

Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

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"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"

Newsletter

Issue 89

March, 2019

SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE—2017—2020

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 - Vice President** Ian Muirhead, Ambrose Dinh J.P.
 - Secretary**..... Gary Roser JP
 - Treasurer** Ralph Hannaford
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 - Committee** Max Stone, David Tu, Brian Abbot,
..... Ian Kennedy JP, Greg Brown,
 - Welfare Officer** Greg Brown
 - FSMDC Delegates** Ron Duckworth, Ian Muirhead
 - Alt FSMDC Delegate**..... Ian Kennedy JP, Gary Roser JP
 - Sub-Branch Trustees** Ron Duckworth, Max Stone, Ralph Hannaford
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 - Newsletter Editor**..... Gary Roser JP - 0409 919 364
 - Bankstown City Aged Care** Ian Muirhead, Gary Roser JP
 - Webmaster** Max Stone
 - Schools Liaison Officer** Ambrose Dinh J.P.
- For service ring the Secretary, Gary Roser on 0409 919 364*



EDITORIAL** *Gary Roser, Editor*

By now many of you will know that Congress has been cancelled for May, 2019 and will probably be held in October this year.

There are a couple of reasons why. One is that RSLNSW hasn't got a new Constitution ready to be presented. By now you know that RSLNSW (and predominately our RSLNSW President) didn't expect the backlash that delegates showed at the extraordinary congress in December.

We are told there will be much more consultation with the sub-Branches. The SVA Survey employed was but one method employed. Some said it was very pointed towards what RSLNSW wanted in the first place, but saying that, it has left room for additional comments. We will see, as East Maitland has registered their opposition to the survey, as have a number of others.

On my attending the Far Southern Metropolitan District Meeting as an Alternate Delegate in February, there was much discussion and some opposition to the SVA Survey. Some delegates didn't understand the questions at all. God help us.

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

Sub-Branch Meetings	
<u>Committee</u> Mondays 5.00pm	<u>Sub-Branch</u> Sundays 10:30am
15 th April 2019	No Meeting
Thursday, 25 th April 2019 @ 5.30am ANZAC Day Dawn Service	
Sunday, 28 th April 2019 @ 11.30am ANZAC Luncheon	
20 th May 2019	26 th May 2019
17 th June 2019	23 th June 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to the 2nd newsletter for the year and there are changes to our Committee that happened at the AGM.

Firstly, Ambrose Dinh was elected as Vice-President to replace Kevin Mahony for the remainder of this term. Ambrose also has taken on the role of Schools Liaison Officer. He will be the initial contact for all our schools.

Secondly, I appointed Greg Brown as Welfare Officer. Greg will be the first point of contact for welfare matters and he will arrange visits as necessary.

Remember, the role of Welfare Officer has changed with the old ‘TIP’ training courses being replaced with Advocate training by DVA. We can no longer offer advice, as Kevin was our only trained advocate, but now we can only refer to relevant Aged Care Departments for specific advice.

I attend the Australia Day Awards at Bankstown Council, where Joy Green of our Women’s Auxiliary received ‘Volunteer of the Year’. Congratulations and well done “Joy”.

We also conducted an RSL Tribute for Bill Webb. After the Service, I had a number of the Bill’s family and friends say to me how much they appreciated what we did for Bill at that service.

We also attend the funeral of Ray Ward’s wife, Helen.

A number of the Committee attended the Vietnamese New Year or TET Festival at Fairfield Showground on 9th February to celebrate the Year of the Pig. A great evening with the highlight being the presentation of 16 higher school certificate achievers. They ranged from 99.25 to 99.95. Excellent results all round.

Gary and I took the Women’s Auxiliary on their monthly bus trips. We ended up at the Mounties Club for lunch in February and Miranda RSL in March. They also held their AGM in February, with the same officers being returned.

Don’t forget our ANZAC Luncheon coming up in April. A \$25.00 per person refundable deposit is required to secure your seat.

