noticed a number of people dropped into the nursery and loaded the bus with plants.

Coming up in August we will be attending VP Day and Vietnam Veterans Day functions in a number of places.

See you all at the meeting

Ron Duckworth



NEVER MAKE A WOMAN MAD. THEY CAN REMEMBER STUFF THAT HASN'T EVEN HAPPENED YET.

A wise man once said nothing.

“Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road of life is paved with flat squirrels who couldn’t make a decision.”
~Unknown~

- Your Welfare Officers:***
- Laurie Scutts 02 9786 0516 | 0417 062 450
 - Ron Duckworth 02 9644 1635 | 0408 245 255
 - Ross Graham 02 9771 1813 | 0490 069 331
 - Kevin Mahony 02 9644 8794 | 0425 279 111
 - Alan (Gadget) Parkin 02 9785 8676 | 0404 567 520

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Some photos taken by our President at the Waterview Restaurant. Look for more by 'Dat' in the next issue and on the website for a link to Dat's flicker page

Lee-Ann Taylor



You Know When Your Over the Hill When.....

Aging:

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it. This is so true. I love to hear them say "you don't look that old."

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper...it's worse when you forget to pull it down.

Old age is coming at a really bad time. When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

I decided to stop calling the bathroom the "John" and renamed it the "Jim." I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

REMEMBER WHEN YOU COULD REFER
TO YOUR KNEES AS RIGHT AND LEFT?



INSTEAD OF GOOD AND BAD.
AH GOOD TIMES, EH!

You know you're gettin'
OLD when you
can't walk
past a
bathroom
without
thinking,
"I may as
well pee
while I'm here."



Brilliant in its simplicity.....

Such an unfair world:-

When a man talks dirty to a woman it's considered sexual harassment.

When a woman talks dirty to a man its \$10.50/min (charges may vary).

ooooo00000ooooo

My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine.

ooooo00000ooooo

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you.

ooooo00000ooooo

Wife to husband: You told me you'd spend your whole life trying to make me happy.

Husband to wife: I didn't expect to live this long!

ooooo00000ooooo

As I grow older My mind doesn't just wander ... Sometimes it buggers off completely.

ooooo00000ooooo

As I have grown older, I've learned that pleasing everybody is impossible, but peeing everyone off is a piece of cake.

Isn't it weird that in Australia our flag and culture offends so many people, yet our benefits don't.

ooooo00000ooooo

I bought a A.M. Radio today.
It a bit boring sitting here in the silence
as there is nothing on it after 12 noon.

For Our Members Who Have The Internet



Using The Australian Government Online Services Through “Mygov”

Firstly, create an account at:

<https://my.gov.au/LoginServices/main/login?execution=e1s1>

Once you have created an account you’ll be able to personalise your account by selecting the online services you want to link to, including:

Medicare – lodge a claim, request a card, update your bank and personal details and view your information;

National eHealth Record System – get your personal eHealth record to help manage your health;

Centrelink – claim a payment, report and update your details, view your information, request a document, replacement card and more;

Child Support – check when your payments are due, view your payment history, update your details and more;

Department of Veterans’ Affairs – view your payment and claims, apply for entitlements, update your details and more.

disabilitycare Australia – view the conditions required to claim under the Australian Disability Insurance. Anyone with or affected by disability can approach for advice, information and referral services, including families and carers.

If you have an *australia.gov.au* account you can sign in with your ID and password.

These guys are tough. They've had no wars in over 60 years, so these medals must be for heroism in marching, posturing and line dancing!

North Korean officers could be easily defeated with a **giant magnet**.....



Paddy is passing by Mick's hay shed one day when through a gap in the door he sees Mick doing a slow and sensual striptease in front of an old red Massey Ferguson. Buttocks clenched he performs a slow pirouette and gently slides off first the right welly, followed by the left.

He then hunches his shoulders forward and in a classic striptease move lets his braces fall down from his shoulders to dangle by his hips over his corduroy trousers. Grabbing both sides of his check shirt he rips it apart to reveal his tea stained vest underneath and with a final flourish he hurls his flat cap on to a pile of hay.

"What the heck are you doing Mick" says Paddy.

