

# Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

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*"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"*

# Newsletter

Issue 87

November, 2018

**SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE—2017—2020**

**Tel/Fax: 02 9644 3292**

- President** ..... Ron Duckworth — 0408 245 255
  - Vice President** ..... Ian Muirhead, Vacant
  - Secretary**..... Gary Roser JP,
  - Treasurer** ..... Ralph Hannaford
  - Minute Secretary** ..... Lee-Ann Taylor,
  - Committee** ..... Max Stone, David Tu, Brian Abbot,  
Ian Kennedy JP, Greg Brown, Ambrose Dinh
  - Welfare Officer** ..... Ron Duckworth
  - Assistant Welfare Officer** ..... Alan (Gadget) Parkin, Laurie Scutts  
Ross Graham,.
  - Pensions Officer** ..... Vacant
  - FSMDC Delegates** ..... Ron Duckworth, Ian Muirhead
  - Alt FSMDC Delegate**..... Ian Kennedy JP, Gary Roser JP
  - 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*

As I sit here writing this report I keep wondering where we will end up this time next year.

I have been sending everyone on Email what we have been receiving about the coming Extraordinary Congress on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.

I can't see the benefit of what RSLNSW is doing for the sub-Branches. The rushing through of this constitution as a whole is beyond everyone's belief.

There are several large sub-Branches who have taken out an injunction to halt the Extraordinary Congress in December and the RSLNSW State President James Brown put out his personal report showing his contempt for these sub-Branches.

What many of the thinking Members are stating is that RSLNSW got themselves in the mire and they need to change but why rearrange sub-Branches? Yes, the Constitution needs amending, we all agree. But, they need to give us regulations to assist us in our reformation. Not crucify us. I suggest that the new constitution be divided into sections and voted upon over several days as would any new amendment would be dealt with. How do we get the present State Council to listen. James Brown does not listen. He directs.

**\*\*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>
Sat, 15 December 10:30 am	No December Meeting
No Committee meeting January	<b>20 January, 2019</b>
18 February, 2019	24 February AGM
18 March, 2019	24 March, 2019

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



In October, Kevin and I went into State Branch to the Constitutional Sessions to see if we could get any further information regarding the proposed new constitution. One thing I will say is that James Brown is a very good speaker, especially when pushing the company barrow. He took a good number of questions without giving too many direct answers and left a lot unsaid.

We now have the final draft of the Constitution and to it is not much different to the first draft. Just a few word changes. At the Congress in December we either have take it or leave it. It cannot be amended on the day.

It had in it they were going to take 5% of our liquid assets to implement the new system. For us that would be over \$130,000 in one hit, meaning that we would have to cash in assets and thus lose income. As I am writing this however, we received the latest State President's update and they have removed the 5% requirement. I guess they'll try anything to get this garbage passed at Congress.

Remembrance Day Commemoration on Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> went off very well. Thank you for all those that turned up and assisted with the set up for the Ceremony.

Before Remembrance Day, Gary, Greg, Max and I attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Division Association's Commemoration Service at their Memorial on the corner of the Hume Highway and Miller road. A well conducted service. We also conducted Services at George's Manor and Bass Hill Nursing Homes.

On the Friday, a number of us went to Rookwood Cemetery for a Service in the All Souls Chapel, followed by a small tour of restored WW1 memorials.

Membership renewals are underway and over 2/3 have renewed at this stage. Your Club Membership Card will be sent to you directly from the Club. Give it a week or so and if you not received it, contact the sub-Branch and we will follow-up.

Schools Presentations are coming up in December and we are stretched pretty thin on a few days. All the schools are very appreciative of what we do for them and the students. I only hope that we can continue doing it after the change in the Constitution.

... .. Continued

Continued ... ..

Most of you will have heard by now of the Passing of Kevin Mahony. Kevin's death was completely unexpected and a shock to all of us. It has left us with a big gap to fill and with your permission, we will leave that until our AGM in February.

His funeral last Thursday was standing room only. The Chapel at the Catholic Crematorium was filled to capacity. We had over 30 Members attending to pass their last respects and the Commando Association had a similar number. Thank you for your support.

