

Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

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"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"

Newsletter

Issue 102

March, 2021

SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE—2020—2023

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



EDITORIAL** Gary Roser, Editor

Hello Members and Friends,
The RSLNSW is still having trouble getting their act together. Their big push is the Strategic Plan. Now I'm not against having a Strategic Plan, as every organisation these days has to have one. Is it trendy? I don't know. But it costs a lot of working hours to produce, and a lot of money invested that could be spent on other projects.

Our NSW President Jesse James has been travelling the State espousing the benefits of it. And still Members aren't convinced it is needed. What RSLNSW needs to do is explain in plain English what it is all about, and why it is needed. In writing to every Member.

Yes. We need direction. We know WHY we are formed. To look after veterans, especially those who are battling. Come on RSLNSW.

Instead of thumping the drum to have a Strategic Plan. Explain (in plain English, not business jargon) WHY we need one to every one of us.

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

Sub-Branch Meetings	
<u>Committee</u> Mondays 5:00pm	<u>Sub-Branch</u> Sundays 10:30am
22 nd March	28 th March
19 th April	NIL
Sunday, 25 th April 2021 ANZAC Dawn Service Commencing at 6:30am	
ANZAC Day Breakfast (Entry to the Club is by tickets only) Commencing at 7:30am	
Sunday, 2 nd May 2021 ANZAC Luncheon Entry from 11:00am	
17 th May	23 rd May
21 st June	27 th June

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A year ago, I became your president and as the year unfolded, we were confronted with the corona virus and the change to our lives. As I look forward to this year and faced with the long journey towards incorporation. Once again, I wish to thank our Treasurer for his dedication to carrying out the liaison with the authorities. Advice received indicates that the four members of the committee, who will become the four Directors of the Company are having their personal information transmitted to Operation Legal for police checks. Operation Legal are helping headquarters with the necessary legal procedures for the three sub-Branche who are in the process of incorporation.



Arrangements are now in place for ANZAC Day with the ANZAC Breakfast at the Chester Hill RSL Cub. The club has given us the downstairs area with a maximum number of 150 persons. Details on how this is to happen are being worked out by both RSL sub-Branch Committees and will be communicated to you shortly. As the CEO of the Club has informed us that completion of their large event space has been delayed by the non-availability of materials, the proposed ANZAC luncheon for 11th April has been postponed to 2nd May.

I ask that everybody take note of any medical advice given and keep healthy.

Look forward to seeing you at our meetings

Ralph

Một năm trước, tôi đã trở thành tổng thống của ông và khi năm diễn ra, chúng tôi đã phải đối mặt với virus corona và sự thay đổi trong cuộc sống của chúng tôi. Khi tôi mong chờ năm nay và đối mặt với hành trình dài hướng tới việc thành lập. Một lần nữa, tôi muốn cảm ơn Thủ quỹ của chúng tôi vì sự công hiến của anh ấy để thực hiện liên lạc với chính quyền. Lời khuyên nhận được chỉ ra rằng bốn thành viên của ủy ban, những người sẽ trở thành bốn Giám đốc của Công ty đang truyền thông tin cá nhân của họ đến Operation Legal để kiểm tra của cảnh sát. Operation Legal đang giúp trụ sở chính với các thủ tục pháp lý cần thiết cho ba Subbranches đang trong quá trình thành lập.

Các sắp xếp hiện đã được đưa ra cho Ngày ANZAC với Bữa sáng ANZAC tại Chester Hill RSL Cub. Câu lạc bộ đã cho chúng tôi khu vực tầng dưới với số lượng tối đa 150 người. Chi tiết về cách điều này sẽ xảy ra đang được thực hiện bởi cả hai ủy ban RSL Subbranch và sẽ sớm được thông báo cho bạn. Khi Giám đốc điều hành của Câu lạc bộ đã thông báo cho chúng tôi rằng việc hoàn thành không gian sự kiện lớn của họ đã bị trì hoãn do không có sẵn tài liệu, bữa trưa ANZAC được đề xuất cho ngày 11 tháng 4 đã bị hoãn lại đến ngày 2 tháng 5.

Tôi yêu cầu mọi người lưu ý bất kỳ lời khuyên y tế nào được đưa ra và giữ gìn sức khỏe.