At the February Meeting of the District Council, 2 motions were brought forward for consideration and endorsement.

1. Ingleburn seeking to remove the term “Senior Service” from use within the RSL. After arguments were taken, it was decided not to support the motion.

Arguments for the motion centred around the term being inherited from the Royal Navy, where the arguments against the motion were also regarding traditions. e.g.

We of the RSL honour the traditions of our country’s armed forces and the loss of some traditions lately has contributed to the mess not only the RSL but our country finds itself in.

The bequeathing of traditions, customs, and ship battle honours from the RN to its daughter-service of the RAN means that the Royal Australian Navy has inherited the term ‘Senior Service’ as well.

This term is recognised throughout our nation not only by servicemen and women but the civilian population as well.

2. Camden seeking support to lobby the Government to transfer the Kokoda Track administration from Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT) to Department Veterans’ Affairs (DVA). This motion was supported.

DVA is responsible for our WW 1 military heritage at Gallipoli while DFAT is responsible for our WW 2 military heritage along the Kokoda Track. One of DVA’s key roles is acknowledging and commemorating the service and sacrifice of all those who served Australia and its allies in wars.

It therefore made sense to support this motion.

Finally, I will mention ANZAC Day. Our ANZAC Service will be conducted in the same manner as we have in the past, so if you haven’t attended for some time, please consider coming along this year and join with your fellow Members in commemorating our fallen.

See you at our meetings.

Ron Duckworth, President

SECRETARY'S REPORT



A busy time of the year for administration. Invitations for ANZAC Dawn Service have been sent and participants requested once again. We try and stick to the same format each year for that is what is advised by RSL NSW.

All schools within our area have been offered to be attended by the member/s of the committee for their ANZAC Service. Some will require an ANZAC address, placing another load on administration, combined with our own address and one for Nursing Homes.

The Thursday prior to the Luncheon we want to see you and your family and friends at our ANZAC Day Dawn Service. Be there at 5.30am so you can either march or wait for the marchers to be lead to the club cenotaph.

You should have a flyer with this Newsletter for our ANZAC Luncheon on Sunday, 28th April. Please get them back to us ASAP, and in any case by the close of business Monday, 15th April. We need to know for catering purposes.

Those attending our ANZAC Luncheon can be assured of the best food. Hong goes out of her way to cook us a great meal each Luncheon.

I congratulate Ambrose Dinh JP, for being elected our Vice President with Ian Muirhead. Ambrose has also taken on the gigantic task of Schools Liaison Officer. Well done Ambrose.

On a personal note I would like to state my sympathy to our brothers across the “*Ditch*” for the atrocity committed on New Zealand soil.

Terrorism comes in many forms, and whatever our beliefs and I remind you of the slogan for the RSL: “***The price of liberty is eternal vigilance***”.

Gary Roser J.P.

Welfare Officer:

Greg Brown 0400 190 755

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

This article is so befitting for all of us... take time to ponder... the last statement cannot be refuted.

I FIRST STARTED READING THIS AND WAS READING FAST UNTIL I REACHED THE THIRD SENTENCE. I STOPPED THEN AND STARTED OVER, READING SLOWER AND THINKING ABOUT EVERY WORD. IT MAKES YOU STOP AND THINK.

So, please READ SLOWLY!

AND THEN IT IS WINTER

You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems like yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago and I wonder where all those years went.

I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is ... the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those “older people” were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But here it is, my friends are retired and getting grey ... they move slower and I see an older person in myself now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me ... but I see the great change. Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant but like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore, it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will, I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so, now I enter this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did! But at least I know that though the winter has come and I'm not sure how long it will last... this I know, that when it's over on this earth ... It's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done, things I should have done but indeed, there are also many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet, let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long! Life goes by quickly. So do what you can TODAY, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life ... so LIVE FOR TODAY and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!

"Life" is a GIFT to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

Remember: "It is Health that is real Wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."