This is our last newsletter for this year, and I thank you all for your support and assistance throughout the year. Our Secretary is has been very busy in putting these together and I'm sure you appreciate his efforts.

Have a good Christmas and I'll see you in the "**ALL**" New Year

*Ron Duckworth, President*

### **GETTING OLD**

I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now.

Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

I decided to stop calling the bathroom the "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is; "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

I don't have grey hair; I have "wisdom highlights"! I'm just very wise.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

Of course I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice.

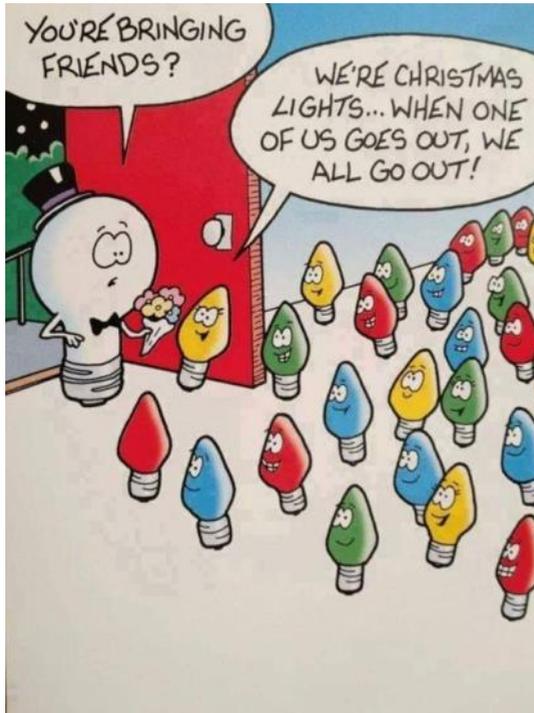
At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Until we know what is going on with the future of the RSL in NSW I will not speak of any administrative matters. We in the office will roll along doing what we have done in the past until we are directed to do otherwise.

I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and the best for a safe and healthy New Year.

*Gary Roser J.P.*



### ***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
Alan (Gadget) Parkin	02 9785 8676		0404 567 520

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

Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall.



When it rang, I'd pick it up without knowing who was calling. Amazing I'm still alive

*Who remembers?*



**WAITING TO CALL LONG DISTANCE AFTER 7PM BECAUSE IT WAS CHEAPER**

## *PHYLLIS DILLERISMS*

*Whatever you may look like, marry a man your own age. As your beauty fades, so will his eyesight.*

*-Phyllis Diller*

*Housework can't kill you, but why take a chance?*

*-Phyllis Diller*

*Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing up is like shoveling the sidewalk before it stops snowing.*

*-Phyllis Diller*

*The reason women don't play football is because 11 of them would never wear the same outfit in public.*

*-Phyllis Diller*

*Best way to get rid of kitchen odours: Eat out.*

*-Phyllis Diller*

*A bachelor is a guy who never made the same mistake once.*

*-Phyllis Diller*

*I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them.*

*-Phyllis Diller*

*Most children threaten at times to run away from home. This is the only thing that keeps some parents going.*

*-Phyllis Diller*

*Any time three New Yorkers get into a cab without an argument, a bank has just been robbed.*

*-Phyllis Diller*

*We spend the first twelve months of our children's lives teaching them to walk and talk and the next twelve years telling them to sit down and shut up.*

*-Phyllis Diller*

*Burt Reynolds once asked me out. I was in his room.*

*-Phyllis Diller*

*What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day.*

*-Phyllis Diller*

*The only time I ever enjoyed ironing was the day I accidentally got gin in the steam iron.*

