

RESERVE FORCES DAY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010



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# Message from the President

Welcome to the winter edition of 5 Field Ambulance RAAMC Association Quarterly Magazine.

I want to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all Association members who marched with the Medical Corps contingent behind our 5 Field Ambulance Banner on Anzac Day 25 April 2010. The roll up of 30 members marching behind the Banner Party comprising Major Kym Henderson and 4 members from his 5 Combat Support Battalion Health Company assisted by Lt. Col Ross Brown and Lt.Col Michael Campion. Our Association Secretary Alan Curry will list those members on parade and those who attended but could not march.

A large turnout enjoyed the after march reunion held at The Paddington RSL.

ASM Fred Bell and I attended the funeral of Ray Harrington at The Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Baulkham Hills on Thursday 20 May. Ray passed away on 14 May after a long illness. Ray was a long serving Quarter Master at 1 General Hospital. We both expressed our own and the Associations condolences to his widow Patti and family.

Following the successful launch of the 2010 Reserve Forces Day (RFD) at Shore School on 5 December



President Lt Col Derek Cannon setting up the 5th Abseil in Whirlpool Canyon Wollangambe Blue Mountains NSW March 2010.

2009 (refer December 2009 Magazine) further briefings were held at Defence Plaza 270 Pitt St. on Sydney 18 March and 20 May 2010.

The RFD Parade will be held in the Sydney Domain on Sunday 4 July with the Hunter Region Parade to be held in Newcastle on 3 July. Details for both are provided later in the Magazine.

At the Reserve Forces Day Council Parade in the Sydney Domain those who have volunteered and served overseas and received a medal will receive a recognition ribbon and a special recognition certificate for "Overseas Reservists" approved by the Governor General for those who attend the parade.

The following Association Members are requested to attend a rehearsal in the Sydney Domain at 0830h 27 June, President, ASM, Standard Bearer, 2x Banner Bearers. The rehearsal dress less medals; jacket/suit, tie and beret and the rehearsal will conclude at 1300h.

I hope to see a good turnout for the RFD Parade and the post parade reunion at the Berkley.

The RAAMC ASSOCIATION INC. (NSW) meets on the first Friday of each even month. The next meeting is on Friday 4 June at Victoria Barracks at 1030h. I encourage 5 Field Ambulance members to attend if possible. Further meetings are scheduled for Friday 6 August, Friday 1 October and Friday 3 December.

Future activities for your diary include The Battle for Australia commemoration Wednesday 1 September and our Annual reunion luncheon proposed for Saturday 27 November 2010 possibly at the Paddington RSL. Please refer to Secretary Alan's announcements.

To all our special members and with thoughts for our number of sick Edna and I wish you all well and hope to catch up with you at one of our future planned gatherings.



Derek Cannon

*Derek Cannon*

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## VALE



**Ray HARRINGTON**, sadly, passed away on Friday, 14th May.

Ray was a well respected member of our Association but with the onset of Parkinson's Disease he was not able, in later years, to join in with our activities.

Ray's wife, Patti, looked after him as the disease began to take hold. Eventually, Ray had to go to full time care in the Nursing Home at Greystanes in 2005.

Ray's funeral service was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Baulkham Hills, Sydney, on Thursday 20th May at 10.30am. I was grateful that our President, Derek Cannon and our ASM, Fred Bell, were able to be present and represent our Association. Both Derek and Fred served, at some stage, with Ray.

Ray had a distinguished career as a part time soldier which spanned almost 33 years.

He was called up for National Service and on the 17 August 1955, was placed in the 3rd Intake of that year at 19 NS Battalion, Holsworthy.

Ray stayed on in the CMF after completing his NS commitment and saw service with 1st Field Dressing Station, 1st Field Ambulance and 1 General Hospital.

He was awarded the Reserve Forces Decoration, Reserve Forces Decoration with 1st Clasp, National Medal, National Medal with 1st Clasp, Australian Defence Medal, Efficiency Decoration and the ANS 1951-1972 Medal.

Ray was discharged from the army on the 3rd June 1988 with the rank of Lieutenant but he was a temporary Captain.

The friends he made in the army were many and although I did not know Ray very well I do remember the few times we were in each other's company, it was always a pleasure to talk to him and Patti.

Ray retired as the Operations Manager for a large Paper Company about 1995.

He and Patti became involved with our Association through their good friend, the late Jim McGrath (our inaugural President).

Ray is survived by his wife, Patti, and their two sons, Adrian and Blair and their families.

Our Association extends its sincere sympathies to Patti and her family for the sad loss of a husband, father and grandfather.

Other members who asked that their condolences be passed on, were, Alan Beckerleg, Scotty Boyd, Laurie Farrugia and Noel Tame. *(My apologies if I omitted your name.)*

*(If any friend of Ray would like to add a more personal note, I would be honoured to place it in our next magazine.)*

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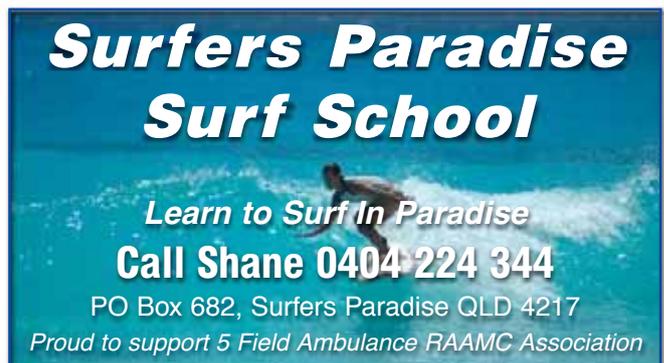


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# Message from the Secretary



## Dear Member,

Welcome

As always, our first thoughts are with our sick members. None of us are getting any younger but how thankful we are for those of us that enjoy reasonable good health. Hopefully, families will “keep in touch”, but if any of you need help, please contact myself or any of our committee and we will see what we can do—remember a “problem shared is a problem halved”.

I had the honour of reading “*The Prayer for our Nation*” at the DAWN SERVICE of our Sub Branch (Lemon Tree Passage and Districts) on ANZAC Day.

It was held in the grounds of our local RSL Club (Tilligerry RSL and Sports Club) and there was the biggest gathering I have seen for a long time. The thing that is most pleasing is to see the families who come to pay their respects.

I was proud to see my youngest son, Greg, in attendance.

The Wing Commander of the Williamtown Air Base, Wing Commander Damien Keddie, gave the “Address” and I must commend him for the research he put into it, because his words were thoughtful and carried one back to that dawn morning as the landing took place in 1915.

On a completely different matter and on behalf of our Association we send our heartiest congratulations to young Jessica Watson who just completed (in May) over 20,000 miles of sailing, non-stop, around the world.

Let’s face it, there is hardly enough words to describe the courage and the terror of such a daunting challenge—and at 16 years of age! Now, she HAS the makings of a very good soldier! Well Done.

Please remember to “pencil in” the “Battle for Australia Commemoration” date; the first Wednesday in September (1st) in Martin Place in Sydney. A “reminder” will be in our next magazine.

Our publishers (Statewide Publishing) has told me they are receiving good feed-back from some of the businesses who are advertising in our magazine.

Kind Regards to all,

Alan Curry

## Happy Birthday

### APRIL:

Kevin CARTER, David COOPER, David FRANCIS, Neville JOHNSON, Anthony JORDAN, Maurice PORTER, Karen PHILLIPS, Bob REID, Thomas VELLA.

### MAY:

Alan BECKERLEG, Patrick CURRY, Doreen FORD, Joe GATTY, Ken ILES, Terry IRVINE, John PHILLIPS, Geoff PRIOR, Tom RENNIE, Harley RODD, Andrew ROTHFIELD, John TROY, Arthur WALTON.

### JUNE:

John A’QUILINA, Terry CRAWLEY, Robert JAMES, Bill JONES, Bill THOMPSON.

Our Association wishes each of you “All the Best” on your “special” day – have you given me your month of birth?



# BOER WAR COMMEMORATION SERVICE

The Service was carried out under a very bad, weather threatening morning!

I was early, so I took the opportunity to look inside the War Memorial.

It has been a long time since I last visited this hallowed place—one has time to reflect here!

Thankfully, the Service went ahead like clockwork, and no rain.

A large crowd of about 100 were all seated, under cover, on the eastern side of the Hyde Park Memorial and were handed a program.

The day, (Sunday, 30 May) was also honoured around the nation by various gatherings, it marked the 108th Anniversary of the ending of the Boer War, with the signing of the Treaty. This was the first war that we Australians fought in, as a nation.

The MC, LTCOL David Deasey RFD, opened the Service at 11am.

Army Chaplain, Colin Aitken OAM RFD led the prayers.

A Prologue was given by The Hon Frank Terenzini, MP and the Commemoration Address was given by MAJGEN David Morrison AO.

They had a Piper (WO 1 Bill Campbell) and a Drummer (Drummer Arthur Robinson) who played "Flowers of the Forest" during the Wreath-Laying Ceremony.

The Last Post and Rouse were played by bugler, CPL Tara Neilsen.

After the National Anthem was sung a Closing Address was given by the Chairman, National Boer War



MAJGEN David Morrison AO

Memorial Association (NSW Committee), LTCOL Tony Larnach-Jones (Rtd).

*(I approached both Tony and MAJGEN Morrison for a copy of their speeches as I would like to share with you, in a future magazine, the words they wrote.)*

The members from our Association whom I said hullo to were:-

Suresh Badami, Eileen Henderson and of course Bill Molloy, who is a member of the Boer War Committee. *(My apologies if I missed a member's name.)*

I was surrounded by a lot of ex nurses from the Nurse's Association and what a fine, dedicated group they are. It was a pleasure to be a part of this Service.

-----



# RESERVE FORCES DAY

## SYDNEY: Sunday 4th July, 10am

(May I request that the coloured RFD "Flyer", enclosed in (some) magazines, be pinned in a "prominent place" to advertise the coming parade? Please don't discard it. My kind thanks to you for this small action.)

Your presence will be greatly appreciated, more so if you are able to march on to the grass area. If you are unable to march but would like to witness the parade, there will be seating available for you if you in the public area.

The "Form Up" area is about 5 minutes walk from the St James railway station.

If you have not participated before, don't let this deter you, you will be most welcome.

Public Transport is FREE if you are wearing your Medals, Beret and Name Badge.

The basis of this yearly parade is to "THANK" past and PRESENT Reservists and the commitment made by FULL TIME ADF members.

It will also honour those Reservists who have volunteered to serve overseas and were awarded a medal for that service.

The format will be same as last year. We will meet in the Domain, under the oak trees near Art Gallery and Hospital Roads. This will be the general "FORM UP" area.

Look for our "5 Field Ambulance Standard" which will be with the 5 Brigade group. (Our Banner will be in a different area, same as last year.)

At the conclusion of the Parade we would like those that are able, to come back to the Berkeley Hotel for a lunch and refreshments.

\$25 per head will cover food and drink. (The food will consist of "Snacks and your choice of a Main Meal.")

Please contact me as soon as you receive this newsletter so that I can take your "Main Meal" order.

## NEWCASTLE: Saturday 3rd July, 10am

I will be taking our "Standard" to the Newcastle RF Day and would welcome your presence if you live in the Newcastle Area.

It will be in a different area to last year, and there will be NO food or DRINK available because we will be in Civic Park, and this is an "Alcohol Free" area.

We will meet in Laman Street at 10am, (in the vicinity of the Art Gallery) near Darby Street, where we will march along Laman Street and Auckland Street to Civic Park.

Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair will be taking the salute.

Any of our members/friends who may come by train, please alight at CIVIC STATION and make your way across Hunter and King streets to Laman Street (about 10 minutes walk). Coincide your train/bus arrival for around 10am.

After the march we will have a "bite to eat" and some refreshments in one of the nearby clubs.

I look forward to marching with you.



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# ANZAC DAY 2010

(An "Address" given by Sir Keith Jones at a Service in his Retirement Village.)



*Today we again remember the part played by Australian combat forces over the years.*

*It occurred to me that a summary of those conflicts might be of interest. Hence the title of today's address is "AUSTRALIA AT WAR".*

## AUSTRALIA AT WAR

For some 20,000 to 30,000 years before Governor Phillip arrived in 1788 Australia was isolated from the world. Doubtless tribal warfares occurred but they were no threat to Australia as a country.