- Your kids are becoming you but your grandchildren are perfect!
- Going out is good ... coming home is even better!
- You forget names ... but it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!
- You realise you're never going to be really good at anything ... especially golf or bowling.
- The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.
- You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep.
- You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.
- You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what? "when?"
- Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.
- You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless!"
- What used to be freckles are now liver spots.
- Everybody whispers.
- You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet ... 2 of which you will never wear.
- But "Old" is good in some things:
 - ◇ Old Songs, Old movies and best of all, our dear OLD FRIENDS!
 - ◇ Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!"
 - ◇ Show this to other "Old Friends" and let them laugh in agreement!



MY WAR SERVICE IN THE UK WOMENS ROYAL AIR FORCE

By Florence “Lorrie” Roger

(Member of the Bass Hill RSL Auxiliary
and City of Bankstown RSL sub-Branch)

The year was 1941 and I was home thinking *I should be doing something for the war effort.*

My two brothers were in the Forces, one in the Army (The Royal Engineers) and the other in the Royal Air Force, and I was at home looking after my father. My mother had died early in 1939.

I decided I would apply to the Womens’ Auxiliary Air Force as my father had met a village girl and employed her as a live-in housekeeper. And I didn’t get along with her.

I got a reply to my application and was asked to go to the recruiting office in Oxford. I went and filled in forms and had a medical exam. I wasn’t old enough but hoped they wouldn’t say anything. 18 was the age for women to join at that time. Came home and waited for my papers to arrive. When they came they told me to report to Innsworth Training Camp in Gloucestershire, and what to take with me. I was to report on the 19th March. I would not be 18 until 24th April.

When I went to Innsworth the officer asked me what I could do? I had no idea as I had been at home since I left school. She suggested I become a parachute packer as it was a new trade for females. So I became a parachute packer and was paid one pound two shillings per fortnight. A few weeks later the pay went to One pound eight shillings.



When I left Innsworth I was 18 and posted to Marham in Norfolk, a bomber station. There were 45 other WAAF on the station and when I left there in November the numbers had risen to 200. Maybe because the age limit was put down to 17 ½. It was at Marham I saw my first German. He had been shot down and was brought as a prisoner to the guardroom.

I learned to pack parachutes but still needed to be trained for safety equipment so I was sent to Melksham in Wiltshire. I spent my first Christmas as a WRAF there and then posted to

a training station. There were 14 of us and we had no idea of what was in store for us.

This was Bridgenorth, a WAAF training camp for new recruits. I couldn't understand why we were there. The WAAF officer told us 14 girls that our new station was not yet ready for us. By this time I had been for nearly a year in the WAAF and thought I knew everything. The other girls with me had gone to the course soon after their initial training so I didn't know a great deal about how new things were done. I said something is wrong because there is never more



Shown is a photo of the parachute shop at Burtonwood, England, Depot Hundreds of parachutes can be seen in the photos. Seat-pack, back-pack and Quick Attachable Chest parachutes are present. In the foreground a drop test dummy with an OD A-3 harness is present. On the tables parachutes can be seen in various states of packing.

<http://www.303rdbg.com/uniforms-gear7.html>

than 2 or 3 in a parachute section. How wrong I was. When we finally went to our own new station we were joined with men from the Army as well as the RAF. We were taken to see where we would be working and it was a hangar with lino covering the concrete floor and filled with parachute tables which are 22 feet long. I can't remember how many there were but the floor space was all taken up. The next hangar was full of gliders. This was to purpose the paratroops for overseas.

The officer in charge of the whole set up was Lord Louis Mountbatten who came over quite often. We were always getting the top brass for visits. The King and Queen came one day and soon after we had Sir Winston Churchill. We had to be smart and *on our toes* the whole time, as we never knew who could be coming next.

Whilst I was there I saw the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Parachute Battalions formed and trained. We belonged to the recovery team that went out on Salisbury Plain to Brigmerston Field, a field near Stonehenge and pick up the parachutes after the paratroops has dropped. They would drop 200 at a time, men and equipment.