*-Phyllis Diller*

*His finest hour lasted a minute and a half.*

*-Phyllis Diller*

*Old age is when the liver spots show through your gloves.*

*-Phyllis Diller*

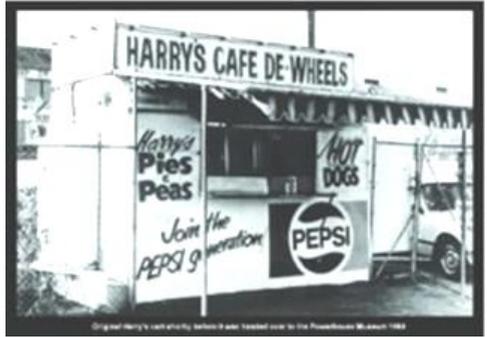
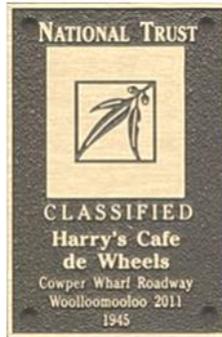


# The Story of Harry's Café' de Wheels

Author Unknown



Harry Edwards



The story of 'Harry's Café de Wheels' goes back to the Depression years of the late 1930s.

With the world on the brink of a devastating war, an enterprising Sydneysider by the name of Harry Edwards opened a caravan café near the front gates of the Woolloomooloo naval dockyard. Word spread quickly, with Harry's "pie 'n' peas" and crumbed sausages soon becoming a popular part of the city's nightlife - keenly sought by sailors, soldiers, cabbies, starlets and coppers alike. Harry operated the caravan until 1938 when he enlisted in the AIF during WWII.

During Harry's time in the Middle East, he was nicknamed "Tiger" due to his boxing prowess and the name stuck.

Upon his return in 1945, Harry realised that Sydney hadn't changed much and it was still almost impossible to get a good late-night feed, so he reopened and the caravan has been operating continuously ever since.

The phrase 'Café de Wheels' came about as the city council of the day insisted that mobile food caravans move a minimum of 12 inches a day. Harry dutifully obeyed, and thus the name was expanded to Harry's Café de Wheels.

Before the council's ruling, the caravan was known simply as 'Harry's'. When its wheels went missing one night, local wags coined the nickname 'Café de Axle'. Harry operated the caravan for a further 30 years before selling the business to Alex Koronya in 1975.

By 1988, Alex was getting on in years and the business had fallen on hard times. Current owner Michael Hannah made Alex an offer to purchase the business and the exchange took place on Australia Day 1988. Michael is the first Australian-born owner of Harry's, and his father, a

Sydney cabbie, would take him and his siblings down to the 'loo for a pie at Harry's. In 1970, Michael returned from a tour of duty in Vietnam and his first stop after disembarking HMAS Sydney was of course Harry's. It would be another 17 years until Michael purchased the business.

Michael believes Harry's finest moment came in 1978 when Rear Admiral David Martin - over a pie and glass of Champagne - commissioned the caravan as 'HMAS Harry's'.

In December 2004, Harry's was classified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) and included on its Register. Per the National Trust of Australia, Harry's is a 'quintessential Sydney icon' and, in the Trust's opinion, falls within the following definition:

'Those places which are components of the natural or the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historical, architectural, archaeological, scientific, or social significance or other special value for future generations, as well as for the present community'.

As the years have passed, Harry's has become a 'must/ for visiting celebrities. Harry's has served the likes of Frank Sinatra, Robert Mitchum, Marelene Dietrich, Kerry Packer and, more recently, Sir Richard Branson, Russell Crowe, Kevin Costner, Brook Shields, Pat Rafter, Olivia Newton-John, Jerry Lewis, Billy Crystal, Pamela Anderson, Sara O'Hare, Lachlan Murdoch, Kerri-Anne Kennerley, Adrian Greiner, Anthony Bourdain and Peter Blakely.

In 1974, chicken king Colonel Sanders stopped at Harry's and enjoyed the food so much that he ate three 'pies and peas' while leaning on his walking stick in front of the caravan.

Elton John has also been a visitor to Harry's over the years and held a press conference from inside Harry's during the 1970s. And then there's the album - in 1990, Peter Blakely released his debut album 'Harry's Café de Wheels' which went platinum.

Harry's has become so popular with the celebrities that in 1991, Rupert Murdoch had pies shipped to Los Angeles for an Australian-themed Oscars party. But you definitely don't have to be a celebrity to enjoy Harry's, just hungry. Since its initial opening in the 1930s, Harry's has withstood the test of time. Harry's lets you enjoy authentic Aussie tucker while taking a trip back through history.