Australian settlement occurred over the period of the Napoleonic Wars but no threat occurred although a French warship surprised Sydney without incident.

## THE CRIMEAN WAR 1853 -1856

This was a brawl between Russia and the combined forces of England, France and Turkey. Cannons, muskets and swords were the implements of this war.

There is no evidence of any Australian formation being involved although some individuals may have volunteered. There was some talk of conscription by the South Australian Cavalry, but again no action occurred. However there was great excitement in Sydney town with false rumours of war and possible attacks by Russian warships. Hence the constructions of Fort Denison and the Middle Head gun emplacements. The entire population was divided in their support of the combatants. There is still evidence of concern to-day with many places in Australia having Russian names, e.g. Chowder Bay in Middle Harbour, Inkerman in Queensland and Balaclava in South Australia.

## THE BOER WAR

Towards the end of the nineteenth century war broke out in Africa involving the States of Natal and the Orange Free State with Great Britain plus some indigenous groups (e.g. Zulus). The fight was over ownership of the huge gold deposits.

The war continued for three years. The British army took control and it was essentially a fight between the cavalry of both sides with some native (e.g. Zulu) support.

When the war broke out the British Government called for support across the Empire. The Australian Colonies – with initial hesitation – offered support. Contingents were raised from all Colonies and after Federation in 1901 a joint Commonwealth contingent was raised.

The Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour lists 400 casualties. Six Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross for their Boer War service.

## THE 1914-1918 WAR

The "Great War" (as it was known) brings us into the lifetime of older residents. I can well remember the last two years. We would hear of family friends losing boys. In particular I remember being pulled out of bed at 9 pm on 11th November 1918 to hear the church bells ringing with

the good news that an armistice had been signed.

This was a war between Great Britain, the British Empire, and from 1917-1918 the massive forces of the USA, against Germany, the Austro-Hungarian countries and Turkey. An armistice was declared on 11th November, 1918 at 11 am GMT. The casualty lists were horrendous, often many thousands being killed in one day. For the first time aerial combat took place but bombing of cities was very slight. At sea submarine warfare was efficient and deadly.

In Australia a small military force took over the German territory in New Guinea but the main contribution was to the Dardanelles in Turkey and as part of the allied Army in France. Enlistment was voluntary as two referenda voted against conscription for overseas service. (Conscription for service inside Australia is provided for in the Constitution.)

417,000 enlisted equal to 38% of the male population aged between 18-44, 62,000 died.

## THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1939-1945

Australia remained free from world combats from 1918 to 1939. In that period her resources for the fighting forces diminished to the extent that, when Robert Menzies declared that Australia was at war with Germany and her allies, she was ill-prepared.

War was declared by Great Britain against Nazi Germany which had taken over most of Europe by military force, (Italy was an ally of Germany). The European phase of this war had been in progress for two years when Japan attacked the USA, thus opening up a second front. Battles in the Middle East were fought as the Allies protected the oil resources much needed by Germany for her war effort. Russia entered the war when attacked by Germany early in the conflict.

Australia had provided three Army divisions to the Middle East and Prime Minister Curtin demanded they return to Australia. English Prime Minister Churchill objected and was overruled. Japanese invasion of Australia became a grave possibility with its occupation of most of New Guinea. The Australian Government increased the area to which conscripted forces could be used without resort to a referendum. In Europe cities were bombarded deliberately causing enormous numbers of casualties. New and more terrible weapons of destruction were used culminating in the atomic bombs being dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Some of the estimated casualty figures from the Second World War areas include – total dead – over 70 million, total military dead approximately 25 million. Australia with a population of 7,000,000 lost 30,000 equal



to 2.8% of the population. Japan lost nearly 4% of its population which included those killed by the atom bombs.

Perhaps the most awesome figure was that of the Soviet Union which lost 14.2% of its population.

### THE MALAYAN EMERGENCY 1948-1960

Although this war lasted 12 years it had little impact on Australia. We provided a small number of troops and had extremely few casualties. In the end Malay attained its independence as a non-communist country.

### THE KOREAN WAR 1950-1953

Following the 1935-45 war the Korean Peninsula, which had been occupied by Japan, was divided into North and South at the 38th parallel. North Korea was under Communist Chinese influence and South Korea was supported by the United States government. On June 25th 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea and rapidly advanced.

The USA intervened on behalf of South Korea and the UN Security Council asked all its members to assist the Americans. Twenty-one nations responded, including Australia,

This country provided RAAF, Army and Navy support. The UN forces rapidly advanced beyond the 38th parallel into North Korea. However, unbeknown to them was the presence in North Korea of a large Communist Chinese Army.

Australian troops participated in two major battles in 1951. The war settled into a stalemate and after two years of negotiations an agreement was reached ending the war.

The total Australian casualties were 339 killed and 1,140 wounded.

North Korean and Chinese casualty figures are unknown. Helicopter evacuation came into action in this war, casualties being quickly evacuated for sophisticated medical treatment. This kept down the numbers who were killed.

### THE VIETNAM WAR 1964-1972

France captured Vietnam in 1859. The Japanese overran the country in 1939 then the French returned in 1945. The Vietnamese were led by Ho Chi Min, a keen

supporter of Communism. Vietnam was divided and civil war broke out. The USA supported the South Vietnamese regime. Australia became involved and sent 30 Military Advisers.

In 1964 Menzies re-introduced conscription. Selection was by birthdays on odd days or even days. Australia was at war again as allies of the USA and South Vietnam.

In Australia anti-war feelings ran hot and especially among the student population. The Vietnamese suffered badly with new wartime atrocities, which included Napalm bombing and flame throwing.

Prime Minister Gough Whitlam withdrew Australian troops on his election in 1972. Australian casualties in the war were 2,500 of which over 400 died. Swift helicopter evacuation to sophisticated medical facilities was undoubtedly a factor in keeping the fatality figures down.

### THE INVASION OF IRAQ 2003

Iraq was invaded mainly by USA forces in 2003 on the grounds that it had developed nuclear weapons and also because of its shocking humanitarian record under the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein.

Australia supported the action but played a small part in the overall operation.

The Navy, Army and Air Force were all involved.

Few Australian casualties occurred and our troops were withdrawn finally in July 2009.

### AFGHANISTAN

Australia is involved in a war in Afghanistan and not with Afghanistan.

The war is against the Taliban, an extreme religious group intent on bringing the world to their religious beliefs. Australia has approximately 1550 troops operating in Afghanistan as part of the large International Security Assistance forces.

To date twelve Australians have been killed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you !



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# ANZAC DAY MARCH

*(Summary)*

It turned out to be another memorable March and we had a very good representation. I thought we may have had to march in the rain but by the time all the RAAMC units had formed up, the rain held off completely.

I think the rain that did come early in the March would have kept some families away.

Our Patron, COL Ray Hyslop OAM, apologised for his absence due to him being involved the Cobar ANZAC Day March. I have enclosed a photo of Ray leading that March.

It was still a marvellous and very appreciative crowd. The mums and dads who brought their families along are thanked very sincerely by all the veterans and current serving members of the ADF.

That good "March" supporter, Dick Smith, stood quietly at the corner of George and Market Streets holding his sign that simply read "THANK YOU".

Our member, Terry Crawley, was "on duty" with his St John's Ambulance contingent but took the time to leave his post and say hullo as we marched past him.

We thank John Phillips and Bill Molloy for making an appearance and wishing us well before they marched with their respective units. (I apologise if other members came along and I omitted your name.)

It was good to have Don Booth, who came down from Cairns, and John and Margaret Gorrell from the Sunshine Coast, to be able to be present and march with us.

Our Association was led by our President, Derek Cannon.

We gave an "EYES RIGHT" at the Cenotaph and again at the Town Hall to the dignitaries, which also included our member, Roy Crossley and his wife Betty.

They were guests of the State Governor, Marie Bashir AC, being part of a "special" band of men who enlisted in WW 2 when they were only 16 years of age!

It seemed to me that the march was better organised this year.

We sincerely thank our Unit—5 CSSB for the presence of their members who carried, not only our Banner but the RAAMC Corps Banner also.

They are also to be thanked for marching earlier and carrying the Banner for those few remaining members from the 2/5th AGH.

Our Banner Party was; SGT David Grace carried the Australian Flag and behind him with our Banner was; CAP Richard Ng and CAP Matthew Mackay with MAJ Kym Henderson and LT Edward Campion, Ross Brown AM and Michael Campion.

Carrying the CORPS Banner were; CPL Megan Gavel and PTE Edward Hung.

Their dress, manner and bearing were a credit to themselves and their unit. A letter of thanks has been sent to their CO, LTCOL Phillip Moses.

After the March most of our members met with other RAAMC Associations at the Paddington RSL Club for lunch and drinks.

The President of the RAAMC Association Inc. , MAJ John Straskye, thanked all the medical units for marching as a "bloc" behind the RAAMC Banner and is confident this will "swell" in coming years.

He reminded members of the sale of the "Limited Edition" print of "SUDAN to AFGHANISTAN" and with only  
*(Continued next page)*



*Our Patron, Ray Hyslop (behind Naval Officer in sunglasses), leading the contingent on ANZAC Day in Cobar.*



## ANZAC DAY MARCH (Summary)...

*Continued...*

200 numbered prints for sale at \$200 (unframed), they are starting to sell fast.

John also advised those present of the RAAMC Association Inc. (NSW Branch) meetings at which anyone is most welcome to attend. They are held bi-monthly on the first Friday at Victoria Barracks (Bldg 11) at 1030hrs.

The next meeting is scheduled for June followed by August, October and December

He also reminded everyone that the 3rd July (Saturday) is the CORPS BIRTHDAY and a Luncheon/Dinner will be held at this club, with further details to be advised later.

*Our Association kindly thanks the following members and friends who marched with us or greeted us. Most were able to come back to the RSL Club for lunch;*

*Steve BALDICK, Alan BECKERLEG, Fred BELL, Don BOOTH, Richard BOURKE, Robert & Helen BOYTER, Ross BROWN AM, Michael CAMPION, Derek CANNON, Terry CRAWLEY, Roy & Betty CROSSLEY, Alan CURRY, Peter DALGLIESH, Madeline EVES, Brett FERRARI, Ron & Adrienne FOLEY, John & Margaret GORRELL, Joanne HOVELING, Kevin HURRELL, Colin KLINE, Robert LOVE, Phillip McGRATH, Bill MOLLOY, Michael MORONEY, Peter PAISLEY, John PHILLIPS, Bill RYLANDS, George SIP, John SMITH OAM, Paul STEEL, Rob STEWART, Brian TAMS, David VERCO, Darren WATERSON and Bruce WHITTET. (My sincere apologies if I have omitted your name.)*

*I received a number of apologies from our members—thank you.*

---

# ANZAC DAY 2010: COBAR

*(From Ray Hyslop)*

Over the Anzac long weekend, Helen and I traveled with St James Rail on a tour of NSW in the old Southern Aurora. Leaving Sydney on Thursday morning we headed north stopping in the afternoon for a look at Dungog.

It is a most interesting place as development has passed it by and the main street is almost unchanged from the twenties.

Having reached as far as the border by Friday morning the train then returned to Grafton and we spent most of the day in Yamba and along the Clarence River. Overnight we headed south to Maitland and then west to Werris creek to inspect the large station and its museum. It is the only pure railway town in NSW growing up because of its importance as a busy junction. On then to Binnaway where we visited the Warrumbungles and the observatory.

Sunday the 25th we woke near Nyngan in steady rain but by the time we arrived at Cobar the sky had cleared and it was a beautiful autumn day. A few of us were smartly bused to the RSL so that we could participate in the march.

Outside the club was a man in a suit wearing medals so I introduced myself as the patron of the 5 Fd Amb Association with whom I should be marching.

Greg Martin turned out to be the MC of the service in the town park and he took me inside the club and introduced me to the President, Joanne Marlan, who had been a Dental Corps nurse for 22 years. She not only rubber stamped my wrist for a free beer but invited me to march at the head of the "troops" immediately behind the guest speaker for the day, Commander Michael Moore.

