

# Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

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*"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"*

# Newsletter

Issue 83

March, 2018

**SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE—2014—2017**

**Tel/Fax: 02 9644 3292**

- President** ..... Ron Duckworth — 0408 245 255
  - Vice President** ..... Ian Muirhead, Ross Graham
  - Secretary**..... Gary Roser JP,
  - Treasurer** ..... Ralph Hannaford
  - Minute Secretary** ..... Lee-Ann Taylor,
  - Committee** ..... Max Stone, David Tu, Brian Abbot,  
Ian Kennedy JP, Kevin Mahony
  - Welfare Officer** ..... Ron Duckworth
  - Assistant Welfare Officer** ..... Alan (Gadget) Parkin, 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 service ring the Secretary, Gary Roser on 0409 919 364*



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

To say RSLNSW is in turmoil is an understatement.

Over the years my secretarial duties have lead me to write to ANZAC House on behalf of our sub-Branch when we have seen problems arise within the constitution and procedural matters.

One that comes to mind is the decision to not pay monies to the families of our deceased Members from the Benevolent Fund of which I am one of the Trustees. The only time it can be paid is when the dependant of the Member is having monetary troubles and the money is to go towards debts incurred or funeral expenses. This (in my opinion) is a great idea. But was it reflected in the By-Laws to explain the conditions of payment? No. So we wrote to Chris Perrin the former State Secretary suggesting changes. Where did it go? Probably in the round file. Our Far Southern Metropolitan District also wrote it about it, but no reply. And that's only one stuff up.

Is there any wonder that people were not getting anywhere? Lets hope this May's Congress comes up with the answers to get the ball rolling again.

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

<b>Sub-Branch Meetings</b>	
<b><u>Committee</u> Mondays 5.00pm</b>	<b><u>Sub-Branch</u> Sundays 10:30am</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> March	25 <sup>th</sup> March
16 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>No Gen Meeting</b>
<b>29th April ANZAC LUNCHEON 12:00 for 12:30</b>	
21 <sup>st</sup> May	27 <sup>th</sup> May
18 <sup>th</sup> June	24 <sup>th</sup> June

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Here we go again. Just one month to ANZAC Day and we are well under way with the preparations. As usual the club will open at 5:00am and our march will start from the round-about at Buist Street at 5:40am. We also need workers on the day, so if you can help out let us know.

Since the last newsletter we have had 2 District Council meetings. Both were pretty lively with more and more information coming out of town, unfortunately not all good!

We have received a directive from State Council, that sub-Branches coming into the medium-large and large categories must pay 28.5% of their surplus 2016 surplus into the sub-Branch Support Fund. The original attachment said that we have to pay over \$92,000. This was based on incorrect figures and when we receive the official letter, we will be querying where they got their figures from. They also state that we have assets of \$5.5 million. We will ask them for the extra \$3 million that we are supposed to have. I won't hold my breath waiting for it.

Since Gary wrote his report, a number of changes have been made, particularly with Congress. State Council rushed into making changes to the Constitution without the support of the Members. They now realise this and will be hold back all but the essential amendments until later in the year. We should have time to digest these changes before having to vote on them.

The Women's Auxiliary are still going on their monthly bus trips. In February they went to Balgowlah RSL for lunch. In March we went to the Arms of Australia Inn Museum at Emu Plains, followed by St Mary's RSL for lunch. The museum is well worth a visit and good value at only \$6.00 per person entry fee.

A number of the Committee and Members attended the TET Festival at Fairfield Showground. As usual the top academic achievers were presented (99 and above). 3 achieved the top mark of 99.95, with one of those getting 100% in 2 subjects.

Ian Kennedy and I attended the Thu Duc Academy New years party and had a good time talking with different people through out the afternoon.