*Many Thanks to Ron Weewan, Secretary of Belfield for this article*

## The 2018 Invictus Games

<https://images.defence.gov.au/assets/archives/5039-2018%20Invictus%20Games/>



*2018 Invictus Games - Team Australia competitors and staff at Sydney Olympic Park on the last day of the Games.*

The Invictus Games Sydney 2018 was held from 20 to 27 October 2018. The Australian Defence Force and the Returned and Services League partnered to support a combined Australian Team of 72 competitors. The 2018 Australian Invictus Games team consisted of 18 serving and 54 former military personnel.

The Invictus Games is an international adaptive sporting event for serving and former serving military personnel who have been wounded, injured or become ill during their military service.

Five hundred competitors from 18 nations will competed in 11 adaptive sports.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Sussex is the patron of the Invictus Games.

The Games use the healing power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and celebrate the crucial role played by family and friends.

**After my wife died, I couldn't even look at another woman for  
10 years.  
But now that I'm out of jail, I can honestly say it was worth it.**



*Do you recognise any of our Members in this photo  
Taken on the top of the Harbour Bridge with two  
Australian and overseas competitors ?*



*Yes. It is Frank Davies during his volunteering  
duties at the Invictus Games*

# Remembrance Day 2018

Photos by Dat





## The Battle of The Hook and the Korean War Armistice

15 June 2018, Ian Finlayson - Australian Army History Unit

<https://www.army.gov.au/our-history/history-in-focus/1951-korea/the-65th-anniversary-of-the-korean-war-armistice>



*Members of C Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, keep watch from their position on The Hook after the ceasefire. The Bren gun (left) and the Owen gun (right) and the British Mk 36 grenade are within reach should the ceasefire conditions be violated and hostilities resume.*

At dawn on the morning of 28 July 1953, Brigadier John Wilton, the Australian commander of the 28<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Brigade, joined the men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, as they emerged from their fortified bunkers at the position known as the Hook. The scene which confronted Wilton had more in common with the trench warfare of the Western Front than the first major conflict of the nuclear age, as two to three thousand Chinese dead littered the battlefield in front of the Hook.

While the Armistice had been signed the day before, the Australians were understandably nervous about leaving the security of their bunkers since over 4,000 mortar and artillery rounds had landed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion's position alone during the previous nights. Nevertheless, the cease fire seemed to be holding and, standing on top of their bunkers, Wilton and his fellow observers at last had a clear view of the valley below. Wilton later wrote:

The floor of the valley between the Hook and the Chinese position was almost covered with dead Chinese who had been caught by our deadly defensive-fire artillery concentrations. On the immediate approaches to 2 RAR the bodies literally carpeted the ground sometimes two deep. Most of the bodies had been there for two or three days and in the hot, humid weather had commenced to putrefy and there was a strong nauseous stench of death. It was a terrible sight which I will never forget.

The Armistice negotiations which were to end this killing had first begun in July 1951 but proceeded slowly, as agreement over the armistice line and prisoner exchanges could not be reached. The communist insistence on the indefensible 38<sup>th</sup> parallel being used as the armistice line, rather than the existing battle-line, saw the Chinese launch a series of limited offensives on the United Nations positions seeking an advantage on the battlefield in order to bolster their negotiating position. The United Nations countered these attacks by developing elaborate field defences, supported by artillery and air support. Like on the Western Front, the expenditure of artillery shells was prodigious, with the guns of the Commonwealth Division alone firing some two million rounds between July 1951 and July 1953. In the face of such firepower the Chinese attacks inevitably faltered, with the heavy losses drawing the communists back to the negotiating table at Panmunjom, a small village close to the front line.

