



RETURNED and SERVICES LEAGUE of AUSTRALIA  
EPPING RSL SUB-BRANCH  
**ROUTINE ORDERS**



**Vol 24 No2**

**April - May 2021**

**President:** John K Curdie OAM.  
45-47 Rawson Street, Epping 2121

**Treasurer:** Les Rowe

**Secretary:** John Prestidge RFD ED  
Telephone 02 9868 3272

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**



Now with the nationwide program to vaccinate against the COVID 19 in place, we may be able to look to restoration of a more normal lifestyle. The many months of enforced hibernation, a basic tool in controlling the spread of the virus, has enforced

upon us many new experiences and has caused us all to appreciate many of our life values; especially such items that contribute to and provide for our happiness and cogent social life. Soon that 'annus horribilus' will be behind us as and we will be able to recommence more traditional sub-Branch activities. Especially being able to unite again in ANZAC Day celebrations and other commemoration services.

The sub-Branch ANZAC Commemorations this year will consist of an ANZAC Sunday Service on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April and a Dawn service on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April and in compliance with the relevant COVID restrictions of the day.

With the dreaded virus under control, Australians are arousing to face the new world of post-COVID 19. This year we will be united in our ANZAC Services and proud of the unity of spirit which is the quintessence of that bond of mutual support experienced by Australian who faced an enemy, embraced hardship and even with sacrifice showed a determination to secure a victory.

Just as we personally face our future, post COVID, the RSL is also involved in significant changes especially in the way it serves veterans and operates its welfare programs. The League is embracing a new world with different needs and expectations than of the times of its origins a hundred years ago. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the RSL is but one of many charities supporting the veteran community and the success of the RSL recruitment program is the hope for any growth or continuity of the league.

The proud history of times past and the heritage of its service to diggers for the past hundred years rests with us; the veterans who remain. The diggers of past generations of the league have passed the lantern to us, challenging us to see it glow and grow.

We embrace this challenge by putting aside any preconceived ideas or superficial hidden agendas, biases or offenses that may be perceived to exist in the evolving Constitution and its Statement of Practices.

The enforced separation of the past year has seen us turn to the technology of the virtual world to bridge that loss of personal contact. The virtual world of that technology has also allowed us to look more closely at world events and perhaps to observe the fragilities by which peace is maintained and of the simplicity with which we can now communicate our personal values and attitudes to any situation.

The world is changing quickly, and we must allow our RSL to adapt to the way we live and to engage the changes that are important to survival of the League.

Whilst observing the many political agendas of nations that surround us, we can glimpse a tenuousness of the peace. Daily, in the media, we are made aware of issues and radical forces that stand ready to influence our national values. We are being challenged in the way we can think or speak. There are soothsayers that believe that we can rewrite history rather than learn from it. The only thing of some certainty is that of change. As Australians we must be vigilant in our understanding and of our adaptation to the changes that will overtake our world

*John K Curdie* OAM

Sub Branch President

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

### VALE

### “WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

During the months of January - March 2021, no advice has been received of the passing of members.

## EPHING RSL SUB BRANCH

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: APRIL 2021- MAY 2021

*All meetings subject to COVID-19 rules and restrictions*

#### APRIL 2021

Friday 02	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	
Saturday 03	RSL Old and Bold Association	1100
Sunday 04	<b>EASTER</b>	
Monday 05	<b>EASTER MONDAY</b>	
Tuesday 06	RSL Senior Members Association Meeting	1400
Monday 12	Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting	0930
Sunday 18	Anzac Sunday Service, Epping Club Grand Ballroom	1400
Sunday 25	<b>ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE, FOREST PARK</b>	<b>0600</b>
	<b>Subject to COVID restrictions</b>	
Monday 26	Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting	1930
Tuesday 27	RSL Senior Members Association Committee Meeting	1030

#### MAY 2021

Saturday 01	RSL Old and Bold Association	1100
Tuesday 04	RSL Senior Members Association Meeting	1400
Monday 10	Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting	0930
Tuesday 11	RSL Senior Members Association Trip	0900
Monday 31	Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting	1930
Tuesday 23	RSL Senior Members Association Committee Meeting	1030

## **EPPING RSL SUB-BRANCH HOSPITAL/AGED CARE VISITATIONS**

The members listed below perform a great service to the sub-Branch by maintaining close liaison with members when they are not well, and when they have to go to hospital. Mainly though they maintain regular contact with those with more extended problems who spend time in Care Facilities etc.

### ***SUSPENSION OF VISITING DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC***

Sadly, in mid-March last year it became necessary to suspend our visiting programme due to the impact of the Covid-19 Coronavirus Pandemic on our country. Care facilities and hospitals went into lockdown. Although the situation has improved a little visiting is still very restricted, and when allowed is mainly limited to family (often only one person at a time) or clergy and generally by appointment only. Most importantly, we do not want to put our visiting team at any personal risk. Although we do not know when we shall be able to resume visiting, we are continuing to publish our normal roster so that when clearance is finally given our team members will be aware of when they may be called upon.

#### **Roster for the Period: April 2021 – June 2021**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>	<u>Week Commencing</u>
Henry Jones	9858 4857	4 April
Paul Kim	0412 462 446	11 April
Ian Kirkham	9876 6075	18 April
Bob Kenyon	9869 2228	25 April
Jeanette Swan	0408 485 504	2 May
Allan Lotfizadeh	0414 411 565	9 May
Jennifer Sforcina	9801 1842	16 May
Henry Jones	9858 4857	23 May
Paul Kim	0412 462 446	30 May
Ian Kirkham	9876 6075	6 June
Bob Kenyon	9869 2228	13 June
Jeanette Swan	0408 485 504	20 June
Allan Lotfizadeh	0414 411 565	27 June

#### **Home Contacts and Funerals – Robin Cummins, Welfare Officer - 9680 4865**

It would be appreciated if members when discharged would notify the Welfare Officer (9680 4865) to avoid the Visiting Team making unnecessary trips. Remember some places involve travelling considerable distances. Additions to the team are always welcome.