I attended the RSL State Swimming Championships and met with many of our swimmers, wishing them all best for their races. Also had a talk

*Continued .....*

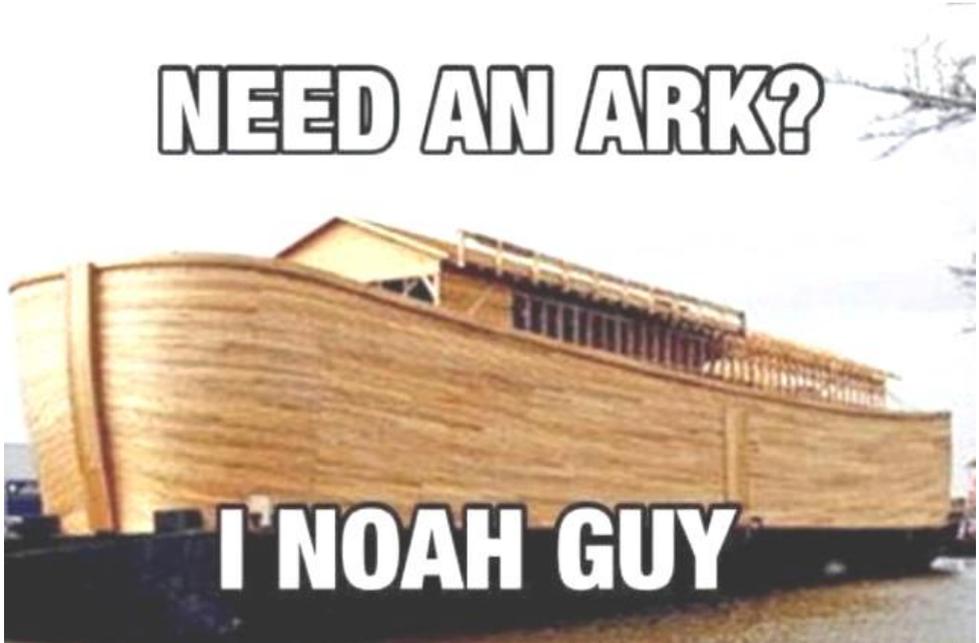
..... *Continued*

with a few of the VIP's about what is happening in the RSL. They are of a similar mind to us. Not happy.

Finally, what a great bus trip to Albion Park and the Historic Aircraft Restoration Society. We only had 55 on board and after morning tea we were split up into 9 groups and taken on a guided tour through the museum. It was good seeing aircraft that I had actually worked on during my time in the RAAF. Its been over 30 years.

Our ANZAC Luncheon is on the 29<sup>th</sup> April. Application must be back by our Committee meeting in April. i.e. 16<sup>th</sup>. Flyers are available here today. Make sure you grab one. Also details can be seen on page 24.

*Ron Duckworth*  
*President*



## SECRETARY'S REPORT



Well folks, I am back again as Secretary for another couple of years. Thank you very, very, much Lee-Ann Taylor for throwing her hand in for the last twelve months when no one else would do so. Lee-Ann, as an Associate Member of our sub-Branch, changed her voice and vote to Bass Hill so she could do it for us.

At Bass Hill there hasn't been a great deal going on. With the current failure of RSLNSW to govern our organisation and the new guard taking over, they have to get their act together to right the wrongs of the past.

This Branch have submitted a number of questions and answers to RSLNSW after receiving a "Discussion Paper" formulated by the new State Council, lead by our new President James Brown.

Many things will be thrown up as resolutions to be discussed that will change the Constitution dramatically. Of course that will be in May, 2018. They won't get through all of it as Congress only have two days allowed to do so. So expect further Extraordinary Congress meetings during the year to finalise it.

One thing that has effected a lot of sub-Branches is the failure to fund raise. If you have been taking notice of press clippings or one of the few edicts to come from ANZAC House you will know that each sub-Branch that have an Authority to Fundraise have to hand them back to RSLNSW. In the future, any future fundraising must receive permission from RSLNSW who will have the only fundraising authority in NSW.

In the mean time RSLNSW have asked us to take the bucket around on ANZAC Day to support the Invictus Games. I can't see that happening but that will be up to you, the Members.

*Gary Roser J.P.*

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### ***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
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.....

## *My 2 do list for 2018*





4.16 © LaughingStock International Inc. Dist. by Universal Uclick for UFS, 2014 HERMAN

"Sure, it's big, but it'll do an average room in three minutes."



9.23 © LaughingStock International Inc. Dist. by Universal Uclick for UFS, 2011

"You told me to hang your mother's picture in the hallway."



11.24 © LaughingStock International Inc. Dist. by UFS Inc., 2009

"That should clear the rug."



