

Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

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"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"

Newsletter

Issue 76

January 2017

SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE—2014—2017

Tel/Fax: 02 9644 3292

- President Ron Duckworth - 02 9644 1635, 0408 245 255
 - Vice President Ian Muirhead, Ross Graham
 - Secretary Gary Roser JP 0409 919 364
 - Treasurer Ralph Hannaford
 - Committee Max Stone, David Tu, Brian Abbot, Hien Tran
Ian Kennedy JP, Kevin Mahony, Trevor Philip
 - Welfare Officer Ron Duckworth
 - Assistant Welfare Officer Gary Roser JP, Laurie Scutts
Ross Graham, Kevin Mahony
 - Pensions Officer Kevin Mahony
 - FSMDC Delegates Ron Duckworth, Ian Muirhead
 - Alt FSMDC Delegate Ian Kennedy JP, Ross Graham
 - Sub-Branch Trustees Ron Duckworth, Max Stone, Ralph Hannaford
 - Benevolent Fund Trustees Max Stone, Gary Roser JP, Ralph Hannaford
 - Newsletter Editor Gary Roser JP - 0409 919 364
 - Bankstown City Aged Care Ian Muirhead, Gary Roser JP
 - Webmaster Max Stone
- For instant service ring the Secretary, Gary Roser on 0409 919 364



EDITORIAL ** *Gary Roser, Editor*

I believe everyone would have read or heard media reports about RSLNSW's involvement in a forensic audit and an audit by the State charities.

People have been trying to get the present State Council sacked and an Administrator appointed. I have argued vehemently against this on Facebook and with other Members as I

want everything to come out before State Congress so the Members can cast their votes. I am sure EVERYTHING will be disclosed allowing us to judge those who have not had the RSL's best interest at heart; only their own. These audits will include RSL employees.

As far as our own elections in February I want everyone to look at the candidates and choose carefully. I believe our Committee did their best but there is always room for improvement.

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

Sub-Branch Meetings	
<u>Committee</u> Tuesdays 4:00pm	<u>Sub-Branch</u> Sundays 10:30am
17 th January	22 nd January
21 st February	26 th February - 10am AGM
21 st March	26 th March
Possible Welfare Bus Excursion in March	

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Happy New Year to all the Members and a Chúc Mừng Năm Mới to our Vietnamese Members for the Year of the Rooster. I am glad to see that most of our Members came through the holidays safe and sound.

Unfortunately we lost 2 members over the period: Sid Ayling and Theo George. I was halfway to Queensland when notified about Sid and I would thank Gary Roser for arranging and Ian Muirhead for conducting the RSL Tribute. Theo's funeral was only last Monday and a number of Committee and Members as well as the Women's Auxiliary were in attendance. An interesting point that we discovered about Theo while preparing his tribute, is that he was a *Forward Scout* up in New Britain during WWII. Not a very safe occupation. Both these men will be sadly missed.

Since the last meeting we have attend all the School Presentations and were warmly welcomed. The recipients of the Awards well deserved them.

We attended Bankstown Sub-Branch's Christmas Luncheon and Pearl Harbour Day Commemorations and our Women's Auxiliary Christmas Dinner. Gary and I also took them out for their final bus trip for the year.

The Trustee's attend Ethinvest's Christmas Luncheon and Seminar and a full report will be given in the Annual Report due to go out next month.

Other than that, I spend 2¹/₂ weeks travelling around the west of NSW in extremely hot weather every day and giving a curry pie report on Facebook from everywhere I went. When I missed a report, I was very quickly reminded.

Ron Duckworth

A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

Crazy Things You Probably Didn't Know About Australia (99-88 of 88)