... .. Continued

Continued

Everything was exciting, but I longed to be back in a small parachute section. So I decided I would put in for a new posting.

The posting was granted as I had been at Netherton for a long time and it was with mixed feelings I said goodbye to all my friends, but excited to be going to a small section. I was wrong again. My new station was Ringway near Manchester and was a parachute training station for French troops. I realised after a few months that I could never be out of large scale paratroops so the only thing I could do is re-muster. It meant I would lose my Leading Aircraftman Woman's and go back to ACW2, but I wouldn't lose much pay as flight mechs were grade 2 and parachute packing was grade 5.

I went on the course for flight mech (engineer) and was top ten girl at the basic section. The rest of the course was harder but it was something I liked doing and I passed out with good marks. I was posted to Northern

Ireland and then South Wales and finished up near my home in Scotland.

The war had now stopped and we were all waiting to be demobbed. By this time I had served 5 years and made a lot of friends and had seen all over the British Isles, so my time had not been wasted. And I did get back to LACW.



WAAF parachute packers of WW2

http://s3.amazonaws.com/hoth.bizango/images/145989/WAAFs_with_parachutes_feature.jpg

**You're never
childless,
when you
have a
husband.**

ANZAC Symbols and Traditions

Slouch hat



By 1890, State military commandants had agreed that all Australian forces, except the artillery corps, should wear a looped-up hat of uniform pattern that was turned up on the right side in Victoria and Tasmania, and on the left side in all other States to allow for different drill movements

Rising Sun Badge



There are seven patterns of the Rising Sun. The Rising Sun has evolved over time and today Australian Army soldiers wear the seventh pattern Rising Sun. The ANZAC's wore the 4th pattern that included Australian Commonwealth Military Forces on the bottom bars of the badge

Rosemary



Since ancient times this aromatic herb has been believed to have properties to improve the memory. Perhaps because of this, rosemary became an emblem of both fidelity and remembrance in literature and folklore.

Traditionally, sprigs of rosemary are worn on Anzac Day and sometimes on Remembrance Day, and are usually handed out by Legacy and the RSL. Rosemary has particular significance for Australians, as it is found growing wild on the Gallipoli peninsula.

Light Horse Emu Plumes



shearers' strike of 1891.

When the Light Horse went to Egypt, Queenslanders, Tasmanians and South Australians wore splendid emu plumes in their hats - actually, small squares of emu hide with the long, brown-tipped white feathers still attached. The plume had originally been a battle honour of the Queensland Mounted Infantry for their work in the

Now it was adopted by almost all the Light Horse Regiments. Even when a Regiment did not wear the plume on parade or in battle, the men kept one in their kit and tucked it in the hatband when they went on leave. It was the proud badge of the light horseman.

The Last Post, Reveille and Rouse



In military tradition, the Last Post is the bugle call that signifies the end of the day's activities. It is also sounded at military funerals to indicate that the soldier has gone to his final rest and at commemorative services such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. The Last Post is normally followed by Rouse except at the Dawn Service when Reveille is played. Historically Reveille woke the soldiers at Dawn.

SPIDERWOMAN



- * What if my dog only brings back the ball because he thinks I like throwing it?
- * If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
- * Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?
- * Do twins ever realise that one of them is unplanned?
- * Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?
- * Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and It just takes 75-100 years to fully work.
- * Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
- * The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".
- * 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
- * Your future self is watching you right now through memories.
- * The doctors that told Stephen Hawking he had two years to live in 1953 are probably dead.
- * If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.
- * Many animals probably need glasses, but nobody knows it.
- * If you rip a hole in a net, there are actually fewer holes in it than there were before.
- * If 2/2/22 falls on a Tuesday, we'll just call it "2's Day".
(*It does fall on a Tuesday*)



Australian Army Nursing Service. (1902-1948)

The Australian Army Nursing Service, which was actually a reserve, was established on 1 July 1902. The Service was staffed by volunteer civilian nurses who would be available for duty during times of national emergency. Members of the Service served in both the World Wars, staffing medical facilities in Australia and overseas. In 1949 the Service became part of the Australian Regular Army and is now known as the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC).