## SENIOR MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

President: Merril Prestidge      Vice President: Margaret Cummins      Secretary: Margaret Cummins  
Treasurer: Deirdre Curdie      Tours coordinator: Don and Brenda Greentree  
Committee Members: Don Campton, Don Greentree, Brenda Greentree, Gavin Nell and Les Rowe.

Hi Everyone.

Thirty one of us left the Club at 9.00am on March 9 to travel to Gosford for our tour of the Nougat and Chocolate Factory. First stop at the Hawkesbury at Mooney Mooney for morning tea, most pleasant spot, then on to West Gosford for our tour and lunch.

It was a most interesting insight as to how they process and mix all the ingredients that make such tasty morsels then the packaging etc. Many of us returning with a supply of goodies.

Thank you to Don and Brenda for finding such a place to visit. Our next outing will be to the Fosters Yacht Club at Belmont on May 11 leaving the Club at 9.30am.

Thank you to the committee who all agreed at the AGM to represent the Seniors Association for another year.

Our next meeting will be on April 6. Hoping to see you all there.

Merril Prestidge,  
President

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## OLD & BOLD ASSOCIATION

The Old & Bold Association membership is available to all financial members of the Epping RSL sub-Branch. The revised meeting arrangement is now on the first Saturday of the month and commencing at 1100 hrs. This new arrangement for *Old and Bold* was set in place to suit those of our veteran community who, whilst still working during the week, cannot meet on a weekday but would have a spare few hours to meet over a drink and a light lunch on a Saturday. At such times they can swap experiences or learn of the activities of the RSL and of our sub-Branch; to meet on Saturday morning to appreciate and share in that special *esprit de corps* peculiar to Australians and of veterans.

John Curdie  
Sub-Branch President

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## AUSTRALIAN WAR WIDOWS N.S.W. LTD

Co-ordinator: Heather Gillam 9876 3588

Barbara Bell

Treasurer: Heather Gillam

Meetings: First Monday in month at 10.30 a.m.

April 12th Note change of date due to Easter Monday 5th April

Speaker from Head Office

Sunday April 18 2.00 p.m. ANZAC Sunday service Epping RSL

Sunday 25 April ANZAC DAY Dawn Service Forest Park 6.00 a.m.

May 3

June 7

**These meetings are subject to COVID-19 public health orders.**

## Anzac Day: Wartime Snapshot No. 30

[anzacportal.dva.gov.au/resources/media/file/anzac-day-wartime-snapshot-no-30](http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/resources/media/file/anzac-day-wartime-snapshot-no-30)

This education resource explores the meaning of Anzac Day and how it's changed over time. Once closely tied to the Australians who fought in World War I, 'Anzac' now represents all men and women who have served Australia. On occasion, Anzac Day has also been a vehicle for protests. Use this Wartime Snapshot to encourage student-led inquiry learning about this topic in our wartime history.

### Background

Anzac Day has been commemorated by Australians since the first anniversary of the Gallipoli landings in 1916. During the First World War, morning church services were followed by fundraising events and recruiting rallies featuring returned soldiers. After the war, many veterans who wanted to put those years behind them avoided Anzac Day. In some parts of Australia, there were no large public ceremonies for several years until a revival in the 1920s. People felt the need to honour veterans and to mourn the dead, but it was also a day for returned soldiers to reunite and reminisce.

By 1927 Anzac Day was a public holiday in every state. On occasion, Anzac Day has been a vehicle for protest. In 1929 as the Depression struck, some veterans marched under a banner reading: 'Unemployed Returned Soldiers. We had a job in 1914-1918. Why not now?'. Others felt excluded by the focus on returned men at the expense of those who had lost their lives, and of families at home. Bereaved women protested not being part of the ceremonies in 1938 by joining returned soldiers at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance, much to the annoyance of some veterans.

Early in the Second World War, Anzac Day acknowledged a new generation of service personnel and celebrated Allied victories. In 1942 with Japan threatening, there were no official dawn services nor marches. When they were reinstated in 1943, veterans

of two wars were taking part. Never again would Anzac Day be an occasion dedicated only to the memory of the Great War.

By the 1950s, after decades of war and the Great Depression, people were wearying of commemoration and reminders of darker times, among them veterans who saw Anzac Day as a glorification of war and refused to participate. This view gathered momentum in the 1960s as Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War became increasingly unpopular.

The Gallipoli Campaign's 50th anniversary in 1965 initiated a revival whose full impact was felt in the 1970s, with greater academic and popular interest in the First World War. Anzac Day came to be seen through the prism of war as a cause of misery, pain and suffering.

In the late 1970s, protesters called into question the commemoration of Anzac Day, and groups who felt excluded from the Anzac story, such as First Australians, brought their experiences into the spotlight.

In the 1980s, new groups were allowed to join the march, including the descendants of veterans and members of the defence forces of allied nations who had migrated to Australia.