6.26 © LaughingStock International Inc. Dist. by Universal Uclick for UFS, 2012



I have rented a houseboat on the Hawkesbury and I am looking for some shipmates who wish to join me for a 2 week holiday

# Leonard Victor Waters (1924–1993)

Australia's First Indigenous Fighter Pilot

by Samuel Furphy

This entry is from the **Australian Dictionary of Biography**



*Warrant Officer Leonard Waters in his winter flying uniform, c. 1943*

Leonard Victor Waters (1924–1993), shearer and airman, was born on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1924 at Euraba Aboriginal Mission near Boomi, New South Wales, fourth of eleven children of New South Wales-born parents Donald Waters, labourer, and his wife Grace Vera, née Bennet. Educated at the Toomelah Aboriginal settlement and at Nindigully State School, Queensland (1936–38), Len left to work with his father on a ring barking team before training as a shearer. A Gamilaraay man, he had a family history of war service, his grandfather having served in the Australian Imperial Force during World War I. Inspired by the pioneering era of flight, Len enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force

(RAAF) on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1942 and trained as an aircraft mechanic. At the time he stood 5 feet 11 inches (180cm) tall, weighed 10 stone 10 pounds (68kg), and had a dark complexion, brown eyes, and dark brown hair. His younger brother Jim joined the army, later volunteering as a ‘guinea pig’ for a trial of anti-malaria drugs.

Concerned that his limited education would frustrate his ambition to fly, Waters studied hard to compensate. He applied for a transfer to aircrew in June 1943. An RAAF interviewer described him as ‘a bit rough’ in manners and appearance but concluded that he ‘appears keen’ (NAA A9301). In December he commenced training at No. 1 Initial Training School, Somers, Victoria, where he finished fourth in a class of forty-eight. He learnt to fly in Tiger Moths and Wirraways, before gaining his wings and the rank of sergeant on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1944. Posted to Mildura for

operational training in Kittyhawk fighters, he later recalled the thrill of his first take off: 'you feel the surge of power when you open the throttle' (Hall 1995, 163).

On 14<sup>th</sup> November 1944 Waters joined No. 78 Squadron on the island of Noemfoor, Netherlands New Guinea (Indonesia). The next month the squadron relocated to Morotai, Netherlands East Indies (Indonesia), where he was allocated a Kittyhawk that the previous pilot had named 'Black Magic.' He found the coincidence amusing and retained the name. In January 1945 he was promoted to flight sergeant, his commanding officer reporting that he had adapted quickly to operational flying and was a 'good solid type, popular with his fellow pilots' (NAA A9301). On 18<sup>th</sup> July he moved with his squadron to Tarakan, Borneo, where he was reunited with his brother.

During nine months active service Waters flew a total of ninety-five sorties, mostly ground attacks. On one mission over Celebes (Sulawesi), his plane was struck by a shell that did not detonate but embedded behind the cockpit near a fuel tank. When returning to base he alerted ground staff to the danger, later recalling that it was 'the smoothest landing I've ever made' (Hall 1995, 167). A keen sportsman, he enjoyed cricket, football, tennis, and billiards, and won the all-services middleweight boxing title while on Morotai. Returning to Australia on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1945, he was based in Brisbane at RAAF Sandgate until being discharged on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1946 with the rank of temporary warrant officer.

On 16<sup>th</sup> February at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, St George, Waters married Gladys May Saunders, a seventeen-year-old waitress. He worked briefly as a mechanic and road worker, then travelled widely as a shearer. Although he had aspired to start a regional airline serving south-west Queensland, he could not secure the necessary finance. Not having experienced any discrimination in the RAAF, he later recalled that once he took off the uniform he was 'just another blackfella' (Versace 2002, 24). During the 1956 shearers' strike he moved his family to Inala, Brisbane, where he was employed as a meat worker and a truck driver before returning to shearing.

..... *Continued*



*Len Waters 1940*

Waters was involved in a car accident in 1972, receiving injuries that caused epilepsy and limited his ability to work. His hobbies included singing, emu egg carving, and woodworking. Although at times he struggled with alcoholism, he drank orange juice when he attended RAAF reunions. Survived by his wife and six children, he died of pneumonia on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1993 at Cunnamulla and was buried in the cemetery at St George. Long recognised as Australia's first Aboriginal fighter pilot, he featured on a stamp commissioned by Australia Post in 1995. He is also commemorated by Len Waters Street,

Ngunnawal, Canberra; Leonard Waters Park, Boggabilla, New South Wales; and Len Waters Plains, Inala, Brisbane.