The Armistice itself was signed in a specially constructed 'peace pagoda' built by the communists. The building did not have a south facing entrance because the North Koreans wanted the United Nations delegation to enter the building through North Korean territory. General Mark Clark, the American commander of the United Nations forces, insisted that a southern entrance be constructed before the signing could be conducted. With the new entrance duly completed, at 0957 hours on 27 July 1953 the two delegates, North Korean General Nam IL and American General William Harrison sat down to sign the Armistice. The formalities were completed in 15 minutes and, as the two men rose to leave, they momentarily locked glances, but both left without shaking hands or exchanging a word. That afternoon Clark countersigned the Armistice, noting that this was only a military agreement to implement a cease fire and that the opposing sides still had to reach a political solution to end the conflict. A peace conference to conclude the war was held in Geneva in April 1954 but failed and a lasting peace on the Korean peninsula has yet to be achieved.



My wife hosted a dinner party for all our friends, some of whom we hadn't seen for ages and everyone was encouraged to bring their children along as well.



All throughout dinner my wife's best friend's four-year-old daughter stared at me as I sat opposite her.

The girl could hardly eat her food for staring. I checked my shirt for spots, felt my face for food, and patted my hair in place, but nothing stopped her from staring at me.

Finally I asked her, *"Why are you staring at me?"*

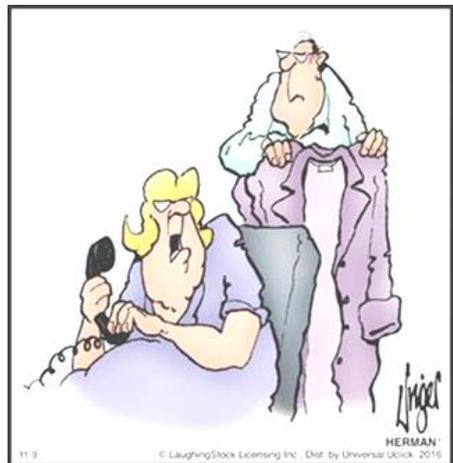
Everyone at the table had noticed her behavior, and the table went quiet, waiting for her response.

The little girl said, *"I'm just waiting to see how you drink like a fish."*

**HERMAN®**



"I don't want to worry you, but the guy who delivered the pizza was your financial planner."



"How do you feel about me going to my sister's for two weeks?"

Laughing at your own mistakes  
lengthens your life.  
Laughing at your wife's mistakes  
shortens it.

© BRIGHTSIDE

The biggest lie I tell  
myself is  
"I don't need  
to write that down,  
I'll remember it."



Every woman's  
dream is that a man  
will take her in his  
arms, throw her  
into bed and clean  
the house while she  
sleeps.

Dirty Crude Jokes 21+

Dirty Crude Jokes 21+

What do we learn from  
cow, buffaloes & elephants?



It's impossible to reduce  
weight by eating green grass  
and salads and walking



## The Following articles appeared in the Navy, Army and RAAF Newspapers & Media Releases

[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)

### NAVY

#### Minehunters overcome rough seas and long distance to join Republic of Korea exercise

[news.navy.gov.au/en/Nov2018/Fleet/4913/Minehunters-overcome-rough-seas-and-long-distance-to-join-Republic-of-Korea-exercise.htm#.W\\_alHfZuL4g](http://news.navy.gov.au/en/Nov2018/Fleet/4913/Minehunters-overcome-rough-seas-and-long-distance-to-join-Republic-of-Korea-exercise.htm#.W_alHfZuL4g)

After the longest transit ever completed by Australian Minehunters, HMA Ships *Gascoyne* and *Huon* have contributed to Multi-National Navy Mine Warfare Exercise 2018 (MNMIWEX) in the Republic of Korea.

The contribution to the MNMIWEX is a key component of the Minehunters' north-east Asian deployment. This is the furthest north Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Minehunters have deployed and the first time units of this type have visited the Republic of Korea.

The visit of the Minehunters to the region follows the recent RAN contribution of HMAS *Melbourne* attending the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) International Fleet Review.

Both *Gascoyne* and *Huon* conducted a lengthy transit of more than 4,000 nautical miles to the exercise via stops in Darwin and Subic Bay. The transit presented an opportunity for both units to conduct navigational training in confined waters while conducting in company force protection drills.