Today, Anzac Day also honours those who have served through recent conflicts and on peacekeeping missions, reflecting the diversity of modern military operations as young veterans connected by the experience of service join with veterans of earlier wars. Now a tradition over 100 years old, Anzac Day has become Australia's most important secular occasion. What form it will take in the future, how it is understood and whether it endures or fades away will be determined by the generation of Australians now playing their own part in the Anzac story.

*DVA has sent RSLs, schools and community groups across Australia a range of new and creative resources to support the commemoration of Anzac Day.*

*All resources are free and available to download on the Anzac Portal.*

*11 March 2021*

## The Victoria Cross for Australia

The *Victoria Cross for Australia* is the pre-eminent award for acts of bravery in wartime and Australia's highest honour.

The Victoria Cross for Australia is awarded to a person who, in the presence of the enemy, displays the most conspicuous gallantry, or daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty.

### History

The British or Imperial Victoria Cross was originally created by Queen Victoria in 1856 and made retrospective to include the Crimean War (1854–1856).

One hundred Australians have been awarded the Victoria Cross: 96 were awarded the Victoria Cross under the Imperial honours system (before the Australian Government chose to introduce its own honours system in 1975) and four Australian Army soldiers have been awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia, which was introduced as part of the Australian honours system by Letters Patent on 15 January 1991.

Australians have been awarded the Victoria Cross in the following conflicts:

- 6 in the Boer War (1899–1902)
- 64 in World War I (1914–1918)
- 2 in North Russia (1919)
- 20 in World War II (1939–1945)
- 4 in Vietnam (1962–1972)
- 4 in Afghanistan (2001–)

Australian soldiers were awarded nine Victoria Crosses at Gallipoli, including seven during the Battle of Lone Pine (6–9 August 1915).

The first Australian to be awarded a Victoria Cross was Captain Sir Neville Howse, VC, KCMG, CB, KStJ, during the Boer War. He also served in World War I and, later, as an Australian Government minister responsible (separately) for the health, defence and repatriation portfolios.

Warrant Officer Class Two Keith Payne was the last Australian to be awarded the Imperial Victoria Cross. Invested with the Victoria Cross by Queen Elizabeth II aboard Her Majesty's Yacht Britannia in Brisbane on 13 April 1970, Warrant Officer Payne was awarded the VC for his "sustained and heroic personal efforts" while under heavy enemy fire in Kon Tum Province, Vietnam, on 24 May 1969.

## Recipients

The Victoria Cross for Australia has been awarded five times.



### Corporal Mark Donaldson, VC

The first VC was awarded to Corporal Mark Donaldson, VC, on 16 January 2009



### Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith, VC, MG

The second VC awarded to Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith, VC, MG, on 23 January 2011.



### Corporal Daniel Keighran, VC

The third VC was awarded to Corporal Daniel Keighran, VC, on 1 November 2012.



### Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird, VC, MG

The fourth recipient of the Victoria Cross for Australia and the first to be awarded posthumously. Corporal Baird's parents, Mr Doug & Mrs Kaye Baird, were presented with the award by the Governor-General at Government House,

Canberra, on 18 February 2014.



**Defence congratulates  
Edward ‘Teddy’ Sheean, VC  
Defence News, 12 August 2020**



Ordinary Seaman Edward ‘Teddy’ Sheean’s bravery and sacrifice has long been recognised and honoured by the Department of Defence and the Royal Australian Navy.

Her Majesty The Queen has approved the posthumous award

of the Victoria Cross for Australia to Teddy Sheean.

There is no higher honour in the Australian Honours System than the Victoria Cross. Teddy Sheean’s story of bravery is well known and Defence continues to celebrate his heroic and gallant actions.

On 1 December 1942, HMAS Armidale came under aerial bombardment and torpedo attack from Japanese aircraft. As the enemy fired upon the ship and his shipmates who were already in the water, Ordinary Seaman Sheean chose to forgo his opportunity for survival by not abandoning ship and returned to his action station to man the aft Oerlikon gun.

Sheean strapped himself into the gun and commenced firing at the enemy, damaging at least two enemy aircraft.

Ordinary Seaman Sheean sacrificed his life trying to save his shipmates and, despite his wounds, he continued firing the gun until the ship sank and took him to his death.

Defence welcomes the announcement today in recognition of Teddy’s extraordinary actions, service, dedication and sacrifice.

This is a great honour for the late Teddy Sheean, for his family, for his shipmates, for the Royal Australian Navy, and for the Australian Defence Force.

## **ANGELS OF WAR**

*By Harry Yates.  
Anzac Day, 1938.*

To-day as we all sit together  
And drink toasts to cobbles “gone west”,  
We’re inclined to forget  
Those “Angels of War”  
Who bravely stood up to the test.

When we talk of war horrors  
Of gallant deeds done,  
As we sit with our sweethearts or wives,  
We’re inclined to forget  
Those “Angels of War”  
Who mended our war-broken lives.

With your wounds “givin’ hell”  
As you got to the base,  
Were you captain, cook, or “the dag,”  
Your plea, it was heard  
By an “Angel of War,”  
As you muttered “Fer Gawd’s sake, a fag!”

To-day they are scattered—  
God only knows where;  
Some of them still carry on.  
But we shall remember  
Those “Angels of War,”  
Those heroes of days that are gone.

So Diggers! Fill up your glasses,  
When this Anzac Day March is o’er,  
And drink this toast that I give you—  
To the Nurses, those “Angels of  
War.”

