

# Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

PO Box 7019,  
Bass Hill, NSW 2197  
Tel/Fax 02 9644 3292

Email: [sub-branch@basshillrslsb.org.au](mailto:sub-branch@basshillrslsb.org.au)  
[www.basshillrslsb.org.au](http://www.basshillrslsb.org.au)

Now on Facebook



*"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"*

# Newsletter

Issue 90

May, 2019

**SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE—2017—2020**

**Telephone: 02 9644 3292**

- President** ..... Ron Duckworth — 0408 245 255
  - Vice President** ..... Ian Muirhead, Ambrose Dinh JP
  - Secretary**..... Gary Roser JP
  - Treasurer** ..... Ralph Hannaford
  - Minute Secretary** ..... Lee-Ann Taylor
  - Committee** ..... Max Stone, David Tu, Brian Abbot  
..... Ian Kennedy JP, Greg Brown
  - Welfare Officer** ..... Greg Brown
  - FSMDC Delegates** ..... Ron Duckworth, Ian Muirhead
  - Alt FSMDC Delegate**..... Ian Kennedy JP, Gary Roser JP
  - Sub-Branch Trustees** ..... Ron Duckworth, Max Stone, Ralph Hannaford
  - Newsletter Editor**..... Gary Roser JP - 0409 919 364
  - Bankstown City Aged Care** ..... Ian Muirhead, Gary Roser JP
  - Webmaster** ..... Max Stone
  - Schools Liaison Officer** ..... Ambrose Dinh JP
- For service ring the Secretary, Gary Roser on 0409 919 364*



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

To say the RSLNSW is behind the 8 ball is an understatement.

Most of the previous staff aren't there any more. A bunch of new employees are now in their place. Consequently things are taking time to be done. But they will get there and we can only wish them the best for the future.

The new Constitution is in train. I won't go into that, as President Ron is now involved. His time will be very precious in the next few months so I expect Vice Presidents Ian Muirhead and Ambrose Dinh will be taking the lead more often. Please give them the support so we remain a strong sub-Branch.

Next month is ARVN Day which you will see on the Events list. But on the Friday night before ARVN have their usual function. If you haven't been to one, you don't know what you are missing. A great night.

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

<b>Sub-Branch Meetings</b>	
<b><u>Committee</u></b> <b>Mondays 5.00pm</b>	<b><u>Sub-Branch</u></b> <b>Sundays 10:30am</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> May	26 <sup>th</sup> May
17 <sup>th</sup> June	23 <sup>th</sup> June
15 <sup>th</sup> July	NIL
Thursday, 25 <sup>th</sup> July @ 7:30am Buttai Barn Bus Trip	
19 <sup>th</sup> August	25 <sup>th</sup> August
16 <sup>th</sup> September	22 <sup>nd</sup> September

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



What a busy 2 months we have had since our March Meeting.

It started with 2 days at ANZAC House at a District Council Presidents and Secretaries Meeting to discuss what had happened with the proposed Constitution last December and what needed to be done to produce a new one.

From this meeting, I was nominated to be part of a Constitutional Committee to oversight the construction of a new Constitution to be put to the State Congress in October. I now have the initial draft and will be reviewing it over the next few days. The first draft should be released early June for everyone to make comments. I'll keep you informed.

We had our bus trip to Berry and the Treat Factory and then to Coolangatta Wines for tasting. A good day all round.

We took the Women's Auxiliary on their monthly bus trip. Wollongong in April and Campbelltown in May. I also took the Bankstown War Widows on their trips in April and May.

Amongst all this was ANZAC Day and its associated functions. Our ANZAC Day was another success. We had about 1,500 people in attendance with nearly 1,000 coming in for breakfast. Our ANZAC Luncheon was also a great success although some found the steak a bit chewy. The Women's Auxiliary extend their thanks for for your participation in the raffle. They raised \$950.00.

Combined with all this, we conducted ANZAC Commemoration Services at the Nursing Homes and joined with our local schools for their services. A very successful and satisfying time.

Our next bus trip is to the Buttai Barn for Christmas in July. Flyers are available today and will be sent to those not here. They need to be back at our June meeting.

I would like to thank Greg Brown, our new Welfare Officer for his dedication to his Office. Greg is making contact with our Members who are on the sick list or are unable to attend our meetings.

*Ron Duckworth, President*



*Greg Brown and Dick Painton at the Georges Manor  
Nursing Home ANZAC Commemoration Service*



*One for our hard working Secretary*

## SECRETARY'S REPORT



A busy time around ANZAC Day. We even had to help Chester Hill Carramar sub-Branch out as their Executive were either away interstate and their Secretary/Treasurer was in hospital.