We headed off behind a lone piper and marched a few blocks around town and Helen commended me on my display, "you and the sailor were the only two who marched correctly"!

There was a great crowd at the park and I was seated with the official party including the mayor, Lillian Brady.

It was well done with the local cadets providing a competent catafalque party, wreaths laid by many district organisations and all the schoolchildren present and singing appropriate songs.

Anzac Day is serious business in the country which lost so many in WW1.

After a day visiting the museum and some mines we headed back to Nyngan to see their folk museum in the large old station and then home through Parkes arriving in Sydney on Tuesday afternoon.

A wonderful trip but disastrous for the waistline.





Our Association is purchasing one of the paintings "Sudan to Afghanistan" and we intend to make this our major prize.

The tickets will be \$5 each and we will draw the winner ONLY after we recover the cost. May we count on your support?

We will still run our raffle at \$1 per ticket. The winner will receive half of what we sell and this will be drawn at our Annual "Mixed" Re-Union in November. Your dollar is very valuable to us.

## 2010 Reunion Venue

Would you please enter **Saturday, the 27th November (12 Noon)** in your diaries, or on your calendars, for our 2010 Annual "Mixed" Re-Union.

We will be holding it at the Paddington RSL Club on Oxford Street, Sydney (nearly opposite Victoria Barracks). (*The Berkeley is too small for our numbers now.*)

Buses from Circular Quay, (No. 380 from Stand "E" depart about every 15 minutes on a Saturday) and Eddy Avenue at Central (No. 378 depart about every 15 minutes also) will drop you off at the door of the Club.

We have secured a "private room" to seat up to 40 people, so bring your partner and/or friends for a very relaxed and informal lunch. Dress is neat casual (Jacket and Tie is optional).

The cost will be \$35 per head (\$30 for non drinkers of alcohol) for a buffet meal and all drinks. I will put a FINAL reminder in our September 2010 Newsletter ---("Battle for Australia Commemoration Day").

Your President and committee members look forward to greeting you.

## Thank You (From your Committee)

Thank you Members, for your yearly dues, donations and LIFE MEMBERSHIPS, they are so very much appreciated.

Thank you, also, for giving your "unwanted Magazine" to your local doctors/hospital waiting rooms/Nursing Home/local chemist /etc "Reading Rooms" for their enjoyment.

...To all the businesses that have paid our publishers to have their advertisement placed in our magazine.

...To our members who pay by EFT, thank you for identifying yourself. (There are some members who are a little behind with their Subs—any little effort is much appreciated.)

Your contributions, letters and emails are enjoyed by us all and are an encouragement.

Members on the Internet—don't forget our own site (see Front Cover of our magazine) and also "surf" the RAAMC web site:-  
**www.raamc.com**

If you do visit our web site, please feel free to write a comment in our "Guest Book".

5 Field Ambulance RAAMC Association  
is also a proud member of the  
RAAMC Association Inc.

NB: Some of you reading this magazine may decide you may now wish to discontinue to be on our Mailing List. We hope this is not so, but if it is please let me know and your wishes will be respected.



# 5 CSSB Health Company NEWS

Our Association congratulates CPL Megan Gavel who received the award of the "Soldier's Medallion" in early May (*I mentioned this in our Christmas 2009 newsletter, p19*).

The unit still provides support for on-going activities with 5 Brigade and at present are busy preparing for a major Field Exercise, due in July, in the Singleton area.

Their Training SGT, SGT David Grace, advised me that there is no change in the unit strength.

SGT Grace said it was a privilege to be part of the contingent who marched with us on ANZAC Day and the members who were able to come back to the Club said they were well looked after and all had a wonderful time.

*(I thank SGT Grace for the "update". If any reader of this section is interested in joining the reserves and being part of this very good Company, please contact either the RSM of the unit, WO 1 Geoff Frew on (02) 9316.0132, or the Training Sergeant of the Health Company, SGT David Grace on (02) 9316.0190.*

## NEW MEMBER/S

**Wilfred (Bill ) JONES** is a very good friend and (recent) neighbour. He always reads our newsletters and requested to join us. It was a pleasure to record Bill's history in our ANZAC Day edition (2010) and I am pleased he is one of us.

-----  
**Robert (Bob) GLOVER MiD JP** is another good friend who read our recent magazine and requested to join us. I am hoping to get Bob's story for a future magazine but in the meantime. Thank you, Bob for joining our Association.

-----  
**David WILLIAMS** is a friend of our President, Derek Cannon, and their paths crossed on ANZAC Day. David marched with 1 General Hospital behind the main RAAMC Banner.

They later met up at the Paddington RSL Club where they renewed their old friendship of times spent in 1 Gen Hosp and 5 Fd Amb.

David said he saw, and spoke to, a lot of familiar faces on the day.

Good on you, David. It is a pleasure to have you join us and we thank you most kindly for your Life Membership.

## KIND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*(Of monies received since last newsletter of April 2010. Please contact me if your name has been omitted.)*

- Richard BOURKE (Cash \$20) for Subs.
- The Cake Trolley (Cheque \$330) made out to 5 Fd Amb Assn by mistake instead of our publishers, Statewide Publishing P/L.
- Bill CLUTTERBUCK (Cash \$15) for Subs.
- Robert (Bob) GLOVER (Cash \$20) for New Member Subs \$15 and Donation \$5.
- Wilfred (Bill) JONES (Cash \$20) for New Member Subs \$15 and Donation \$5.
- James JORDAN (Cheque \$15) for Subs.
- Edwin LOWERY (Cash \$100) for Life Membership.
- Don MELVILLE (Cheque \$20) for Donation.
- Harley RODD (Cheque \$15) for Subs.
- Bill RYLANDS (Cash \$10) for Fund-Raiser Raffle Tickets.
- Paul STEEL (Cash \$20) for Subs \$15 and Donation \$5.
- Thomas VELLA (Cheque \$15) for Subs.
- Darren WATERSON (Cash \$40) for RAAMC Corps Tie.
- David WILLIAMS (Cheque \$102) for Life Membership \$100 and one RAAMC Centenary Envelope \$2

## SICK PARADE



John A'QUILINA, Neil BARRIE, Don BOOTH, Derek CANNON, Kevin CARTER, David CAVANAUGH, Barry COLLINS, John DAVIES, Vic ("Bluey") DAVIS, John de WITT, George DONNELLY, Bert FERGUSON, Nelson FIORENTINO, Ray GRANT, Neville JOHNSON, Sir Keith JONES, Ted KREMER, Bob LEECH, Huss MAHOMET, "Roy" McDONALD, Rayda NOBLE, Charles O'MEALLY, Chris O'REILLY, Barry and Heather PERIGO, John PHILLIPS, Maurice PORTER (*Hayfield Court, Baptist Community Village, Carlingford*), Rob STEWART, Peter ("Tommo") THOMPSON, Sr. Francis ("Sue") THOMPSON (*Big Sister Hostel, Room 216, 2c Kanimbla Rd., Miranda*), Arthur WALTON, John WEAVER and John WOODHEAD.

*Our prayers and good wishes go out to Maurice Porter who had a bad fall and broke his hip. His wife, Barbara, said he is coping well and in fairly good spirits for a man who is 92 years young.*



# MESSAGES FROM MEMBERS

**John GALLAGHER** emailed me the latest edition (APRIL) of "Battery Guide". If you would like to read this very informative newsletter, please contact me and I will post (or email) it to you.

John also sent me an email, prior to last Christmas, and I have just "uncovered" it from under a heap of notes etc!!

He received it from his mate in 107 Field Battery Association, Hilton Lenard, who is their Secretary.

Hilton wrote that it would be a good idea to send our troops, who are serving overseas, a Christmas package to boost morale.

I think this is a terrific suggestion, but we could do this NOW! Or at any time.

If any of our members have a relative or close friend serving overseas, please let us know and we will organise a "Care Package", or you can send one yourself.

The "Package" could consist of:- shower gel, disposable razors, shaving cream, deodorant, baby powder, chap stick (SPF 30+), 3 bags of Allen's lollies, beef or chicken instant noodles, Scotch finger biscuits, 2 cans of tuna (*ring-pull*).

The items put in the "Package" are limited only to your imagination for either a MALE or a FEMALE.

Do NOT send in any package:- CHOCOLATE, AEROSOLS, CLOTHING (except sox), ALCOHOL or CIGARETTES.

For our canine friends, you might send (or have us send) a "care package" to our "Explosive Detection Dogs" which may include:- dog biscuits, beef bone (*not fresh*), 3 "greenies", a toy, a tennis ball (and don't forget a packet of lollies for the handler).

These dogs do a magnificent job under very trying conditions. (4 dogs have lost their lives serving their country.)

Any small donation toward this cause will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

If you wish to do this by yourself then purchase a "BM" size box from Australia Post and some HM Customs forms to fill out. Seal the box all around the edges, and if it weighs NO MORE than 2kgs, Australia Post will send it FREE if addressed as follows:- An Australian Soldier, Op Slipper (*If in Afghanistan*), AFPO 13, Australian Defence Force, SYDNEY, NSW, 2890.

There may be some soldier/s serving overseas, who does not have a family.

DON'T forget to include a 'self-addressed' envelope and a letter, or your email address, in case they want to contact you, or they may have something specific they would like you to get for them.

*(Thank you, John, for your emails. Please thank Hilton.)*

**Frank SKINNER** received my email regarding the Memorial Service for the AHS Centaur (held at the AGH Memorial Chapel, Concord Hospital on the 12th May).

Frank asked us to remember a Great Uncle of his who was on board the "AHS Centaur" when she was sunk by that Japanese sub. Frank said his Great Uncle, James Kelly Mansfield NX73154, was a member of the 2/12th Field

Ambulance.

Frank would like to have been present with us. He is preparing an article for his family's History Club Magazine and was thankful for some info from "Google" that I put him on to. *(Thank you, Frank, for your email. I hope the Family History goes good.)*

**Sir Keith JONES** enjoys reading our newsletters. He wrote to say he had the honour of presenting an ANZAC "Address" to a gathering in the Retirement Village where he lives in Bayview (NSW), on ANZAC Day.

Keith enclosed the "Address" he gave and with his kind permission I have included it in this newsletter (page 10). *(Thank you, Sir Keith, for your letter. It was a pleasure to finally meet up with you at the AHS Centaur Ceremony.)*

**Ray HYSLOP** (Our Patron) enjoyed reading our newsletter and apologised for not being able to be at the ANZAC Day March with us all.

Ray was in Cobar and celebrated ANZAC Day there. He kindly sent me down some photos of the March and Service (I have included the one showing Ray leading the march, pages 12 & 13).

Ray and his wife, Helen, were on a St James Rail Trip which took them to Cobar. He has written a brief summary of their trip.

Ray remarked about the article, in our last issue, on his old friend, Harry Learoyd. He remembers Harry when he joined 1 General Hospital around 1961 after he returned home from the UK, and said he was great company. He remembered Harry sitting the courses and Arms exams for promotion to LTCOL.

Ray is hoping to join us on Reserve Forces Day in the Domain. *(Thank you, Ray, for your email. We hope you and Helen enjoyed your trip.)*

**Andrew ELLIS** enjoys reading our newsletters and passes on his good wishes to all his friends in the Association.

Andrew replied to the email I sent regarding the invitation to attend the Corps Birthday function at the Paddington RSL Club on the 3rd July.

He apologised for not being able to attend due his absence overseas during June and July. *(Thank you, Andrew, for your email. We hope that your trip overseas is fruitful and that you arrive back home safely.)*

**Bill MOLLOY** wrote and thanked us, on behalf of his Boer War Memorial Association (NSW Committee President, LTCOL Tony Lamach-Jones), for the inclusion of the Memorial Service details in our last newsletter (ANZAC Day—APRIL 2010).

Bill said he was pleased to be able to greet us prior to us marching off, on ANZAC Day. *(Thank you, Bill, for your letter. It was a pleasure to write the article and to see you on ANZAC Day and the AHS Centaur Ceremony.)*



**Roy CROSSLEY** enjoys our newsletters and passes on his good wishes to all his friends in the Association.

Roy and Betty were pleased to see us “pass them” when we gave an “EYES RIGHT” at the Town Hall Steps.

