

# Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

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*Now on Facebook*



*"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"*

# Newsletter

Issue 118

September, 2023

## SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE—2023—2026

<b>President</b> .....	Ian Muirhead*
<b>Vice Presidents</b> .....	Ambrose Dinh JP, Jamil (Jim) Baba
<b>Secretary</b> .....	Gary Roser JP * - 0409 919 364
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	Ron Duckworth *
<b>Minute Secretary</b> .....	Lee-Ann Taylor JP*
<b>Committee</b> .....	Trevor Philip, David Tu, Brian Abbot Greg Brown
<b>Welfare Officer</b> .....	Greg Brown
<b>FSMDC Delegates</b> .....	Ron Duckworth, Ian Muirhead
<b>FSMDC Alt Delegate</b> .....	Gary Roser JP, Vacant
<b>Sub-Branch Trustees</b> .....	Ron Duckworth, Jim Baba, Jeff Stone
<b>Newsletter Editor</b> .....	Gary Roser JP - 0409 919 364
<b>Newsletter Editorial Production</b> .....	Ron Duckworth
<b>Bankstown City Aged Care</b> .....	Ian Muirhead, Greg Brown
<b>Schools Liaison Officer</b> .....	Ambrose Dinh JP

*For service, ring the Secretary, Gary Roser on 0409 919 364*  
\* Life Member



**EDITORIAL\*\***  
*Gary Roser, Editor*

We are about to have an election for Board Members of the RSL NSW.

In the June 2023 “Reveille” page 18 it says “you don’t need to know everything”. That maybe the case, but a Board Member must have a good knowledge of the Constitution. After all, they have to make decisions that must be within the Constitution and not go outside of it. In point I bring to your attention of their decision in a SOP where they say sub-Branches have to go Company by Limited Guarantee. In the constitution it only mentions Incorporation. I believe they are looking at it again, but they will probably stick by their SOP because they believe that it will cause extra work for RSL NSW employees. Which is absolute rot. It appears they are stalling for time.

In the last Newsletter I mentioned about people who joined the RSL NSW so they could become Board Members. People who go on the Board should have sub-Branch experience. If they haven’t, they are making useless decisions as they don’t know the rank and file opinions or traditions.

Our current and nearly exiting CEO has been flogging younger membership. I believe there are Board Nominees that are quite elderly. They should stand back and let the younger Members have a go. Please choose carefully when you cast your vote. *\*\*The editorial is entirely my own opinion and does not reflect the Sub-Branch Executive.*

<b>Sub-Branch Meetings</b>	
<u>Committee</u> <b>Mondays 4.15pm</b>	<u>Sub-Branch</u> <b>Sundays 10:30am</b>
18 September	24 September
16 October	22 October
20 November	26 November
? December	NO MEETING
15 January	28 January

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greetings Members,

I am back in the car again after being off the road for 5 months after an eye operation. Taking a little time to get used to driving again.

It was with great sorrow hearing about the death of Ian Kennedy following a road accident. I was with him only the week-end before at Belfield sub-Branch's luncheon. He was sitting between my

daughter and Ambrose's wife.

My thanks to all those who attended his funeral including his friends from the District Council. It was a lengthy service with speakers for the Labor Party, George River Softball Club, State Rail Welfare Fund among others.

Then there was Brian Hilton. Very sudden and unexpected loss. Unfortunately, no RSL Tribute, but well attended by sub-Branch Members.

Please note the RSL NSW Board Election are on this month. Please read the flyer included with Newsletter.

Keep well. Stay safe. *Ian Muirhead*



## SECRETARY'S REPORT



I can honestly say that last month was one of the worst months I have had at the sub-Branch. The loss of two mates, within a few weeks really did it.

Ian Kennedy I have known since he was a baby. Although several years younger than me, we went to the same schools, he was in the same skin diving club I formed, he was a former President of Revesby Lions Club when I was his Zone Chairman.

Brian Hilton was a member of Bass Hill for a number of years until transferring to Bankstown sub-Branch. He was on the Board of Directors of Bankstown Club. Brian was a piper with 30th Battalion which was reformed as 17 Battalion RNSWR. I was a drum major of 17 Battalion Pipes and Drums. Although he served much earlier than I, he knew many of the blokes I did and kept me apprised of their goings on.

