

Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

PO Box 7019,
Bass Hill, NSW 2197
Email: sub-branch@basshillrslsb.org.au
www.basshillrslsb.org.au
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"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"

Newsletter

Issue 124

September, 2024

SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE—2023—2026

- President** Ian Muirhead*
- Vice Presidents** Ambrose Dinh JP, Jim Baba
- Secretary** Gary Roser JP* - 0409 919 364
- Treasurer** Ron Duckworth *
- Minute Secretary** Lee-Ann Taylor JP*
- Committee** Trevor Philip, David Tu, Brian Abbot,
Greg Brown, Duc Tran
- Welfare Officers** Greg Brown, David Tu
- FSMDC Delegates** Ron Duckworth*, Ian Muirhead*
- FSMDC Alt Delegate** Gary Roser JP*
- Sub-Branch Trustees** Ron Duckworth*, Jim Baba, Jeff Stone
- Newsletter Editor** Gary Roser JP* - 0409 919 364
- Newsletter Editorial Production** Ron Duckworth*
- Schools Liaison Officer** Ambrose Dinh JP

For service, ring the Secretary, Gary Roser on 0409 919 364

Life Member



EDITORIAL**

Gary Roser, Editor

Congress is coming up and your Delegates Ian Muirhead and Ron Duckworth will be attending on 27, 28, 29 October at Newcastle. This year I will also be attending as the FSMDC Alternate Delegate. Something I am looking forward to.

Sub-Branch Meetings	
<u>Committee</u> Monday 16:30	<u>Sub-Branch</u> Sundays 10:30am
16.09.24	22.09.24
21/10/24	27/10/24
18/11/24	24/11/24

A number of motions will be put to the floor to be voted on. Some from the RSLNSW Board are quite controversial. One such proposal is the removal of the RSL name and badge from all registered clubs that have gaming and alcohol.

This sub-Branch and Chester Hill-Carramar supported the request by Campsie RSL Group to retain the name of the Chester Hill Club as the “Chester Hill RSL Club”. Throughout this Community for MANY years that is what this building has been known as. And as I said, a vote of the Members at a general meeting supported their application.

It will be very interesting to see where our RSLNSW sub-Branchees are headed in the future. I hope we will survive.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings Members.

Over the last couple of months we have been reasonably busy with schools and Memorial Services.

We took Christ the King Catholic School to Kokoda at the end of July and then St Mary's Catholic School in early August. My thanks to Jim Wrigley from Bankstown sub-Branch for driving their bus to assist us with St Mary's.



I went with our RSL Auxiliary on their Monthly bus trips. Forestville RSL in August and then the tulips at Bowral followed by Mittagong RSL for lunch in September.

We attended the Victory in the Pacific Commemorations at Cabra-Vale Park followed by lunch at the Cabra-Vale Diggers Club. It was good to see one of the last surviving WW11 diggers in Reg Chard lay a wreath on behalf of his comrades on the Kokoda Track.

We also attended the Vietnam Veterans Day Dinner at the Crystal Palace functions room and the Commemoration Service at Cabra-Vale Park.

Then we had our own Spring Luncheon early this month and the next day some of us attended Bankstown Luncheon. A good time was had by all.

Stay healthy and I will see you at the meetings.

Ian Muirhead
President



Tributes at the Vietnam Veterans memorial at Cabra-Vale Park

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Nearly to the end of the year with only one more Newsletter to go for 2024. Don't forget to make sure you have your current email address registered with the sub-Branch. If it's the wrong one you won't get a Newsletter from January 2025.

Planning for Remembrance Day has commenced with a meeting held with the Club and Chester Hill-Carramar sub Branch. Duties were split up between all three and it was my job to write to all of the schools in both ours and Chester Hill-Carramar areas.

Remembrance Day will be static with no marching as we did on ANZAC Day. There will not be as many people attending from the Community as it is a working day for those poor souls who still can't retire. (*I love retirement.*) Tickets will be issued to those Members who wish to remain for the luncheon. But don't take a ticket if you aren't sure as they have a cost.

For those who know Lloyd Newman from Chester Hill-Carramar, he has retired and moved to Albury. Mick Bowman, their President has been left to reshape their administration into the new era. We wish Lloyd a happy retirement being near his family down yonder. And we wish Mick the very best to carry on finding Lloyd's replacement.