Roy said it was the State Governor, Marie Bashir AC, they (and other “Under 16’s”) were guests of (*I had mistakenly written in our April 2010 Newsletter it was the Governor General, they were also entertained by the Lord Mayoress of Sydney, Clover Moore.*)

They had the occasion to visit North Head Artillery Museum where they were introduced to LTCOL John Moore OAM. John is a National Executive Officer and the NSW Deputy Chairman of the Reserve Forces Day Council. (*Thank you, Roy and Betty, sorry about the “Dignitary” error. It appeared that you and Betty had an enjoyable stay whilst in Sydney.*)

**Rayda NOBLE** emailed me to say she has been kept busy before and after ANZAC Day, and to kindly thank our member Bruce Whittet for the “YouTube” video that was sent to her (and our other email members) on the Sydney ANZAC Day March, which featured the majority of medical units marching behind the RAAMC Banner.

She attended the 69th “Anniversary of the Siege of Tobruk” at Tobruk Barracks in Puckapunyal on the 11th April and said it was a wonderful service.

Rayda had previously been given an Australian flag by her Federal member and she managed to get the signatures of some of the “Rats of Tobruk”, some ADF personnel based at Tobruk Barracks, the Rats of Tobruk Memorial Pipes and Drums and some members of the National Servicemen’s Association (Vic. Branch). She will be handing this flag over to the mother of Bombardier Bradleigh Marshall—he is 23 years of age and presently serving in Afghanistan.

(She wrote that Bradleigh’s brother is also in the ADF and serves in Darwin, and their father was ex Navy who served for 24 years.)

Rayda marched behind the Banner of her late father’s unit, 2/1st Army Field Workshops A.I.F. Rayda’s dad was a “Rat of Tobruk”.

Rayda sent me a photo of Bradleigh (taken after returning from an operation in the Bluchi? Valley) and a message he sent back telling her that he had received the “signed” Australian flag and he will be getting it framed to hang on his wall (in Afghanistan).



Bradleigh said his unit commemorated ANZAC Day and said it was the BEST he has attended and to let all the family and friends know that the “Australian Dream” is ... “still alive and kicking over here in Afghanistan”.

Rayda wrote that Brad’s wedding will take place in November (2010) when he returns home from Afghanistan. (*Thank you, Rayda, for sharing some of your emails with me, and the photo of Bradleigh. I hope when you read this that you enjoyed the short reunion with your son, Stephen, when you visited him in late May.*)

**Matthew and Kate VERCOE** are moving their family to Sydney.

Matthew wrote to tell me he has left the ambulance service and was in the process of taking up a new position of IT Manager for a company in Sydney.

Kate is busy minding their children until they sell their home in Singleton, whilst Matthew “settles in” with his new company.

It will be a bit disruptive for their family initially because Matthew is travelling to Sydney for the week and comes home on the weekend. Matthew said the girls are growing up fast—they are six now and doing really well at school.

He is looking forward to catching up with all his Sydney friends once they are in their new surroundings.

Their new MAIL address is: P.O.Box 248, REGENTS PARK, NSW. 2143

(*Thank you, Matthew, for your email. All your friends in the Association, and our members generally, will be wishing you and your family all the very best as you start your new venture. Your family is young enough to start a new school and they will take to it like a duck to water—Good Luck*)

**Peter PAISLEY** is writing an article for an “on-line” magazine to do with security and etiquette he had a hand in, at Duntroon.

He has offered to send me “something” to put in a future magazine when his article is finalised. (*Thank you, Peter. We look forward to reading your article—or some of it.*)

**Bruce WHITTET** emailed to say he enjoyed our last newsletter. He was looking forward to “catching up” with all his friends on ANZAC Day.

Bruce marched behind the HMAS Sydney (or the “Vung Tau Ferry” as he wrote) Banner.

He was hoping to be able to get back and then march again with us and then join with us back at the Paddington RSL Club.

(*Good on you, Bruce. Those knees that Andrew Ellis gave you certainly did you proud. You marched twice—a wonderful effort—and it was good that your matelot mates never led you astray?*)

**Kevin HURRELL** kindly donated two CD’s (“Salute to the Aussie Digger”) to our Association. He sent one to our President, Derek Cannon, and the other to myself. It is wonderfully and poignantly narrated by Jack Thompson and MAJGEN Peter Cosgrove. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to it as I typed away at my computer. If any member would like me to post it to them, it would be our pleasure, please contact me. (*Thank you, Kevin, for your very kind gesture, it is very much appreciated.*)



# Stems of Interest

(1) **Don MELVILLE** wrote to thank us for putting him on our 'Mailing List'. He enjoyed our April (2010) Edition.

He recently travelled to Balwyn (a Melbourne suburb) with a group of about 34 Rotarians, where they met in a friend's house to discuss their past ANZAC Tours.

These tours have been organised by "Rotary Australia Peace Tours" since 2005. A few of the group said they would go again, and Don said he nominated his father's service at Gallipoli, and his war diaries as the reason that he made the trip previously.

On ANZAC Day they took a bus out to Marysville (one of the townships that suffered on that terrible "Black Saturday" bushfires in February 2009) and joined with the community to commemorate ANZAC Day at the re-built Gallipoli Park.

The organiser of "Rotary Peace Tours", Dr. Owen Tassicker, was the Guest Speaker on the day.

During the trip out to Marysville, as the bus was making its way through the "burnt out" region, Don recited the poem "Black is all I see" (written by N.D. and which was printed in our April 2009 Newsletter, page 43).

He said it was well received by all those on the bus.

Don said one of the activities at the Commemoration Service was the planting of a seedling pine tree, a direct descendant of the "original Lone Pine from Gallipoli, in the Memorial Garden, by the President of the Marysville RSL and a representative of the Melbourne Turkish Community nominated by their Consulate.

Don said the Turkish Community was well represented by a number of families, and said it was a truly great day.

He said "Rotary Peace Tours" are now organising for their 2011 Gallipoli/Turkey Tour and if any of our members were interested in going, they could enquire through their local Rotary Club or email; [owentassicker@bigpond.com](mailto:owentassicker@bigpond.com)

Don said non-Rotarians are most welcome on the tour.

(2) **Harry LEAROYD** wrote to thank us for posting the ANZAC Day newsletter to him. He said he thoroughly enjoyed it.

He remarked (after reading about Ruth and I selling our home) that he is also in the "dilemma" of "down-sizing his home, but no decision has been made, as yet!

Harry said he is not as mobile as he was. He asked that his good wishes be passed on to his friends, Ray Hyslop and John Roche.

(3) **The RAAMC Association Inc.** advised us of the "CORPS BIRTHDAY celebrations.

Unfortunately, a "last minute" memo from the RAAMC Association Inc (NSW Branch) has had to "Cancel" the evening due to lack of response and a clash of dates with Reserve Forces Day activities. Those who responded or apologised are thanked.

Bat Andrews, from Victoria, sent an email advising that the Corps Birthday will also be celebrated in Victoria on FRIDAY night, 2nd July. It will cost \$48 per head and if you are from Victoria and would like to attend, please contact Bat on;(Mob) 0425.785.958 for further info.

Enquiries regarding the RAAMC Painting "From Sudan to Afghanistan" (See particulars in last Magazine APRIL 2010, p29) has been steady. If you (or your unit) are interested in this unique "Limited Edition" Painting please contact CAP Angela Dent (02) 6055.2436 in the first instance.

(4) **M/s Louise Jackson** "came across" our 5 Field Ambulance website and noticed that the "SS AJANA" was the ship that carried the unit to war in 1915.

Louise has an old book in her possession that belonged to her late aunt and there is reference to this vessel. She asked if I could help her trace some more info on it, (I emailed her some suggestions—and she thanked me).

I asked Louise if she could "loan" me this book—and she said she will.

She said she was lying in bed a while back, unable to sleep, and trying to figure out who the book belonged to, because inside the cover was a name "Thos Woolner"!

Louise said she is a "Jackson" and there is no one left to ask now, because they are all gone. She thinks it may be on the female side of her forebears.

She enclosed a poem, which caught her imagination, from a part of the book...

*"There aint no shops to shop in, there aint no grand hotels.  
We are lying here in dug-outs, doing wholesale trade in shells!"*

Louise is going to do some more "investigating"!

(5) **Trish FOX** visited our website and asked if we knew anything about the 15th Field Ambulance.

I emailed Trish back to say I would enquire of our members in our Association, but if anyone can assist Trish her email is: [triciafox@bigpond.com](mailto:triciafox@bigpond.com) I thanked her for contacting me.

(6) **The 18 LAA Regiment Association** sent me their MAY Newsletter. Do we have any old gunners or members that may wish to read their newsletter? If so, please contact me and I will happily post it to you.

(7) **William (Bill) A. EVANS** wrote to me back in September regarding his late uncle, William McLean Amphlett.

I wrote a small piece in our "Items of Interest" (on p29, Item No: (7) Christmas Newsletter Dec'09) and would just like to add a little more about his late uncle (with Bill's permission).

Bill said he does not have his uncle's date of birth but it appears that he was born in New Zealand in 1881 as he was 34 years old when he enlisted in 1915. At that time he lived in McLaren Street, North Sydney.

His record shows that William McLean Amphlett was a Dental Surgeon and, although enlisting as a Lance Corporal



he would have been in Gallipoli. He was commissioned Captain, before his return to Australia in March, 1919.

The New Zealand forces had a dental unit, in action, in WW 1 at Gallipoli before Australia, so it is possible that William may have served some time with the New Zealanders before going across to 5 Field Ambulance.

Bill remembers when he was a young boy, his uncle as a very old man, when he visited him and his wife, Molly, on their property "Fairmile" which was on the outskirts of Mittagong in NSW.

He recalls they had a market garden and a wonderful flower garden. Bill remembers playing with his uncle's old Lee Enfield, short magazine, .303 rifle (without ammunition).

His aunt Molly made wonderful home-made bread in a wood stove, which Bill and his sister would "gobble" down whenever they visited there for a Sunday lunch!

Bill says his uncle and aunt died within a short time of each other in the late 1960's.

Bill also remarked that William's brother, Frank Amphlett, was killed at Paschendaele whilst serving with the 35th Battalion, 1st A.I.F. and like many, many others, his body was never recovered.

Bill said he, himself, was born in 1950 and owes a deep gratitude to the Australian Servicemen and women of WW 1 and WW 2. Bill also remarked how much contact there is between Australia and the U.S.

He came to the U.S. because his grandfather worked in San Francisco for an American company early last century.

When he took his family back to Sydney in the 1920's, Bill's father's oldest brother married his American girlfriend and returned to settle in Carmel, on the central California coast in 1929.

Being too old for active service overseas he served in WW 2 as a First Lieutenant in the US Army, testing infantry weapons at Fort Benning in Georgia.

Bill said that as a result, he is a third generation immigrant. He married an American girl, and they have three children.

Their oldest boy, John, is continuing the Australian/American tradition of Citizen Military Service. John is a corporal in the US Marine Corps Reserves, an avionics technician with a helicopter squadron. Bill said they are thankful that, so far, he has not been sent to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Bill closed off by inviting any of our members, who may be passing through Los Angeles, to call in and introduce themselves. They are about 5 minutes from the airport.

#### **(8) The AHS CENTAUR Commemoration Service:**

What a lovely, fine, Autumn morning it was, and what a beautiful reflective service was in store for us. I unfurled our Banner (*with the grateful assistance of one of the organising ladies*) and placed it against one of the walls in the 113 AGH Chapel, which is in the grounds of Concord Hospital.

There were about 4 banners in all and the little chapel was at full capacity.

One of the Banners was that of the 2/12th Australian Field Ambulance, (*the unit that went down with the ship. Almost all the unit perished—doctors, nurses, orderlies and drivers. As well as Merchant Seamen.*).

I had the privilege of sitting next to Spud Murphy. He was the Rover Leader of the Coogee Rover Scout Crew when,



back about 1995, they were asked to carry the 2/12th Banner in that ANZAC Day March.

*Since that day they have been the only "official" custodians of the Banner—and their Honour Roll. They still carry the Banner proudly every ANZAC Day and every AHS Centaur Memorial Day.*

The service went like clockwork and it is a credit to the organiser, M/s Alice Kang and her helpers.