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**ROUTINE ORDERS** is issued 5 times per year, in January, April, June, August and October. Contributions for inclusion in **ROUTINE ORDERS**, such as forward activities, interesting personal notes etc. are always welcome. Items for the next issue on Monday 31 May 2021 are required before Wednesday 19 May 2021. Earlier would be appreciated. Electronic copy preferred if possible. *Routine Orders* Editor Barry Hoschke [bhoschke@tpg.com.au](mailto:bhoschke@tpg.com.au)

## 8 RAR Memorial at the Cenotaph in Boronia Park Epping

Those who visit the Boronia Park Cenotaph to view the Wall of Remembrance would notice two newly placed bronze plaques that stand in a prominent place on the wall next to the flag poles.

In previous editions of Routine Orders (2014 Vol 17 no1 and also 2021 Vol 24 no 1) there has been published a resume of the events of *Operation Hammersley* a significant event that was part of the Australian Army's involvement in the war in Vietnam. An operation which involved the 8<sup>th</sup> Royal Australian Regiment. It was in the first months of 1970, when a platoon ambush on the edge of the Long Hai hills set in train a series of events that were to prove a turning point in the Australian commitment to South Vietnam.

Following a successful engagement with the enemy by the Australia Forces and on February 28<sup>th</sup> 1970 when a company of 8 RAR Battalion, in the space of a few hours suffered 8 of that group Killed in Action and in the few months more 10 others would die later of their wounds received. It is this tragic loss of life of an otherwise successful engagement that is the reason that on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February each year that their mates of the 8 RAR Association, assemble to remember them.

For some years now the 8<sup>th</sup> RAR (the Grey 8) have held their service of remembrance at the Cenotaph in Boronia Park, and with which the Epping RSL sub-Branch has been proud to be associated and offered its full support also sharing in those ceremonies.

This year's Parade was different in that the Association was to unveil 2 bronze plaques in memory of that event. The larger of the Plaques, The Honour Roll, which carries the names of those that died because of that engagement and the smaller one carries the name of one member that of Sgt Alan Ahern. Alan Ahern was a local boy of the Epping District. Alan was called to serve in the Australian

Defence Forces not long after he graduated from Epping Boys High School.

Many members of the Association, now living in many rural areas and in other states, travelled extensively to be at this special service. The Ceremony was well attended and wreaths were laid by Local Councillors Tyrrell, Davis and Wearne of the City of Parramatta Council, State members of parliament Dominic Perrottet and Damien Tudehope, Deputy Director of the Department of Veteran Affairs, Victoria Benz, representatives of the Vietnam Veteran Federation as well as a special wreath laid by current members of the Epping Boys High School to remember a past school mate.

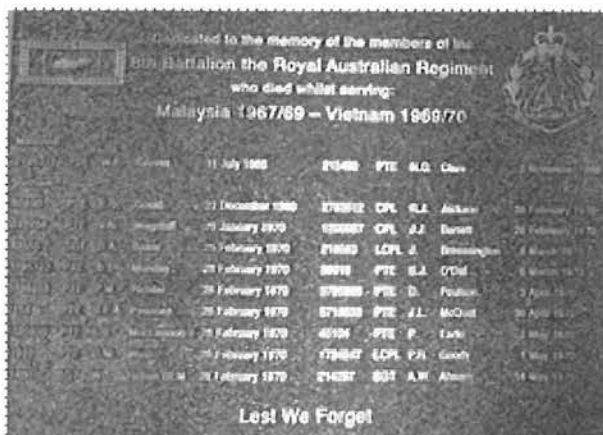
The Parade was under the control of Kevin Sullivan and the 8 RAR Association President Mick Carter OAM spoke about the event. The Associations Padre Father Rev. Stan Hessey SSC, who has been with the association all the past years, presided over this dedication.

322 Squadron AAF Cadets mounted the Catafalque Party at the Cenotaph while Piper Gordon Irving played during the laying of the wreaths.

Visit the Wall of Remembrance and contemplate the service of others and the price that is often paid for our peace.

Lest we forget

John Curdie





## ON-CALL SOLDIERS STEP UP URBAN TRAINING

By Captain Taylor Lynch

Defence News 23 March 2021

Being on 72 hours' notice to move for Operation COVID-19 Assist hasn't stopped Bravo Company soldiers from the 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (8/9RAR) from honing their skills in urban warfare.

The battalion is increasing its urban training between periods in the field as part of a goal for its soldiers to become experts in urban warfare.

The training early this month at the Urban Operations Training Facility at Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane involved breaching buildings with shotguns, explosives, or breaking windows safely to allow for quick entry and clearance.

Warrant Officer Class 2 Charles Boag said future conflicts were going to be increasingly fought in urban settings.

"Human populations are moving toward urban areas and cities, and we need to be able to train and win in those environments," Warrant Officer Boag said.

"The Urban Operations Training Facility enables our soldiers to train in that unique environment, and allows us to hone our warfighting skills so we're best prepared if we're called to operate in an urban setting.

"At the facility, there are streets, buildings, staircases – all the complexities that would be in a normal urban environment in any city or built-up area in the world."

Warrant Officer Boag said there were key differences between urban operations and military exercises infantry traditionally conducted in the field.

"All warfare is complex, however, there are unique complexities to urban environments," he said.

"There's a 360-degree avenue – there's up, down, and other buildings, whereas in the field there are less dimensions to be concerned with."

Warrant Officer Boag said although 8/9RAR's Bravo Company was on notice to move for Operation COVID-19 Assist, it hadn't hindered the company's motivation or ability to train regularly and improve their foundation skills to operate effectively if called upon.

"We're currently on 72 hours' notice to move, but while we wait, we've been training, mainly in urban warfare, motorisation training, and a lot of tactical care of the combat casualty," Warrant Officer Boag said.