Rất mong được gặp bạn tại các cuộc họp của chúng tôi
Ralph



*“I’m working on pants for old guys.
They’ll combine the comfort of
Dockers, with the protection of
Depends. I’ll call them
Dry Dockers.”*

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Hello Folks,

ANZAC Day is nearly upon us again. At least it is not the same as last year when everything was cancelled due to COVID 19. We will have a Dawn Service, but there will be no marching. And it won't be advertised locally, for if locals wish to attend they can do so, but we won't be supplying breakfast to anyone who is not a sub-Branch Member, both Chester Hill-Carramar and Bass Hill. Tickets for the breakfast will be available at our March General Meeting. If you are bringing a family member or fellow veteran who is not a Member of either sub-Branch, make sure you have a ticket for them also. No ticket. No entry to the Club and no tucker.

On the morning of the ANZAC breakfast, Chester Hill will go one way and we will go the other. For no other reason but to spread people out in the Club due to restrictions still being placed upon venues by the State Government due to covid.

By now many of you have seen our new office. At the moment it is temporary in the old "board room". If we are allowed to stay there, great. But if not, Craig and Brendan will find some other office space for us.

Last General Meeting we were hoping to have our ANZAC Luncheon in the new refurbished auditorium upstairs on Sunday, 11 April. There has been a snag holding up the finishing, so we cannot guarantee that it would be finished on time. But it will be completed by ANZAC Day.

With this Newsletter you will have a loose flyer telling you about the change of date for the Luncheon. We hope to have the same band we had at Bankstown last year, and we hope to have it on the Sunday following ANZAC Day, 2 March, 2021.

As far as secretarial administrative duties, I have been lucky to have a bit of a rest. Although when the schools start allowing kids to go to the Kokoda Walkway this year, work will heat up.

Additionally, what Ron and I did last year broadcasting live the Remembrance Day Service at the Chester Hill Memorial, we hope to do the same for ANZAC Day for those locals who cannot attend our Service, and the elderly/infirm in Aged Care. We just have to purchase some more equipment and have allowed for it in our budget.

We are working on becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee. It will take some time to arrange it. ANZAC House has to get their bum into gear and finish their SOPs dealing with it so it can be finalised. It's in the hands of our Solicitors who are also helping to guide RSLNSW through it.

Gary Roser, Hon. Secretary

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

'Today, in church, I am going to say a single word,
and you are going to help me preach.

Whatever single word I say, I want you to sing
whatever Hymn that comes to your mind.

The pastor shouted out 'CROSS.'

Immediately the congregation started singing in unison,
'THE OLD RUGGED CROSS...'

The pastor hollered out 'GRACE.'
The congregation began to sing 'AMAZING GRACE,
how sweet the sound.'

The pastor said 'POWER.'
The congregation sang
'THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD.'

The Pastor said 'SEX'
The congregation fell into total silence. Everyone was
in shock. They all nervously began to look around at
each other, afraid to say anything.

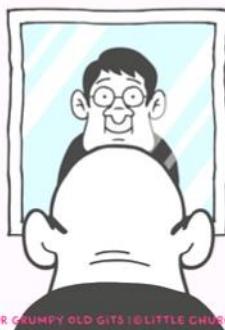
Then all of a sudden, way from in the back of the
church, A little old 87 year old grandmother
stood up and began to sing

'MEMORIES...'





I GOT FED UP OF STARING AT MY BALD HEAD, SO I PAINTED A HAIRSTYLE ON THE BATHROOM MIRROR.



DAN BACKLAND FOR GRUMPY OLD GITS | LITTLE CHURCH MOUSE LTD MMXX

Leave me out of it..... Editor



This Is the Reason Why You Should Not Wait Until Retirement:- to Travel!



One day I was walking down the beach with some friends when someone shouted....
'Look at that dead bird!'
 Someone looked up at the sky and said...'**where?**'

They walk among us!

Australian Military History Group

[Australian Military History | Facebook](#)

2/12th Field Ambulance

Remembering the men of the 2/12th Field Ambulance who were captured in Dutch Timor on 23rd February 1942, and their fate as prisoners of war.

Duncan Harold Butler NX36263 sets out very clearly how mateship kept them going during their ordeal.