*Len Water's Grave at St. George*

<http://ia.anu.edu.au/biography/waters-leonard-victor-len-24662>

*I talked to a homeless man this morning and asked him how he ended up this way.*

*He said, "Up until last week, I still had it all. I had plenty to eat, my clothes were washed and pressed, I had a roof over my head, I had HDTV and Internet and I went to the gym, the pool and the library. I was working on my MBA on-line. I had no bills and no debt. I even had full medical coverage."*

*I felt sorry for him so I asked, "What happened? Drugs? Alcohol? Divorce?"*

*"Oh no, nothing like that," he said. "No, no.... I was Paroled..."*

In the last few weeks our Treasurer Ralph Hannaford has had a successful heart operation. A valve was replaced with a pigs valve. How marvelous is that? Modern Medical science is to be applauded. But he can't get away from jokes about pigs. *These are for you Ralph.*

### ***Pig Jokes***

Q: How do pigs write secret messages?

*A: With invisible oink!*

Q: Which Star Wars character was really a pig?

*A: Ham Solo*

Q: What is a pig's favourite color?

*A: MaHOGany*

Q: What do piglets do after school?

*A: Their hamwork!*

Q: What do you call a pig with no legs?

*A: A groundhog.*

Q: Why did the pig put a blanket on the ground?

*A: To have a pig-nic*

Q: What do you call a pig that's no fun to be around?

*A: A boar.*

Q: What did the pig say when he got hurt?

*A: Call the hambulance!*

Q: What move did the karate pig like most?

*A: The porkchop!*

Q: What do you call a pig that wins the lottery?

*A: Filthy rich*

Q: What do you call it when you cross a dinosaur with a pig?

*A: Jurassic pork!*

Q: What's the difference between bird flu and swine flu?

*A: You need tweetment for the bird flu, but you need oink-ment for the swine flu,.*

Q: What happened when the pig pen broke?

*A: They switched to a pencil*

Q: What was the pig's favourite book?

*A: Hamlet.*

Q: What do pigs call the creation of the Universe?

*A: The Pig Bang Theory.*

Q: Which sport was invented by pigs?

*A: Mud wrestling.*

Q: What do pigs bring to the beach?

*A: A surfBOARD.*

# WELFARE BUS TRIP, ALBION PARK

Photos by Dat





Many  
Thanks to  
Dat and his  
lovely wife  
for allow-  
ing him the  
time to take  
the photos  
of the day



A homeless man is walking down a country lane. He is very tired and hungry.

Ahead of him he sees a Pub called the "George and the Dragon."

Although it's late and well past closing time so he knocks on the door. The innkeeper's wife sticks her head out of a bedroom window.

"Could I have some food?" he pleads.

The woman glances at his shabby clothes and his obviously poor condition and sternly says, "No. Go Away!"

"Is there any chance of a pint of ale then? I'm so thirsty."

"No!" she says again.

"Well it's cold out here could I at least sleep in your barn?"

"No!" she shouted.

The poor fellow was so downhearted that he looks the woman straight in the face-and-out says, "OK Then. Might I please...?"

"What now?" the woman retorts impatiently.

"Might I please have a word with George?"

o0000o

A Queensland farmer had been seen standing in the middle of his paddock each day for the last few weeks.

A neighbour approached him to ask why he was out there everyday, in the hot sun, in the same place.

The farmer said he was in the running to get the Order of Australia Medal,

Asked why he thought he was to receive such a prestigious award, the farmer replied, "you get one if you are proven to be outstanding in your field".

o0000o

You know, sometimes I get the sudden urge to run around naked.  
But then I just drink some Windex. It keeps me from streaking.



"Hey, it's good to see you again.  
That medicine must have worked!"



"Can you hold on a sec? I think my  
wife's trying to get my attention."



"I admit, I didn't handle that well, but I  
don't want this to discourage you from  
being honest with me in the future."



"What else did you fix today?"

### WHEN A WOMAN SAYS "WHAT?"

It's not because she  
didn't hear  
you. She's  
giving you  
a chance  
to change  
what you said.



## The Below Article appeared in the Navy, Army and RAAF Newspapers

[www.defence.gov.au/news/navynews](http://www.defence.gov.au/news/navynews),

[www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews](http://www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews)

[www.defence.gov.au/news/raafnews](http://www.defence.gov.au/news/raafnews)



*Commander Joint Health AVM Tracy Smart says soldiers are reluctant to seek support. Photo: LAC*

### Proactive mental health support

by CPL Sebastian Beurich

SINCE the early 2000s, Defence personnel returning from operations have been psychologically screened to help identify those who need follow-up mental health support.