"We've enabled all that training in our urban facility."

## A DAY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WEATHER WARRIORS

By Lieutenant Brendan Trembath

Defence News 23 March 2021

World Meteorological Day, today, provides an opportunity to applaud the ADF's "weather warriors".

They are the meteorologists and oceanographers who provide forecasts of weather and sea conditions, briefs, data and tactical advice in support of ADF exercises and operations.

Navy meteorologist and oceanographer (METOC) in HMAS *Canberra* Lieutenant Commander Fiona Simmonds said she enjoyed the job and her floating office.

"I love being on the sea and the weather has such an impact on what's going on around me," Lieutenant Commander Simmonds said.

*Canberra*, an amphibious assault ship known as a landing helicopter dock (LHD), can embark 18 helicopters, 110 vehicles, 12 Abrams main battle tanks and four landing craft.

A METOC's main role on an LHD is to provide detailed forecasts for aviation and warfare.

"For warfare, I am looking at a broad picture in the present and into the future, both above and below the water," Lieutenant Commander Simmonds said.

"For aviation, my focus is on the weather conditions directly affecting the ship and aircraft in the present and near future.

"Maintaining a high level of accuracy allows our aviators to fly safely in a wider range of conditions."

Radar and satellites have revolutionised meteorology and oceanography, but an embarked METOC still uses traditional tools to collect weather data and advanced analysis skills to develop a forecast for remote ocean areas.

"If we are at sea far from land-based weather stations, I can launch a weather balloon to collect precise atmospheric data such as air pressure, temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction," Lieutenant Commander Simmonds said.

Another tool Lieutenant Commander Simmonds uses to record wind speed is a handheld anemometer.

World Meteorological Day is held on the anniversary of the establishment of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) on March 23, 1950.

The WMO is a United Nations agency and is dedicated to international cooperation and coordination on weather and climate.

All Navy METOCs complete a Graduate Diploma in Meteorology through the Australian Bureau of Meteorology Training Centre, a qualification recognised by the WMO.

This year's World Meteorological Day theme is: The Ocean, our climate and weather.

## THE DARDANELLES

### GENERAL ORDERS AT ANZAC

#### GENERAL HAMILTON, BEFORE THE LANDING.

General Headquarters, Lemnos, 21 April, 1915.

Soldiers of France and the King,—Before us lies an adventure unprecedented in modern war. Together with our comrades of the Fleet, we are about to force a landing upon an open beach in face of positions vaunted by our enemy as impregnable. The landing will be made good by the help of God and the Navy. The positions will be stormed and the war brought one step nearer a glorious close.

“Remember,” said Lord Kitchener, when bidding adieu to your commander, “remember, once you set foot upon the Gallipoli Peninsula you must fight the thing through to a finish. The whole world will be watching your progress.”

Let us prove ourselves worthy of the great deed of arms entrusted to us.

SIR IAN HAMILTON, General in Command.

#### GENERAL BIRDWOOD, BEFORE THE LANDING.

23 April 1915

Officers and Men,—In conjunction with the Navy, we are about to undertake one of the most difficult tasks any soldier can be called on to perform, and a problem which has puzzled many soldiers for years past. That we will succeed I have no doubt, simply because I know your determination to do so.

Lord Kitchener has told us that he lays special stress on the role the Army has to play in this particular operation, the success of which will be a very severe blow to the enemy—indeed, as severe as any she could receive in France. It will go down to history to the glory of the soldiers of Australia and New Zealand.

Before we start, there are one or two points which I must impress on all, and I most earnestly beg every single man to listen attentively and take these to heart.

We are going to have a real hard and rough time of it until, at all events, we have turned the enemy out of our first objective. Hard, rough times none of us mind, but to get through them successfully we must always keep before us the following facts:-

Every possible endeavour will be made to bring up transport as often as possible; but the country whither we are bound is very difficult, and we may not be able to get our waggons anywhere near us for days, so men must not think their wants have been neglected if they do not get all they want.