Both good blokes. We will surely miss them.

Congress is coming up. Apparently there are not many motions on the table to be voted upon. Our President Ian Muirhead and Treasurer Ron Duckworth are our delegates and I am sure they will do a good job as they have for many years.

Inside this Newsletter is a paper about the upcoming RSL NSW Board Elections. Please read it carefully. You will be receiving your voting papers from RSL NSW in your mail. We won't tell you who to vote for. That would be wrong. Please consider your choice before putting pen to paper or voting on-line. They will be there for three years and can make a difference to the future of our organisation.

*Gary Roser, J.P.*

## **Senator Lambie refers ADF brass to Hague**

Andrew Brown June 20, 2023

<https://www.aap.com.au/news/culture-of-cover-up-lambie-refers-adf-brass-to-hague/>

Tasmanian senator Jacqui Lambie has referred senior Australian Defence Force leaders to the International Criminal Court over alleged war crimes committed in Afghanistan.

In an emotional speech, Senator Lambie – a former ADF member – said leadership had not been held to account for their actions. “The government is no doubt hoping this will all just go away,” she told the Senate on Tuesday. They’re hoping Australians will forget that when alleged war crimes in Afghanistan were investigated, our senior commanders got a free pass while our

diggers were thrown under the bus. Well, we don't forget. I won't forget. Lest we forget. There is a culture of cover-up at the highest levels of the Australian Defence Force. It is the ultimate boys' club."

An Office of the Special Investigator has been set up to address potential criminal matters raised in the Inspector-General of the ADF's Afghanistan inquiry report, which looked at alleged war crimes committed between 2005 and 2016.

Defence Minister Richard Marles said the government was considering the recommendations outlined in the report.

"The allegations which are at the heart of all of this are serious and they are grave. This needs to be done thoroughly and properly and it will take the time that it takes," he told reporters in Canberra. "A key recommendation of the report was around command accountability."

Mr Marles said whether The Hague would consider the referral was a matter for the court. Senator Lambie said the referral to The Hague asked the criminal court to examine the country's high commanders "through the lens of command responsibility".

She said the referral was a method of last resort. "Quite frankly, I feel embarrassed Australia is in this situation, so I am helping the government today," Senator Lambie said. "I am giving you a second chance to get this right and fix this mess. High command needs to be held responsible."

She sought to table the referral to The Hague in parliament but the government, opposition and Greens said they wanted to view the documents before making a decision.

A defence spokesman said findings from the Afghanistan inquiry were being responded to. "The inquiry found commanders bear moral responsibility and accountability for what happened under their command," he said.

"The office of the special investigator is working with the Australian Federal Police to investigate the commission of criminal offences under Australian law arising from or related to any breaches of the Law of Armed Conflict by members of the Australian Defence Force in Afghanistan from 2005 to 2016."

Lawyer and veteran Glenn Kolomeitz, who was among those who signed the referral, said the document did not go into specific allegations but invited ICC prosecutors to examine the issue.

"If Australia does nothing about it, the ICC can potentially assume jurisdiction over the higher command and excise the higher command investigation from the ongoing investigation of junior soldiers," he said.

Senator Lambie indicated she would meet Mr Marles, whom she said has missed the point in his response. "The process the deputy prime minister is referring to is an administrative process about medals, not a process that investigates the criminal liability of senior command," she said. "Yet again Defence is marking its own homework and the deputy prime minister is accepting their grades."

## Why is the Battle of the Coral Sea so important in Australian History?

*Japanese expansion in World War II*

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Battle-of-the-Coral-Sea>

[https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/coral\\_sea](https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/coral_sea)

<https://www.navy.gov.au> › History › Feature Histories

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_the\\_Coral\\_Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Coral_Sea)

Today, the largest naval battle that has been fought off our shores, the *Battle of the Coral Sea*, is remembered and commemorated due to the loss of many of our allies. It has long been regarded as 'the battle that saved Australia'. Of course until the Battle of the Kokoda Track which halted the overland invasion of Japanese to once again, capture Port Moresby.

By April 1942 the Japanese had formed a defensive perimeter, which stretched from the Kuriles southward through the Marshall Islands to New Britain, then westwards to Java, Sumatra, the Andaman Islands, and Burma. Within that perimeter Japanese authority was - or soon would be - unchallenged and every strategic position was occupied. In the South-West Pacific Area outposts were held at Lae and Salamaua in northern New Guinea.