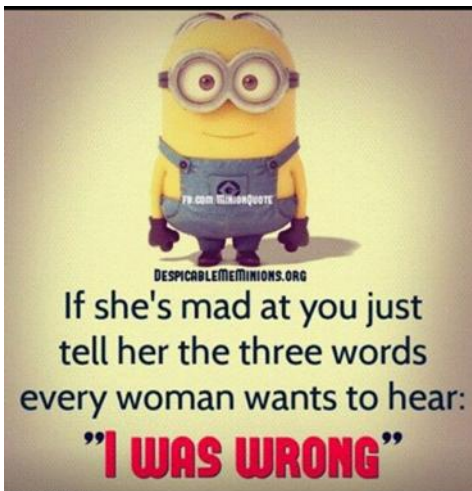
"Jeez Paddy, ye frightened the livin bejusus out of me, says an obviously embarrassed Mick, "but me and the Missus been having some trouble lately in the bedroom department, and the therapist suggested I do something sexy to a tractor".

Irish Craic and Humour 

An elderly couple were sat together and the lady said, 'I remember when you kissed me whenever you could.' The man leant over and pecked her on the cheek. 'I also remember when you held my hand all the time.' The old man placed his hand on hers. She continued, 'I remember when you used to nibble my neck.' The old man shuffled out of the room. 'Where are you going?' asked the old lady. 'To find my teeth,' said the old man.

irishcraicandhumour.com

Never use the word PART in reverse



*But then:
If you want the opposite and wish to make her angry.
Two little words to say are:
Yes Dear*

Conscription was an abuse

An apology and redress is needed for the thousands of young men conscripted into the Australian Army.

by Bruce Haigh, a political commentator and a former national serviceman and diplomat.

On November 26 last year Defence Minister Stephen Smith announced a judicial inquiry into cases of abuse within the Australian Defence Force from the 1950s through to the present day. The single act of introducing conscription, by limited ballot, of young men into the Australian Army, in the years 1965 to 1972, for military service overseas in a war zone, constitutes one of the graver acts of abuse and bullying of Australian citizens in recent history. The judicial inquiry should look at the ethics, effect, equity and justice of conscription. It was an abuse of power and of people, and redress and an apology are required to right the wrong that was committed.

Australia twice voted against the introduction of conscription during World War I. Conscripts fought in Papua, in World War II, because it was an Australian territory; they fought with great distinction on the Kokoda Track, stopping the Japanese just short of Port Moresby and getting abused by the head of the army, General Thomas Blamey, for their trouble.



CMF Soldiers of the 39th Battalion on the Kokoda Track following their relief in September 1942

Continued



**12 Platoon A Coy 11 NSTB
First intake 1959**

*http://
collections.ncc.nsw.gov.au/
keemu/pages/nrm/
Display.php?
irn=31397&QueryPage=%
2Fkeemu%2Fpages%2Fnm%
2FQuery.php*

Conscription, or national service as it was euphemistically called, was introduced in 1965 to provide a pool of trained young men for military service in Vietnam. Australia had a professional army of volunteers, but



**NO. 5 N.S.T.U. R.A.A.F., LAVERTON, VIC., 1956
"B" FLIGHT, 17TH INTAKE, NO. 1 SQUADRON**

Back Row (left to right): A/cr's D. Egan, J. Burrett, B. Birtwistle, M. Bald, D. Ellison, G. Bramich, F. Bellesini, V. Ellis, R. Edwards, G. Emmett, S. Drain, J. Brew.
Centre Row (left to right): A/cr's W. Clark, D. Downin, J. Carey, L. Barham, P. Bradley, G. Dean, G. Ebert, G. Boots, D. Dempsey, J. Cahill, C. Downey, K. Drew.
Front Row (left to right): A/cr's J. Linton, R. Close, I. Bethune, Cpl. D. Eglon, Cpl. C. Barker, Sgt. Sanders, Cpl. D. Drinnan, Cpl. J. Feecey, A/cr's D. Dawson, J. Cameron, J. Donnelly.

after the decision was made to go to war in Vietnam with the United States, concern was expressed within a small and restricted circle of government, that volunteers might not come forward in sufficient numbers to man an expanded army in a commitment of unknown duration and intensity.