Prior to Australia's Federation in 1901, each colony controlled its own defence force, of which the nursing services formed a part. In July 1902 the nursing services of each colony joined together to form the Australian Army Nursing Service. The Service which was part of the Australian Army Medical Corps was made up of volunteer trained nurses who were willing to serve in times of a national emergency.

At the outbreak of World War I staff were recruited from both the nursing service and the civilian workforce. They served at field and base hospitals in Australia as well as in Egypt, England, France, Belgium, Greece, Salonika, Palestine, Mesopotamia and India. After the war the Australian Army Nursing Service returned to a reserve status.

The Australian Army Nursing Service was one of only two women's services (the other being Voluntary Aid Detachments) that were active at the outbreak of war in 1939. Initially the enlisted nurses were the only females to serve outside Australia. Members served in England, Egypt, Palestine, Libya, Greece, Syria, Ceylon, Malaya, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Island as well as throughout Australia. They served on hospital ships, troop transports, base and camp hospitals and some spent time in Prisoner of War camps.

After the war members served as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. In July 1947 members of the Australian Army Nursing Service were transferred to the Interim Army, and in November 1948 the Service was designated a 'Royal' one. In July 1949 the Royal Australian Army Nursing Service became part of the Australian Regular Army. In February 1951 the Service became a Corps and is known as the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC). The Pledge of Service was introduced during World War Two.

“I pledge myself loyally to serve my King and Country and to maintain the honour and efficiency of the Australian Army Nursing Service. I will do all in my power to alleviate the suffering of the sick and wounded, sparing no effort to bring them comfort of body and peace of mind. I will work in unity and comradeship with my fellow nurses. I will be ready to give assistance to those in need of my help, and will abstain from any action which may bring sorrow and suffering to others. At all times I will endeavour to uphold the highest traditions of Womanhood and of the Profession of which I am Part.”

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/people/597790>



World War 1 VAD Nurse Uniform



World War 2 Nurse



Today's Army Nurses are highly trained specialists

Photos copywrite from
<https://www.army.gov.au>

A Math Understanding

At New York's Kennedy airport today, a suspicious passenger who was about to board a flight, was detained and arrested.

Police found the passenger to be in possession of the following suspicious items - a ruler, a protractor, a set square, a slide rule, and a calculator.

At a press conference held shortly after the passengers detention and arrest, Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, said it was believed the passenger was a member of a new and exceptionally dangerous terrorist cell - the Al-Gebra group. Sessions stated the man has been charged by the FBI with being in possession of weapons of math instruction.

"Al-Gebra is a fearsome new extremist group", said Sessions. "They desire to reach average solutions by means and extremes, and they sometimes go off on tangents in search of absolute values."

"They utilise secret code words such as "x" and "y", and refer to themselves as 'unknowns'". "But we have determined that they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval, with co-ordinates in every country".

Asked to comment on the mans arrest, President Trump said, "Well, as the Greek philanderer Isosceles said, there's 3 sides to every triangle." "If God had wanted us to have better weapons of math instruction, he would have given us more fingers and toes".

"I'm gratified that the Dept of Homeland Security has given us a sine that they are doing their best to protract us from these math-dogs who are willing to disintegrate us with calculus regard. Statisticians love to inflict plane on every sphere of influence".

"Under the circumferences, we must differentiate the root of Al-Gebra, make our point, and draw a line. These weapons of math instruction have the potential to decimal everything in their math, on a scale never before seen."

"I can only say to these people, "Read my ellipse. One principle we will follow. Though they try to multiply, their days are numbered, as the hypotenuse tightens around their necks!"

ooo000ooo

The fact that Jellyfish
have survived for
650 million years
despite not
having
brains
gives hope
to many people.



DespicableMeMinions.com



A woman walked into the kitchen
to find her husband stalking around
with a fly swatter.

