

Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

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100th Edition



"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"

Newsletter

Issue 100

November, 2020

SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE—2020—2023

- President** Ralph Hannaford - 0414 236 913
- Vice Presidents**..... Ian Muirhead, Ambrose Dinh JP
- Secretary**..... Gary Roser JP
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- Minute Secretary** Lee-Ann Taylor
- Committee** Max Stone, David Tu, Brian Abbot
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- Sub-Branch Trustees** Ron Duckworth, Ralph Hannaford
- Newsletter Editor**..... Gary Roser JP - 0409 919 364
- Bankstown City Aged Care** Ian Muirhead, Greg Brown
- Webmaster** Max Stone
- Schools Liaison Officer** Ambrose Dinh JP

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



EDITORIAL Gary Roser, Editor**

*Hello Members and Friends,
This Newsletter is the 100th
edition. Ron Duckworth is so old,
that he started with a four page edition
Number one in 2001. Since then it has
grown to twenty four pages.*

*There is no doubt in my mind that I have
enjoyed taking it over from Issue 17 in 2005
when Past President Peter Wilson asked me
too do so. A copy of the original Issue 1
accompanies this edition.*

*Without the support of our Committees past and present, and some Members giving
me material and Dat his great photographs, the Newsletters would be less interesting.*

*I try and keep up with the latest Defence stories which I find on the internet. I'm
lucky that the Navy, Army and Air Force have newspapers and the ADF have a media
portal that can supply items of interest.*

*Of course. The jokes. I get them sent to me from everywhere. A lot of them I cannot
publish, but the risqué ones sometimes get through.*

*Years ago I was asked by a Member "why put jokes in our Newsletter?" I replied
"There are quite a few of us who can't get out and mingle, including those in Nursing
Homes. We need to have a laugh". He understood. I hope you keep enjoying the
content. God Bless, and have a great Christmas break.*

***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
18 January 2021	24 January 2001
TO BE ADVISED	

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I sit in my man cave and look out, as a beautiful morning emerges from the darkness, I am reminded of the saying "This is the day that the Lord has made, be thankful and rejoice in it." I would hope that the families of two Members will rejoice and celebrate a wonderful milestone as Alex McDonald and Ron Shulties who both turned 101 in the past month.



We are so lucky to have these gentlemen as Members.

On the 3rd November 2020 I represented the Subbranch at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway at Concord for Kokoda Day. In the Prologue we were again reminded that the Australian Army would have been defeated if it not been for the Papuan and New Guinea Natives (Fuzzy Wuzzies) in the vital logistical support given and their selfless sacrifice in helping the wounded soldiers back to safety. One of our members Reg Chard 55/53 Battalion was involved in the raising of the flags and we wish him well. Lest We Forget



Reg (L) and Ralph

With the President of Chester Hill RSL Subbranch and his committee on Remembrance Day with your Committee under the guidance of Past President Ron and Secretary Gary set up an IT streaming system with a mobile phone and laptop to allow a revised Remembrance Service to be streamed to the club and all schools and nursing homes. Well done to Ron and Gary.

I have become aware that my use of "Acknowledgement of Country" has caused some ill feeling. Having served with some of our First Nation People and grown up in Port Moresby, Papua and New Guinea and Rabaul, New Britain, and if it wasn't for a Chief Stoker (First Nation), who convinced me to join a RSL Subbranch I would not be honoured to be your President. I have long thought that those First Nation personnel who have served or are serving in the armed services and those who gave their lives in the service of Australia should have some recognition. Everywhere I go, or listen to a news broadcast on TV there is an Acknowledgement of Country. As your President I will be giving an Acknowledgement of Country at our General Meetings on behalf of those First Nation, Papuan and New Guinea and Vietnam Veterans in memory of their service to Australia

Our first meeting at Padstow RSL went well and we should thank the President of Padstow RSL Subbranch and his secretary for their assistance.

I have been in communication with Mr Craig Love, CEO of the Campsie RSL Group running Chester Hill RSL Club Ltd, who tells me that the large room will be emptied this week. This means with a bit of luck we should be back in the New Year. Once again, I wish to thank the Committee for their ongoing attendance at the committee meetings.

We will finish this year with our Remembrance Lunch at the Liberty Palace Bankstown. A band has been arranged and the committee trust that you will enjoy our coming together.

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

Look forward to seeing you somewhere in the future.