Duncan Harold Butler (born 21/06/1906) was a farmer and Minister of the Church of Christ in Gilgandra at the time he enlisted on 10/07/1940 (see his attached enlistment photo), and was allocated NX36263 with a posting to the 2/12th Field Ambulance, ‘A’ Company, RAMC. He had joined the medical corps so that he would not have to bear arms and kill people. He underwent the basic training and would transfer to the Northern Territory from 12/04/1941, from where he would deploy to Dutch Timor on 10/01/1942 and join “Sparrow Force”.

The Japanese air attack on Darwin on 19 February 1942 was the prelude to the Japanese invasion of Timor from about midnight on 20/02/42, and “Sparrow Force” would surrender to the Japanese on 23 Feb 42 after three days of fierce fighting in Dutch Timor. At the time of surrender, the 2/12th Field Ambulance were with the wounded at Champlong (Tjamplong) in Dutch Timor. With his mates, including Gordon Henry Bell NX60484, he would spend the next three-and-a-half years as a Prisoner of War. He would be moved to Java in September 1942, but then the 2/12th Field Ambulance men were split up, and while some remained in Java (including Gordon Henry Bell NX60484), others were moved to Singapore in January 1943 and Changi, before being sent to Thailand to work on the Thai/Burma Railway. He was repatriated and returned to Australia in October 1945. He was discharged on 30/01/1946.

Duncan Butler would marry his Australian sweetheart Josephine Cowan on 16 March 1946 at Knox, Clarion, Pennsylvania, USA, and later return to Shepparton, Victoria in 1949, before settling at home in 1954 in Gilgandra to be close to his father.

Duncan would continue work as a farmer and a Minister in the Church of Christ. He died on 28/04/1987 in Tathra NSW at the age of 80, and his ashes were laid to rest on 02/05/1987 in the Memorial Wall, Bega Cemetery NSW.



The 2/12th Field Ambulance had a strength of 262 men. During their six years of service, over 200 of them were killed, the highest figure for a non-combatant unit in Australian history. The majority of the unit's casualties were suffered during the sinking of the hospital ship Centaur in May 1943. They also suffered losses against the Japanese on Ambon, Timor and in Borneo. This is Duncan Butler's poem about his mates on the Thai/Burma Railway:



MATES

I've travelled down some dusty roads
Both crooked tracks and straight
And I have learnt life's noblest creed
Summed up in one word, "Mate".
I'm thinkin' back across the years
 A thing I do of late
And these words stick between me ears
 "You gotta have a mate."
Someone who'll take you as you are
 Regardless of your state
And stand as firm as Ayers Rock
 Because he is your mate.
Me mind goes back to '43
 To slavery and hate
When man's one chance to stay alive
 Depended on his mate.
With bamboo for a billy-can
 And bamboo for a plate
A bamboo paradise for bugs
 Was bed for me and mate.

You'd slip and slither through the mud
 And curse your rotten fate
But then you'd hear a quiet word
 "Don't drop your bundle, mate."
And though it's all so long ago
 This truth I have to state
A man don't know what lonely means
 'til he has lost his mate.
If there's a life that follers this
 If there's a Golden Gate
The welcome that I wanna hear
 Is just "Goodonya mate".
And so to all who ask us why
 We keep these special dates
Like ANZAC Day, I tell 'em "Why?!"
 We're thinkin' of our mates."
And when I've left the driver's seat
 And 'anded in me plates
 I'll tell Ol' Peter at the door
 "I've come to join me mates."

LEST WE FORGET

Bren Light Machine Gun (LMG)



Based upon an excellent Czechoslovakian design, the equally-excellent BREN Light Machine Gun was adopted into service with the British Army in the late 1930s.

The BREN Light Machine Gun was the standard light machine gun of the British Army and Commonwealth forces throughout World War 2 and beyond. The type's existence was actually owed to the 1920's-era Czech ZB vz/26 Light Machine Gun brought to the British Army's attention prior to the adoption of other types during a long-lasting, years-long search. The simple-very-excellent ZB vz/26 was adopted by the Czech Army in 1924 with production out of the storied Brno facility.

Chambered for the 7.9mm rimless cartridge, it operated from a top-fed, straight detachable box magazine through a gas-operated action featuring a tilting breechblock. The weapon was heavily adopted elsewhere (including Nazi Germany as the MG 26(t)) and saw extensive service in the Chinese Civil War (1927-1937, 1946-1950), World War 2 (1939-1945), the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960), the Korean War (1950-1953), the Suez Crisis (1956), the Congo Crisis (1960-1965), the Rhodesian Bush War (1964-1979), The Northern Ireland "Troubles" (1966-1998) and the Falklands War (1982).