The Doolittle raid on Tokyo stirred the Japanese to extend the perimeter and cut communications between Australia and the United States. They planned to cut Australia's supply lines from the United States, despatching a fleet to capture Port Moresby as part of its advance into the South West Pacific.

Operations were mounted to capture Tulagi in the Solomons and Port Moresby in New Guinea. These operations were to be covered by a force built around the large carriers *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku*.

But the Japanese plans were uncovered by Allied signals intelligence who had cracked the main Japanese communication codes by intercepting and deciphering radio messages regarding the enemy's attack to seize Port Moresby and alerted all available sea and air power. When the Japanese landed at Tulagi on May 3, carrier-based U.S. planes from a task force commanded by Rear Admiral Frank J. Fletcher struck the landing group, sinking one destroyer and some minesweepers and landing barges. Most of the naval units covering the main Japanese invasion force that left Rabaul, New Britain, for Port Moresby on May 4 took a circuitous route to the east, which invited a clash with Fletcher's forces.

The US carriers headed for the Japanese invaders built around the carriers *Yorktown* and *Lexington*. The Australian cruisers *Australia* and *Hobart*

ships along with other US vessels were dispatched to guard Port Moresby from the invasion force. They were unsuccessfully attacked by Japanese aircraft.

Meanwhile, In the waters southwest of the Solomon Islands and east of New Guinea between 4 and 8 May 1942, the Battle of the Coral Sea took place.

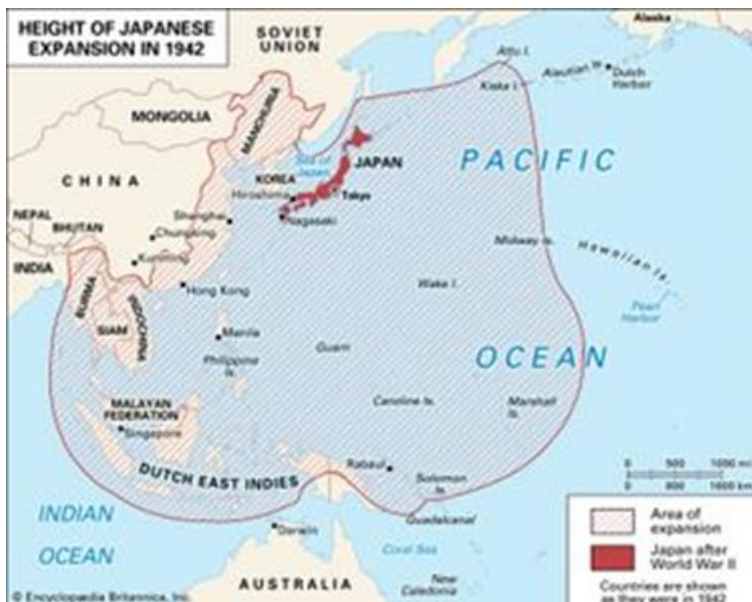
The US fleet turned back a Japanese invasion force that had been heading for Port Moresby in New Guinea.

The battle was fought entirely by aircraft attacking ships, with the opposing ships never firing at each other during the battle. No Australians were killed during the battle, but tragically more than 550 Americans were killed or wounded and the United States aircraft carrier *USS Lexington* was sunk, The Japanese *Zuikaku* and *Shokaku* were heavily damaged.

The Battle of the Coral Sea ended Japanese attempts to launch their seaborne invasion of Port Moresby.

The Australian and United States personnel who served in this crucial battle not only ensured that Port Moresby would not be subject to an amphibious invasion, but for the first time during the war they had halted the Japanese during their southward advance in the Pacific. But the Battle of Kokoda was still to come.