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"Hunting flies," He responded.

"Oh! Killing any?" she asked.

"Yep, 3 males, 2 females," he replied.

Intrigued, she asked.

"How can you tell them apart?"

He responded,

"3 were on a beer can,
2 were on the phone."

"You idiot! I said kit
inspection"



**Fight like you're the third monkey
trying to get onto Noah's ark**

The Following articles appeared in the Navy, Army and RAAF Newspapers & Media Releases

www.defence.gov.au/news/navynews,
www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews
www.defence.gov.au/news/raafnews

NAVY

Submarines put on a rare display



United States Navy Submarine USS Santa Fe joins our submarines in formation in the West Australian Exercise Area.

LEUT Sarah West and Andrew Bujdegan

MARINERS transiting near Western Australia's coastline in the last week of February were treated to the rare sight of five submarines underway in formation on the surface.

HMA Ships Dechaineux, Sheean, Collins and Farncomb, were joined in the West Australian Exercise Area by United States Navy Los Angelesclass fast attack submarine USS Santa Fe.

The five submarines were participating in a range of combined military activities, including exercises Ocean Explorer and Lungfish.

While it is rare to catch a glimpse of even one submarine at sea, all five rendezvoused off Fremantle, before returning to the depths to resume their tactical exercises.

Deputy Commander Submarine Force CMDR Chris Forward said working with other Navies was a common practice for Australia's submarine

squadron.

"Our submariners never miss an opportunity to hone their skills, and exercises like these provide an ideal opportunity to operate closely with our surface ships, submarines and aircraft, as well as with vessels from other countries, in a variety of complex scenarios," CMDR Forward said.

Director General Submarines CDRE Timothy Brown said although rarely seen, the RAN's submarines were achieving a high operational tempo and would be deploying throughout the region in 2019.

"Last year, our submarines spent more than 600 days at sea, which was the highest tempo ever achieved by the Collinsclass," CDRE Brown said.

“We’re expecting them to spend closer to 700 days at sea this year, which is a boon for the RAN, because submarines are our primary offensive capability, offering stealth, range, endurance and weapons that can reach into an adversary’s waters and threaten or strike a range of targets.

“Submarines make the planning of military actions much harder for potential adversaries, and require a disproportionate effort to counter, making them a critical strategic asset for Australia.

“Over the past four years, the RAN has had a strong focus on growing our submarine workforce and enhancing the enterprise partnership between Navy, Defence and industry, and these things have underpinned the operational success of the Collins-class in recent times.”

Navynews March 7,

Charting safer seas



The Navy Laser Airborne Depth Sounder flight in New Zealand.

THE Laser Airborne Depth Sounder (LADS) Flight is deployed to Invercargill in New Zealand to undertake survey operations over Macquarie Island.

The World Heritage-listed island, about halfway between Australia and Antarctica, hosts an Australian Antarctic Division research station.

The aim of the survey is to improve knowledge of potential dangers to ships

visiting the island, with a focus on the area surrounding the station.

XO LEUT Cheyne Colley said the improved data would be used to update the existing nautical charts used by vessels navigating in the area.

“The charts that are updated from the data captured by LADS will ensure safer navigation and greater environmental protection by reducing the risk of a marine accident,” LEUT Colley said.

The LADS flight will fly as many as eight sorties from Invercargill, with each sortie lasting up to seven hours.

“The unit is unique to any Navy in the world. The technology was developed in Australia and uses a scanning laser which is mounted in the aircraft to collect hydrographic survey data and depth information,” LEUT Colley said.

Help in high water

Cpl Joske Nettle

PEOPLE were rescued from roofs and a lady reduced to tears as 35 Water Tpt Sqn's amphibious vehicles made light work of floodwaters to evacuate Townsville residents from February, 1st - 11th.

The squadron provided four LARCVs and 30 soldiers to help more than 300 people leave the worst affected areas.