79. Some shopping centres and restaurants play classical music in their car park to deter teenagers from loitering at night.
80. Despite sharing the same verbal language, Australian, British and American sign language are all completely different languages.
81. In 1979, debris from NASA's space station 'Skylab' crashed in Esperance, WA. The town then fined NASA \$400 for littering.
82. There have been no deaths in Australia from a spider bite since 1979.
83. There is currently a Chlamydia outbreak among koala species, which has led to a 15% drop in koala populations.
84. In NSW, there is a coal fire beneath the ground which has been burning for 5,500 years.
85. An Australian election TV debate was rescheduled so it didn't conflict with the finale of reality cooking show Masterchef.
86. Chinese explorers travelled to Australia long before Europeans arrived. As early as the 1400s, sailors and fisherman came to Australia for sea-cucumbers and to trade with Indigenous peoples.
87. The first European to visit Australia was Dutch explorer Willem Janszoon, in 1606. More Dutch explorers visited the country over the next hundred years, plotting maps and naming it 'New Holland'.
88. Captain James Cook first landed on Australia's east coast in 1770. In 1788, the British returned with eleven ships to establish a penal colony. Within days of The First Fleet's arrival and the raising of the British flag, two French ships arrived, just too late to claim Australia for France.

I saw my mate Albert this morning, he's only got one arm bless him.

I shouted - *"Where you off to Albert?"*

He said, *"I'm off to change a light bulb."*

Well I just cracked up, couldn't stop laughing, then said, *"That's gonna be a bit awkward init?"*

"Not really." he said. *"I still have the receipt, you insensitive bastard."*

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Hello Members,

This will be the last Secretary's report that I will be giving as you all well know I will not be standing for that position for the next three years. However I will endeavour to help the next Secretary get started just like Ron Duckworth did for me when I commenced 5 years ago.

I will remain as Newsletter editor and still do other things to help the sub-Branch whether I am on the Committee or not.

I would like to thank my fellow Committeemen especially President Ron Duckworth and our Treasurer Ralph Hannaford who have allowed me to bring the sub-Branch into the 21st Century. It's cost the sub-Branch a lot of money over the 5 years I have been Secretary but it has only been for the benefit of the Members. This is shown by the General Public's support on ANZAC Day when our crowd attendance has been phenomenal. Also we have retained a static Membership number compared to others who surround us.

The best thing we ever did was open our sub-Branch to our Vietnamese Members. What a great bunch these people are. Their roll up at meetings and bus excursions is to be commended. And to have over 60 Members at our November meeting was terrific.

For the Member who is still sprouting "we have to get those people off the committee" you are on your own. Everyone else has been congratulating the committee on the running of the sub-Branch.

There's always one. We can't satisfy everyone.

Gary Roser

Your Welfare Officers:

Laurie Scutts	02 9786 0516		0417 062 450
Ron Duckworth	02 9644 1635		0408 245 255
Ross Graham	02 9771 1813		0490 069 331
Gary Roser	02 9644 2447		0409 919 364
Kevin Mahony	02 9644 8794		0425 279 111
Alan (Gadget) Parkin	02 9785 8676		0404 567 520

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

Word and Expressions we've lost...

Lost Words from our childhood: Words gone as fast as the buggy whip! Sad really!

Would you recognize the word Murgatroyd? - Heavens to Murgatroyd!

How about a "whatchamacallit"?

The other day, a not so elderly (65) lady said something to her son about driving a Jalopy and he looked at her quizzically and asked what the heck is a Jalopy? He had never heard of the word jalopy!! She knew she was old, but not that old.

Well, I hope you are Hunky Dory after you read this and chuckle - by Richard Lederer

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology. These phrases included "Don't touch that dial," "Carbon copy," "You sound like a broken Record" and "Hung out to dry."

Back in the good old days we had a lot of moxie. We'd put on our best bib and Tucker to straighten up and fly right - Heavens to Betsy! Gee whillikers! Holy moley! We were in like Flynn and living the life of Riley and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompop or a pill. Not for all the tea in China!

Back in the good old days, life used to be swell but when was the last time anything was swell? Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys, the D.A, spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes and pedal pushers.

We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap and before we can say, I'll be a monkey's uncle or this is a fine kettle of fish! - we discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice.

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we've left behind. We blink and they're gone. Where have all those phrases gone?

Long gone: Pshaw/The milkman did it/Hey! Don't forget to pull the chain/, knee high to a grasshopper. Well, Fiddlesticks! Going like sixty. I'll see you in the funny papers. Heavens to Murgatroyd!

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than Carter Has liver pills. This can be disturbing stuff! We of a certain age have been lucky to live in changeful times. For a child each new word is like a shiny toy, a toy that has no age. We at the other end of the Chronological arc have the advantage of remembering there are words that once did not exist and there were words that once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage and now are heard no more, except in our collective Memory. It's one of the great advantages of aging.