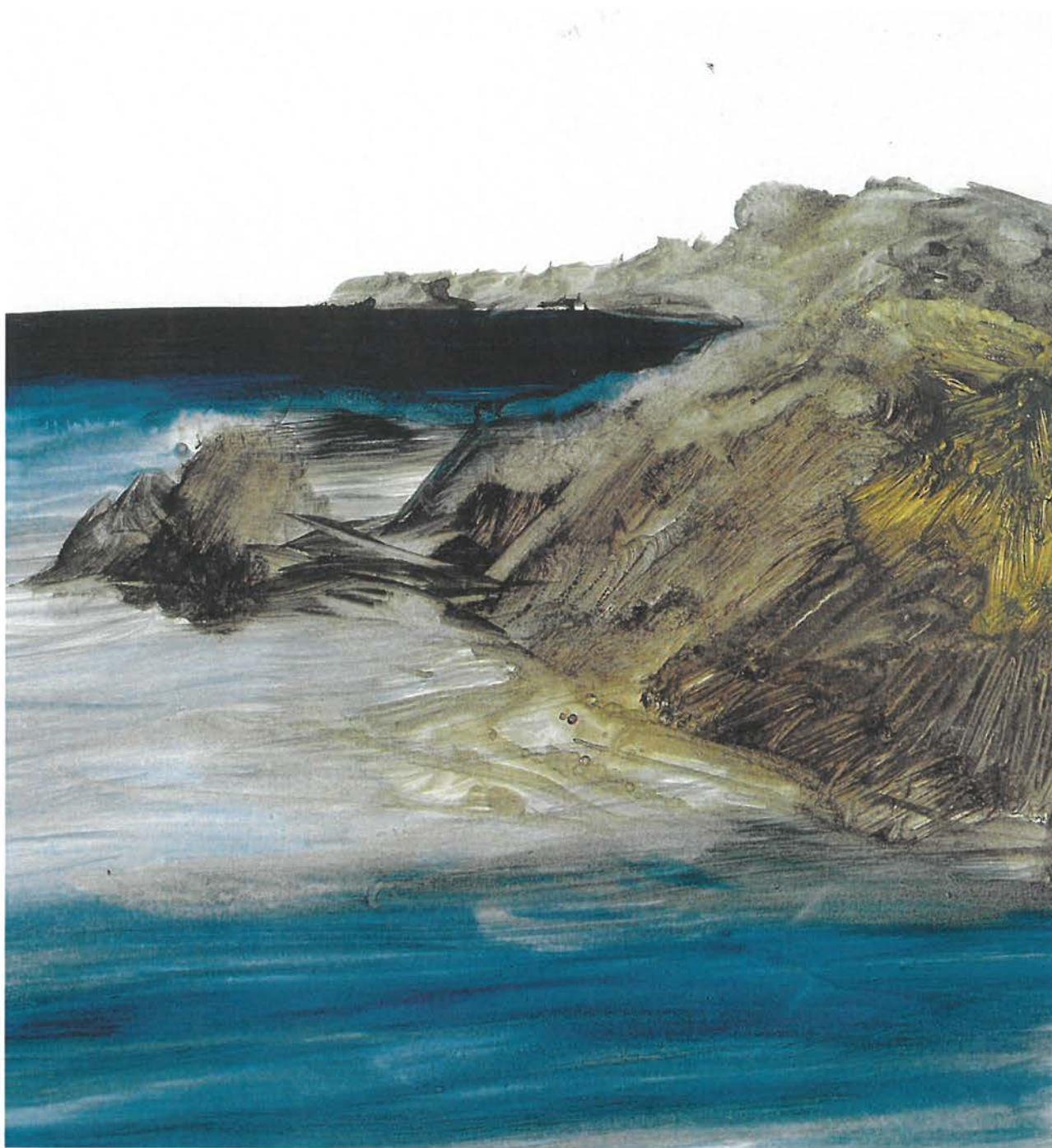
On landing it will be necessary for every individual to carry with him all his requirements in food and clothing for three days, as we may not see our transport till then. Remember, then, that it is essential for everyone to take the greatest care not only of his food, but of his ammunition, the replenishment of which will be very difficult. Men are liable to throw away their food the first day out and to finish their water-bottles as soon as they start marching. If you do this now, we can hardly hope for success, as unfed men cannot fight, and you must make an effort to try and refrain from starting on your water-bottles until late in the day. Once you begin drinking you cannot stop, and a water-bottle is very soon emptied.

Also, as regards ammunition—you must not waste it by firing away indiscriminately at no target. The time will come when we shall find the enemy in well-entrenched positions, from which we shall have to turn them out, when all our ammunition will be required; and remember—

Concealment whenever possible,  
Covering fire always,  
Control of fire and control of your men,  
Communications never to be neglected.

W. R. BIRDWOOD.

from “*Anzac Memorial*”, published by NSW Branch, Returned sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia, Sydney, September 1919



*Anzac Cove c. 1958*  
acrylic on card 30.4 x 25.4  
Sidney Nolan

from "Nolan's Gallipoli", ed. Gavin Fry  
Rigby Publishers, Adelaide.

Paintings copyright Australian War Memorial



## AFGHANISTAN: THE AUSTRALIAN STORY

### *Australian War Memorial Exhibition*

Half a world away Australians are serving their country by building another. The war in Afghanistan and operations in the Middle East have engaged thousands of Australian men and women, both military and civilian, for over a decade.

They have built schools, roads, and hospitals. They have mentored the fledgling army of a new, democratic nation. They have engaged in fierce fighting and have demonstrated bravery and dedication beyond compare.

On 11 September 2001, Australians felt outrage at al Qaeda's attack on the United States. A year later, the devastating Bali bombings in Indonesia again brought home the threat of global terrorism. Some of those who planned the bombings had trained in Afghanistan. Australians were killed in both attacks.

Australia joined the United States and its allies across the world to take a stand against this threat. Afghanistan, a land contested by armies for centuries, became the focus of international efforts to contain terrorism.

The mission has evolved over the past decade in what is called the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO). From counter-insurgency, through reconstruction, to mentoring, Australians have been working to create a democratic and stable Afghan nation. This mission aims to assist the people of Afghanistan, but also to promote the security of the region, diminish the influence of terrorist groups, and create a safer global environment.

#### **A world away**

Afghanistan and the Middle East are now indelibly linked to Australia's national story.

Australia's mission is clear: to combat international terrorism, to help stabilise Afghanistan, and to support Australia's international alliances. Yet a mission statement cannot capture the challenges, the successes, and the comradeship of the Australian men and women who pursue it. Nor the joys and heartbreaks, or the loneliness and the dedication of those who wait at home.

Some of these experiences, set against the powerful imagery of a modern war, are told in this exhibition. Over time, the display will change and evolve as more veterans share their stories.

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY COMMEMORATES 120TH BIRTHDAY

**Defence News 1 March 2021**

A commemorative service at the Navy Memorial, Anzac Parade Canberra has marked the Royal Australian Navy's 120th birthday.

Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan AO, RAN said Navy can draw strength and honour from humble beginnings 120 years ago.