<http://nashosphotos.wikidot.com/1956a>

The prime minister, Robert Menzies, announced the introduction of conscription on November 10, 1964; the necessary amendments to the Defence Act were made on April 6, 1965. Menzies announced the commitment of 1 RAR, a battalion of regular soldiers, to Vietnam the next day. He gave no indication that he intended to send the first of the conscripts when their training was completed at the end of 1965.

In citing the need for a limited ballot to draft 20-year old men into the army for two years, Menzies referred vaguely to the growing communist threat from the north and the need for Australia to be prepared to meet any sudden threat quickly.



Troops, including conscripted servicemen, depart on HMAS Sydney in 1966, bound for Vietnam. Photo: R.L. Stewart

There was also a hint that Indonesia might again threaten regional security. However, it seems that Menzies knew exactly why he wanted a bigger army; he had given secret undertakings to the US that Australia would be prepared to give legitimacy, through provision of Australian troops, to a much increased US involvement in Vietnam. It was an act mirrored by another

Liberal prime minister, John Howard, nearly 40 years later.

On August 6, 1964, the US Congress gave the president the power to take whatever action he thought necessary in Vietnam. This was expressed in the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. Menzies and foreign minister Paul Hasluck were led to believe that Australia would be asked to make a major commitment to the war in Vietnam.

If Menzies had wanted to prepare for a general but unspecified threat he would have drafted young men not only into the army but also into the navy and air force, which was the system in operation from 1950 to 1960.

..... Continued

Continued

This system required three months full-time training and a camp once a year for another few years. It was scrapped because the service arms saw it as an unnecessary and unwanted drain on limited resources. Too much time was spent on training recruits rather than lifting and maintaining the skills of professional volunteers.

Ann Marie Jordens, in a chapter "Conscription and dissent" of the book *Vietnam Remembered* (New Holland, 2009), says: "Menzie's avoided seeking a mandate before introducing conscription for overseas service ... and the intense secrecy with which the government enshrouded its plans, ensured no widespread debate occurred before the scheme was firmly in place."

From 1965 to 1972, 804,000 young men registered for national service, 63,375 conscripts served in the army, 19,450 in Vietnam; 1479 were injured and 200 killed. Many others were killed and injured during training and in road accidents travelling interstate to see family and friends. No record has been kept of national servicemen who died while serving in the army, other than in Vietnam.

More than 61,000 Australians served in Vietnam, 42,700 in the army. In all, 520 servicemen died in Vietnam and 2398 were wounded.

Conscripts, or "nashos" as they liked to refer to themselves, were not legally allowed to vote or drink at the time of their registration; they were not allowed to take out a bank mortgage. They were legally under-age. The only way out of military service was to fail the medical, become a conscientious objector, evade the law or be undertaking studies or skills training at the time of registration. Some were allowed to join the Citizen Military Forces because they were in reserved occupations, such as farming.

Unlike regular soldiers awarded the Australian Defence Medal, they are not entitled to a pension. By and large they accepted their fate and made good and loyal soldiers. They fought with distinction in Vietnam and did their duty in Australia.

They are not asking for much, just recognition that at the age of 20 they were removed from family, friends, jobs and careers and stripped of everything familiar, including their hair. They were taught to be aggressive, mechanical, neat and tidy.

Recognition of the nature of the 1965/72 National Service Scheme and of the ethics of conscripting men, not yet able to vote, for service overseas in a war as bloody and complex as either of the two World Wars and Korea needs acknowledgement and examination. The Australian government conscripted and trained 63,000 men to go to a specific war. They were not just trained to be soldiers; they were trained to go to Vietnam.

Nashos who went to Vietnam get the benefits due to veterans of that war. It has been suggested that the 1965/72 conscripts would like a clasp on their National Service Medal to show the years in which they served and some limited benefits, such as an annual medical check and a rebate on commonly used drugs, hearing aids and glasses, for conscripts who, although eligible, did not go to Vietnam.