See ya later, alligator!

Just remember, once you're over the hill you begin to pick up speed



I would be unstoppable. If I could just get started.

Korean Peace Medal

The following message has been received from Kayeon (Kaye) Park, Executive Officer, Office of the Defence Attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Korea about the Ambassador for Peace Medal.



“You might be aware that the Ambassador for Peace was usually presented to members who participated in the Revisit Korea Program but since 2010 once veterans' service experience of eligibility has been established the medal has been presented to the veterans through the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Australia. Hence, I am updating the number of medals required this year. If you have not applied to receive the medal, please advise your association or the Defence Attaché Office in Canberra”. Kaye Park has requested a response by 27 January to the Office of the Defence Attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, 113 Empire Circuit, Yarralumla ACT 2600, Tel: 02 6270 4117 Fax: 02 6273 4839 or e-mail defkorea@gmail.com.

Ambassador for Peace Medal Application Details

Full Name:

Date of Birth:

Service date in Korea:

Service Branch (Army, Navy, Air Force):

Service Number:

Regiment during the Korean War:

Rank during the Korean War:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Have you had the opportunity to return to Korea with the “Revisit Korea” program? Yes ____ NO ____

Are you a member of KVA (Unit ?) or RCL (Branch ?)

*Please provide a copy of the veteran’s certificate of release or discharge from active duty for verification purpose.

Responsibility of Bass Hill RSL sub-Branch Committee Members

Committee members of the Bass Hill RSL sub-Branch are required to carry out duties other than what is prescribed in the RSL NSW Governance, Chapter 3 Duties and Responsibilities of sub-Branch or Other Subsidiary Trustees, Executives and Other Committee Members. Committee Members are at all times required to perform to the best of their ability.

Code of Dress:

Committee Members are required to accept the sub-Branch's "code of dress".

Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway:

Each member of the Committee is required to regularly attend the school excursions to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway arranged by the sub-Branch.

Funerals:

Committee members are required to attend funerals of members. Although some Committee Members are unable to perform the RSL Tribute, they are required to assist those who can by forming a guard of honour and distribution of poppies.

School Awards:

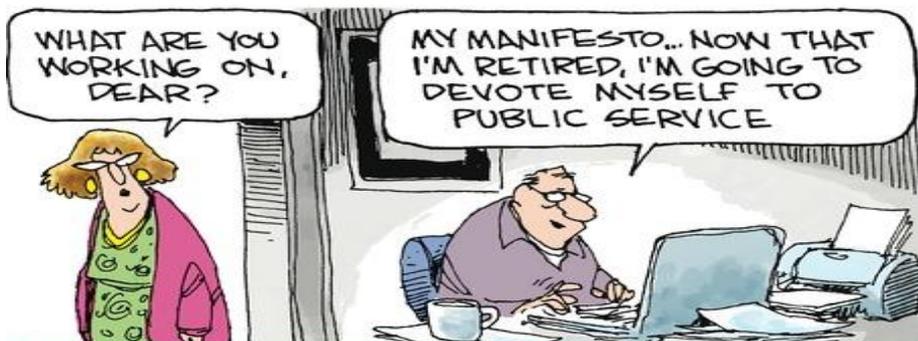
At the end of each year the sub-Branch present awards to year six at each school in the area. Committee members shall involve themselves at the school events so as to share the work with others.

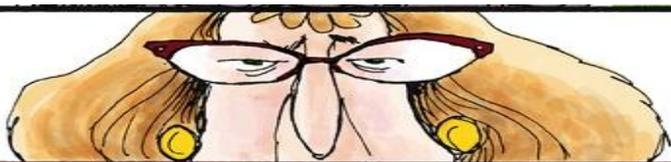
Bass Hill sub-Branch Functions:

Each Committee member is required to perform duties as a "greeter"* and to assist in the running of the function so as to share the work required.

* A greeter is a person who welcomes guests at a function.