They had a large screen to show "slides" of the recently discovered "Centaur" as she lay at the bottom of the sea in her final resting place. We saw some items of the ship very clearly, even though it was in very deep waters.

Then a boot came sinking slowly down on the screen followed by a very poignant 1940's war tune.

As we sat listening to the song, we watched slides that showed a "lost" loved one's face, whether it was male or female, in their uniform.

There were not too many dry eyes during this very thoughtful segment of the program.

The Corrective Services Band was very well received as was their bugler, who played "The Last Post" and "Reveille".

Another touching segment was the "Ave Maria". This was beautifully sung, and played on her harp, by a very talented Elizabeth Lawrence.

Morning Tea was later served behind the chapel, prior to celebrating the yearly, NURSE'S WEEK.

I had a drama with my car and did not get back to have a "cuppa" and speak to some of our members who were able to attend.

I did get to greet the following members:- Eileen Henderson, Sir Keith Jones, Bill Molloy, John Phillips, John Smith and Warwick Wilkinson. (*My sincere apologies if I have missed anyone else.*)

After many phone conversations with Sir Keith Jones, it was a pleasure to meet him face to face. He introduced me to his son, Richard, who is President of the AHS Centaur Association.

I have mentioned in previous newsletters that Keith's brother was among those who went down with the "Centaur".

#### **(9) A Park in Beersheba** is the title of a DVD about The Australian Light Horse.

Our President, Derek Cannon, posted it to me to view. It is a 32-minute record of the "highlights" of the Park's opening Ceremony in April 2008.



"The Park of the Australian Soldier" is in Beersheba, Israel, and a legacy of the late Richard Pratt. The "Park" also serves as a dual-purpose playground for children with disabilities.

I would be very happy to post it to you and you can return it when finished. Let me know if you would like me to send it to you?

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**(9) Frank OLIVER** is a friend of our Association. His father served with 5 Field Ambulance A.I.F. in WW 1.

He recently re-read a hand-written note, by his father, in the Honours awarded to members of the 5th Field Ambulance, in which he had added two names: Ptes G.H.Hope and W.H.Spooner, who also were awarded the Military Medal.

I checked the details with National Archives and they certainly were awarded the MM.

I have since amended our Honour Roll on our website to reflect this. (*I did have both soldiers recorded but NOT showing their MM.*)

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**(10) The Royal Australian Regiment Association** sent me an email outlining the discrepancies that now exist with our ADF members (past and present) and their superannuation payments.

They produced a graph showing how our politician's pensions have increased greatly since December 1989 followed by the Aged Pensions BUT our members in the ADF have fallen a long way back.

Surely we have some readers of this magazine who can exercise their standing within our Federal Governments, to "fix" this anomaly.

We have our members in the ADF who obey, without reservation, the tasks they are allotted. Some are sent to countries where their lives are on the line 24/7.

Our country is constantly calling on our young men and women to "Join the Services"—we must look after them, and when they get injured and in some cases, even on exercises, get killed. They and their spouses must be protected—financially and medically.

The RARA is seeking the same Indexation Formula as the Age/Service Pension so that their superannuation pension purchasing power is protected over time.

Yes, I know this may read as a political article but when it comes to our ADF members—past and present—we (you and I) have to help in some way.

The RARA article finished off with a quote from author, Osmar White, a war correspondent, from his book "Green Armour", about our fighting men on the Kokoda Track...

*"The spirit, which grows up...is a comradeship almost spiritual in its strength and intensity. It springs from hardships shared equally, risks run by all in common and its power exceeds most of the emotions that an ordinary man will never know. The care of soldiers for one another, their sure and calm dependence on each other, are hard to understand by anyone who has not known it."*

These soldiers need our help—they have a problem—let's help them fix it!

Please write a personal letter to your Federal MP or debate it as a "Motion" at your next RSL Sub Branch meeting for further forwarding to your respective State, and hopefully to the National, Executive of the RSL movement.

**(11) John (Jacko) JACKSON** was looking at our website "Honour Roll" and spotted two members he served with over the years, in HQ Eastern Command.

One was the late "Junior" (Jim) Nicholls and the other was our good member, John de Witt.

Jacko asked that his kind regards be passed to John – which was done. (*Jacko serves with 11 Field Ambulance.*)

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**(12) RAAMC Association Inc. (NSW Branch)** discussed at their APRIL meeting, among other items...

(a) *That the "Fetch Starlight" magazine has "stalled". The President of the Association, MAJ John Straskye, advised the meeting that any submitted articles will be held over for the "PAULATIM" yearly publication.*

(b) *Arrangements were made for the Medical Corps to have lunch at the Paddington RSL Club after the ANZAC Day march.*

(c) *John O'Brien (Secretary) advised of an email received from an ex 8 Fd Amb Medical Officer, CAP Ian Elder, in Victoria. Captain Elder was wanting to get "in touch" with any member who served with him. No one present could assist—HAS ANY READER served with CAP Ian Elder? Please contact myself or John O'Brien ((02) 98201001)*

(d) *Some members attended the 1 HSB Birthday celebrations at the unit's location at Holsworthy and said it was a good day and the unit members made them feel very welcome and were glad of their presence.*

(e) *The Victorian Branch of the Association is now formed and from reports it was very well attended. The NSW Branch extends their heartiest congratulations.*

(f) *The Boer War Memorial Ceremony will be conducted at the Hyde Park Memorial on Sunday 30 May at 11am. An army doctor, Captain Neville Howse, was the first Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross and it was during this war.*

Do we have any architects, sculptors or designers in our membership (or generally, or do you know of "someone" who may be interested in the below).

The Boer War Committee is inviting you to submit an entry to The National Boer War Memorial Design Competition.

The Competition opened on 7th APRIL and carries a prize of \$74,000 AND it will stand FOREVER on ANZAC Parade, Canberra.

For further information, please contact:  
COL John Haynes (Mob: 0418.961.479) or see their web site:  
[www.bmw.org.au/site/in\\_the\\_news.asp](http://www.bmw.org.au/site/in_the_news.asp)

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**(13) MEDIA RELEASES**

(With kind thanks to the Dept of Defence. Edited for space and in no particular date order)

(A) *Operation ANODE is a joint effort in the Solomon Islands between Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tonga.*

*We have approximately 80 soldiers, who are mainly Reservists, in our contingent.*

*Recently, these soldiers returned to their home base in WA. They are from the 13th Brigade and they had just completed a 4 month tour of duty.*

*They are from all walks of civilian life and received high praise from the Commanding Officer of the Combined Task Force, LTCOL David Thompson, for the manner they portrayed themselves with the local people, in carrying out their patrols and other duties.*



The acting Assistant Commissioner of operations with the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force, Mr. Nathaniel Mosese, said the patrols had a positive effect on security, particularly over the Christmas and New Year period.

Personnel from 5 Brigade, based in NSW, have relieved their fellow soldiers from 13th Brigade.

(Our Association thanks them and wishes them all—GOOD LUCK and a safe return.)

(B) A Technical Refresh Program which will involve the "Updating and Integration" of the PMKeyS System and the Defence Reserve Pay System (CENRESPAY11) has commenced. This is a \$16 Million project and will address:-

- (i) Current Technology risks associated with the two systems.
- (ii) Ensure continuity of the personnel and Pay functions.
- (iii) Building a longer-term solution for personnel systems and supporting reforms in the Workforce and Shared Service Stream of Defence's Strategic Reform Program.
- (iv) An early replacement for the outdated Reserve Pay System in July 2011.
- (v) Australian Industry, working with Defence, in updating the technology platform and training Defence users of the updated PMKeyS System.

It will be major agenda and when you realise that over 3 million manual transactions were conducted last year which incurred a number of pay mistakes, it will ultimately lead to, hopefully, a mistake free system.

The entire Program is expected to be completed by the first half of 2012.

(C) PUBLIC WORKS

\$1.45 Billion has been referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee for new facilities (Accommodation and Training) under "Land Force Stage 2". It will increase the capacity of the Land Force by an additional 2 Infantry Battle Groups.

The major projects will be;

QUEENSLAND

Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera-\$820 Million.

Townsville-\$7 Million

Lavarack Barracks-\$70 Million

Wide Bay Training Area-\$75 Million

Greenbank " " -\$100 Million

RAAF Base, Amberley-\$7 Million

Kokoda Barracks- \$72 Million

NEW SOUTH WALES

Lone Pine Barracks-\$145 Million

Garden Island-\$1 Million

HMAS Penguin-\$3 Million

A.C.T.

Royal Military College-\$37 Million

VICTORIA

Puckapunyal- \$13 Million

Simpson Barracks- \$19 Million

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

RAAF Base, Edinburgh- \$33 Million

Cultana Training Barracks- \$55 Million

(D) HMAS SYDNEY WELCOMED HOME.

In April 2009, the HMAS Sydney and HMAS Ballarat set sail from Sydney as part of a major International deployment.

In September 2009, around 230 members of the HMAS Sydney crew were given a rousing 'welcome home' reception by family and friends at her home port.

The Commanding Officer of the HMAS Sydney, Captain Peter Leavey, said it gave the majority of the ship's company an opportunity to see some of the globe, and they had a very busy schedule.

Their first "port of call" was Cochin India. Another memorable time was to sail past the Statue of Liberty and berth in the middle of New York as part of the "Great White Fleet Reciprocal Commemoration Events".

The ship hosted the great grandsons of President Theodore Roosevelt and Prime Minister Alfred Deakin.

Both ship's companies will always remember their success in deterring "pirate attacks" upon two merchant vessels, while transiting the Gulf of Aden.

The HMAS Ballarat returned home some time later, after visiting Japan and taking part in exercises with Japan's Maritime Defence Force.

(E) ADELAIDE CLASS FRIGATES.(FFG)—  
UPGRADE PROGRAM

The last contract of our 4th frigate –HMAS Newcastle—has been concluded—3 months ahead of schedule. This means a significant advancement in naval capability.

(F) PACIFIC HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE MISSION ENDS.

Between the 30th June 09 and 19th September 09, the ADF sent 67 personnel to the U.S. sponsored, Pacific Partnership 2009 to assist with services to our Pacific neighbours in Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The majority of our force lived aboard the US Naval Ship "Richard E Byrd", a 213 metre-long, military Sealift Command vessel. They travelled over 5,000 nautical miles to deliver the services.

Our ADF contingent was capably led by LT Mick Jasney who said the contribution was well received throughout the region.

Medical attention was provided to 22,307 people and over 14,000 man hours of various construction projects were delivered to the communities visited by the "Mission".

The Australians worked alongside Mission Partners from the U.S., N.Z., Canada, Singapore, Japan, France, Chile and the Republic of Korea.

A major engineering feat achieved by the Mission was the rapid replacement of a 215 metre cyclone-damaged bridge to re-connect two communities in Kiribati. Other important projects focused on refurbishing schools, hospitals and medical clinics.

The entire Mission was commanded by the US Navy Commander, Andrew Cully. Commander Cully praised the work of the Australian contingent, who said they were an enthusiastic group with an inspiring work ethic. He also said the thing he liked about the Australians was their perseverance. The Mission could not have delivered without them.



Commander Cully also said they also had a great sense of humour—he said it would be an honour to serve with them in the future.

The ADF contingent included 24 army engineers, a RAN Medical Officer, a RAAF Dental Hygienist, 2 RAN Landing Craft Heavy (HMAS Betano and HMAS Wewak) with a crew of about 20.

(G) ADF CADETS.

Will get upgraded equipment for Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

The additional ICT equipment will include Laptops and some Data Projectors and full internet access for all 500 Cadet Units.

The ADF Cadets is a community-based youth development organisation for young people between the ages of 12 to 18. The scheme provides the opportunity to learn teamwork, leadership and other skills valued in the ADF.

(H) The TIGER Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter Project.

This is now advancing from individual flying, maintenance and support qualifications to collective training and development of Army Aviation war-fighting skills.

The integration of the US Hellfire Missile System to the "Tiger" has been very successful.

It provides the aircraft with exceptionally accurate fire power of up to 8 klms by day and by night.

It also allows the pilot to have the weapons targeting information displayed onto his visor, and the cannon can also be controlled through the helmet.