No matter whether it was an Aged Care facility or a school, we were well received.

Unfortunately this year the Salvation Army Band were unable to assist us at our Dawn Service on ANZAC Day. Granville was in the same boat.

But we made do with music played through our own sound system and was very surprised when we received compliments about it.

Overall, the day went very well Thanks go out to our local politicians, scouts, guides, Australian Air League, School representatives and our own Youth Club and RSL Auxiliary. And Hong for her great breakfast served. Not forgetting Kerry Donaldson and her Staff for their beverages.

I just want to make mention of the cost of this function. ANZAC Day is fully sponsored by your Bass Hill RSL sub-Branch. The Club Ltd. are good enough to allow us to have this private function each year; but we pay for everything.

Our luncheon was again a success. I was disappointed when no person volunteered to decorate the tables, but thanks to the Ladies of the Auxiliary they came to the fore, and made it very pleasant. I would like our Members to think about it next year, & volunteer to make the table decorations. Maybe several people could get together and do something. You don't have to be a female to be artistic. I myself have done it.

Coming up soon will be Schools going to Kokoda Track Memorial. Please Members avail yourselves to assist, so the same Members are not doing all the work. It's a good day. From about 8.30am to 3pm. Please volunteer.

*Gary Roser J.P.*

***Welfare Officer:***

Greg Brown ..... 0400 190 755

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

Two guys, one old, one young, are pushing their carts around Walmart when they collide.

The old guy says to the young guy, “Sorry about that. I’m looking for my wife, and I guess I wasn’t paying attention to where I was going.”

The young guy says, “That’s OK, it’s a coincidence. I’m looking for my wife, to. I can’t find her and I’m getting a little desperate.”

The old guy says, “Well, maybe I can help you find her. What does she look like?”

The young guy says, “Well, she is 27 years old, tall, with red hair, blue eyes, is buxom ... wearing no bra, long legs, and is wearing short shorts. What does your wife look like?”

To which the old guy says, “doesn’t matter, let’s look for yours.”

Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Some people try to turn back their odometers.  
Not me! I want people to know why I look this way.  
I’ve travelled a long way and some of the roads weren’t paved.

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of algebra.

**The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.**

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it. This is so true.

But you love to hear them say “you don't look that old.”

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation.

As he was about to get the anaesthesia, he asked to speak to his son.

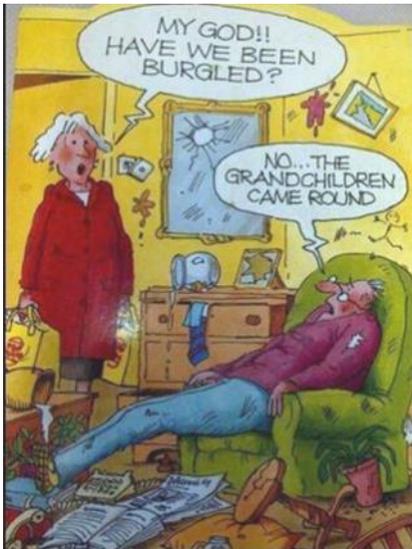
"Yes, Dad, what is it?"

"Don't be nervous, son; do your best, and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife."

### BEST QUOTE OF ANY ERA!

The Budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, Public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be Tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome will become bankrupt. People must again learn to work Instead of living on public assistance." - Cicero, 55 BC

So, evidently we've learned bugger all over the past 2,069 years!!





## UNFORGETTABLE, FOREVER

By Duc Nhuan Tran

After spending almost half a year at the Malaysia Refugee Camp where the mercury always hovered in height at 30 Degrees C, I step down on the Australian soil in mid April 1985. What the hell! The weather was wet, cold, windy and raining .... and the temperature dropping to under 20 degrees C. As a refugee I had to stay at the hostel for a while to learn English for a new life.

Less than two weeks later I followed someone to take part for the first time in the ANZAC Day march (25/4/1985) in the heart of Sydney CBD. Without a coat (I did not know where to buy one) I sported a long sleeve shirt and a tie which was given by a friend. We were told to get there early (which we did) and met a lot of our old comrades who were ARVN veterans at the corner of Hunter Street and George Street.

Under the grey sky, now and then the weather blowing, showering and becoming cold and too wet.