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY



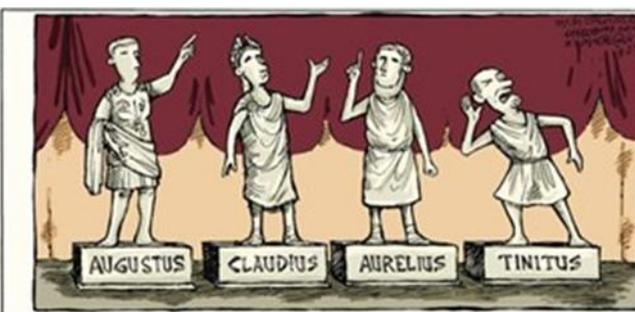
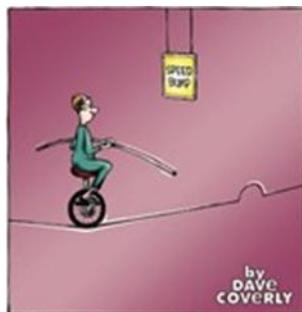


“SIGH” WHY CAN'T YOU JUST SPEND ALL YOUR TIME ON THE GOLF COURSE LIKE ALL OF THE OTHER RETIRED GUYS?



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I knew I was going bald when it was taking longer and longer to wash my face

A man is at work one day when he notices that his co-worker is wearing an earring. This man knows his co-worker to be a normally conservative fellow, and is curious about his sudden change in "fashion sense." The man walks up to him and says, "I didn't know you were into earrings." "Don't make such a big deal out of this, it's only an earring," he replies sheepishly. His friend falls silent for a few minutes, but then his curiosity prods him to say, "So, how long have you been wearing one?" "Ever since my wife found it in my truck..."

NANCY WAKE—THE MULTINATIONAL HERO

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nancy_Wake

Nancy Grace Augusta Wake AC, GM (30th August 1912 - 7th August 2011) served as a British Special Operations Executive agent during the later part of World War II. She became a leading figure in the maquis groups of the French Resistance and was one of the Allies' most decorated servicewomen of the war. After the fall of France in 1940, she became a courier for the French Resistance and later joined the escape network of Captain Ian Garrow. By 1943, Wake was the Gestapo's most wanted person, with a 5 million-franc price on her head.



After reaching Britain, Wake joined the Special Operations Executive. On the night of 29/30 April 1944, Wake was parachuted into occupied France Auvergne, becoming a liaison between London and the local maquis group headed by Captain Henri Tardivat in the Forest of Tronçais. From April 1944 until the liberation of France, her 7,000+ *maquisards* fought 22,000 German soldiers, causing 1,400 casualties, while suffering only 100 themselves.

Born in Roseneath, Wellington, New Zealand, on 30 August 1912, Wake was the youngest of six children. In 1914, her family moved to Australia and settled at North Sydney. Shortly thereafter, her father, Charles Augustus Wake, returned to New Zealand, leaving her mother Ella Wake (née Rosieur; 1874–1968) to raise the children.

In Sydney, she attended the North Sydney Household Arts (Home Science) School (see North Sydney Technical High School). At the age of 16, she ran away from home and worked as a nurse. With £200 that she had inherited from an aunt, she journeyed to New York City, then London where she trained herself as a journalist. In the 1930's, she worked in Paris and later for Hearst newspapers as a European correspondent. She witnessed the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi movement and saw roving Nazi gangs randomly beating Jewish men and women in the streets of Vienna.

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Continued ...

In 1937, Wake met wealthy French industrialist Henri Edmond Fiocca (1898–1943), whom she married on 30 November 1939. She was living in Marseille, France when Germany invaded. After the fall of France in 1940, she became a courier for the French Resistance and later joined the escape network of Captain Ian Garrow. In reference to Wake's ability to elude capture, the Gestapo called her the White Mouse. The Resistance exercised caution with her missions; her life was in constant danger, with the Gestapo tapping her phone and intercepting her mail.

In November 1942, Wehrmacht troops occupied the southern part of France after the Allies' Operation Torch had started. This gave the Gestapo unrestricted access to all papers of the Vichy régime and made life more dangerous for Wake. By 1943, Wake was the Gestapo's most wanted person, with a 5 million-franc price on her head. When the network was betrayed that same year, she decided to flee Marseille. Her husband, Henri Fiocca, stayed behind; he was later captured, tortured and executed by the Gestapo. Wake described her tactics: "A little powder and a little drink on the way, and I'd pass their (German) posts and wink and say, 'Do you want to search me?' God, what a flirtatious little bastard I was."