*Lest We Forget*





# Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway

Today, Year 6 were fortunate enough to visit the Kokoda Memorial Track in Concord. When we first arrived we had a little bit of morning. They had made a very beautiful, reverent slide presentation for us to enjoy. After that we visited a couple of replica bush-sites of the Kokoda track in Papua New Guinea. We ended the day with a very juicy, tasty sausage, cooked by the representatives of Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch. I can assure you that this was a very fun place to visit and I hope that you can visit one day too.  
Joseph C - Yr 6

**After Christ the King Catholic School attended the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, this was received from the school. It is a page in their school newsletter.**

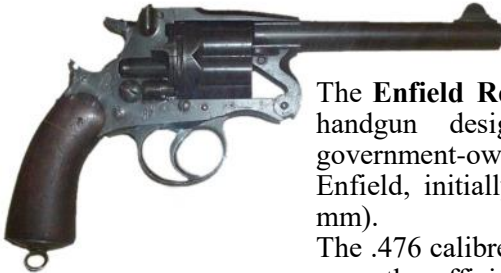




## Infantry Side Arms used by Australians in the Boer War



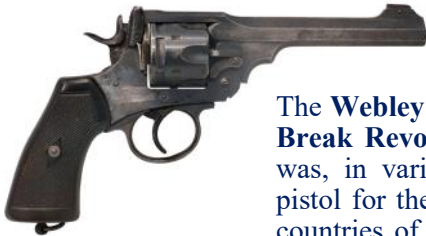
The **Beaumont–Adams revolver** is a black powder, double-action, percussion revolver. Originally adopted by the British Army in .442 calibre (54-bore, 11.2 mm) in 1856, it was replaced in British service in 1880 by the .476 calibre (11.6 mm) Enfield Mk I revolver.



The **Enfield Revolver** was a self-extracting British handgun designed and manufactured at the government-owned Royal Small Arms Factory in Enfield, initially in the .476 calibre (actually 11.6 mm).

The .476 calibre **Enfield Mk I** and **Mk II** revolvers were the official sidearm of both the British Army and the North-West Mounted Police, as well as being issued to many other Colonial units throughout the British Empire. The term "Enfield Revolver" is not applied to Webley Mk VI revolvers built by RSAF Enfield between 1923 and 1926.

The Enfield No. 2 is an unrelated .38 calibre revolver that was the standard sidearm of British and Commonwealth forces during World War II.



The **Webley Revolver** (also known as the **Webley Top-Break Revolver** or **Webley Self-Extracting Revolver**) was, in various designations, a standard issue service pistol for the armed forces of the United Kingdom, and countries of the British Empire and the Commonwealth of Nations, from 1887 to 1970.

## **THE YEAR IS 1916.** This will boggle your mind!

The year is 1916 "One hundred and seven years ago". What a difference a century and a bit makes! Here are some statistics for the Year 1916:

The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.

Fuel for cars was sold in chemists only.

Only 14 per cent of the homes had a bath.

Only 8 per cent of the homes had a telephone.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10mph.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

The average British wage in 1916 was £15 per year!

A competent accountant could expect to earn £800 per year, a dentist £900 per year, a vet between £600 and £900 per year, and a mechanical engineer about £2000 per year. Most UK male citizens were in receipt of the King's shilling W.W.I

More than 95 per cent of all births took place at home.

Ninety per cent of all Doctors had no university education!

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and, used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country - for any reason.

The Six leading causes of death were: 1. Pneumonia and influenza 2. Tuberculosis 3. Diarrhoea 4. Heart disease 5. Stroke 6. War Caused. W.W.I. rampant at this time; 3 years to go.

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was neither a Mother's Day nor a Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write and, only 6 per cent of all British pupils went to university.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at local corner chemists. Back then chemists said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach, bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health!" (Shocking?)

Eighteen per cent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help. There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A.! In 2016 this figure had risen to 14,249.

In the UK the murder rate in 1916 was 1420. In 2016 it was 537. (Perhaps we are doing something right!)