As this process can miss those who haven't recently deployed, Joint Health Command (JHC) is introducing the Periodic Mental Health Screen (PMHS).

It will enable ADF members to receive a mental health check when they go to their health centre to see a doctor for a booked appointment.

COL Laura Sinclair, of JHC's Directorate of Mental Health Strategy and Research, said getting the right help at the right time was important to prevent serious issues.

"The PMHS is primarily designed to enable early intervention for the treatment of mental health problems and disorders," COL Sinclair said.

"Good mental health and wellbeing can be maintained by establishing a regular exercise regime, sleeping pattern and sound work-life balance, as well as maintaining a healthy diet.

"But sometimes, more help is needed.

"The PMHS allows symptoms to be addressed before they become entrenched and cause broader problems." The screen will be conducted alongside regular appointments for the convenience of both the member and the medical staff.

"If you haven't had a mental health screen recorded on the eHealth system within the past 12 months, you'll be asked to complete one during your medical appointment," COL Sinclair said.

“Depending on the results of the screen, you may be asked to complete a 15-minute interview with a medical officer or mental health intake worker.” According to Commander Joint Health AVM Tracy Smart, research conducted throughout Defence has indicated some members are reluctant to seek the support of mental health professionals.

“The PMHS is very similar to a PostOperational Psychological Screen, but it will help to identify members who are in need of mental health services, regardless of their deployment status.” “It provides an opportunity to receive support early, resulting in better mental health outcomes for both the member and Defence,” AVM Smart said.

The screen will be rolled out at Russell, Edinburgh, Albatross, Enoggera, Lavarack, Larrakeyah and Amberley Health Centres this month.

The national roll-out is expected to be completed by November.

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## **Defence Force Announces New Command**

<https://news.defence.gov.au/media/media-releases/defence-chief-announces-new-command>

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) continues to build its cyber capability, establishing the new Defence Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) and Cyber Command.

From 29 January, the new Joint SIGINT Unit and the recently established Joint Cyber Unit will operate under the Defence SIGINT and Cyber Command alongside civilian teams from the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD).

“The Defence SIGINT and Cyber Command continues the long standing tradition of ADF personnel working within ASD to ensure support to military operations remains the agency’s highest priority,” Chief of Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Binskin said.

Under inaugural commander, Commodore James McCormack, RAN, the newly formed Command brings all ADF SIGINT and cyber personnel working within ASD together in a more refined command structure.

“The new command arrangements will support a more coherent military workforce, and create an organisational structure to support the future growth of our military cyber workforce, which was outlined in the 2016 *Defence White Paper*.”

The Chief of the Defence Force will exercise command of the Defence SIGINT and Cyber Command through Chief of Joint Capabilities (Information Warfare Division), which was established in July 2017.

## LEARNING FROM THE BEST

### University Partnership key to future partnership

By Sgt Mark Doran



**An artist's impression of UNSW's cube satellite, RAAF M1.  
Credit: Simon Baraclough**

WORLD-CLASS defence research to enhance Australia's security will be delivered by the University of NSW (UNSW) Defence Research Institute launched in Canberra on February 16.

The Institute was established to stimulate, unify and support all defence-related research within the UNSW community, while striving to build and maintain a network across Australian and international defence industries.

Australia's largest university-driven defence research institute will draw on the expertise of researchers of UNSW in Sydney and Canberra to provide Defence with solutions to real-life issues.

They will operate at the frontiers of science and technology to help deliver innovations to advance Australia's global capabilities and redefine the modern defence landscape.

UNSW Vice-Chancellor Ian Jacobs launched the institute ahead of the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of educating Australia's future military leaders.

Prof Jacobs said world-class defence began with world-class research. "UNSW Canberra has 50 years' experience partnering with Defence and a 50-year history of excelling in research," he said.

"The UNSW Defence Research Institute will combine our strengths and lead the way for the next 50 years and beyond." Prof Jacobs said

the institute's knowledge would be shared with communities across academia, government and industry, as well as global policy makers.

"UNSW excels in areas such as cyber security, space, systems engineering, artificial intelligence, logistics, hypersonics, defence-related public sector management and conflict studies," he said.

"We are making our expertise available for others to learn." Deputy Chief Information Warfare Maj-Gen Marcus Thompson, of Joint Capabilities Group, said the UNSW Defence Research Institute was important for the ADF's future.