Wake had been arrested in Toulouse, but was released four days later. An acquaintance (Scarlet Pimpernel) managed to have her let out by making up stories about her supposed infidelity to her husband. She succeeded, on her sixth attempt, in crossing the Pyrenees to Spain. Until the war ended, she was unaware of her husband's death and subsequently blamed herself for it.

After reaching Britain, Wake joined the Special Operations Executive. Vera Atkins, who also worked in the SOE, recalls her as "a real Australian bombshell. Tremendous vitality, flashing eyes. Everything she did, she did well." Training reports record that she was "a very good and fast shot" and possessed excellent fieldcraft. She was noted to "put the men to shame by her cheerful spirit and strength of character."

On the night of 29/30 April 1944, Wake was parachuted into the Auvergne, becoming a liaison between London and the local maquis group headed by Captain Henri Tardivat in the Forest of Tronçais. Upon discovering her tangled in a tree, Captain Tardivat greeted her remarking,

“I hope that all the trees in France bear such beautiful fruit this year,” to which she replied, “Don't give me that French shit.” Her duties included allocating arms and equipment that were parachuted in and minding the group's finances. Wake became instrumental in recruiting more members and making the maquis groups into a formidable force, roughly 7,500 strong. She also led attacks on German installations and the local Gestapo HQ in Montluçon. At one point Wake discovered that her men were protecting a girl who was a German spy. They did not have the heart to kill her in cold blood, but when Wake insisted she would perform the execution, they capitulated.

From April 1944 until the liberation of France, her 7,000+ *maquisards* fought 22,000 German soldiers, causing 1,400 casualties, while suffering only 100 themselves. Her French companions, especially Henri Tardivat, praised her fighting spirit, amply demonstrated when she killed an SS sentry with her bare hands to prevent him from raising the alarm during a raid. During a 1990's television interview, when asked what had happened to the sentry who spotted her, Wake simply drew her finger across her throat. “They'd taught this judo-chop stuff with the flat of the hand at SOE, and I practised away at it. But this was the only time I used it – whack – and it killed him all right. I was really surprised.”

On another occasion, to replace codes her wireless operator had been forced to destroy in a German raid, Wake rode a bicycle for more than 500 kilometres through several German checkpoints. During a German attack on another maquis group, Wake, along with two American officers, took command of a section whose leader had been killed. She directed the use of suppressive fire, which facilitated the group's withdrawal without further losses.

Immediately after the war, Wake was awarded the George Medal, the United States Medal of Freedom, the Médaille de la Résistance, and thrice the Croix de Guerre. She learned that the Gestapo had tortured her husband to death in 1943 for refusing to disclose her whereabouts. After the war, she worked for the Intelligence Department at the British Air Ministry attached to embassies in Paris and Prague.

Wake stood as a Liberal candidate in the 1949 Australian Federal Election for the Sydney seat of Barton, running against Dr. Herbert Evatt, then Deputy Prime Minister, Attorney-General and Minister for External

... ... *Continued*

Continued

Affairs in the Ben Chifley Labor government. While Chifley lost government to Robert Menzies, Wake recorded a 13 percent swing against Evatt, with Evatt retaining the seat with 53.2 per cent of the vote on a two-party preferred basis. Wake ran against Evatt again at the 1951 federal election. By this time, Evatt was Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The result was extremely close. However, Evatt retained the seat with a margin of fewer than 250 votes. Evatt slightly increased his margin at subsequent elections before relocating to the safer seat of Hunter by 1958.

Wake left Australia just after the 1951 election and moved back to England. She worked as an intelligence officer in the department of the Assistant Chief of Air Staff at the Air Ministry in Whitehall. She resigned in 1957 after marrying a RAF officer, John Forward, in December of that year. They returned to Australia in the early 1960's. Maintaining her interest in politics, Wake was endorsed as a Liberal candidate at the 1966 federal election for the Sydney seat of Kingsford Smith. Despite recording a swing of 6.9 per cent against the sitting Labor member Daniel Curtin, Wake was again unsuccessful. Around 1985, Wake and John Forward left Sydney to retire to Port Macquarie.