Australian test and operational crews have flown over 4,300 hours and fired 16 Hellfire Missiles, 475 rockets and 4,000 rounds of 30mm cannon.

Based on the Australian tests, France has announced its intention to fit this weapons system into the next version of the "Tiger" Helicopter.

(I) WEAPONS and MUNITION CACHES FOUND.

Australian Special Forces and other coalition troops, together with elements of the Afghan National Security Forces located and destroyed two weapon caches of the Taliban. They were found in the Oruzgan province. The discovery and subsequent destruction of the majority of the cache included weapons and ammunition, components for making IED's, explosives, false and forged ID cards and 300kgs of opium resin (some items were subjected to further analysis). The Chief of the Joint Operations Command, LTGEN Mark Evans said it was another significant find especially in the new area. The operation took place in daylight and took the rest of the day to complete. It continues to disrupt the Taliban extremist's networks and assist in protecting the people living in the Oruzgan province.

(J) 155mm Lightweight Towed Howitzer

The ADF has moved a step closer to providing the army with the first of these four Batteries of the new 35 M777A2 Howitzers. The government has given a second pass approval of the \$493 Million project. The Howitzers are air-portable under the CH-47 Chinook helicopters and will provide a weight of fire not previous available to rapidly deploy forces

(K) Improved Death and Invalidity Benefits for members of the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme.

The government has backdated from 1 July 2007, benefits for death and invalidity payments to be in line with recent changes to the compulsory retirement age for the ADF members from 55 to 60. The government stated that members of the DFRDB Scheme are not affected because the benefits of this scheme are based on a percentage of salary and not linked to age.

(L) Long Tan Inquiry – acceptance by Government.

An inquiry into unresolved issues relating to the Battle of Long Tan in 1966 accepted the following recommendations;

- (i) Flight LT. Cliffe Dohle be awarded the DFM.
- (ii) No other individual awards to participants in the Battle of Long Tan and
- (iii) "D" Company, 6th Battalion, RAR be awarded the Unit Citation for Gallantry for its performance at the Battle of Long Tan in August 1966.

The Battle of Long Tan was fought on the 18th August 1966 when Delta Company , 6 RAR came into contact with a much larger enemy force while patrolling outside the 1st Australian Task Force at Nui Dat in the Phuc Tuy Province, South Vietnam.

17 members were killed and 21 were wounded. This very decisive action thwarted a well devised enemy plan to annihilate the Australian Task Force before it had settled in.

The enemy was never again able to mount such an effort in the Phuc Tuy Province for the remainder of the Australian presence.

(M) Robot Challenge.

12 teams from 5 countries have been "short-listed" from 23 entries from around the world to successfully produce fully autonomous robots for military operations.

The Multi-Autonomous Ground-robotic International Challenge (MAGIC) is expected to be short-listed further to 5 by June 2010.

The aim of the "MAGIC" initiative is to develop robots capable of operating fully autonomously in conducting Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance missions, making such operations safer for military personnel.

10 of the teams will receive \$US 50,000 to develop their project and the other 2 will have the opportunity to self fund their project. Of the above 12 teams, 5 are from the US, 4 from Australia and 1 each from Canada, Japan and Turkey.

The short-listed teams from Australia are;

- (i) University of Western Australia
- (ii) Flinders University
- (iii) Edith Cowan University
- (iv) Thales Australia
- (v) Illiarc Pty Ltd
- (vi) Strategic Engineering with the University of Adelaide

(N) Service with US Army Small Ships Section.

A report has recommended;

- (i) Australian civilian personnel who served in ships operated by the US Army Small Ships Section



between 1942 and 1945 be recognised as being eligible for Australian Imperial recognition for that service on the same basis as members of the Merchant Navy and

- (ii) There should be no requirement for those personnel to relinquish any US Awards that they may have received prior to receiving Australian recognition for that service.

Former Australian members of the US Army Small Ships Section and the families of deceased former members who believe they may be entitled to this recognition can apply to: Directorate of Honours and Awards on 1800.111.321

NB: Official records of their service are not held by Australia and applicants must provide documentary evidence and in some cases contact the US. (Call the above phone number for assistance, if required).

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- (O) Explosive Detection Dog Found after 1 Year in Afghan Wilderness.

An Australian Special Forces Explosive Detection Dog named "Sabi", which was listed as "Missing in Action" in September 2008 during the same battle with the Taliban in which Trooper Mark Donaldson won the Victoria Cross and 9 Australian soldiers were wounded, including "Sabi's" handler.

A US soldier found her and knew it was a trained dog. He handed her over to the Australians.

Trooper Mark Donaldson was meeting the Queen at this time and when informed, he remarked that..."She's the last piece of the puzzle, and having her back gives some closure for the handler and the rest of us who served with her in 2008. It is a fantastic morale booster for the guys".

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- (P) "Vagabond Crew" Tour to East Timor for our Troops.

John Schumann (of "I was only 19" – the Vietnam Vet's Anthem) and his group performed in East Timor in December 2009 for our troops in the various areas.

The group is made up of Schumann, Hugh McDonald, Kat Kraus, Mick Morina, Alexander Stuart Black and Sam Willoughby.

They performed old Redgum songs and classic Australian songs from solo albums "Lawson" and "Behind the Lines".

John Schumann is a Lifetime Honorary Member of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia.

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- (Q) Chief of Defence Force "Action Plan" for Recruitment and Retention of Women in the ADF.

A speech was given to launch an "Action Plan" to give women more opportunity to participate in the ADF.

Programs will be developed for Senior and Middle Managers to champion a more gender-balanced workforce. The principles underlying the "Action Plan" are those of Flexibility, Choice, and Innovation.

It was stated that at present we have 180 women deployed in overseas operations in various combat and combat-related roles.

Women are able to participate in 92% of employment categories and 81% of positions of the ADF, BUT women only make up 13.4% of our ADF!

The "Action Plan" recognises the ability for women in the ADF to have and raise their families and recognises that the ADF is not the most friendly profession.

The "Action Plan" needs to review childcare options including out-of-hours and off-base support.

MAJGEN Liz Cosson who was the MC said..."You can't ignore 50% of the population".

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- (R) Cyber Security Operations Centre.

The new centre will be located in the Defence Signals Directorate and will be staffed by highly skilled IT experts, engineers and analysts, scientists and representatives from the Attorney-General's Department, ASIO and the AFP.

Over the next 5 years the Directorate will grow from 51 to 130.

With the growth of home internet access from 16% ten years ago to 72% now, it shows that the internet is now a fundamental part of life and is entrenched in all aspects of Australian life. It "blurs" international borders and brings the world into our homes. As individuals we can bank, shop, chat with friends, schedule events and in fact, we are able to do most of our day-to-day activities "on-line".

For the generation now entering the workforce, the convenience of the internet is so routine, that losing it is inconceivable. Businesses use it much the same way.

Like all technologies there is a dark side. Any technology can be turned to serve malicious purposes. The more pervasive and accessible a technology is, the more it can easily be abused. Hence the creation of CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team).

This team will work closely with the Cyber Security Operations Centre in responding to sophisticated cyber threats to networks of national significance, some of which has already been detected.

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- (S) Troops Farewelled in Brisbane.

Around 1000 troops about to deploy on operations in Afghanistan, Middle East and East Timor were recently "Farewelled" at a parade in Brisbane's Gallipoli Barracks. The troops were from range of units across Australia but predominately from units from the South QLD-based 7th Brigade.

The families and friends of the troops were particularly thanked for their invaluable support.

The ADF has about 3,800 personnel deployed on 13 operations overseas and within Australia; this includes personnel actively protecting Australia's borders and off-shore maritime interests.

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- (T) HOPE in Oruzgan Province.

In a combined operation – "Pelatel Man'a" – involving the Australian MRTF-2 (2nd Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force), Dutch soldiers, 4th Brigade of the Afghan National Army and other ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) partners, the Commanding Officer, LTCOL Andrew Hocking, said it hailed as a bright start of the peoples of the Mirabad Valley region in the Oruzgan Province.



Many weapons caches have been found and in the words of one of the Platoon Commanders of the ANA, it has boosted his soldiers' confidence, reinforcing the belief that they can defeat the insurgency.

One the NCO's from the Task Force, (SGT Bradley Foster) said that a lot of small achievements all add up to building the capability of the ANA.

LTCOL Hocking said meetings are being held with key leaders throughout the Mirabad Valley region to listen to their issues and work out ways of helping the local population with the catch phrase – "HELP US, HELP YOU".

He said that once the people trust the government, this will enable the government to bring economic development which will be the lynch pin for long-term security and stability in Afghanistan.

(U) ADF Parliamentary Program for 2010 in Progress.

This was a program that was launched in 2001 and since then it has seen 105 MP's (2009 saw 45 participants) take advantage of gaining first-hand knowledge of what a professional ADF member experiences.

The MP's are attached to various units, including 5 operational areas which include Afghanistan, East Timor and the Solomon Islands, from between 5 to 10 days.

The feedback from both the MP's involved and the unit Commanders has been very positive.

(V) Sixth Anniversary of the Opening of the Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial in Ballarat.

This memorial was "Officially Opened" on 6th February 2004.

It is dedicated to those who suffered deprivation of liberty and it has affected some 35,000 Australians.

These were men and women from the Boer War, the two Australian World Wars and the Korean War.

It was declared a National Memorial in 2008. The community of Ballarat was commended for the effort they put into making this memorial a reality – even more so by the listing of all the names of the prisoners.

(W) Afghanistan Update.

The Australian Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) and the Afghan partner force have had an important meeting with village elders and religious leaders in Chenartu, north east of Taren Kowt in an effort to reach out to the Afghan communities in the Oruzgan Province.

The Chief of Joint Operations, LTGEN Mark Evans, said the meeting was a clear indication of strong support for the ISAF.

The leaders told LTGEN Evans they are committed to defeating the Taliban.

He said to sit down among the people and hear their problems and ideas for the future and to witness the community spirit and confidence in the locals is to really appreciate that there is significant progress being achieved.

The work of the Australian Forces continues to build strong relationships in Oruzgan and he is confident we are on track with our Mentoring Work and Security Operations – operating with the assistance of the

community and protecting the people from the fear and intimidation of the Taliban.

(14) **POSTHUMOUS Victoria Cross Award Recommendation**

Some concerned Vietnam Veterans (Charlie Howe, Jock Cassidy, Roy Marek, Allen Green, Reg Gillian and Barry Gorse) have written to the Statute Defence Adjudicators for a determination for a Posthumous VC Award for 311456 PTE Walter Johnson Davison.

As well as serving in the United Kingdom, PTE Davison came to Australia and enlisted in the Australian Army in 1965 in the Medical Corps and served with the 8th Field Ambulance in South Vietnam.

Part of the submission to the panel read that... in a 2 day action involving 9 Platoon, "Charlie" Company, 2 RAR, he was "on loan" as a replacement Medical Orderly, he went repeatedly to the aid of three gunshot and grenade casualties under intense fire. He was fatally wounded and fell protectively across the wounded soldier he went to save.

As well, a cc has been sent to all parties (Federal Government and others) for their assistance and info.

(15) **Closure of DHOS Scheme**

(With kind thanks to member Bill Thompson--by email)

Ex-service members have one more calendar month to apply for entitlements under the Defence Home Ownership Scheme (DHOS).

Defence replaced the scheme in 2008 with the Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (DHOAS). But, DHOS has remained accessible to enable personnel who separated from the ADF prior to its replacement on 1 July 2008 to access entitlements.

Acting Director General Personnel Policy and Employment Conditions, People Strategies and Policy Group, Peter Bavington said that this access to DHOS will officially close on 1 July 2010.

"As the date of closure nears, we want to inform any Ex-service members who have an outstanding entitlement to submit an application for an entitlement certificate," Mr Bavington said.

He highlighted that in particular Reservists who served prior to 1 July 2008 should look into their entitlements under DHOS.

"The older scheme operated with a different definition of 'serving member' to the current DHOAS and members who were in the Reserve prior to the cessation of DHOS may be entitled to subsidies if they meet certain other eligibility criteria," Mr Bavington said.

"Anyone that this applies to has until 30 June 2010 to submit an application or they risk losing this entitlement.

"There will be limited extenuating circumstances where an applicant who misses this deadline may be able to access a similar benefit to the DHOS offer under the DHOAS," he said.