Since the last Newsletter we have been busy. Ron & myself have been members of the V.P. Planning committee for the Cabra-Vale Service and by the pics in this Newsletter it was well attended. But it rained. None of us had raincoats and as there were chairs supplied, every time we sat down our bum was in a puddle of water. But a good day had by all.

The following day after Cabra-Vale our Members attended the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway for a VP Commemoration Service.

You will see our Member Reg Chard OAM at both Services in this Newsletter pics.

I would like to congratulate Reg on his RSLNSW 50 year certificate. Overdue by a few years. But not forgotten.

We only have one school to go to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway. Two schools have not responded and a third school cancelled this year.

The next thing I have to arrange is my SACO report for the Far Southern Metropolitan District Meeting next month then get into letters to our schools for the awards that we supply to two year six students from their 6th class. Time. That's all I need. And I run out of it frequently.

Gary Roser, J.P.

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



"But all the blueberries...the wholegrains... the skimmed milk...the decaffeinated coffee... the broccoli...you mean it's all been for nothing?"



So... What do you plan on growing this year?

Older and crankier



Scott Pilgrim © 2004 Universal Uclick, Inc.



Australian AC1 Sentinel Cruiser Tank

Sentinel tank - Wikipedia



The AC1 Sentinel tank

The **AC1 Sentinel** was a cruiser tank designed in Australia in World War II in response to the war in Europe, and to the threat of Japan expanding the war to the Pacific or even a feared Japanese invasion of Australia. It was the first tank to be built with a hull cast as a single piece, and the only tank to be produced in quantity in Australia. The few Sentinels that were built never saw action

as Australia's armoured divisions had been equipped by that time with British and American tanks.

History

When design work began in November 1940, the AC1 was originally intended to be a 2 pounder gun-equipped vehicle, a true Cruiser tank, with a weight of between 16 and 20 tonnes. Due to a lack of home grown experience in tank design, a mission was sent to the US to examine the M3 design and Colonel W.D. Watson MC, an artillery officer with many years of tank design experience was provided by the UK. He arrived in December 1940. Like the Canadian Ram, the Australian Cruiser was to be based on the engine, drive train, and lower hull of the American M3 Medium tank, mated to an upper hull and turret built closely along the lines of a British Crusader. By 1942, attempting to keep pace with German tank developments, the design specification had become more like an American medium tank, resulting in a heavier design and a higher silhouette profile.

The Australian Cruiser tank Mark 1 (AC1) was designated "Sentinel" in February 1942. Manufactured by the New South Wales Railway Company, fabrication took place at Sydney's Chullora Tank Assembly Shops with serial production vehicles emerging in August 1942, the premises also being used as a testing ground. The design used existing parts where available from other tank designs, simplified where necessary to match the machining capacity present in Australia. The hull was cast as a single piece, as was the turret; a technique not used on the hull of any other tanks of the era.

The Sentinel was designed to mount either a QF 2 pounder or a QF 6 pdr (57 mm, 2.25 in). However, as the production order for 6 pounder tank guns had not been acted on, none of these were available and the first 65 tanks were built with the 2 pounder. Two Vickers machine guns were carried as secondary armament, one in the hull and a second mounted coaxially beside the main gun. The preferred engines suitable to power a 28 tonne tank, a Pratt & Whitney *Wasp* single row petrol radial, or a Guiberson diesel radial, were not available within Australia, so the



Tank Manufacture at Chullora, NSW



Test track at Villawood NSW
Circa 1942

Sentinel was powered by the combined output of three Cadillac V8 engines – petrol car engines with a displacement of 346 cu in (5.7 L) each. The three engines were installed in a clover-leaf configuration (two engines side-by-side to the front and a single to the rear) with all feeding power to a common gearbox.

The armour was cast (the majority of other allied tanks at the time had riveted armour), built at a foundry that built steam locomotive boilers & trains.

The drive chain was from the M3 Lee / Grant medium tank.