Section 2IC LCpl India Tanner said the water ranged from waist to chest deep. "As we came down the street, people would see us and come outside with their bags and we would help them onto the LARCs," she said. "With everyone's personal belongings and up to 20 people on board, it gets pretty crowded, but everyone was just happy for the help.

"We had babies, cats, dogs, birds in their cages and all kinds of pets on board with us that we had to take to safer locations." The LARCs, partnered with 3 Bde soldiers, traversed flooded areas to evacuate people from the top floors of homes and roofs.

"The LARC crew and the 1RAR soldiers would get out and head towards stranded people in their homes," she said. "There was a lot of people that were very overwhelmed and you could see their faces ease as they noticed us approaching to help, they were very appreciative."

"One lady had her bags and came up to us, but had to wade back down the street to get her cats. When she got on the vehicle, all the emotions just hit her and she had a bit of a breakdown. It was hard to see, but at the same time she was very grateful towards us and everyone came together and comforted her as best we could." OC 35 Water Tpt Sqn Maj Natalie Adams said her soldiers were happy to help out.

"The soldiers demonstrated compassion during the evacuation of residents, which really contributed to calming some of those people who were really stressed and in shock at the situation," she said.

"The LARCs were used because the floodwaters had become really deep and restricted most wheeled vehicles from accessing flooded areas, so they essentially needed boats.

Help in high water



35 Water Tpt Sqn soldiers patrol the flooded streets of Townsville

“Even though the LARCs are old, they are still really capable in disaster recovery scenarios and are able to get in and out of floodwaters to get to people quickly.” 35 Water Tpt Sqn currently have a troop of LARCs each embarked on HMA Ships Choules and Canberra providing support to Australia’s regional highrisk weather response and Indo-Pacific engagement activities.

Army News, March 7

Good soldiering

CA Lt-Gen Rick Burr



ARMY’S birthday, the 1st of March, marked the launch of the Good Soldiering program. Army is a high performance organisation – we must be – the profession of arms demands it. Our Army values – courage, initiative, respect and teamwork – have seen us through all manner of circumstances, from operations across the globe, and assisting our local communities here at home. But, we are an Army in Motion and there is always room to improve.

The Good Soldiering program is what we will use to take the next step, to optimise our culture. It is fundamental to the success of our warfighting philosophy. Good Soldiering emphasises high performance teams, and it

details the signature behaviours that build a good culture.

It is about getting the best from our people, our teams and from Army. It is about developing character. It is about achieving the mission.

The Good Soldiering program will help us achieve our aim – to be professional, prepared, delivering through our people – you, me, us – to achieve our individual and collective potential.

Everyone in Army owns our culture. We each have our own part in taking the next step.

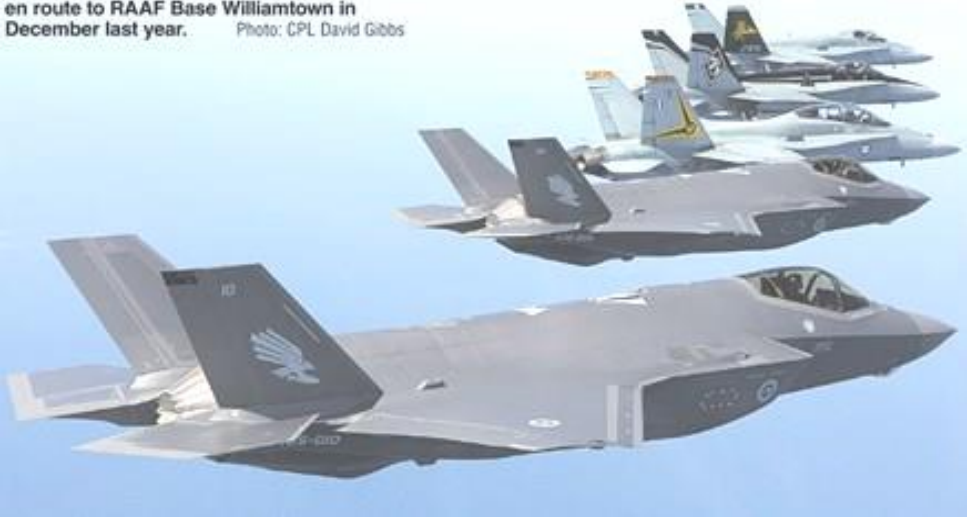
Thank you., Good Soldiering.