Mr Bavington advised that this cessation of access would not impact on the ongoing payment of DHOS subsidies to existing recipients.

For further information on the closure of DHOS, the scheme's eligibility requirements and the extenuating circumstances for late applicants visit [www.dhoas.gov.au](http://www.dhoas.gov.au).



## FEATURES:

# Charles Dobson Story

*(My kind thanks to Charles Dobson for his reminisces and to The Australian Magazine for the "edited" use of their "Townsville" story.)*

Charles was born on the 29/1/1923 and went to primary school in Putney (near Ryde, NSW).

He completed (or almost) his High School with Rozelle Technical College.

His father allowed him to leave school at 14 so he could work at Dickinson's, a furniture making factory in Leichhardt. Charles had his heart set on getting an apprenticeship as a cabinet maker but could not get a "start" in the trade.

A chance meeting of an upholster salesman convinced Charles that his future should be in this trade—so, after 6 months at Dickinson's, Charles started work for Berkeley Upholsterers in Paddington.

The war was on in Europe when suddenly, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour in December 1941. Charles, along with many other young men, was conscripted into service.

NX100772 Charles Dobson was placed in the army in January 1942 and sent to Narellan (on the outskirts of Liverpool) to complete his Basic Training.

After Basic training, they were moved to Castle Hill Showground. Whilst here they were transferred to the A.I.F. (24th July until discharge in July 1946).

Charles was posted to 2nd Corps Troops Ammunition, Petrol and Supply Transport Company.

When he got his army licence, he and his mates were sent to Moorebank to pick up the new Ford "Blitz" wagons (with the old "crash" gear box!), and drive them back to Narellan.

Later, he was among 12 "Blitz" wagon drivers who were sent to Marangaroo, near Lithgow, to carry ammunition for the three services.

They would collect the ammo from a railway siding and take them to "dumps" in the hills. There was also a disused railway tunnel at Clarence Mountain that was used as an ammo dump.

They carried all types of ammunition from 250lb bombs, grenades and detonators to small arms ammunition.

Charles recalls that when they were unloading the detonators they had to wear soft footwear, for fear of creating a spark, also noise had to be kept to an absolute minimum.

On one occasion one of the drivers "honked" his horn to attract attention and was told in no uncertain terms the peril he could put the men in!

Orders then came for their vehicles to be put on flat-top trains at Warwick Farm.

Their vehicles were loaded with 250lb aerial bombs, with their eventual destination to Gayndah (roughly 150 klms west of Maryborough) in North Queensland. Charles said they slept on top of the bombs!

There was a huge concentration of troops here when they eventually arrived. (Charles read later that the 7th Division was brought here from WA).

Being transport, he recalled a "route march" that his unit was ordered to do. They marched from Esk to Maroochydore (*about 100 klms "as the crow flies"*) over the Glasshouse Mountains but, said Charles... *"it was a bloody long way AND we got lost!"*

The men jokingly remarked about their C.O. (Lt Col Atkinson) that he was a "postman" in civvy life so walking was right up his alley—but he led them all the way. They arrived at Nambour and then on to the coast... *"where we had 3 days on the beach".*

Charles said the funny part of it all was at the end of the march, they were all picked up in trucks by another Tpt Company and taken back to their camp at Esk.

When his unit was in the Gayndah area, he recalled about 20 vehicles from his unit were dispatched to carry American troops from the Brisbane area to practice Landing Barge Exercises at Turnbull Point (north of Caboolture), and then, later, transport them to the wharves where they were to embark for "The Islands".

He said that when they were "attached" to the American Infantry Battalion, they enjoyed all the "goodies" of their canteens and their meals were... *"extra good".. no Bully Beef or M & V or egg powder or tinned potatoes"... We heard later they had a bad time on Landings in the Islands."*

Charles's unit was later broken up and he was allotted to 160 General Tpt Coy.

Charles also recalled the 127 General Tpt Coy., it was made up of "local boys" from the Townsville area and surrounding districts. Their unit got transferred down to Brisbane. He later heard that they got into a lot of trouble in Brisbane—some of them hadn't ever seen a tram!

Our company—160 General Transport Company—replaced them. Charles didn't know why?

Charles was shortly afterwards transferred to the Workshop Platoon and finished up driving the Recovery Vehicle.

In 1946, when the unit was being discharged, they had to drive their vehicles from Townsville to Brisbane to the Ordnance Depot. On the way down, one of the vehicles had a "prang" at Charters Towers and Charles had a long tow to Brisbane.

When the war was over, Charles recalls it being a sad day when he had to "hand over" his new Recovery Vehicle.

He was medically examined in Brisbane and finally discharged in July 1946 at Marrickville.

Charles has some sad and "funny" memories of those war years.

A sad memory he recalled was when his good mate in the workshop was cleaning and repairing a carburettor. A spark from a nearby grinder ignited the cleaning fluid he was working with and it engulfed his friend in flames.

Charles ran about 50 feet to his mate, who was running and screaming, and threw a blanket over him to smother the flames—it was too late to save him.



Another sad memory was another very good mate, who was also a very good plaiter. Every chance his friend got he would plait whatever he could lay his hands on. He plaited a strap for Charles's (and a lot of others) Identity Discs (which Charles still has to this day).

This particular day they had their vehicles on a train and the order came to "uncouple" the carriages. His friend was in between a carriage and the train shunted and crushed him. Charles said his friend was conscious and spoke to him. He later died in hospital—he was engaged to be married—22 years old.

A "funny" incident Charles recalled was when he was in one of the local pubs in Brisbane when he was on leave with his good mate. It was both their 21st birthdays and they were happily chatting away with some local girls who invited them to their friend's wedding celebration—they said there was a "keg" on, so that made up Charles and his mate's mind.

After being at the wedding dinner for some time, Charles thought they must have been too rowdy because the next thing he remembered was being thrown out of the reception.

He remembered punching the groom and then he got hit on the head with a claw hammer.

At the same time his mate had "stolen" the keg and attempted to jump off the verandah with it, except the verandah was about 8 ft off the ground and it landed on top of him.

The keg was recovered by the Wedding Party, and Charles and his mate made off in a lucky escape. They used to laugh at this incident many, many times.

Some of his happiest times were at sport. Charles's C.O. encouraged sport and PT. They played 3 codes of football—Rugby League, AFL and Soccer—Inter-Platoon League and an Amenities Comp on a Wednesdays.

They had a 1st Grade side (Rugby League) which played on a Sunday within the Townsville Rugby League Competition –Charles said it was a good, hard and tough comp.

Charles said he was keen and lucky enough to make the Sunday Comp (*"I played Lock Forward"*). *"We also had a strong side and won the Grand Final in 1945."*

He said their share of the "gate money" from the T.R.L. went down to David Jones store in Sydney and when they went on leave in Sydney, they were all measured up for their Blazers!

Charles still has the winning pocket in his possession—it reads...

*"Townsville Rugby League Premiers 1945-- 160 Gen. Tpt."*

Charles said...*"In 1946 we could not put a side in the Townsville comp due to not knowing how long we would be in Townsville. I played half a season with Central, a local Townsville club"*

Charles said that when they first arrived in Townsville, it was a "tough" town. *"You had no trouble to get into a "blue"—it was a troop town! But in the end, and getting to know the "locals", I could easily have stayed there."*

When Charles left for the war he was a 3rd year apprentice at Berkeley's Upholsterers and they welcomed him back to his old job.

The Department of Repatriation "made up" all his lost wages as an apprentice and reimbursed him all his tools.

His civilian life started again in the Drummoyne and Five Dock area! Charles and Nancy have two children, John and Carol (and they have their own grown up families).

The family eventually moved up to Port Macquarie where Charles set up his own upholstery business and ran it successfully until his retirement.

He and wife, Nancy, now live on a beautiful 7 acres of undulating land between Port Macquarie and Wauchope in the most peaceful surroundings.

### **An "edited" piece of the "Townsville Story"**

Between December 1941 and February 1942 there were only a handful of Australian troops stationed in North Queensland.

A young boy of 11 (Les Turner) remembered when army trucks came onto their property in Manton (near Charters Towers) and shortly after, started to excavate etc to build an air strip.

His dad had spoken to the Americans about how rough his land was and doubted it would be suitable as an air field. The American officer replied that they would be landing airplanes here in ten days time!

How right he was. Whole squadrons of them—Lightings, Kitty Hawks, Flying Fortresses, B 25 Mitchells and B 26 Marauders. The whole airfield base was lit up day and night.

The Japanese were coming and everybody was frightened (except Les, he was the camp mascot!)

Les remembered the bombers limping in, smoke streaming from their engines, fuselages peppered with bullet and shrapnel holes.

This was a dark time in our history and Queenslanders would recall the bombers, battleships and huge troop build-ups in every large North Queensland Township.

Great tent cities that stretched for miles and even makeshift bush chapels in some remote areas, where troops could worship before they went into battle.

Some streets in Townsville were full of air raid shelters and it seemed every American soldier had a pistol on his hip.

There was heavy rationing and you had to queue to get your basic foods and, you didn't get much.

An event was remembered by a local. It was the day before the Battle of the Coral Sea. An air raid warden spoke to a boy's mum and said...

*"that events had turned ugly and it looks like the Japs are coming. You are to cook up your meat and scones and put them in a sugar bag, get some warm clothes and heavy shoes because you are going to have to walk to Brisbane. You will be walking by night and hiding by day!"*

North Queensland's experience in 1942 was unique. Unlike the Northern Territory—where civilians were evacuated to create a restricted military area—the local population in Townsville and surrounding areas was forced to co-exist with the massive influx of Allied Forces.



The sudden Japanese advance South to New Guinea left communities with a sense of doom.

Those who lived on the coast between Bowen and Burketown were encouraged to evacuate south.

The region north of Mackay became the launch-pad for troops, ships and bombers to block the Japanese advance.

Eventually, there would be one million defenders who would pass through Queensland on their way to the Pacific War Zone.

However, the coming of the American Forces with their sheer manpower, the construction of defences, their war ships, the massing of their Fighter and Bomber aircraft, also brought confidence. For the first time, Australians felt as if they were standing their ground.

Townsville had changed from a sleepy tropical town into a swarming base city with a population of more than 100,000.

US Army personnel poured in by the thousands.

Hotels were commandeered as Officer's Quarters, schools were closed and Boarding Schools were converted into hospitals.

The majority of the enlisted men slept in tents in a large paddock (which is now the TAFE College and the Pimlico High School).

Most of the Australian troops camped in the Botanical Gardens and parks.

Within months, more than 4,000 airmen and support staff were stationed strategically across the north, for the American bombers on their runs to New Guinea.

Between 1942 and 1945 the region between Townsville and Charters Towers became the largest concentration of air fields, repair facilities, stores and ammunition depots, fuel storage areas and port operations, in the South West Pacific.

By April 1942, an invasion was expected within weeks. This was a most desperate time in our country.

In a prior Memorandum to Federal Cabinet, Major General Ivan Mackay (Chief of the Home Forces) wrote...

*"that he did not intend to defend Townsville (or, incidentally, Tasmania) with more troops than the five Divisions that were in those areas now. It may be necessary to submit to the occupation of certain areas of Australia should local forces be overcome."*

This paper, later, formed the basis for the Brisbane line where 7/8ths of the continent would capitulate to the enemy to protect the south east sliver between Brisbane and Melbourne.

Mackay never received a response to his Memorandum.

Cabinet was still discussing the urgent matter of the return, from the Middle East, of the 6th and 7th Divisions and the 41st United States Infantry Division which was to be allocated to Australia.

At the time though, some preparations were made for a "scorched earth" policy.

Small craft were removed from harbours, rivers and lakes, pearl luggers were moved south, signs disappeared from railway stations, public buildings and roads. People

were asked to destroy road maps. Aliens were moved south into Internment Camps.

Cattle musters were organised on a huge scale and more than 80,000 head were shifted 1,600 kms south to prevent them providing free supplies to the Japanese should they invade.