The turret ring, nice and large, was able to take all sizes of guns. The original was the high velocity ROQF 2PDR. Later trials, they fitted the ROQF 75mm, 25pdr (then twinned them) and even a ROQF 17pdr (which turned out to be the infamous AT Gun that could take on German heavy tanks). Later in the war, this gun was then fitted, to the US M4 Sherman, making it the infamous "British Sherman Firefly"

Sixty-five production vehicles had been completed by June 1943. The completed Sentinel tanks were used for evaluation purposes only and were not issued to operational armoured units. The Australian Cruiser tank programme was terminated in July 1943 as it was thought better for Australia to put the effort spent on the AC tanks towards building her own railway locomotives and supporting the large number of US tanks due to arrive. The tanks that had been produced were placed in storage until the end of the war. In 1943, the 3rd Army Tank Battalion was equipped with a squadron of AC1 tanks that had been modified to resemble German tanks. These tanks were used in the filming of the movie *The Rats of Tobruk*. This appears to have been the only time a squadron of Sentinels was used for any purpose.

A Linguistic Competition

Is it “complete”, “finished” or “completely finished”? No English dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between these two words - “Complete” or “Finished”

In a recent linguistic competition held in London and attended by, supposedly, the best in the world, Samdar Balgobin, a Guyanese man, was the clear winner with a standing ovation which lasted over 5 minutes.

The final question was: ‘*How do you explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED in a way that is easy to understand?*’

Some contestants said there was no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED.

Here is his astute answer:

“When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. When you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED. And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!”

He won a trip around the world and a case of 25-year old Scotch.

Let Us Educate You *(I didn't know either....Ed)*

THE NAMES OF THINGS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW

1. The space between your eyebrows is called a **glabella**.
2. The way it smells after it rains is called **petrichor**.
3. The plastic or metallic coating at the end of your shoelaces is called an **aglet**.
4. When your stomach rumbles, that's a **wamble**.
5. The cry of a new born baby is called a **vagitus**.
6. The prongs of a fork are called **tines**.
7. The sheen of light that you see when you close your eyes and press your hands on them is called **phosphenes**.
8. The tiny plastic thing placed in the middle of a pizza box is called a **box tent**.
9. The day after tomorrow is called **overmorrow**.
10. Your little toe or finger is called the **minimus**.
11. The wired cage that holds the cork on a bottle of champagne is called an **agraffe**.
12. The 'na na na' and 'la la la', which don't really have any meaning in the lyrics of any song, are called **vocables**.
13. When you combine a question mark with an exclamation mark (?!), it is referred to as an **interrobang**.
14. The space between your nostrils is called **columella nasi**.
15. The armhole in clothes, where the sleeves are sewn, is called **armscye**.
16. Finding it difficult to get out of bed in the morning is called **dysania**.
17. Illegible handwriting is called **griffonage**.
18. The dot over an "i" or a "j" is called **tittle**.
19. That sick feeling you get after eating or drinking too much is called **crapulence**.
20. The metal thing used to measure your feet at the shoe store is called **Bannock device**.

Military Life

IN-COUNTRY



THE MESS HALL BAROMETER.



IN-COUNTRY VET



HARD TO EXPLAIN IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN THERE!



REBELS MARKET

I MIGHT WAKE UP EARLY AND GO RUNNING. I ALSO MIGHT WAKE UP AND WIN THE LOTTERY. THE ODDS ARE ABOUT THE SAME.

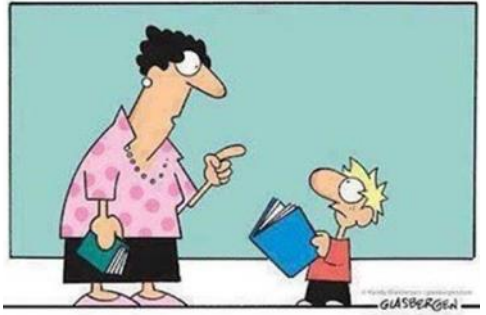
Buy & Sell Fashion for Misfits at RebelsMarket.com

It was a shitty cruise, rained a lot. But they had a great buffet, I had two of everything.



LOOSE PARTS

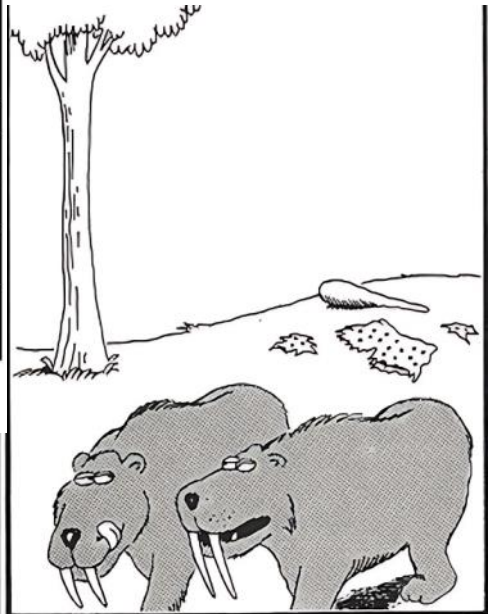
DAVE BLAZEK



It's called **reading**.
It's how people install new software into their brains.