"It's a natural extension of the long relationship with UNSW through ADFA and provides an opportunity for targeted research directly relevant to Defence," Maj-Gen Thompson said. "For me, it's relevant in the information warfare space and will advance our thinking regarding cyber security and cyber operations. "The long-term mental capability of our Defence members is also important as so many of our capabilities are personnel-based.

"It's all well and good to put the best technology in the hands of our soldiers, sailors and airmen, but if the technology isn't used in the best way, at the best time, for the optimum effect, we're not setting up our forces for success." Head Force Design AVM Mel Hupfeld, of VCDF executive, said the UNSW Defence Research Institute was also important for the ADF's continuing relationship with academia and defence industry.

"We've had a long partnership with UNSW in different aspects of the capability life cycle, but a key aspect for me is the front end of future force design," he said. "It's all about what Defence needs to meet government policy and strategy, which means the UNSW Defence Research Institute forms a key part of our partnership.

"Our engagement with academia and organisations like this allows us to do force exploration to provide options, find out what's possible and assess capacity and capabilities to give our future force affordable and achievable innovative outcomes.

"Getting the right people professionally developed, who are able to think and operate in the future environment with new technology to get the maximum effect, is also vital to our planning.

"The relationship with UNSW will help prepare us for our future." For more information on the UNSW Defence For more information on the UNSW Defence Research Institute visit: [dri.unsw.edu.au](http://dri.unsw.edu.au)

*<http://www.defence.gov.au/news/navynews/>*



“OLD Faithful” commenced its transition to a mechanised infantry battalion with a mounted parade at Lavarack Barracks in Townsville on February 26.

Commander 3 Bde Brig Scott Winter reviewed the parade, which marks the next chapter in the rich history of 3RAR.

The transition will occur over the next

18 months, with the parade signifying the start of the first phase and receipt of the first tranche of M113AS4 APCs.

The recent custodians of APCs in 3 Bde, 2 Cav Regt, will continue to support 3RAR in crewing some of the initial issue of APCs for the next six to 18 months, allowing 3RAR to grow its infantry APC crew commander and driver capability.

The blended crew approach will ensure the cross-levelling of skills and knowledge, coupled with the greater level of equipment husbandry required to operate armoured fighting vehicles effectively. It highlights the commitment of 2 Cav Regt in supporting 3RAR during the transition.

Acting OC C Sqn Capt Kate Clarkson said she was impressed with her soldiers’ determination to see the job done. “The APC crewmen and women are incredibly resilient members. They have seen a lot of change since 2013 but they are passionate about their platform and trade,” Capt Clarkson said.

“They also know how to respond to challenges and are keen to support the effective execution of mechanisation within the infantry.” The battalion will use APCs in a slightly different manner than purely a lift capability.

A mechanised infantry approach will mean the vehicle, crew and dismounts will operate as one system supported by key brigade capabilities.

This includes firepower from 2 Cav Regt tanks, mobility support from 3CER, the coordination of joint fires and effects from 4 Regt, and logistics support from 3CSSB.

This combined-arms approach underpins fighting as combat team and as a battlegroup and ensures a modern, agile and versatile combat force capable of high-end warfighting through to humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.

CO 3RAR Lt-Col Mick Kearns said the mechanised capability made 3RAR a more potent and capable force.

“Clearly, the vehicle provides additional firepower alongside greater mobility and protection on the battlefield,” he said.

“However, it is when they are employed alongside other key brigade assets, such as tanks, where the true benefit is realised as part of a greater combined-arms effect.” Lt-Col Kearns took command of 3RAR in late 2017 and brought a lot of tracked infantry experience.

He is well postured to oversee 3RAR’s transition as he had armoured infantry experience in the UK before he transferred to the Australian Army in 2008, where he has spent time in 5RAR and 7RAR, the latter as a company commander.

The battalion has been heavily committed to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and still has a rifle company deployed as the Force Protection Element in Kabul, however, it has begun to train and qualify the first batch of infantry M113AS4 drivers and crew commanders at the School of Armour.

Lt-Col Kearns said blended crews would enable initial vehicle knowledge and understanding to be passed on.

“The real momentum will come as the mechanised capability is realised through infantry crews tactically employing the vehicle to support dismounts as one system,” Lt-Col Kearns said.