Prior to World War 2, the British Army sought to find a viable and improved replacement for their existing Lewis Light Machine Gun line which proved a limited light machine gun design at best. A visit to Czechoslovakia alerted authorities to a locally-designed, well-rounded system in the ZB vz/26. With examples delivered to Britain for further

testing in 1930, several other competing designs were entertained well into 1934. The ZB vz/26 evolved into the vz/27 and this begat the vz/30, vz/32 and vz/33 marks in time. All preceding marks up to the vz/30 were modified to fire the original 7.92mm Mauser cartridge which was of little value to the British need. It was the vz/30 that adopted the .303 British cartridge as the "ZGB vz/30" prototype of 1930 and underwent trials from 1931 to 1932. The following ZGB vz/33 development of 1933 became the official basis for the finalized British design. It was soon settled to adopt the Czech system for the Army with the British-centric changes to suit requirements. Design work continued into 1935, affording the design the official designation of "BREN" which paid homage to the weapon's true origin (BR = "Brno") and its place of main manufacture (EN = "Enfield Lock" through the Royal Small Arms Factory).

The primary (and most major) change to the Czech design was in the chambering - the Czech version utilized the German 7.92mm Mauser rimless rifle cartridge. For the sake of logistics and familiarity, the British instead opted for their .303 British rimmed rifle cartridge which was already in widespread circulation. This then forced changes to the Czech design's internals and a new curved magazine was developed to house the rimmed cartridges (giving the BREN its very defined and highly recognizable profile). The end result was largely faithful to the original Czech offering with its gas-operated, tilting bolt repeat-fire action retained. The overall design was highly linear in its general form with the rectangular receiver capped at one end by a solid shoulder buttstock and at the other end by the usual barrel and gas cylinder arrangement. The gas cylinder was fitted under the barrel in a traditional way and tapped expelled high-pressure gas from exiting rounds for use in each subsequent round by converting the gas into required pressure to work the internal action. The weapon featured a standalone pistol grip with integrated trigger group slung under the rear portion of the receiver. A carrying handle was affixed to the barrel roughly at the midway point of the design. The barrel was capped by a conical flash hider and a folding bipod was fitted at the tip of the gas cylinder. The charging handle was set to the right side of the receiver and the new curved magazines were inserted through a top-mounted gate. Spent shell casings were ejected cleanly through the bottom of the receiver.

Production was assigned to the fabled Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield Lock and set to begin in 1937. First deliveries began to reach frontline units in 1938. As British and Commonwealth involvement ramped up, so too did production of the BREN and eventually involved Canadian (Inglis and Long Branch), Australian (Lithgow) and Indian

(Ishapore) factories. With the Chinese caught in its own bitter war against the Empire of Japan in Asia, BREN guns were also competed in their original 7.92mm Mauser chambering and sent overseas in support of Nationalist Chinese forces.

In practice, the BREN gun met nearly all expectations as a reliable, combat-friendly portable weapons system. Its sheer simplicity in design allowed for quick repair and maintenance in-the-field where gunners could quickly assemble and field-strip the weapon in minutes. The action also proved highly sound so as to produce a minimum number of stoppages. The type's overall weight - approximately 22.5lbs - made the BREN very portable in long marches and when relocating the gun to more advantageous positions. It featured a sound effective target range of 600 yards and a maximum area range out to 1,850 yards with a firing rate of 500 to 520 rounds per minute - the seemingly low rate-of-fire accounting for more effective cooling of the barrel between bursts, and thusly lowering the chance of a fractured barrel being encountered. An overheated barrel could also very quickly be addressed by the two-man crew in minutes. The .303 British cartridge gave good penetration value at range with its 2,400 feet per second muzzle velocity. The sighting was through iron arrangements standardized on the design from the beginning. If the BREN held any limitations, it was in its 30-round magazine which allowed for limited bursts of firing before reloading was required. However, as a light machine gun, use of magazines made for a highly portable weapon not requiring belted ammunition which could misfeed without proper attention. An operator not use to the downward ejection of casings could also be caught by surprise. Nevertheless, BREN machine gunners enjoyed their weapon and considered it a very accurate ranged system. A typical issue in British ranks was one gun per section with a crew of two assigned to each weapon - ammunition dispersed across the section.