In 1985, Wake published her autobiography, *The White Mouse*. The book became a bestseller and has been reprinted many times.

After 40 years of marriage, her husband John Forward died at Port Macquarie on 19 August 1997; the couple had no children.

In 2001, Wake left Australia for the last time and emigrated to London. She became a resident at the Stafford Hotel in St James' Place, near Piccadilly, formerly a British and American forces club during the war. She had been introduced to her first "bloody good drink" there by the general manager at the time, Louis Burdet. He had also worked for the Resistance in Marseilles. In the mornings she would usually be found in the hotel bar, sipping her first gin and tonic of the day. She was welcomed at the hotel, celebrating her 90th birthday there, where the hotel owners absorbed most of the costs of her stay. In 2003, Wake chose to move to the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Ex-Service Men and Women, in Richmond, London, where she remained until her death.

Wake died on Sunday evening 7 August 2011, aged 98, at Kingston Hospital after being admitted with a chest infection. She had requested

that her ashes be scattered at Montluçon in central France. Her ashes were scattered near the village of Verneix, which is near Montluçon, on 11 March 2013.

Her obituary was included in (and inspired the title for) *The Socialite who Killed a Nazi with Her Bare Hands: and 144 Other Fascinating People who Died this Year*, a collection of New York Times obituaries published in 2012.

Wake was appointed a Chevalier (knight) of the Legion of Honour in 1970 and was promoted to Officer of the Legion of Honour in 1988.

Initially, she refused offers of decorations from Australia, saying: “The last time there was a suggestion of that I told the government they could stick their medals where the monkey stuck his nuts. The thing is if they gave me a medal now, it wouldn’t be love so I don’t want anything from them.” It was not until February 2004 that Wake was made a Companion of the Order of Australia.

In April 2006, she was awarded the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services’ Association’s highest honour, the RSA Badge in Gold. Wake’s medals are on display in the Second World War gallery at the Australian War Memorial Museum in Canberra.

On 3 June 2010, a “heritage pylon” paying tribute to Wake was unveiled on Oriental Parade in Wellington, New Zealand, near the place of her birth.



NAVY

Mine hunters prove ‘real-time’ ability – LEUT Todd Fitzgerald



Crew members of HMAS Gascoyne launch a Double Eagle Mine Disposal Vehicle.

The headquarters of Navy’s mine warfare capability proved it could lead a push from the sea into a conflict area and secure the waters for follow-on forces Exercise Ocean Raider.

During a two-week test, the Australian Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving Task Group coordinated the location and disposal of simulated sea mines from Broken Bay, NSW, and Cockburn Sound, Western Australia. The headquarters used mine hunters HMA Ships Gascoyne and Huon, and diving unit AUSCDT4 to achieve the mission.

Their ability to clear and secure access points allowed notional waiting forces to enter by sea and evacuate citizens affected by the “conflict”.

Director of the maritime evaluation team CMDR Max Muller said the test demonstrated the headquarters and its forces could carry out complex maritime advance force operations in a real-time environment.

“Live exercise training allows the Navy to test combat effectiveness in a war fighting environment,” CMDR Muller said.

“This certification confirms Navy’s capability to shape the area of operations and enable successful amphibious operations.”