Unfortunately, adding to that weather, my Huynh Truiong Huynh Truing meant they were senior, older, higher ranking in ARVN Forces, knew little or none of the timetable and marching order. So when the above sky had a short break (with the showers and wind stopping) they gave orders to form up. Quickly all of us standing in lines; we moved off with pleasantness and no complaints. Then suddenly water from the high fell



and the wind blew angrily. Everyone automatically dispersed. Then reformed, then dispersed again. It must have happened at least ten times. At last, after midday it was our time to march, and our block was second from the bottom lines, just in front of Yugoslavia according to the alphabet rule.

Still cloudy, windy and wet, we marched, marching with the highest spirits and high standard.

I recall a famous saying that comes to mind, a phrase spoken by someone (I can't remember who he was ) along the lines *"I can be kicked out of the Army. But no one can kick the Army out of me"*.

Oh! The first time forever for me, along the biggest street in the heart of the biggest city in Australia, (George Street), on both sides, tens of thousands, even in the bad weather with raincoats, umbrellas, standing, sitting on stools, applauded, cheered ... and we a tiny block of about forty veterans marched, and marched as soldiers in charge in the terrible weather as if it were a beautiful day, with our bodies deeply warm. So warm were our feelings!

The ARVN veterans of the Vietnam War fought for our Fatherland, for our people, including for ourselves of course. But you; you the Australian people enjoying a peaceful life in the most beautiful country



*A proud display of ARVN Members*

and very, very far away from a nation called Vietnam, had already gave us a helpful hand side by side with us to fight against the invasion of the communist forces from our north. Australia suffered greatly, sacrificing hundreds of your loved ones, and the social wounds have lasted many decades.

After the conflict of that dirty war, you openly spread your arms and welcomed us here with our wives and kids, as brothers, sisters as sons of this country. How can I forget?

... .. *Continued*

*Continued ... ..*

In the middle of Sydney CBD, myself and my comrades were wet from top to toe. Bloody cold, but my heart drummed and drummed. The warm inside my body (nothing had compared to it) and the tears rolled down my cheeks. This is how I experienced my first ANZAC day and since then, I have never missed marching to this day.

With these few words, I want to express my gratitude. But it is surely not enough. Know me, everybody – let me yell loudly many times

Thank You Australia

Unforgettable Forever

Let me Yell.....

*Duc Nhuan Tran*

### **FORT MACQUARIE**

Dating back to the days of Lachlan Macquarie, the square castellated battlement fort was the old colony's most conspicuous landmark. Built at Bennelong Point between 1817-1819 on an isolated reef, it was separated from the mainland by a channel of water with a draw bridge providing entry.

Fifteen guns were mounted to defend Sydney Cove, a two-storey tower stood in the centre of the fort and a powder magazine capable of storing 350 barrels of gunpowder was built underneath.



Fort Macquarie ca. 1870 from Sydney Streets and Buildings, 1861-ca. 1900 / chiefly by Kerry & Co. Picture: State Library NSW

The tower could accommodate 19 men with stores for the battery, and a drawbridge on the land side provided enter to the fort.

Fifteen guns were mounted to defend Sydney Cove, a two-storey tower stood in the centre of the fort and a powder magazine capable of storing 350 barrels

of gunpowder was built underneath.

The fort became a tram depot before it was demolished in the 1950s. The Opera House now occupies much of the site.

The tower could accommodate 19 men with stores for the battery, and a drawbridge on the land side provided enter to the fort.

In 1901, the fort was knocked down and converted into a tram depot which was in turn demolished in 1958 to make way for the Sydney Opera House.



## Marriage

<http://www.ba-bamail.com/content.aspx?emailid=15550>

### Hope

Wife: "What are you doing?"

Husband: "Nothing."

Wife: "What do you mean nothing? You've been staring at our marriage certificate for

over an hour!"

Husband: "Yea, I'm checking the expiration date."

### Shopping

An elderly couple are walking in the city, hand in hand, when they pass a jewellery store.

The wife turns to her husband with a smile: "Love, would you buy me a chain?"

"Why?" Asks the husband, "Tired of being free?"

### Qualities

A woman asks her husband: "What do you like about me the most? My beautiful face or my sexy body?"

The husband gives her a long, appreciating look. "**Your sense of humour.**"

### Neighbours

"The new neighbours are so in love," remarks Susan to her husband, "he hugs her, kisses her and strokes her hair. Why don't *you* do that?"

"Because I don't know her that well."

### Donations

*Knock on the door.*

"Hello sir, would you like to contribute something to the old folks home?"

"Yes, actually." Beams the old man.