BREN use was not only limited to its defined light machine gun, squad-level role. Several mounting types soon appeared which broadened the tactical role of the weapon considerably. Specialized tall tripod mountings allowed for the weapon to be used as a low-level anti-aircraft defensive system (complete with an empty casings soft bag) to help defend airfields and the like. The BREN was also a standard fixture across many British and Commonwealth military vehicles of the war when fitted on trainable mounts, able to engage cleanly around the vehicle and over it. A heavy-duty tripod (weighing some 26.5lbs) was developed with applicable sighting optics and this made the BREN an

effective defensive system when used in a fixed position while protecting vital areas and camps.

The BREN LMG appeared in several notable marks throughout its storied career. Initial versions were the "Gun, Machine, Bren, .303in Mark 1" introduced in 1938. These closely followed the lines of the original prototypes and were fielded with a rather complicated drum-pattern rear sighting device. The butt sported a hinged grip handle that could be folded down for use by the support hand. A sling system was also fitted which allowed the operator to carry the weapon across the shoulder and effectively wield the machine gun with both hands when "firing from the hip". A telescoping bipod was added under the gas cylinder and the cocking handle was of a foldable design intended to reduce snagging. However, in practice, the butt grip handle proved less than efficient and was dropped from further production in time. By 1940, there existed over 30,000 BREN examples in circulation, embedding itself as the standard British Army light machine gun. A hefty number of examples were lost in the miracle that was Dunkirk between May 26th, 1940 into June 4th, 1940. The resulting captured examples were then reconstituted by the advancing Germans and placed back into service as the "Leichte MG 138(e)".

With Britain fully committed to war, the "Gun, Machine, Bren, .303in Mark 2" was introduced in June of 1941. An adjustable leaf-type rear sighting device was brought about to help simplify production and general operation - particularly in light of the equipment losses experienced at Dunkirk. The bipod was further simplified to a fixed design type as was the folding cocking handle. Surfaces were also simplified (lacking lightening grooves) for the sake of speedier production and lower procurement costs - though at the expense of a slightly heavier end-product.

As the war raged on, the BREN system adapted to changes along the varied fronts. vThis produced the "Gun, Machine, Bren, 303in Mark 3" in July of 1944. This mark was generally similar to the Mark 1 of 1938 but given a shortened barrel assembly and cleaner production lines to simplify manufacture. The "Gun, Machine, Bren, 303in Mark 4" was nothing more than a late-war conversion of BREN Mark 2 guns to the BREN Mark 3 standard complete with modified buttstocks.

In 1948, there proved a new Cold War-era offering of the BREN in the "Gun, Machine, Bren, 303in, Mark 2/1". This mark was broadly similar to the wartime Mark 2 though with a new slide assembly and cocking handle.

In the post-war years, and based on the NATO adoption of the 7.62mm cartridge as a standard rifle/machine-gun calibre round, there began the modernized "L4 LMG" series that began with the "L4A1". L4A1 models were based on wartime BREN Mark 3 production models with changes instituted as required of the new 7.62mm cartridge. This included new straight magazines, barrel assemblies, a slotted flash suppressor, new breechblock and extractor and various other more subtle changes to the original design. The L4A1 was then improved in the upcoming L4A2 mark.

Wartime BREN Mark 2 models were then upgraded through a similar process in the L4A3 modification. Barrels were now lined with chromium to help extend the service lives of the guns for a time longer. BREN Mark 3s were then upgraded with chromium-lined barrels to produce the L4A4 designation. The L4A5 models did not feature chrome-lined barrels but two barrels were issued to be changed as the situation called. The L4A6 mark sported a chromium-lined barrel and was upgraded L4A1 production models. The L4A7 was intended for use by the Indian Army but this endeavour fell to nought.

All told, the BREN gave a good account of itself in the most dire of circumstances and conditions. It fought through mud and blood, desert and jungle in attempting to preserve the world from the tyranny brought about by the Axis powers and Cold War foes. This machine gun truly began a symbol of national pride and endured decades of formal use through seemingly countless conflicts. It no doubt deserves its standing amongst the best automatic small arms ever developed - and one of the best machine guns of all of World War 2 proper.