Army News, March 7

Tindal in focus for JSF Task force assesses top end base to support our new fifth-generation fighter

Alisha Welch—DEFENCE and industry

F-35A aircraft – A35-010 and A35-009 – fly in formation with F/A-18A/B Hornets en route to RAAF Base Williamtown in December last year. Photo: CPL David Gibbs



F-35A aircraft – A35-010 and A35-009 – fly in formation with F/A-18A/B Hornets en route to RAAF Base Williamtown in December last year. Photo: CPL David Gibbs visited RAAF Base Tindal for the first Site Activation Task Force (SATAF) activity to assess the base’s readiness to support F-35A operations.

F-35A aircraft are scheduled to arrive at Tindal for permanent basing from February 2022, with construction of the F-35A facilities at the base underway and on schedule for completion by the end of 2020.

Project Director Support Systems GPCAPT Rodney Srinivasan, of Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Division, said the aim of the SATAF process was to identify gaps between the existing on-site capabilities and future requirements to support the Australian F-35A Air System at Tindal.

GPCAPT Srinivasan said the activity was an opportunity for key stakeholders to develop a better understanding of the remoteness and climatic challenges at Tindal.

He said this would allow them “to factor those elements into their planning to achieve the delivery and installation of materiel hardware in the purpose-built F-35A facilities”.

“Being able to walk around the construction site at the new precinct gave the contractors key insights into what will be required to meet the agreed timelines,” he said.

“We will also be able to leverage from the lessons of the SATAF activities conducted at RAAF Base Williamtown, which occurred from 2014 to 2017.” Performance and Reporting Officer Sarah Rollings, of JSF Division, said the focus now shifted to gaining the security accreditations required for the new precinct and the delivery of contracted items from the F-35 Program prime contractors.

“Once delivery of some of the key systems is complete, we then begin focusing on the installation of the F-35 equipment,” Ms Rollings said.

“One big challenge with this is the climatic conditions and when – whether wet or dry season – is the best time to send the equipment and conduct the installs. Working in heat and humidity also needs to be factored into the duration of the install works.”

Given the success of the RAAF Base Williamtown preparations, the team is confident everything will be in place on time for No. 75 Squadron to begin operating the fifth-generation jets.

“This high level of cross-organisation and international collaboration is crucial for long-term success,” GPCAPT Srinivasan said.

The SATAF activity from January 29 until February 1 involved more than 40 personnel from the JSF Division, Air Combat Systems Program Office, Air Combat Group, Chief Information Officer Group, US F-35 Joint Program Office (JPO) and industry – including Lend Lease, Coffey, Lockheed Martin and Pratt & Whitney – working together to clarify issues as 75SQN prepares to transition from F/A-18A Hornet operations to the fifth-generation F-35A.

The Tindal SATAF was led by the JPO, which will incorporate the key findings from this event into future SATAFs, scheduled to be conducted for other F-35 partner nations and foreign military sales customers. At least one more Tindal SATAF event is planned for early 2020.

LAST POST



William (Bill) Malcolm Webb

2/704790

1933 — 2019

Temporary Sergeant

19 National Service Battalion

5 Field Regt, LAD Attached

Army, Citizens Military Forces



Lest We Forget

STOP PRESS

ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Thursday, 25th April 2019 at 5.30am,

**Bass Hill RSL Club
330 Hector St, Bass Hill**

Please be there

ANZAC Luncheon

Sunday, 28th April 2019 at 11.30am,

**Bass Hill RSL Club
330 Hector St, Bass Hill**
(Bookings Essential by COB 15/3/18)