"Inge, put your jacket on and pack a suitcase!"

### Death

After bob died, everyone gathered at his funeral. Then the minister started to speak: "He was a model husband, a decent man, a terrific father.."

The widow then makes a motion for her son to come to her.

"What is it mother?" he whisper.

"Dear, go check the casket, I think we're at the wrong funeral..."

# ANZAC Dawn Service 2019

*Photos by Dat*

A  
Terrific Day  
With  
Over  
1,000  
attending







# ANZAC Luncheon 2019

*Photos by Dat*







*A Great Day  
(Except for the  
Conny Jokes)  
Editor*

## 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

#### **Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2019 Task Force deepens ties with Vietnam**

IPE19 aims to strengthen relationships and promote security and stability with Australia's key regional partners including Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and Indonesia.

HMA Ships *Canberra*, *Success*, *Newcastle* and *Parramatta* are joined by force elements from Army, Air Force and representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2019 (IPE 19) Joint Task Force is continuing its international engagement activities with the arrival of two ships in Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam.

HMA Ships *Canberra* and *Newcastle*'s port call follows the recent signing in November of the Joint Vision Statement on enhancing defence cooperation with Vietnam, and upgrading of the bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership in March 2018.

These developments reflect the strength of the Australia-Vietnam relationship and our commitment to cooperating on areas of mutual interest.

Commander of the IPE 19 Joint Task Force, Air Commodore Rick Owen, AM said the visit was an important opportunity to increase defence cooperation between the two countries.

"Our defence engagement with Vietnam only started in 1998 but in the intervening years we have become important partners in helping to ensure the region remains safe, secure, open and prosperous," Air Commodore Owen said.

"This visit is an important part of strengthening our partnership, including working with local communities in Khanh Hoa Province."

Australia's Defence Cooperation Program with Vietnam includes English language training, maritime security, officer development, peacekeeping, aviation safety, military medicine and counter-terrorism.

Australia continues to work with Vietnam to grow its maritime security capability through providing positions on naval training courses and conducting cooperation activities with the Vietnamese People's Army during annual Royal Australian Navy ship visits.

During the visit members of the IPE 19 Joint Task Force will be joining members of the Vietnamese



Armed Forces in a series of military and cultural activities, including sharing Australian experience in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and a visit to a local school.

IPE 19 is the Australian Defence Force's major regional engagement activity, delivering on the promise of the 2016 Defence White Paper

<https://news.defence.gov.au/media/stories/indo-pacific-endeavour-2019-departs>

to strengthen Australia's engagement and partnerships with regional security forces.

For the first time, the Joint Task Force is incorporating Australian defence industry through showcasing some of the country's industry capabilities and services during official receptions on board HMAS Canberra.

**ARMY**

## **Australia's Army - An Army in Motion**

*By Lieutenant General Rick Burr, AO, DSC, MVO*

### **An Army in Motion**

It is my great privilege to be your Chief of Army. The Army of today is in great shape and will continue its journey of improving and adapting. There is always more to do as the context and needs of the future continually change.

We are an Army in motion.

... .. *Continued*

*Continued ... ..*

Here I outline my initial approach for thinking about ourselves. I invite you to engage with and help further develop these ideas, framed around four command themes: Preparedness, People, Profession and Potential.

### **Australia's Army**

The Australian Army is central to the story of our Nation and we have an enduring connection to community and country. Today, our Army continues that great story as a national institution committed to service through our people.

We give confidence that we are prepared for the demands of today and for the future.

We set high standards, live our values, have an inclusive culture and hold ourselves accountable. This strengthens our foundation as a profession.

We work collaboratively to maximise our people's capability, enable and leverage partnerships, in combination with technology, to both lead and operate in new and creative ways.

Empowered leadership drives this focus and enables these possibilities.

### **Preparedness**

Army is a versatile, decisive force, offering broad utility for the nation.

Army operates on the land, from the land and onto the land, across all domains including cyber, space, maritime and air. We are a vital member of the joint team.

In this age of increasing uncertainty, we must leverage Army's unique strengths: bring people together and integrate capabilities; provide presence and enable access; foster people-to-people relationships and build trust.

Preparedness is dynamic. It requires us to be *ready now*, while concurrently becoming *future ready*.

To be ready now, we must harness the whole Army and leverage the potential of the joint force and the entire enterprise. We need both capability and capacity. We must be physically, morally and intellectually prepared for operational deployment, at any time, wherever we are needed. Army must also transform to capture future opportunities. Being future ready is a way of challenging the *status quo*; constantly evolving how we think, equip, train, organise and prepare to compete in the future.