Its use spanned beyond standard-issue forces of the conflict as well, being air-dropped to partisans in Italy, featured by Free French forces and appearing across various former colonies. Israelis operated the type during their War of Independence and Irish Defence Forces adopted the type to replace their FN MAGs in the 1960s. The Netherlands adopted the BREN in the post-war years for lack of anything better appearing at the time. The BREN proved popular in many African nations in the post-war years.

The BREN gun was produced by the Royal Small Arms Factory of Enfield Lock in Britain, John Inglis and Company of Canada, the Long Branch Company of Canada, Ishapore of India and the Lithgow Small Arms Factory of Australia.

The last of the BREN-related L4 light machine gun systems were retired from British service in the 1990s - some 60 years after its introduction.

Comment obtained from the Internet:

Was the Bren gun any good?

“The Bren was a good weapon,” a member of No. 4 Commando recalled, “but if you fired it too long and too quick, the barrel heated up and the accuracy decreased. When that happened most of the boys just [urinated] on the barrel to cool it down.” One of the weapon’s greatest strengths was its simplicity of operation.

Generally, the Bren was fired from the prone position using the attached bipod. On occasion, a Bren gunner would use his weapon on the move supported by a sling, much like an automatic rifle, and from standing or kneeling positions. Using the sling, Australian soldiers regularly fired the Bren from the hip, for instance in the marching fire tactic, a form of suppressive fire moving forward in assault. A Victoria Cross was awarded to Private Bruce Kingsbury for such use at Isurava, New Guinea, in 1942, during the Australians’ fighting retreat from Kokoda.

Wikipedia



Australian assault on a pillbox at Giropa Point, January 1943

Department of Defence (author), LSIS Jayson Tufrey (photographer), CPL Mark Doran (photographer)



An Australian Army OH-58A Kiowa leads a Royal Australian Navy AS-350BA Squirrel and a Eurocopter EC-135 through the skies over Nowra, NSW.

The Royal Australian Navy and Australian Army have joined forces with industry to train rotary wing crews at a new joint helicopter school as part of the Helicopter Aircrew Training System.

The first intake of 37 future pilots, aircrew and Aviation Warfare Officers commenced the 26-week training course this week at a new dedicated facility at HMAS *Albatross*.

Commander Fleet Air Arm, Commodore Chris Smallhorn, said the establishment of the Helicopter Aircrew Training System within 723 Squadron represents

a major step forward for next-generation military helicopter training.

“The ongoing partnership with Boeing Defence Australia ensures our aviators receive the best training we can offer to do their job,” Commodore Smallhorn said.

“Our Navy and Army aviators operate some of the most advanced equipment in the world, which is now matched by state of the art training facilities that combine full motion simulation, virtual reality and airborne instruction in a purpose built school house. “Maritime, littoral and land warfare is a demanding vocation, and mission success often relies on the aviator. The Helicopter Aircrew Training System will ensure they are ready.”

Acting Director of Navy Aviation Systems Branch, Captain Steven Arney, said these facilities will do more than assist our future Army and Navy aircrews. “The initiative and new facilities provide learning opportunities for apprentices and trainees and also help to secure local jobs on world leading projects,” Captain Arney said.

“The training school will deliver an integrated training system for all Australian Defence Force rotary wing aircrew and provide streamlined initial pilot training in a highly realistic environment before conversion to operational Navy and Army aircraft.

“Starting the first intake is a major milestone and a testament to the Commonwealth’s \$500 million upgrade to facilities at HMAS *Albatross* and the strength of collaboration between industry and Defence.”

The school has been in development for the last three years. It provides opportunities for up to 380 contractors to work on the program and will train up to 116 students each year.

Air Warfare Destroyer

Photographer: Russell Millard <https://images.navy.gov.au/>

Commanding Officer
NUSHIP Sydney,
Commander Edward Seymour
stands on board NUSHIP
Sydney during sea trials.
NUSHIP Sydney is the last of
the three Hobart Class
Destroyers joining the Royal
Australian Navy. The
Destroyers are the most
potent and capable warship
Australia has ever built.
NUSHIP Sydney is the fifth ship to bear the historic name ‘Sydney’ and will
commission later this year.