"I don't think the new electric fence is engendering the fear we intended."



"I've heard all kinds of sounds from these things, but 'yabba dabba doo' was a new one to me."

Victory in the Pacific Commemoration at Cabra-Vale Park on 14 August, 2024



The Parade Lead by 242 Sigs



Schoolgirls as WWI Nurses



Our Member Reg Chard OAM laying a wreath and at the VP Luncheon



***VP Day event planning Chairman
Maj. Walter Robinson Ret. OAM***



***Our own Members minus the
Treasurer and Secretary***



OH! There they are. Two members of the VP Day planning committee



V.P. Day
at the
Kokoda Track
Memorial Walkway

15 August 2024

*Pictures show Reg Chard OAM
laying a wreath.*

*Members attended were
Frank Davies, Trevor Philip,
Ambrose Dinh*



Spring Luncheon on Battle for Australia Day 7 September 2024



*Member
Reg Chard OAM
receiving his
50 year
Membership
Certificate
of the RSL from
FSMDC District
President
Warren Browning*



*Secretary, Gary Roser JP, receiving an RSLNSW Auxiliary, thank you
for your Service Quilt from the Auxiliary Co-Ordinator
Mrs. Pauline James OAM whilst President Ian looks on*





Members and Guests at the Spring Luncheon



A good time had by all



**A
Sumptuous
Luncheon
Thanks to
Hong**

**Father Ian and
Daughter
Joanne**

Adrenaline Pumps as Personnel take Training Up a Notch

By LEUT Tahlia Merigan *NAVY News 12 September 2024*



HMAS Sydney's crew uses the ship's embarked MH60R, Phoenix and RHIB to conduct a man-overboard exercise during a regional presence deployment

Photo LSIS Daniel Goodman

While on deployment HMAS Sydney's crew completed challenging night time man-overboard using their on-board dummy "oscar".

Boat coxswain LSBM Blake Chapman was in charge of the RHIB that was launched to rescue Oscar.

"When you hear the pipe of man-overboard it's a lot of adrenaline pumping through you as you are running up the ladder bays to get the

boat deck to launch the RHIB as soon as possible" said LSBM Chapman.

"Once you hit the water time slows down, and you're just looking for Oscar. Once you see him in the water you start racing to him."

Conducting weekly whole-of-ship training like a man-overboard exercise ensures *Sydney's* crew are prepared to respond swiftly to real world scenarios.

Achieving a RHIB coxswain endorsement requires extensive training, including launching and rec overing the boat while underway, recognising maritime signals and operating marine radio.

Boat coxswain training also includes transferring personnel to and from the ship.

New vehicles a game-changer for sappers

By: Corporal Jacob Joseph

<https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2024-09-11/new-vehicles-game-changer-sappers>

1 September 2024

Australian sappers from 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment and the School of Armour learn maintenance and operation of the armoured breaching vehicle during the Combat Engineer Heavy Track Course in Missouri.

Combat engineers at 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment (3CER) will soon welcome a fleet of combat engineering vehicles, based on the M1 Abrams tank chassis, which can clear minefields at the push of a button or deploy a bridge in minutes. Up to 29 assault breacher vehicles (ABVs) and 17 joint assault bridges (JABs), collectively known as combat engineering vehicles, are set for delivery starting as early as March, following recent qualification in the US of more than 20 3CER and School of Armour sappers and troopers.

Fitted out with dozer blades, mine rollers and ploughs, the assault breacher vehicle also carries two rocket-propelled explosive line charges, or MICLICs, fired forward to clear an eight-metre-wide path through minefields.

The joint assault bridge – a turretless Abrams carrying a massive folded-up steel bridge – can be deployed over land or water, and is capable of supporting all Army vehicles.

Both combat engineering vehicles will be crewed by sappers, marking the first time soldiers outside of Armoured Corps will operate a vehicle based on the Abrams chassis.