“This will not only start the deep preparation for the Land 400 Phase 3 infantry fighting vehicles, but will also allow armoured corps soldiers to return to the ACR to replatform on to M1A1 and ASLAV/Land 400 Phase 2.” Pte Marques Gutterres, a recently qualified crew commander in 3RAR, said there were some challenges in the new role, including navigating in an armoured vehicle.

“At the start it was difficult moving at speed while navigating, but after a while we became used to it,” he said.

“The course in Puckapunyal was good and we did a lot of navigation practice, which helped our skills.” The battalion’s transition to mechanisation will not take place overnight.

A gradual approach means a combat team plus a battlegroup HQ will this year deploy on Exercise Hamel as part of the opposing force battlegroup in the short-term.

The aim is to have a mechanised battlegroup capability when 3 Bde completes its next readying cycle in 2020.

A significant development in the growth of Army’s mechanised capability will be the new infantry fighting vehicle, which will be introduced into service under the Land 400 Phase 3.

The deep mechanisation through an armoured fighting vehicle culture, equipment husbandry and experienced RAIInf vehicle crews – alongside a combined-arms approach to fighting – will be the focus for not just 3RAR, but 6RAR and 7RAR as well.

## ON THE TOOLS

FLGOFF Courtney Jay speaks to a member with a love of all things mechanical



*LAC Richard Harrison conducts maintenance on an air-to-air refuelling pod.*

FLGOFF Courtney Jay speaks to a member with GROWING up in the small mining town of Lightning Ridge in NSW, LAC Richard Harrison knew he was destined for a life working in the mechanical industry.

As an Aircraft Technician with 33SQN, LAC Harrison's love of all things mechanical now takes him around the globe with the KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport (MRTT).

"I always knew that I was going to work with mechanics," LAC Harrison says.

"At high school I took all the subjects that were a useful skill, such as metal work, mechanics and wood work, to prepare me for this role with RAAF." LAC Harrison's work at 33SQN includes conducting pre- or post-flight checks on the KC-30A, as well as servicing the aircraft's Cobham 905E refuelling pods.

Air-to-air refuelling operations, conducted at more than 600 kilometres per hour, require the pod to transfer fuel down a 27-metre-long hose at 1250 kilograms per minute.

Aircraft Technicians are responsible for ensuring the pod can synchronise the workings of electrical, hydraulic, fuel and air-turbine systems in order to refuel aircraft like the Hornet, Super Hornet and Growler.

Coincidentally, it was the F/A-18A and B Hornet that LAC Harrison first cut his teeth on as an Aircraft Technician.

On enlisting with the Air Force in 2007, he was initially posted to RAAF Base Williamtown and worked with 77SQN.

However, when the opportunity to work on one of Air Force's newest aircraft came up, he jumped at the chance and was on course within three weeks.

"I was offered a position at 33SQN and within three weeks I had moved from Williamstown to Amberley," LAC Harrison said.

"My first day on the job was the aircraft transition course, which was a Qantas-run course to familiarise with their Airbus A330, so I certainly hit the ground running." Working as an Aircraft Technician fulfils LAC Harrison's love of mechanics, but it's also the adventure, diversity and mateship of the role that keeps the excitement alive.

"I've been lucky to travel extensively around Australia, and have also been to Japan, Hawaii, Malaysia, Guam and deployed to the Middle East," LAC Harrison said.

"I love that my job has so much diversity. I could be conducting pre-flight checks on the flight-line in the Middle East or replacing an engine in Guam.

"I also really enjoy the mateship that comes as part of being in the Air Force.

When we replace an engine it's a tough job and all hands are on deck to help." In his free time LAC Harrison can be found on the touch football field, cruising around on his motorbike or enjoying time with his family.

Interesting  
Mail Box



**Ad. In Hospital Waiting Room:**

**Smoking Helps You Lose Weight....  
One Lung At A Time!**



# LAST POST



WE  
ARE  
ALL  
HERE

*Rest In Peace*

## **STOP PRESS**

*ANZAC Dawn Service*

*25th April, 2018*

*commencing at 5.30am*

*with the walk to Hector & Buist Sts*

*then March to*

*The Bass Hill RSL sub-Branch Cenotaph*

*330 Hector Street, Bass Hill*

*ooo000ooo*

**ANZAC Luncheon, 11.30am Sunday, 29 April**

**Booking a must by C.O.B. Monday 16.4.18**

**Booking Deposit is \$25.00 per person  
refundable deposit**