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The first element of the MNMIWEX was the mine warfare symposium, where 13 nations gathered to share mine countermeasure warfare knowledge. The symposium culminated in 'table-top', exercises and scenarios of shared skills and experiences, further building on multinational mine warfare interoperability. The symposium provided an opportunity to gain an insight into the Korean and American mine hunting communities and develop an understanding of the role, tactics and capabilities of the United Nations Sending States (UNSS) Mine Hunting Force.



*RAN Minehunter HMAS Gascoyne at sea off the Republic of Korea while participating in Multi-National Navy Mine Warfare Exercise 2018 (MNMIWEX).*

According to Commanding Officer, HMAS *Gascoyne*, Lieutenant Commander Richard Brickacek, mine hunting conditions in the exercise area posed a challenge to both the Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving departments in *Gascoyne* and *Huon*.

“The local environment was significantly different to those typically experienced in Australian waters.

“This included minimal underwater visibility, deep mud and varying weather.

“Additionally there was high shipping traffic density and foreign seabed conditions with numerous underwater hazards,” said LCDR Brickacek.

Both units quickly adapted and overcame challenges with *Gascoyne* locating and identifying the first mine of the exercise and *Huon* identifying the first mine by clearance divers. Success for the Australian Minehunters continued, with both units clearing designated search boxes within allocated time to a clearance rate of 85%.

“This Exercise demonstrated how all nations have worked hard and strived to understand each other’s capabilities and limitations in a new and unfamiliar environment,” said LCDR Brickacek.

At the conclusion of the exercise, Republic of Korea Navy, United States Navy and RAN units formed up in company for photographs in the waters cleared by the MNMIWEX that very week.

Republic of Korea Ship *Wonsan* took the lead with a further eight Mine Warfare vessels and two aircraft forming to create the largest formation and display of MCM capability in the history of the exercise.



## M777 155mm lightweight towed howitzer

<https://www.army.gov.au/our-work/equipment-of-the-army/artillery/m777-155mm-lightweight-towed-howitzer>



*The M777 lightweight towed howitzer (LWTH) is the latest artillery piece to be employed by the Australian Army.*

[https://youtu.be/vc6\\_LpKul0I](https://youtu.be/vc6_LpKul0I)

The M777 is the latest artillery piece to be employed by the Australian Army. The M777 replaces the L119 105mm light gun and the M198 155mm medium gun in Royal Australian Artillery units.

This new equipment is a significant advance in Army's capabilities as the gun has a much higher level of digital connectivity allowing more rapid, safe and accurate application of effects across the battlespace. The M777 can link with Australian and coalition networks providing accurate and timely responses as required to support ground forces in all weather conditions, day or night.

The M777 provides direct support to combat troops through offensive and defensive fires with conventional and precision-guided projectiles. It can also employ illuminating and smoke projectiles.

The M777 will be towed behind the Mack gun tractor and the Mack replacement procured under Project Land 121. It can also be lifted by the Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter and carried in the Air Force C-17A Globemaster III and C-130J Hercules aircraft. The M777 is deployable by Navy watercraft and amphibious vessels.

**Calibre** - 155mm

**Weight** - 4100kg

**Length** - 10.7 metres in deployed configuration or 9.5 metres in towed configuration

**Rate of fire** - 2 x rounds per minute (sustained) or 5 x rounds per minute (rapid)

**Effective range** - 24km for conventional rounds or 30km for improved rounds

# Protecting Australian Army emblems

<https://www.army.gov.au/our-work/protecting-australian-army-emblems>

The Australian Army has a range of recognisable emblems that are protected by legislation. These emblems include the iconic Rising Sun badge, as well as corps and unit emblems. Permission to use Australian Army emblems is managed by the Army Brand Manager to ensure Army's brand and reputation are maintained.



## **Why we protect Australian Army emblems**

Australian Army emblems represent Army's history, tradition, values and people, both past and present. All Australian Army emblems are protected by section 83 of the *Defence Act 1903* (Cwlth). The Rising Sun badge and all corps emblems are also registered trade marks under the *Trade Marks Act 1995* (Cwlth).

## **Using Australian Army emblems**

The most common circumstances where the public may use an Australian Army emblem are for commemorative or ceremonial purposes.