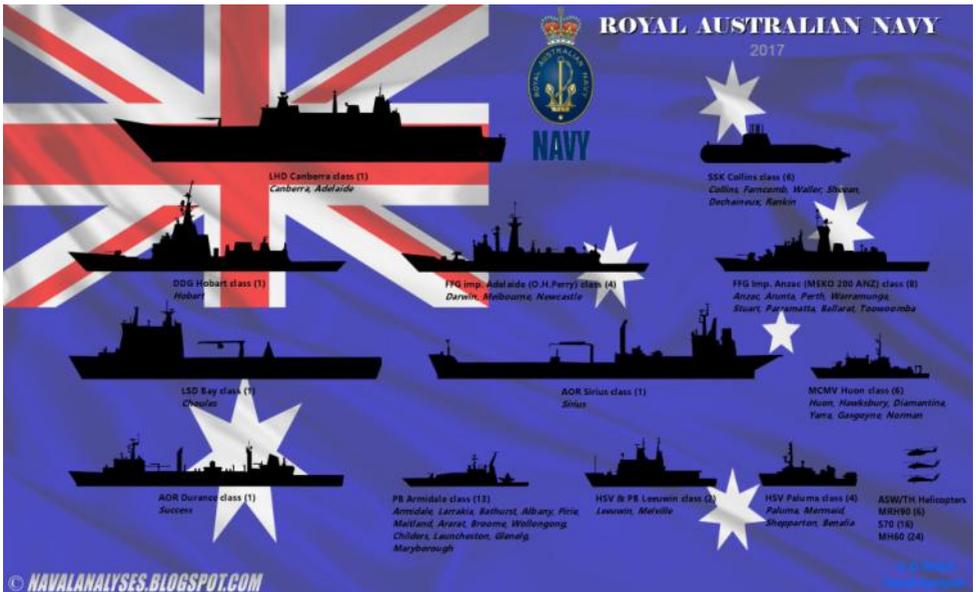
CMDR Muller said in assessing the task group, his team looked for it to pass on “accurate, succinct, understandable and achievable orders to the subordinate units”.

He said headquarters also had “to interpret the information passed back to them from the units and develop appropriate courses of action”.

“The Australian mine counter measures team is at the pointy end of operations so it must be at the top of its game,” CMDR Muller said.

“Although relatively small, they are one of the most capable in the world. We saw that recently on Operation Render Safe when HMA Ships Huon and Diamantina cleared more than 13 tonnes of unexploded ordnance left on the Solomon Islands after World War II.”

NAVY NEWS DECEMBER 15TH 2016



Plan BEERSHEBA - Army's future structure



Plan BEERSHEBA will significantly enhance Army's force structure so that it can generate optimal capability to meet the challenge of contemporary warfare.

Plan BEERSEBA, which was announced by Government in November 2011 and re-affirmed in Defence White Paper 2013, is Army's modernisation plan to maximise the effectiveness of the 36-month Force Generation Cycle and provide the widest range of sustained and effective Land Force capability for directed requirements within assigned resources.

Army's Force Generation Cycle ensures that combat Brigades, specialist capabilities and part time forces consistently train together. Army's conventional deployable combat forces move through three 12 month phases in a 36 month cycle. The cycle concludes with the 'ready' phase when force elements will be held at high readiness and be deployed if necessary. The 12 months prior to this is the readying phase when these force elements undergo an intense period of training and certification to ensure that they are ready to deploy. When force elements return from an operational deployment, or conclude a period of being held at high readiness, they will enter the 'reset' phase which provides time to conduct individual training, including career courses, to prepare them to begin collective training again in the 'readying' phase.

To optimise the Force Generation Cycle the Army will comprise three 'like' Multi-role Combat Brigades with one at 'Ready' status, one being reconstituted ('Reset') and one being trained ('Readying'). To maximise capability and meet Government requirements, Army will also better integrate its full and part time military components and its civilian workforce to operate together as a 'total force.'

As part of these structural changes, Army is developing its contribution to the Australian Defence Force's amphibious capability based on 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. The need for this capability was highlighted by the recent rapid deployments of the ADF to East Timor (1999 and in 2006), the Solomon Islands (2003) and tsunami relief operations in Sumatra (2005).

Plan BEERSHEBA will not change the vital role of the Headquarters of the 1st Division as the Defence Force's deployable two star Joint Headquarters and certifying authority for deploying forces. Given the credible and persistent threat of terrorism and violent extremism, the Special Operations capability will remain a critically important and unique component within Army. Both these organisations will modernise in parallel to Plan BEERSHEBA implementation ensuring that they remain interoperable with Army's Brigades.

As Plan BEERSHEBA is implemented, Army will take significant steps to becoming a digital, networked force equipped with improved B vehicles and ready to execute a comprehensive armoured fighting vehicle upgrade. Army's understanding of amphibious operations in an international engagement and coalition framework will be mature. Army's work force will be more flexible, enabled by role-specific physical employment standards and commonality of force structure between full and part time elements. Interoperability between Multi-role Combat Brigades, Enabling Brigades, Special Operations Forces and Headquarters 1st Division will evolve as digitisation rolls out, modularity increases and force generation processes stabilise. This will be supported by the evolution of Army's facilities and training areas to allow each Brigade location to become the hub of instrumented live, virtual and constructive combined arms training.