"We are far from the fledgling naval force formed in the autumn of 1901," VADM Noonan said.

Admiral Noonan acknowledged the importance of Navy people and roles they have played in this development.

"Our competitive advantage is our Navy family, all those who have contributed past and present."

This service is demonstrated by looking no further back than 2020.

"In the past year, the Royal Australian Navy has faced new and unexpected challenges as part of the Australian government's responses to bushfires, a global pandemic and other humanitarian and disaster relief operations."

Vice Admiral Noonan discussed Navy in its upcoming 121st year.

"We will keep evolving, deepening our connection with the Nation and supporting our partners and neighbours."

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The reason why Swedish naval ships display bar codes on their hulls is so that, when they return to harbour, they can Scandinavian.

I heard the navy was going to make a vessel out of rock, but it turned out to be too much of a hardship.

Why do navy divers fall backwards out of their boat? If they fell forwards, they would still be in the boat.

My dog joined the navy. Now he's a sub-woofer.

I only joined the navy so I could be pedantic at every opportunity. I'm a petty officer.

Friend of mine has an unhealthy obsession with aircraft carriers. He warships them.

## ANZAC DAY 2021

This past year we have endured the privations to our freedom in a determination to see the COVID 19 virus controlled or better rid of our world.

With the cancellation of ANZAC Day in 2020, Australians still paused in the daily activities and at dawn on ANZAC Day stood silently at the front of the residences. At such brief silence they remembered and reflected upon the price that has been paid over the century for the freedom we enjoy today. Such a personal involvement by individuals and families within their homes may have enhanced the significance of this day.

We are proud of the way our State Government has handle the delicate balance of monitoring the movement of the virus amongst us ensuring our health and not invoking whole state shutdown but permitting a controlled operation of normal daily activities.

During this period many politically motivated gatherings have adapted the published rules of assembly, in large numbers, to facilitate their public assembly. Perhaps, as Australians we have accepted the reality that the need to express at times exceeds the requirement to comply.

Come ANZAC Day we need to unite. This day is a common denominator to all Australians. A time to connect to the past, the present and the future. This is done as we participate in the many services spread across the land and in other countries wherever Aussies meet.

For the year since March 2020, we have lived with and conformed to the COVID rules of assembly. Now 12 months on it is time that for ANZAC Day we adapt the rules of assembly to conform to our ANZAC Day commemorations.

It is my goal that the ANZAC Services will be as normal as ever we have had in past years. To this end the sub-Branch has been holding talks with the Parramatta City Council on how we can best organise ANZAC Commemoration in April 2021.

The service on *ANZAC Sunday*, April 18<sup>th</sup>, will commence at 2pm in the Epping Club Ballroom. Members of the Epping Community, schools, scouts and guides are invited to attend. In addition, the cadets

from the Air Force Cadets from AAFC 322 (City of Ryde) Squadron with Army Cadets from James Ruse College whilst the Epping RSL Golden Kangaroos will be leading our singing and the march to our Cenotaph in Boronia Park.

On 25<sup>th</sup> April, the *ANZAC Dawn Service* will be held in Forest Park commencing at 6am.

There is amongst us forces of 'woke' that would want to destroy our heritage by rewriting our nation's history along with the destruction of a monument that may have a tenuous connection to a perceived immoral or wicked aspect of our society. Let not the traditions, history or icon of ANZAC be caught up in such nova thinking.

ANZAC Day is our day. Let us all appreciate this day. As we challenge the future. confront the changes that will come our way we are at one with our mates. Respect everyone, do not be afraid to fail, face down bullies and never give up.

John Curdie OAM  
Sub-Branch President

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The doctor told me I had to start walking five kilometres a day to get fit. It's been two weeks and I don't know how to get home.

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I wonder what my parents did to fight boredom before the internet. I asked my 15 brothers and sisters and they didn't know either.

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I bought a dog off a blacksmith today. As soon as I got home it made a bolt for the door.

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Quasimodo was the best detective in France. He always had a hunch.

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A mathematician, an engineer and a physicist were travelling through Scotland when they saw a black sheep through the window of the train. "Aha", says the engineer. "I see that Scottish sheep are black." "Hmm", says the physicist, "You mean that some Scottish sheep are black". "No", says the mathematician, "All we know is that there is at least one sheep in Scotland, and that at least one side of that one sheep is black!"

## **SUB-BRANCH ACTIVITIES**

### **COMMEMORATION**

**Anzac Sunday Service**

**25 April Anzac Day Dawn Service**

**15 August VP Day**

**11 November Remembrance Day**

### **SUB-BRANCH MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Are held at 1930 on the last Monday of each month.

Contact: John Prestidge, Secretary, Ph 9868 3272 (sub-Branch Office), 9871 1617 (Home)

### **SENIOR MEMBERS ASSOCIATION**

Meetings are held at 1400 on the first Tuesday of each month.

Outings and functions are usually conducted on the second Tuesday of alternate months.

Membership is available to all financial members of the Epping RSL sub-Branch, their spouses, and the widows and widowers of ex-service personnel who were eligible to join the Epping RSL sub-Branch.

Contact: Margaret Cummins, Secretary, Ph 9680 4865

### **OLD & BOLD**

Meetings are held at 1100 on the first Saturday of each month commencing 6 March 2021..

Membership is available to all financial members of the Epping RSL sub-Branch.