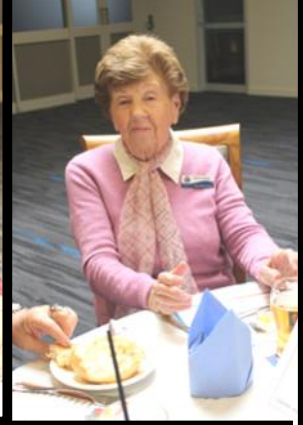
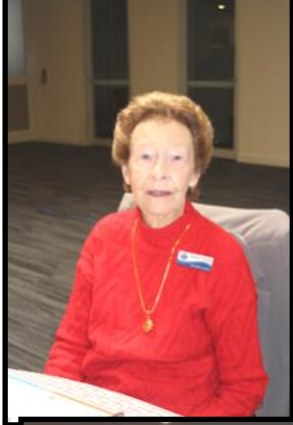
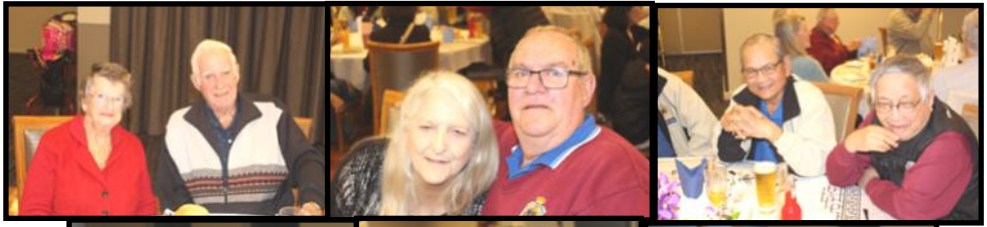
Can you imagine what it may be like in another 100 and a bit years?



Spring  
Luncheon

Pics by  R















## Australian Defence Force to purchase smart sea mines

29 AUGUST 2023,

<https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/releases/2023-08-29/australian-defence-force-purchase-smart-sea-mines>

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) will purchase new, smart sea mines, which will reinvigorate Defence's maritime mining capability, and are deployable from submarines, ships and aircraft.

Following evaluation of market options last year, Defence selected RWM Italia to provide the capability under a multi-million-dollar contract.

RWM Italia was assessed as the market leading solution, demonstrating the ability to produce the quantities of sea mines needed, and the technical capability to meet ADF strategic objectives.

Rapidly deployable and technologically sophisticated, the smart sea mines will provide a new level of deterrence to potential adversaries.

The contract includes provision for the transfer of technology and expertise to Australia to enable local manufacturing and maintenance of the sea mines.

This includes potentially providing electronics services and recurring maintenance; and potentially filling the sea mines with Australian-made explosives and assembling them in Australia.

Delivery is expected to commence in 2023.

The quantity and types of sea mines that Defence will acquire remain classified.

### ***Quotes attributable to Air Marshal Leon Phillips, Chief of Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance:***

“The reinvigoration of a maritime mining capability for the ADF will increase its ability to deter through denial any adversary's attempt to project power against Australia through our northern approaches, and protect Australia's economic connection to our region and the world.

“We are providing the ADF with the capability it needs for the 21st century.

“Rapidly deployable and technologically sophisticated, smart sea mines will provide a profound step-up for the defence of Australia.

“The level of technology involved in this acquisition will take our forces to the cutting-edge of modern military hardware.

“The sea mines will be maintained in Australia and some elements may be manufactured here, potentially including the explosive fill.”

# HMAS Anzac conducts Exercise Lumbas 2023 in the Philippines

28 JULY 2023

<https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/releases/2023-07-28/hmas-anzac-conducts-exercise-lumbas-2023-philippines>

Philippine Navy bilateral Exercise Lumbas has drawn to a close in Subic Bay with Anzac Class frigate HMAS *Anzac* taking part during a regional presence deployment.

The crews of Philippine Navy ship BRP *Conrado Yap* and *Anzac* joined for the five-day exercise, which was a valuable opportunity to train together.

Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Commanding Officer HMAS *Anzac*, Commander Barton Harrington said Lumbas aimed to build skills through expert exchanges, enhance cooperation and deepen cultural and people-to-people ties.

“We joined our Philippine Navy counterparts both ashore for the opening and closing ceremonies and at sea, off their coast to conduct a series of training activities in warfare, maritime security and seamanship,” he said.

“Now in its 23rd iteration, Lumbas is one of the RAN’s longest-running recurring engagements in the region. It is an important and longstanding activity in our bilateral engagement with the Philippines.

“Australia is committed to working closely with the Philippines to support a region that is stable, secure and prosperous and where the rule of law prevails.

“I’m proud of the hard work put in by everyone aboard *Anzac* and it was great to see the engagement between all participants of Lumbas,” Commander Harrington said.

Australia and the Philippines have agreed to formally elevate the bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership, with Defence and maritime cooperation as core pillars.

*Anzac* commenced the regional presence deployment in April demonstrating Australia’s commitment to and engagement with the Indo-Pacific region.