The judicial inquiry should look into the abuse brought about by the unjust act of the introduction of conscription; an act that led to a great deal of protest and civil unrest. The inquiry should examine the efficacy of an apology and the introduction of some benefits to conscripts who are not recipients of other veteran entitlements.

I thought this article was very interesting and just another way of looking at National Service. Many of our Members are Nasho's and saw the time spent in the Services a great imposition upon their life style. For many it interrupted their vocational training.

But many believed that it strengthened their resolve. Taught the importance of mateship and made them proud to serve their country.

Many today believe that conscription should be reintroduced. Would it fail, especially with our politically correct new generation who appear to be less tolerant towards their fellows and also appear very selfish.

*This statement is entirely my own opinion and not the opinion of the sub-Branch.
Editor*

1. My goal for 2017 was to lose 20 pounds ...only 25 to go.
2. Ate salad for dinner ... mostly croutons and tomatoes ... really just one big, round crouton covered with tomato sauce ... and cheese. Okay, FINE, it was a pizza ... I ate a pizza!
3. How to prepare Tofu in two easy steps:
 - a. Throw it in the trash.
 - b. Grill some meat.

Press Releases from the Minister of Defence Media Branch

The Future of the Australian Defence Force

The new ADF Headquarters structure will be fully implemented on July 1 as an important outcome of the First Principles Review (FPR).

Its main aim is to bring about the four Cs – a coordinated, coherent, comprehensive capability – which ultimately will help make the job of generating military capability easier for our soldiers, sailors, airmen and civilians, according to Head One Defence AVM Neil Hart.

The ADFHQ’s establishment relates to FPR’s intent that Defence operate as one integrated system, called the One Defence approach.

It capitalises on legislative changes recommended in the FPR that have made clear CDF’s position as commander of the ADF, as well as greater clarity for One Defence roles more broadly.

“If we have a more concept-led and integrated approach to delivering capability, over time our units will experience less of the issues we have had in the past,” AVM Hart said.

“Issues such as equipment turning up that isn’t fully compatible or interoperable with our networks, or with the other services or groups.

There has been a lot of effort in the past on workarounds in the field, and a kind of retro-fitting of joint capabilities.”

The key change in terms of operating, exercising and preparing new capabilities is they will arrive as comprehensive packages. This will be done through One Defence’s Capability Life-Cycle approach, which covers everything from planning to maintaining Defence capability. This process will also consider requirements for equipment to be integrated and interoperable parts of the joint force.

“This will allow units to spend more of their early effort during the introduction to service on training and tactics development, rather than so much effort being spent just on making the system work and integrating or developing workarounds,” AVM Hart said.

AVM Hart uses the analogy of buying a new phone to explain what he hopes the new ADFHQ will avoid.

“The legacy approach is like a customer buying a phone, then separately buying a call and data plan, then buying subscriptions and cloud services

and hoping the combination will work together. That often leads to plan changes, device upgrades and other compromises to make the system work – all with additional cost and time,” he said.

In explaining what the new headquarters will look like, AVM Hart cited the evolution of HQJOC as a model, and as a great success story of ‘jointery’.

“In directing the development of the ADFHQ model, CDF often pointed to the joint approach to planning and teamwork at HQJOC,” he said.

“HQJOC has evolved significantly over the past 15 years or so, moving us from stove-piped service planning, to the integrated approach to joint planning and operations we now have.

“The arrangements at JOC put us in a fantastic place operationally, as a result of being an integrated entity that is not just joint, but also better supports us working with our friends and partners from across government, such as AFP, Border Protection and Foreign Affairs, and in coalitions.

“Joint and integrated has really become the only way we operate, fight and do business, and that is being reflected through the integrated ADFHQ.”



Battlespaces are getting more complex and the new ADFHQ will help Defence meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Image courtesy of Elbit

AVM Hart said much of the day-to-day activities of staff in the ADFHQ would not significantly change, but there would be a shift in philosophy. “It’s about effective teamwork, which is what CDF, VCDF and the Service Chiefs agreed was important in agreeing to integrate the HQ. HQ tasks will take an integrated approach that can use the right

Continued

.....*Continued* military and civilian specialist HQ staff to develop a joint plan of action,” he said.