Implementing these changes will not be without its challenges. However, there is a sound conceptual basis for Plan BEERSHEBA. Commonality of force structure, the 'total force' concept, digitisation and the development of training areas proximate to Multirole Combat Brigade locations will increase the modularity and interoperability of the land force. In concert with these changes, the experience and high calibre of Army's people and the flexibility of the force generation cycle will be the basis of an agile and adaptable, world class Army.

<https://www.army.gov.au/our-future/modernisation-projects/plan-beersheba>

DART A – DELIVERS CYBERSPACE SECURITY

Article by Flight Lieutenant Eamon Hamilton

A HISTORIC Air Force Squadron is now at the leading edge of defending deployed units against cyberspace attacks.

Originally formed in 1942 as a bomber unit, No. 462 Squadron (462SQN) now forms part of the Air Warfare Centre's Directorate of Information Warfare.

It has now returned to operations, this time sending Deployable Assessment & Remediation Teams (DARTs) to the Middle East Region.

The first team – called DART-A – deployed in October and November 2016.

Officer in Charge of DART-A, Flying Officer Jordan Plotnek, said his team consisted of cyberspace security specialists focused on identifying vulnerabilities and risks.

“This is the first time an Air Force team has been deployed to look specifically at the cyberspace security of Air Force mission systems.”

“Previously, we have conducted all security tasks on systems from within Australia prior to the systems' deployment.

“We've also previously contributed members to joint teams that have assessed deployed units.”

Communication and Information Systems (CIS) are ubiquitous in modern operations, from daily administration, logistics and operational planning, through to aircraft maintenance support and mission systems.

All of these systems are viewed by opposing forces as valid targets for exploitation of information, denial of service, or outright attack.

“It's our role to ensure Air Force can conduct missions safely and securely, with limited impact from the cyberspace domain,” Flying Officer Plotnek said.

“We conducted vulnerability, threat, and risk assessments of Air Force mission systems.” DART-A's primary task whilst here is to give senior leaders the ability to understand and, if required, address any risks posed to air operations from the cyberspace domain.”

The DART is also intended to support existing CIS elements that form the backbone of deployed operations today.

“Although CIS and System Managers are responsible for maintaining their own cyberspace security posture on a routine basis, the 462SQN DART teams provide subject matter expert advice,” Flying Officer Plotnek said.

“We analyse the security posture of specific systems in order to help improve Air Force's cyberspace resilience at the system-level.”

“In the rare cases where lapses in the cyberspace security posture of IT systems may be found, the team provides expert advice and assistance in remediating the issues as quickly as possible.”

It's not the first time that 462SQN has stood at the forefront of providing cutting edge defence during operations.

Formed in 1942 in North Africa, 462SQN was soon using its Halifax four-engined bombers to fly some of the world's first airborne electronic warfare missions over Occupied Europe.

Crews were tasked with dropping large strips of aluminium foil that confused enemy radars and allowed large bomber formations to reach their targets.

The nature of 462SQN's work today could barely be imagined during the Second World War, however the squadron retains close historical links to its forebears.

“During the War, each 462SQN aircraft in the squadron had a letter for its identification – A for Able, B for Baker, and so on,” Flying Officer Plotnek said.

“The second A in DART-A stands for ‘Able’, and is changed on each deployment in memory of 462SQN's history as a bomber squadron during World War Two.”

<http://www.airforce.gov.au/News/DART-A-Delivers-Cyberspace-Security/?RAAF-pjNvNmUiOHk1DCphQGBuSzMYEieWp2LC>



LAST POST

Sidney Arthur Ayling

Born 1919—Died 2016

429589, N21284 & NX191658

Lance Sergeant

36 Battalion, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion

New Guinea, New Britain

Malitia, CMF, AIF—WWII

Theo Albert George

Born 1924—Died 2017

N442900, NX178177

Private

19 Battalion

New Guinea, New Britain

CMF, AIF—WWII

Rest In Peace

STOP PRESS

***The Annual General Meeting
on 26th February, 2017***

***Meeting will Commence at 10am
Entry to the Club will be from 9:30am***

***Members will be voting
for a Committee for the
next 3 Years***