*HMAS Anzac Officer of the Watch Lieutenant Cameron McCabe conducts a tour of HMAS Anzac’s bridge for Philippine Navy personnel during the shore phase of Exercise LUMBAS in Subic Bay, Philippines*

Exercise Predators Run 2023 is a multilateral combined arms littoral exercise held in the Northern Territory with capabilities and personnel from the Australian Army, United States Marine Corps, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Timor Leste Defence Force, and Indonesian National Armed Forces. The exercise is an inaugural piece of the 1st Brigade's move to becoming the Army's pioneering Littoral Manoeuvre capability and includes maritime serials between Tiwi Islands and the Port of Darwin



*Force Reconnaissance soldiers from the 101st Battery, 8th/12th Regiment, Royal Australian Regiment and the 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment deploy from the MV Jane Virgo onto Melville Island to conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance tasks to support follow up manoeuvre elements as part of Exercise Predators Run*

*Photographer: CAPT Annie Richardson*



*Personnel from the 1st Brigade welcome soldiers from the Indonesian National Armed Forces, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and Timor-Leste Defence Force upon their arrival in Darwin ahead of Exercise Predators Run 2023.*



*Personnel from the 1st Brigade welcome soldiers from the Indonesian National Armed Forces, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and Timor-Leste Defence Force upon their arrival in Darwin ahead of Exercise Predators Run 2023.*

## Exercise Alon (Air Capability at Clark Airbase)

[https://images.defence.gov.au/assets/Home/Search?Query=20230824army8624325\\_0073.jpg&Type=Filename](https://images.defence.gov.au/assets/Home/Search?Query=20230824army8624325_0073.jpg&Type=Filename)



*A Royal Australian Air Force F-35A Lightning II from No. 75 Squadron take part on Exercise Alon as part of Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2023 at Clark Air Base, Philippines.*

*Photo: LCpl Riley Blennerhassett*

As part of Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2023 (IPE23) the Australian Defence Force and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are conducting Exercise Alon, a bilateral amphibious training activity supported by the United States Marine Corps personnel from Rotational Force - Darwin. The exercise includes air, maritime amphibious and follow-on land operations, including the deployment of approximately 100 AFP personnel embarked in HMAS Canberra, the conduct of artillery and aviation live fire serials, and Joint Australian Army Training Team - Philippines training activities. By training together, forces from the Philippines, Australia and the United States can build upon shared tactics, techniques and procedures to enhance interoperability and readiness to respond to shared security challenges.

## Operation SOLANIA 23-3 - Kiribati

<https://images.airforce.gov.au/Home/Search?>

[Query=20230815raaf8164101\\_026.jpg&Type=Filename](https://images.airforce.gov.au/Home/Search?Query=20230815raaf8164101_026.jpg&Type=Filename)



*Students studying Automotive Servicing Technology at the Kiribati Institute of Technology are given the opportunity to visit the Royal Australian Air Force KA350 King Air at Bonriki International Airport in the Republic of Kiribati during Operation SOLANIA - ISLAND CHIEF 23-3.*

*Photo: Cpl. Merina Young*

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) provided maritime surveillance support to Vanuatu, Tuvalu, and Kiribati to help detect and deter illegal fishing activity in the Pacific during Operation SOLANIA 2023. Operation SOLANIA is the ADF's contribution to maritime surveillance within the Pacific region and supports the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency's (FFA) Operations RAI BALANG, TUI MOANA, ISLAND CHIEF, and KURU KURU. During the third Operation SOLANIA for 2023, the ADF supported the FFA's Operation ISLAND CHIEF deploying a Royal Australian Air Force C-27J Spartan to Vanuatu and a KA350 King Air to Tuvalu and Kiribati, supporting maritime protection of the exclusive economic zones of the participating nations.

## LAST POST



### **Ian David Kennedy**

6 March 1952 - 11 August 2023

C.M.F.

Signalman, 291377

7 July 1980 - 28 November 1987

### **Brian Christopher Hilton**

14 December 1938 - 22 August 2023

National Service and C.M.F.

Private, 258933

2 September 1959 - 30 January 1963

*Lest We Forget*

**STOP PRESS**

A reminder to everyone.

Your Vote for the Board of Directors  
of RSL NSW is important.  
Please don't forget to vote.