“The ADFHQ will play a key role in the strategic centre, bringing together more coherent military advice with a focus on one of the core things Defence does in developing, preparing and employing joint forces.

“In practical terms, the Chiefs will all be posted to ADFHQ reporting to CDF, and all of their HQ staff will be a part of the ADFHQ. However, what doesn’t change is that the Chiefs are still in command of their service, responsible for developing their specialised workforces and delivering advanced capabilities to form joint forces.”

Another important aspect of the ADFHQ will be the establishment of a new senior position – Chief of Joint Capabilities – to lead the newly formed Joint Capabilities Group.

AVM Warren McDonald will take up the role on July 1 and will focus on the information warfighting environment and the enabling military capabilities of logistics, health and the Australian Defence College.

Information warfare development is a particularly important aspect of the new ADFHQ. It introduces a fourth warfighting environment to complement the existing focus on developing sea, land and air capabilities.

“I think that’s a critical piece of becoming the 21st century ADF we need to be. There’s not one operation I can think of where assuring the use of information, along with protecting it, doesn’t form a key part of joint planning of our advanced capabilities, so we need to become more expert in that field,” AVM Hart said.

<http://www.navynews.gov.au>

NAVY 1942 Sinking of the “*Nestor*” Remembrance

The lives of three Australian and one British sailor lost during the Second World War when HMAS *Nestor* was attacked have been honoured at a commemorative service at Garden Island, Sydney.

On 15 June 1942, *Nestor* was part of a covering force for a large convoy when she came under air attack about 100 miles north of the port of

Tobruk, in Libya. Three heavy bombs straddled the ship, resulting in the No 1 boiler room being flooded.

The destroyer was taken in tow by Royal Navy ship HMS *Javelin*, but under the threat of further attack a decision was made to scuttle the Australian ship a day later, after her surviving crew had been transferred to safety.

The four men killed in action that day were Australians: Petty Officer Stoker Jack Bulmer; Leading Stoker Campbell Hill; Stoker Leslie Blight; and British sailor, Leading Stoker Matthew Burns of the Royal Navy.

Executive Officer of Sydney base HMAS *Kuttabul*, Lieutenant Commander Barry Purkiss, was joined by two *Nestor* survivors, Captain John Stevenson and Lieutenant Commander Ken Brown, in remembering the bravery of those involved in the action.

“*Nestor* isn’t one of our most famous ships, but the 249 members of her ship’s company made a valuable contribution to the war,” Lieutenant Commander Purkiss said.

“We not only remember those who never came home, but also thank the survivors and the commitment of the men and women who have served their nations in times of conflict.

“We are recognising many 75th anniversaries this year, and it is a poignant time for the Australian Defence Force to reflect on why we commit ourselves to service. The ideals fought for in the Second World War are the same we continue to pursue today,” he said.

Nestor was awarded Battle Honours for Atlantic, Malta convoys and Indian Ocean. The N-class destroyer was also awarded a battle honour for being part of the force that hunted and sank the *Bismarck* and destroyed the German submarine U-127.



(R-L) Survivor of the HMAS Nestor attack, Lieutenant Commander Ken Brown, RAN (Rtd), sits next to Captain Gavin Irwin, RAN, and fellow survivor Captain John Stephenson, RAN (Rtd), at the 75th memorial service held at the Royal Australian Navy Heritage Centre

<http://news.navy.gov.au/en/Jun2017/Events/3820/>

[75th-anniversary-of-loss-of-HMAS-Nestor.htm#.WVWSAIVOKUk](http://news.navy.gov.au/en/Jun2017/Events/3820/75th-anniversary-of-loss-of-HMAS-Nestor.htm#.WVWSAIVOKUk)

The President of Mexico has announced that Mexico will not participate in the next Summer Olympics. He said that, "Anyone who can run, jump, or swim has already left the country."



Australian Army soldier Private Peter Puruntatamere of North-West Mobile Force, Kimberley Squadron, rehearses patrolling techniques at Mount Bunday Training Area, Northern Territory, during Exercise Talisman Saber 17 Field Training Exercise - North.