On May 2nd Major General Vasey (Deputy Chief of the General Staff) issued precise instructions in case of enemy attack in North Australia:-

*"Destroy all aerodromes, stores and equipment, burn banknotes, blow up bridges and port facilities, remove chains from bicycles, destroy water bores on stock routes and shoot holes in all water tanks."*

The Japanese, on the other hand, were extremely well prepared. Through pre-war fishing and pearling activities they knew our coastline and the ocean currents and the best areas for possible troop landings.

Japanese Naval Intelligence Officers were aboard the fishing vessels and had photographed and mapped the coastline, prior to the war.

Local aborigines had reported submarine activities ("*sticks moving in water*") around the Cape York coastline as early as 1939. These reports were discounted!

Detailed Australian Survey maps, found in Tokyo after the war, revealed that the Japanese had precise information on road conditions, water storages, areas impassable in the wet, and other vital local knowledge.

In fact, maps used by the North Australia Observer Unit were printed in Japan, prior to the war!

The danger reached its peak in May 1942 when a Japanese seaborne invasion force advanced on Port Moresby. The ensuing sea battle raged from 4th May until the 11th May just 1,200 kms off the North Queensland coast.

This very timely and famous sea battle, was aptly named the "*The Battle of the Coral Sea*".

Although both sides claimed victory with many ships lost, it turned the tide for the Allies.

The huge Japanese Task Force had to turn back to Rabaul.

This did not stop Japanese attacks on the North Australian coastline. Towards the end of July, Townsville was bombed, unsuccessfully, three times.

Due to more severe restrictions and rationing, the locals started to turn bitter.

There was no news of what was happening, you could not take photos or keep a diary, water supply was cut off between 8pm and 5am and from 10am until 4pm.

Another major problem that quietly emerged about this time was a racial one.

In mid 1942, 7,000 black American GI's were sent to Australia and with Australia's "White Australia" policy it proved a delicate matter for General MacArthur and the Australian Government to handle.

MacArthur enforced an agreed segregation of white and coloured zones in cities like Brisbane (where they were stationed in Redbank) and also geographic isolation which meant moving them into camps in northern Queensland.



Different patterns of recreation were devised to minimise contact and intimate association between white Australian women and black Americans.

There were separate, strictly policed dances for the black servicemen where urban Aboriginal and Pacific Island women were allowed, as well as *"certain undesirable types"* of white women.

Fierce brawls erupted when white servicemen, from other parts of the city, "gate-crashed" dances.

The worst case came in September 1942 when a brawl between 2,000 black troops and 1,500 white servicemen erupted.

Brothels, often organised by American forces, soon flourished in Brisbane and Townsville using Aboriginal and white women.

The town seemed not a nice place to be, with drunkenness and prostitution very evident.

The black servicemen were soon moved further north to work. Queensland newspapers were forbidden to report on any coloured troops, whether by letter or photograph.

Any reference to colour was struck out.

A former Townsville schoolteacher, Gertrude Pohlmeier, said...

*"The American blacks mixed freely with the locals and many close friendships were formed. They used to go to their parties and dances and listen to their music, and I know plenty of people still correspond with them.*

Experiences both here and in Europe planted the seeds of what black Americans called the "Double V" victory, victory for America abroad and victory for democratic rights at home.

It was to become the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement.

The North Queenslanders saw the Americans change their world, in the long run, for the better.

One Queenslanders said... *"They changed our attitudes and the pace of our lives. We were brought into the 20th Century as they taught us "greed" and they taught us about refrigerators.*

Theodore White, a war correspondent of the time, said... *"never anywhere have we encountered political censorship of such a character as exists in Australia."*

Nothing "officially" was released until 1972 about what happened in Darwin in 1942.

As far as North Queensland was concerned, as well as Townsville being bombed three times, Mossman and Anthill Plains were also bombed, as was Horn Island—9 times.

You read above about aborigines identifying submarines. The Aborigine played an important role in the war years which largely went unnoticed until recent years.

A Melville islander, Matthias Ulunguru, captured the first Japanese P.O.W. on Australian soil.

He was an airman and his name was Toyo-Shima Hajime, his plane was ditched after it ran out of fuel following a raid on Darwin.

Ulunguru grabbed him from behind, took his pistol, stripped him to his underwear and took him to the base on Bathurst Island.

After Darwin was bombed, all half-castes were ordered to be moved south with the white civilians, whilst the full-blooded Aborigines were moved into army camps to be used as labour.

They helped build airstrips at Kalumburu, Port Keats, Bathurst Island, Yirrakala and Groote Eylandt.

The Air Force feared that the Japanese could easily capture an isolated airfield so they also used the Aborigines as a Defensive Force.

In March 1942, Squadron Leader Donald Thompson trained a force of 50 Arnhem Land warriors in guerrilla warfare.

Besides traditional weapons, they learned how to use "Molotov Cocktails" to destroy store dumps and planes.

Another force on Melville Island under the command of Jack Gribble, patrolled the coastline, rescued downed airmen, salvaged crashed aircraft and located sea mines washed ashore.

Several Aborigines went on Allied submarines and assisted in the landings of small parties of troops on secret missions to Japanese-controlled islands.

On Cox's Peninsula, Aborigines formed a Black Watch under Superintendent Jack Murray, which performed a similar service, except Gribble's group received an *"ex gratia"* payment of 200 pounds in 1962—the other groups received neither recognition nor payment for their efforts.

Another group (mentioned above) was the little known group named the North Australia Observer Unit, the Nackeroos, or *"Curtin's Cowboys"* (a book was published in 1986, about this unit, by Richard and Helen Walker).

These were 500 young "hand-picked", volunteers who were trained to observe and report all the information they could gather about the Japanese invasion force.

They patrolled the far north from the Kimberley's to the Gulf of Carpentaria, living off the land in some of the most remote and hostile country in the continent.

These men were to be the first line of defence—they were alone and they were outnumbered.

Had the Japanese landed in force, they were expected to remain behind enemy lines and operate from "secret" hide-outs.

One of the "Nackeroos", John Gooley, recalled being stationed in Wyndham for 3 months...

*"A Jap observation plane flew down the main street nearly every morning, about 50 feet above the street, we used to stand and wave to the pilot because he would wave to us. We had orders NOT to fire on it but we would get straight on to the radio and tell HQ which direction he was headed.*

*The Air Force in Darwin was supposed to intercept it."*



# *At the Shrine of Remembrance*

## *1914-1918*

(With kind thanks to the author—Charles Murray-- 2009)

*In the still, dark quiet here, pre-dawn chill, sleeps through the waiting rememberers.  
Discomfort forgotten, lost in the thrall of memories, fanning the sacred embers.*

*At the hour, now, this place is sacrosanct. Old ghosts of too-young men and boys attend,  
And mingling with the grateful present, must wonder at the lives they had to spend.*

*Leaving cities, homes, townships far behind, they were but dreamers, these young men  
and boys,  
who chose to fight a war a world away, dreamed of adventure, of heroic deploys.*

*Embracing mothers, wives, siblings, lovers. Your farewells bright,  
aloud with boyish cheers.*

*Neither awe nor trepidation crossed your mind, you did not know  
and who would make you hear.*

*Maybe it was as well it was that way, for the hell that broke about your callow years,  
Devoured your innocence and doused its flame.  
Then spat it out disdainful of your fears.*

*While on that fateful shore, Gallipoli. The first instalment of your sacrifice,  
identified the stature of the man, brave ANZAC born, without the artifice.*

*Across that rising ridge of steep ravines, the Wattle and the Fern, a brotherhood  
is forged and woven with heroic deed. Delivered, signed and sealed, in its young blood.*

*The Western Front, a greater forging place, a blasted landscape, riven and laid bare,  
Where fools fire fodder of our human kind, unconscionably leave too few to spare.*

*And so the war to end all wars is born, spawning a human grief too hard to bear.  
Whole continents of stricken mothers grieve.  
The Last Post, an anguished nation's prayer.*

*Remembered now at Cenotaphs and Shrines, the Battle Rolls writ deep on granite face.  
Measuring still the selfless sacrifice and battlefields their final resting place.*

*In awe we hold them in our grateful hearts, ever mindful of the cost, their lives to pay.  
Peace and Freedom, delivered-immolate. Love no greater, no greater love hath they.*



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**ACTIVITY SHEET** (for June 2010)

(Please indicate your choice/s with an X or Tick)

- Please find enclosed my Subs for 2010 (\$15) (cover from January to December) or LIFE MEMBERSHIP (\$100) or Donation *(See my details below)*.
- I will/will not be attending the Berkeley Hotel on RF Day *(Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July)*.
- Please send me \_\_\_ RAAMC Centenary “Coin and Token” set/s @ \$25 each.
- Please send the ½ hour DVD of the “Park in Beersheba” *(The Australian Light Horse)*.
- Please send me the CD “Salute to the Aussie Digger”.
- Please send me \_\_\_ RAAMC Centenary (Stamped) Envelopes (1903-2003) @ \$2 each. (47 left—with 50c Stamp embossed)
- Please send me a 5 Field Ambulance RAAMC KEY RING (\$20). *(with my membership number on it, if possible.)*
- Please order me a NAME BADGE (\$20)  
The name on the badge to read:- \_\_\_\_\_
- Please order me \_\_\_ RAAMC “Bumper Stickers” @ \$2.50 ea. *(Incl. postage)*
- Please order me a (XL/Large/Medium/Small) BERET (\$30), \*BERET BADGE (\$8), \*LAPEL BADGE (\$7), \*CORPS TIE *(Includes postage)* (\$40)---please indicate size of Beret & whether Badges/Ties are to be RAAMC or RACT/RAEME.
- Please order me a copy of Sir Keith Jones’s book.  
“One Man’s Story” an autobiography (\$25)
- Please ORDER me a copy of “Military of the Hunter—1855-2005 @ \$45 (Includes postage).

(Please make any Cheques/Money Orders etc payable to:- “5<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Association” and post to either:- Alan Curry 8 Reliance Bvde., TANILBA BAY NSW 2319 OR Treasurer, Brian Tams, 4/24-26 Barrenjoey Rd., ETTALONG BEACH, NSW 2257—All acknowledgements in next issue. EFT details are: BSB: 637000, ACCOUNT NUMBER: 717253825, A/C Name: 5<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Association, BANK: Greater Building Society. (Please Identify your name))

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A proud member of the RAAMC Association Inc.

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Preferred Title:</b><br>Mr./ Mrs./ M/s. Dr. Etc.          | <b>Month of Birth:</b>        |
| <b><u>FAMILY NAME:</u></b>                                   | (Wife/Partner Christian Name) |
| <b><u>FIRST NAME</u></b>                                     | <b><u>OTHER NAME/S</u></b>    |
| <b>Military/Civilian Awards (if any)</b> _____               |                               |
| <b>Service/PMkeys Number (if applicable)</b> _____           |                               |
| <b><u>ADDRESS NUMBER:</u></b> _____                          |                               |
| <b><u>STREET NAME:</u></b>                                   |                               |
| <b><u>SUBURB/TOWN/CITY etc</u></b> _____                     |                               |
| <b><u>POST CODE:</u></b> _____                               |                               |
| <b><u>Contact Details:</u> Telephone (H) _____ (W) _____</b> |                               |
| <b>FAX:</b> _____ <b>EMAIL:</b> _____                        |                               |
| <b>MOBILE:</b>   |                               |

I hereby apply to join 5<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance RAAMC Association as (Please mark “X” in the appropriate box below)

- A FULL MEMBER (served/serving in the A.D.F. or Allied Forces)
- AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER (never served in the A.D.F. --Australian Defence Forces)

Annual Subscription (\$15) is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> January each year. LIFE MEMBERSHIP is \$100. (Reminders will be included in each “ACTIVITY SHEET”)

Cheques/Money Orders should be made out to “5<sup>th</sup> FIELD AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION” and forwarded to either — Alan Curry (Hon Sect) 8 Reliance Bvde, TANILBA BAY. N.S.W 2319 OR Brian Tams (Hon Treasurer), 4/24-26 Barrenjoey Rd, ETTALONG BEACH. NSW 2257. **EFT Details:** BSB: 637000, **A/C Number:** 717253825, **A/C Name:** 5<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Association, **Bank:** Greater Building Society. **(Please identify yourself).** *All acknowledgements will be in next Newsletter.*

(SIGNATURE) \_\_\_\_\_ (DATE) \_\_\_\_\_



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