## **People**

Our people are our Army. They lead, inspire and make a difference. They are our competitive advantage.

Army's people are volunteers who operate as a total land force. We must respect and embrace the diversity, character and strength of all our people, in any capacity they choose to serve. We are inclusive and more capable as a result.

We continue to invest in our people and maintain a skilled and resilient workforce. We emphasise the essential value of professional military education and we develop leaders at every level, grow expertise and foster innovation.

We respect all those who have served in our uniform and the sacrifice they have made. We care for our people, and we continue to assist our wounded, injured and ill.

We understand the strength our families give us and the importance of community, and prioritise accordingly.

We actively apply the tenets of the *Good Soldiering* initiative, supporting our cultural, moral and ethical foundations and setting the conditions for the development and maintenance of optimal Army teams.

As new challenges emerge in this information age, Army will collaborate and partner with others to capitalise on the full suite of national skill sets and knowledge and so enable the potential of our people. Pivotal to the success of these teams is trust, underpinned by our values of courage, initiative, respect and teamwork.

## **Profession**

The Australian Army is a national institution; a professional fighting force, a force for good – earning and sustaining the trust of the society we serve. We understand our unique responsibility to apply lethal force when required to do so. This demands physical, moral and intellectual standards of the highest order.

Our people understand their context and exercise sound judgment. We do the right thing. We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards through self-discipline and personal accountability. We are honest with ourselves. We learn and we adapt and we uphold our professional obligations to deliver what the nation expects.

Our people deserve the best leadership. We develop leaders who think critically, apply knowledge, solve difficult problems, value culture as

... .. *Continued*

*Continued ... ..*

critical capability and communicate effectively. Our leaders are authentic and get the best from their people.

## **Potential**

The evolving character of war and the realities of an increasingly competitive and disruptive world demand we unlock our full potential.

We must create and leverage new opportunities to team with other militaries as well as across the joint force, government, industry, academia and community to generate capability advantage.

We will optimise what we have at every level in Army by thinking of new ways to operate, by experimenting, innovating and accepting risk.

Potential exists in every corner of Army. We have many hidden talents and soldiers with innovative ideas with which to pair technology and tactics. Our job is to capitalise on this human potential – to give our people a voice, empower their ideas and foster a culture where learning, experimentation, innovation and adaption are the norm. We will empower and support our junior leaders; realising their potential is our future success.

Army is a learning organisation that encourages continuous improvement as normal behaviour, giving us the means to confidently move towards our future. We are committed, engaged and always seeking to optimise our potential in a fast changing world. Army is always in motion.

Our next steps will be guided by a strategic framework, and articulation of our future warfighting concept, *Accelerated Warfare*. I look forward to your engagement as we explore these ideas together and turn them into actions. As we do this, keep creating and telling our Army story. Good Soldiering.

**RAAF**

## **The Growler**

Initial Operating Capability (IOC) has been achieved for the EA-18G Growler electronic attack aircraft.

The Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Leo Davies said IOC for the Growler was a significant achievement in Defence's efforts to improve joint electronic warfare capability.

“Over time, this aircraft will work with Army and Navy platforms to enhance our ability to control the electronic environment, and where

necessary, deny or degrade the electronic systems of adversaries,” Air Marshal Davies said

“This will provide a capability edge by enhancing tactical options to reduce risks to Australian and partner maritime, land and air forces in more complex and high-tech conflicts of the future.”

The Growler capability includes new electronic attack aircraft fitted with purpose-built jamming pods as well as a suite of advanced weapons.

Flight training devices and support facilities have been built and delivered to RAAF Base Amberley in Queensland.



## About the aircraft

*The Growler is based on the F/A-18F Super Hornet airframe, and is fitted with:*

- *additional avionics*
- *enhanced radio frequency receivers*
- *an improved communications suite, and*
- *ALQ radio-frequency jamming pods which enable it to jam enemy systems.*

*The purchase of the EA-18G Growler includes the aircraft, required mission and support systems, training, and ongoing support to effectively develop and operate a Growler capability.*

*It will provide a complementary capability to the F/A-18F Super Hornet and the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter aircraft.*

## LAST POST



**Norma Webb**

widow of Member

**William (Bill) Malcolm Webb**

Who had passed away this year



**Mavis Pizarro**

widow of Member

**Raymond Pizarro**

Who had passed away in 2012

*May They Rest in Peace*

**STOP PRESS**