The Field Training Exercise - North (FTX-N) component of Exercise TALISMAN SABER 17 (TS17) commenced in Darwin on 24 Jun 17.

FTX-N involves more than 3000 personnel from the Australian and United States defence forces, including the marine Rotational Force - Darwin.

TS17 is a biennial combined Australian and United States training activity, designed to train the respective military forces in planning and conducting Combined Task Force operations to improve combat readiness and interoperability.

This will be the seventh time TS17 as been conducted and will involve over 30,000 Australian and US defence personnel.

TS17 is scheduled to take place from late June through to late July 2017 with the majority of exercise activities taking place in Shoalwater Bay Training Area, near Rockhampton. Activities will also be occurring in Townsville, Enoggera, Amberley and Darwin.





An Iraqi Army M1A1 Abrams Tank moves forward to conduct an assault during a combined arms training activity as part of the Officer and Junior Leader's Course with Australian and New Zealand Defence Force personnel from Task Group Taji 4 at Taji Military

Operation OKRA

Defence Force personnel from Australia and New Zealand are training members of the Iraqi Security Forces to defeat the Daesh terrorist group. They are deployed on active service to Iraq as part of Task Group Taji 4 for Operation Okra.

The training includes: the laws of armed conflict, weapons handling, first aid, vehicle checkpoints, explosive hazards awareness, building clearances and obstacle breaching techniques. Instruction is inclusive of tactics, techniques and procedures from squad through to company-level operations for use in the fight against Daesh.

<http://www.army.gov.au>

This year marks 75 years since the Bomber Command began their major bombing offensive against German targets during the Second World War. Over one-third of Australian personnel who served with Bomber Command, some 3,486 aviators, were killed in action.

On the 3rd and 4th of June, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) partnered with the Bomber Command Association Australia (BCAA), Bomber Command Commemorative Day Foundation (BCCDF), and the Australian War Memorial (AWM) to deliver two significant events in Canberra to commemorate Bomber Command.

Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Leo Davies, was honoured to attend the Last Post and Commemorative Wreath ceremonies and meet with veterans and their families.

“Bomber Command is a significant part of Air Force’s history. To be able to remember those Australian aviators who served with Bomber Command and never returned, and hear the stories of those who survived, is a special opportunity,” Air Marshal Davies said.

“It is important to reflect on our aviation history in Europe, as we apply the same values and dedication on operations over Iraq today.”

An F/A-18 Hornet conducted a flypast over the AWM on both days linking history with current operational service of our airmen today.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Ret'd) and Honorary Patron of the BCCDF attended the services with his family.

“I have had a lot to do with the veterans of the Bomber Command through many, many years,” Air Chief Marshal Sir Houston said.

“I feel very strongly that it’s important we continue to support and recognise the contribution that Bomber Command made in World War Two.”

Close to 40 veterans attended along with widows and family members. Siblings Ron Smith and Robynne Mitchell attended in memory of their uncle Flying Officer, Ron Feilberg who served in 466 Squadron.

“Flying Officer Feilberg was the pilot of the plane. He sacrificed his life to save his crew by ordering the crew to bail out,” Ms Mitchell said.

They were pleased to catch up with Tiana Walker Adair whose father, Flight Lieutenant Len Walker was also in 466 Squadron, flying with FLGOFF Feilberg.

“It’s so important to acknowledge their sacrifice – I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for Ron (Feilberg). His action’s saved my father’s life and that of the crew,” Ms Walker said.

“The ambience of the AWM was very fitting to the occasion,” Ms Mitchell said.

In addition to the flypasts Air Force support included an Honour Guard from 460 Squadron, an all Air Force Catafalque Party from Australia's Federation Guard, music and bugler from the Air Force Band and ADFA Cadets to hold the Association Banner.

By Flying Officer Erika Seymour



Lancaster Bomber

[http://www.battlefieldhistorytours.com.au/
About_RAAF_UK.php](http://www.battlefieldhistorytours.com.au/About_RAAF_UK.php)



LAST POST



Bette May Young

Born 12 March 1924—Died 25 June 2017

Sergeant - NF437641

Australian Women's Army Service - WWII

Rest In Peace



STOP PRESS