If you wish to use an Australian Army emblem, approval must be granted by the Army Brand Manager prior to use. Each application to use an Australian Army emblem is assessed on a case-by-case basis. No blanket or continuous approvals are granted.

An Australian Army emblem cannot be redrawn, recoloured, renamed, modified, cropped, rotated, manipulated or altered in any way, used in part or overlaid with imagery or text, used as a watermark (reduced opacity) or background image, or used as a part of a new logo. Australian Army emblems cannot be used in association with products, activities or brands that are not aligned with Army values.

Unauthorised or misuse of an Australian Army emblem is in breach of legislation and should be reported to the Army Brand Manager immediately.

## **How to apply for permission to use an Australian Army emblem**

To apply for permission to use an Australian Army emblem first read the guidelines and then complete an application form detailing the nature of use. A visual representation of the placement of the emblem as well as any other logos or words that are to appear alongside the Australian Army emblem must also be included.

Once the application form has been completed it can be returned to the Army Brand Manager via email or post. Please allow up to four weeks from the return of your completed application form for processing.

For additional information please email the Army Brand Manager at [army.brandmanager@defence.gov.au](mailto:army.brandmanager@defence.gov.au)

## Australia and United States work together on aeromedical interoperability

<https://www.airforce.gov.au/news-and-events/news/australia-and-united-states-work-together-aeromedical-interoperability>



*An aeromedical exercise was held recently as part of the Enhanced Air Cooperation program to enhance the partnership and interoperability between the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and United States Air Force (USAF).*

Scenarios were played out mid-flight with an Aeromedical Evacuation team from No 3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (3AMES) and a USAF C-17A Globemaster from Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii.

The aeromedical team were given patients to load onto the aircraft, diagnose, treat, and offload to simulate a real-time aeromedical evacuation mission that may occur in situations such as Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, or on operations in a warlike environment.

Activities such as these enable the participating teams to become familiar with their different ways of operating within an aircraft.

Wing Commander Elicia McGinniss, a RAAF officer on exchange with the USAF, said it was important to understand each other's processes to enable the two nations to work together seamlessly.

“It’s good to be able to know what to expect when we’re operating on another nation’s aircraft, and likewise it’s good for the US crew to know how we conduct our aeromedical evacuations,” she said. “While we do operate in a very similar way, there are differences and in addition to becoming familiar with each other, it’s good to observe and learn how others do things so we can ensure we’re doing best practice.”

Lieutenant Colonel Penny Cunningham, USAF, said the activity was a good opportunity for the Australian aeromedical and United States aircrew teams to interact with one another.

“As a silent observer for the activity, I was able to sit outside the activity and see the differences and similarities between the aircrew and aeromedical team,” she said

“Our aircrew fly a lot with our own aeromedical teams, so this was great to get outside the comfort zone, and also build positive friendships and relationships.”

The flight lasted a few hours, which gave the team a chance to run through several scenarios.

Flight Lieutenant Karen Nicholls, from 3AMES, said it was fantastic to meet new people and develop relationships.

“After this, we’re going to feel comfortable getting onto a US aircraft in a situation where we have to conduct an aeromedical evacuation, and we’ll definitely feel welcome,” she said

“It was great to get onboard and run through some scenarios, I feel like our team got a lot out of the training.”

In addition to the aeromedical activity, while here the USAF C-17 also took part in a control demonstration of a Forward Arming and Refuelling Point with an EA-18G Growler from No. 6 Squadron and formation flying with a C-17A Globemaster from No. 36 Squadron.

This was the second aeromedical activity held between Australia and the United States, the first being held in February 2018 during Exercise Cope North 2018 in Guam.



LAST POST



**Kevin John MAHONY**  
2762245 & 2243324  
22 September, 1938 - 13 November, 2018  
Lieutenant, 1 Commando Coy  
National Service & CMF



*Lest We Forget*

**STOP PRESS**

*President Ron Duckworth*

*and*

*The Committee*

*Wish all Members and*

*their Families*

*A Very Merry Christmas*

*and*

*A Happy and Prosperous New Year*

*And we will see you all in 2019*