Sapper Conrad Davidson was one of those in the US completing the Combat Engineer Heavy Track Course in Missouri.

Sappers learned to operate the different attachments and drive the vehicles across rough terrain.

'[The assault breacher vehicle] minimises the need to go out on foot and breach manually with explosives.'

Sapper Davidson said getting behind the wheel gave him an appreciation for handling the 72-tonne, 12-metre breaching behemoth.

“The ABV is heavy and just very long; you can definitely whack down trees and cause a bit of collateral damage if you're not careful,” Sapper Davidson said.

“We can plough the ground after we've explosively and remotely breached a minefield. If there are any leftover mines, the plough is going to cop the brunt of the explosion and we can keep pushing through.”

The first vehicles will be delivered to the School of Armour where the US and UK will assist in delivering the first training package for combat engineers to establish the Army's first Armoured Engineer Squadron.

3CER is expected to receive the vehicles mid-2025

Australia's first deployment of combat aircraft to India

3 September 2024

<https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/releases/2024-09-03/australias-first-deployment-combat-aircraft-india>



The Royal Australian Air Force has sent combat aircraft to India in support of a multinational exercise for the first time.

Exercise Tarang Shakti 24 is being held at Air Force Station Jodhpur from 30 August to 13 September 2024.

The Royal Australian Air Force has sent three EA-18G Growler aircraft from No 6 Squadron, and up to 120 personnel.

This is the first time India has conducted Exercise Tarang Shakti, with eight participating nations and 18 observer nations attending.

Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Stephen Chappell said Australia's participation in Exercise Tarang Shakti demonstrated a commitment to supporting regional partners and fostering international cooperation to address shared security challenges.

"India is a top-tier security partner for Australia, and through the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Australia and India, the Government is continuing to prioritise practical and tangible cooperation that directly contributes to Indo-Pacific stability," Air Marshal Chappell said.

"Participation in international exercises such as Tarang Shakti 24, showcases our advanced capabilities that ensure rapid response and adaptability to emerging threats and security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

"Exercise Tarang Shakti 24 will provide our aviators with the opportunity to develop interoperability with foreign militaries, develop a mutual understanding of tactical operations, and foster international relations."

Australia and India have enjoyed increased air defence cooperation in recent years, including hosting Indian Air Force Flankers at Exercise Pitch Black in 2018, 2022, and 2024.

Air Force also conducts a number of training and engagement activities with Indian Navy P-8I Neptune surveillance aircraft.

Australia will continue to support India's key role in the region by increasing the depth and complexity of our defence cooperation.

It is important for men to remember that, as women grow older, it becomes harder for them to maintain the same quality of housekeeping as when they were younger.

When you notice this, try not to yell at them. Some are oversensitive, and there's nothing worse than an oversensitive woman.

My name is Mike. Let me relate how I handled the situation with my wife. When I retired a few years ago, it became necessary for Pat to get a full-time job, along with her part-time job, both for extra income and for the health benefits that we needed. Shortly after she started working, I noticed she was beginning to show her age. I usually get home from the golf club about the same time she gets home from work.

Although she knows how hungry I am, she almost always says she has to rest for half an hour or so before she starts dinner. I don't yell at her. Instead, I tell her to take her time and just wake me when she gets dinner on the table. I generally have lunch in the Men's Grill at the club, so eating out is not reasonable. I'm ready for some home-cooked grub when I hit that door. She used to do the dishes as soon as we finished eating. But now it's not unusual for them to sit on the table for several hours after dinner.

I do what I can by diplomatically reminding her several times each evening that they won't clean themselves. I know she really appreciates this, as it does seem to motivate her to get them done before she goes to bed.

Another symptom of aging is complaining, I think. For example, she will say that it is difficult for her to find time to pay the monthly bills during her lunch hour. But, Boys, we take 'em for better or worse, so I just smile and offer encouragement. I tell her to stretch it out over two, or even three days. That way, she won't have to rush so much. I also remind her that missing lunch completely now and then wouldn't hurt her any (if you know what I mean). I like to think tact is one of my strong points.

When doing simple jobs, she seems to think she needs more rest periods. She had to take a break when she was only half-finished mowing the yard. I try not to make a scene. I'm a fair man. I tell her to fix herself a nice, big, cold glass of freshly squeezed lemonade and just sit for a while. And, as long as she is making one for herself, she may as well make one for me, too.