HMAS Adelaide Departs From Dry Dock

Photographer: LS/S Peter Thompson <https://images.navy.gov.au/>

HMAS Adelaide is returned to her regular berth after a period of maintenance within Captain Cook Graving Dock, Fleet Base East, Sydney, NSW.

Landing Helicopter Dock
HMAS Adelaide moved into
the dry dock at Navy’s Fleet
Base East in May 2017.
Following the docking,
Defence undertook a range of
activities including access to,
and a detailed inspection of
the propulsion pods, defect
rectification and maintenance.

HMAS Adelaide was
undocked in late June 2017

and is set to undergo sea trials, it is expected she will return to her operational capability program over the months to follow. Defence has worked closely with the original equipment manufacturers – BAE, Navantia and Siemens – to identify the causes of the issues.



Australian Army Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV) is transported to Cowley Beach Training Area in an Army LCM-8 from the Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS Adelaide during Exercise Sea Wader 2020.

The Australian Army's new Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV) was put to the test during the Amphibious Task Group's Exercise Sea Wader 2020. The vehicle completed a series of beach training scenarios, including driving over sand, vehicle recoveries, embarking and disembarking from LCM8s and Navy, and transiting to and from Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS Adelaide. Exercise Sea Wader 2020 enabled newly qualified Boxer CRV crews from the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment to practice operating in a coastal setting and increase their amphibious capability.

Army's new Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV) passed beach trials with flying colours on Exercise Sea Wader.

A well-trained vehicle crew from the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (2/14LHR) deployed to Cowley Beach Training Area, joining the



Amphibious Task Group to put the vehicles to the test, with the Boxer CRV out-performing expectations.

Officer Commanding 2/14LHR's A Squadron Major Ed Keating said he was excited to see the Boxer CRV perform so well on the coastline.

"The vehicle provides a real fighting capability that's not only going to be the most capable cavalry vehicle in the world, but set the conditions for further modernisation projects," he said.

"From what we've seen, I'm confident the Boxer CRV can be deployed just about anywhere in the world.

"The way it was able to manoeuvre on the beach was impressive."

In the trials, the crew tried to get the vehicle bogged in loose sand, but the Boxer CRV was able to be driven out without aids every time.

"It's got a lot of power and made short work of the beach, and it wasn't even being used to its maximum capability," Major Keating said.

"It's an extremely impressive and capable vehicle."

Major Keating said the Boxer CRV was far more advanced and a totally different beast to its ASLAV predecessor, and that vehicle crews were learning how to adapt their existing knowledge.

"It's certainly not an ASLAV. It's a completely different vehicle with different capabilities, and the crews need to learn how to use the Boxer CRV to firstly achieve what they could with the ASLAV, then go beyond that," he said.

"So far, the crews are extremely impressed with the Boxer CRV multi-purpose variant, and they're quickly learning how to use it as a deployable capability.

"They're training enthusiastically, and they really like the vehicle."

With 2020's high-risk weather season approaching, Exercise Sea Wader prepared Army's crews for humanitarian aid and disaster-relief tasks, and provided valuable training in amphibious combat operations.

Major Keating said he was confident in the Boxer CRV's ability to deploy anywhere and for any reason, be it humanitarian and disaster relief as the high-risk weather season approaches, or combat operations as required by the government.

"It can lend assistance in most conditions, and it will be able to fight anywhere we are required to fight," he said.

Watch the Boxer in action at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ywUga0r75k&feature=youtu.be>



Consecration of Squadron Colours

A combined ceremonial parade to celebrate the consecration of ‘Squadron Colours’ for No. 3 Control and Reporting Unit and No. 26 Squadron was held at RAAF Base Williamtown on 25 February 2021. The parade acknowledged the distinguished and enduring military service of the two locally-based Units.

Squadron Standards, also known as Colours, are awarded by order of the Sovereign for 25 years of service to an operational, combat support, intelligence or battlespace control squadron. On this occasion, 3CRU and 26SQN were recognised for over 50 and 25 years of operational service respectively – a significant honour and achievement.



Recognised for pioneering research

Defence News news.defence.gov.au/people



Squadron Leader Kate Yaxley lectures and mentors students at UNSW Canberra.

RAAF Squadron Leader Kate Yaxley has been recognised for her pioneering work in artificial intelligence as a finalist in the prestigious Women in Ai awards 2021 for Australia and New Zealand.