Contact: Secretary Allan Lotfizadeh, phone 96520590

**VISITORS & THE WIVES & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND ALL MEETINGS**

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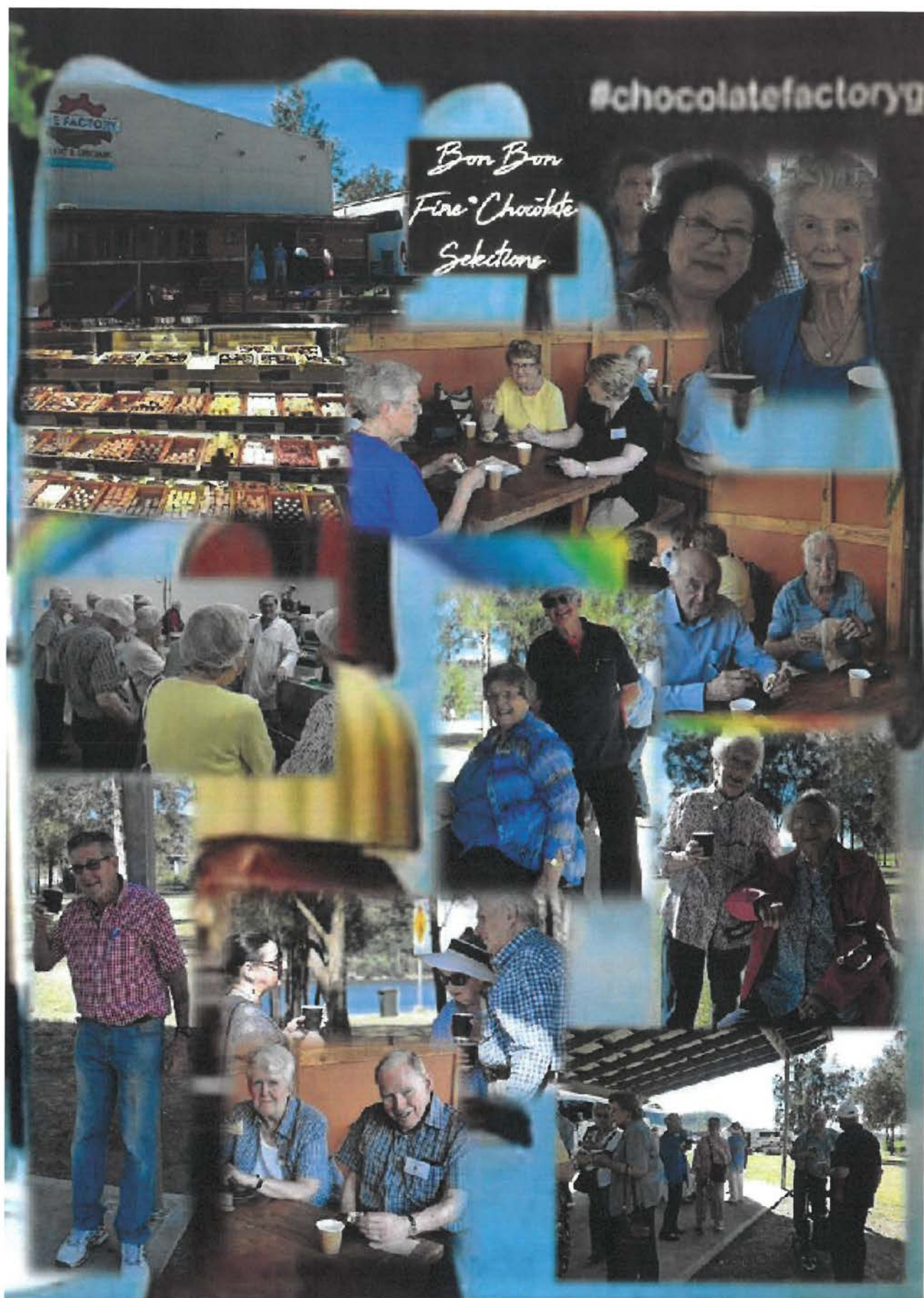
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## EPPING RSL SUB-BRANCH DIRECTORY 2021

<b>SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Sub-Branch Office</b>	9868 3272
	<b>President</b>	John Curdie
	<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	Brian Swan
		David Taylor
	<b>Secretary</b>	John Prestidge
	<b>Treasurer</b>	Les Rowe
	<b>Welfare Officer</b>	Robin Cummins
	<b>Pensions Officer</b>	Barry Hoschke
	<b>Membership Co-Ord.</b>	Alan Sullivan
	<b>Ceremonial</b>	Brian Swan
	<b>Memorabilia</b>	Allan Lotfizadeh
	<b>Youth Club Liaison</b>	John Prestidge
	<b>Trustees</b>	John Goddard
		Max Falconer
		Gordon Johnstone
	<b>Routine Orders Editor</b>	Barry Hoschke
<b>SENIOR MEMBERS ASSN.</b>	<b>President</b>	Merril Prestidge
	<b>Vice President</b>	Margaret Cummins
	<b>Secretary</b>	Margaret Cummins
	<b>Treasurer</b>	Deirdre Curdie
	<b>Tours Coordinators</b>	Don and Brenda Greentree
	<b>Committee</b>	Don Campton
		Brenda Greentree
		Don Greentree
		Gavin Nell
		Les Rowe
<b>OLD &amp; BOLD</b>	<b>Patron</b>	John Curdie
	<b>Secretary</b>	Allan Lotfizadeh
<b>YOUTH CLUB</b>	<b>President</b>	John Coyne
	<b>Secretary</b>	Michael Hines
	<b>Treasurer</b>	Hugh McMullan



*Photographs by Les Rowe and Isobel Humphery  
Compiled by John Curdie*