I know that I probably look like a saint in the way I support my wife. I'm not saying that showing this much consideration is easy. Many men will find it difficult. Some will find it impossible! Nobody knows better than I do how frustrating women get as they get older. However, Guys, even if you just use a little more tact and less criticism of your aging wife because of this article, I will consider that writing it was well worthwhile. After all, we are put on this earth to help each other.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Mike, died suddenly on July 23 of a perforated rectum. The police report says he was found with a Calloway extra-long 50-inch Big Bertha Driver II golf club jammed up his rear end, with barely 5 inches of grip showing, and a sledge hammer laying nearby. His wife was arrested and charged with murder. The all-woman jury took only 10 minutes to find her Not Guilty, accepting her defence that Mike, somehow without looking, accidentally sat down on his golf club.

Looking at our Allies

In this edition of the Newsletter we look at what other countries are up to regarding weapons.

US special forces want longer reach for rockets, snipers, robots

By Todd South,

<https://www.defensenews.com/smr/sofic/2024/05/09/us-special-forces-want-longer-reach-for-rockets-snipers-robots/>

TAMPA, Fla. — Special operators are pushing for more firepower in their small teams, asking industry for a lighter shoulder-fired rocket, a long-range sniper rifle, and both land- and air- based weaponized drones.

Lt. Col. Tosh Lancaster told the audience at the Special Operations Force Week conference that U.S. Special Operations Command plans to publish a request for information covering a “Javelin light” by late fiscal 2024 or early fiscal 2025.

The program for a tactical precision missile would give small teams of special operators the capabilities of the current shoulder-fired, anti-tank Javelin rocket but in a smaller package.

The Javelin is a 127mm calibre rocket made by Lockheed Martin that’s been in operation since the 1990s. The weapon has been used extensively by Ukrainian fighters in the ongoing war with Russia. It can strike targets at a distance of 65 meters to 4,000 meters, depending on operational conditions, the company has said.

Defence contractors Lockheed Martin and RTX are working together on a Javelin modernization program that will lighten the systems’ command unit and upgrade its missile, according to a 2023 Pentagon test report.

The updated version is expected to field in 2025, Breaking Defence reported.

Special operators are also seeking a so-called Extreme Long Range Sniper Rifle that could also strike targets at 2,500 meters or beyond, Lancaster said. The project, first announced in December, would replace the existing M107 and Mk15 sniper rifles, which have effective ranges of 2,000 meters and 1,800 meters, respectively.

Both rifles are chambered in .50 calibre, but the new one could be the same caliber or a different round, Lancaster said.

“We are opening it up, seeing what else is out there. And even if that is just [an] improvement of our current .50 calibre system, that’s fine too,” Lancaster said.

For even more punch and options, the command has expanded its ongoing effort to arm its teams with their own loitering munitions by adding ground robotics to the mix of lethal options.

Lancaster said that program for precision strike systems is now working toward what's described as unmanned precision effects. That's a nod to options for operators to use conventional strike or other assets such as electromagnetic attack tools.



An Army paratrooper fires an FGM-148 Javelin shoulder-fired anti-tank missile during an exercise at Grafenwoehr Training Area in Germany in Aug. 21, 2019. (U.S. Army)

Ideally, Lancaster said, the solution for this capability runs on an aerial drone or a man-portable ground robot and has “bolt-on” lethality, meaning operators can attach or install a variety of weapons or sensors to either the ground or aerial system.

About Todd South

Todd South has written about crime, courts, government and the military for multiple publications since 2004 and was named a 2014 Pulitzer finalist for a co-written project on witness intimidation. Todd is a Marine veteran of the Iraq War.

LAST POST



George Joseph Gauci

Private—2789506

National Service

4RAR/NZ, 6RAR, 5RAR



Beryl Franklin

Rest in Peace

(Wife of Frank Davies)

STOP PRESS

A reminder to everyone

Due to the rising cost of printing and postage

From January 2025, your Newsletter link
will be delivered by your Email.

Those Members without Email
will have a printed version.

If you don't pick it up at the
General Meeting it will be posted to you.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Monday, 11th November, 2024 @ 10.30am

Luncheon tickets are available at our October Meeting

Trevor Philip will be the distribution point

NO Ticket, NO Entry