Squadron Leader Yaxley is completing her PhD in artificial intelligence and is the 2021 Sir Richard Williams Scholar.

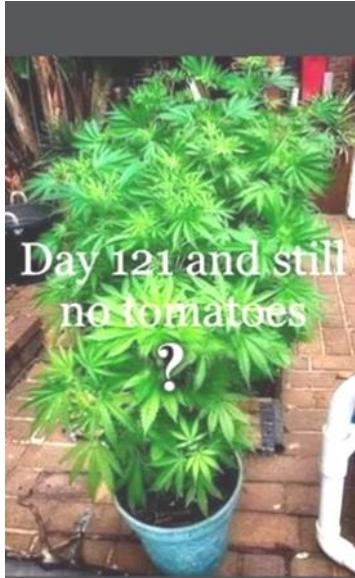
The research focuses on using an unmanned aerial

vehicle to shepherd sheep and could be applied to a defence setting in areas such as network traffic response to an adversary, UAS swarm movement when enacting a commander's intent and humanitarian support when moving civilians.

"Human swarm teaming will be part of Defence's future and the development of trust and transparency between humans and the swarm they are teaming is a vital part of the implementation," said Squadron Leader Yaxley, who has contributed to the development of an architecture to support education and training.

As a member of the ADF's community of practice to expand test and valuation methodology for the introduction of artificial intelligence and Ai-enabled autonomous systems, Squadron Leader Yaxley has also been developing metrics for measuring cognitive competence.

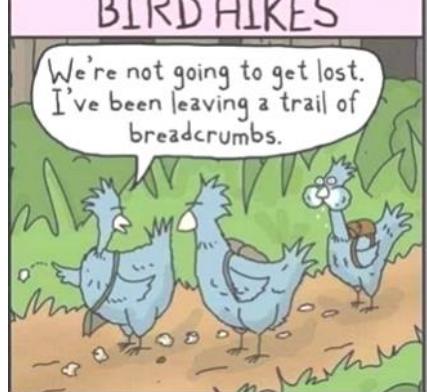
Squadron Leader Yaxley regularly lectures and mentors students at UNSW Canberra and is looking forward to integrating her knowledge in an Ai-enabled Defence future.



When I finish eating something I have to show my hands to the dog like I'm a blackjack dealer...



I trained my dog to fetch beer. It may not sound too impressive but he gets them from the neighbor's fridge.



The missus isn't talking to me. She said I ruined her birthday. I'm not sure how. I didn't even know it was her birthday!

After too many beers, my mate asked if he could crash out on my sofa. I had to explain to him that I'm married now, so that's where I sleep.

The missus said she's leaving me because I invade her privacy too often. At least that's what it says in her diary.

As me and the missus headed off on a romantic holiday, we talked about what kinky things we'd like to do to each other. She said, "I've always wanted to be handcuffed." So I planted a kilo of cocaine in her suitcase.

Woman to husband: "Let's go out and have some fun tonight!"

Husband: "Okay, but if you get home before I do, leave the hall light on."

My mate is thinking about asking his ex-missus to re-marry him, but he's worried she'll think he is just after her for his money.

My missus left me for another bloke. All that lies ahead now is a miserable, pointless life, with suicide seemingly the only way out. And while the poor bugger's going through all that, I'll be down at the pub with my mates every night!

My missus left a note on the fridge: "It's not working. I can't take it anymore. I'm going to live with my mum."

I opened the fridge door, the light came on, the beer was cold. What the hell is she on about?"

My missus said I need to be more in touch with my feminine side, so I crashed the car, burnt the dinner and completely ignored her all day, for no reason at all.

Be aware she can move in any direction

For the politically correct





LAST POST



Phat Dat Duong
Sergeant Number 58/115332
Republic of Vietnam National Police
1938 - 2021

STOP PRESS ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE



Remembering those who died & those who served

25 April, 2021

Commences at 06:30 Hours



Members only are invited to have Breakfast in the Chester Hill RSL Club in the new Auditorium (Upstairs)

You MUST have a TICKET for breakfast



Bass Hill sub-Branch ANZAC Luncheon

In the new Chester Hill RSL Auditorium



2 May, 2021 at 11:30 Hours

Tickets for Members and Wives or Partners

Will be \$25 each

Payable by ANZAC Day 25 April, 2021