Ralph



*For the Benefit of our
"blue orchid" friends*

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Hello Folks,

With the Covid 19 social distancing being an issue over many months, I put forward the idea of filming and transmitting over the internet our Remembrance Day Commemoration Service.

Although sceptical at first, the Committee supported me to look into it, and both Ron and I discussed the method we would use to relay it onto our web page.

There was no doubt about it, live streaming it as it happens could be done easily (which we thought) to a program called Facebook. We have our own Facebook site and it can be seen on our Internet web site on the right hand side.

Ron played around with the streaming with test shots one Thursday in our office. And it worked. He used his modern mobile phone on a tripod fitting I made to hold it.

Not satisfied with second best using the mobile phone, we decided to try other cameras. When away on holidays at Harrington, Ron in his mobile home and me in my trailer camper, when we were not feeding the fish instead of catching them, we tried several cameras too no avail. When we returned home a device to hook up my movie camera with a computer had arrived in the mail; but it bombed out. So back to second best that worked. The mobile phone.

I had written to all of the schools and Aged Care facilities in our area and Chester Hill—Carramar RSLs area letting them know that the Remembrance Day Service from Chester Hill was available to watch on the internet. Some were very enthused.

Remembrance Day arrived and we did our best, albeit amateurish, but we succeeded. Thanks to your Committee and Jeff Stone holding the USA Flag with Chester Hill—Carramar sub-Branch Committee, we did it.

Some people have said to me that on Remembrance Day we would be allowed to have 100 people attend. But due to the small space available we would not have been able to be socially distant. Go on our Web Site. It's still there. Have a look if you missed it.

Also, Great News. Arrangements are being made to retrieve the RSL Badge and Mortar Gun from the old Bass Hill Club. We hope to place them at the Memorial in Chester Hill. The owners of the old club are right on side. We are just arranging it legally through our solicitor so we can enter the grounds.

Gary Roser, Hon. Secretary

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

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us.

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then after that trauma, our baby cot's were covered with bright coloured lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinet mention, the risks we took hitchhiking and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets.

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags.

Riding in the back of a car on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle.

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO-ONE actually died from this.

We ate Jam biscuits, white bread and real butter and Lemonade without sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes.

After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We did not have Play stations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, no video tape movies, no surround sound, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms.

WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.

We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

We were given Air guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them!

Football had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever!

The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!

And YOU are one of them! CONGRATULATIONS!

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated our lives for our own good.

A THING ON MY TO-DO LIST

- 1. Buy four pigs;**
- 2. Paint numbers 1, 2, 3 and 5 on their backs;**
- 3. Release them in Woolworths;**
- 4. Sit back and watch security desperately search for number 4.**

RED POPPIES IN THE LINE

Millions of red poppies rise each year.
Spirits of soldiers no longer here.
They break out in colour to rejoin their mates
Who fell in the field and shared their fate.
In a tiny pocket a few make a stand
Maintaining a tenuous grip on the land.
The ground here is rocky and the future uncertain
As forlornly they await the final curtain.
But in the wide open fields the flowers in bloom
Barely have space for standing room
Shoulder to shoulder they dazzle the eye
Standing straight and tall as they reach for the sky.
The wind rocks them gently; they shudder and sway.
Their ranks bent and twisted as they were on that day.
But their Spirit lives on and with firm resolve
They resume their positions like the soldiers of old.
Such a sight to behold; a parade like no other
A million red poppies stand in line with their brothers.
All over the country the scene is the same.
As we bow our heads and honour their name.
Their glory lives on, it is firmly maintained
By the number of the poppies that this land contains.
In the lowlands, the ditches, the woods and the hills
The flowers rise up each year to impose their will.
For they were taken too young; before the season had ended
Their being destroyed, their plans now upended.
But they'll return every year to the end of all time.
So that we will remember, these brave men in the line.



Bill Charlton c 2020

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home." – *Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977*

How one CEO's war wounds raised bar for veterans

Kim Eberhard, Westpac's head of historical services

01:01am November 11 2020



“Our service men are now coming back to us in small numbers and the flow will soon increase.”



So wrote Thomas Baker Heffer, the newly appointed chief executive of the Bank of New South Wales (which became Westpac), in a note to staff in 1945 as the Second World War wound down.

“Many of these men will feel for some time the effects of their war service, and all will take time to adjust themselves to civilian conditions and their old occupation. I earnestly ask you all to do your best to ensure that these men settle down as quickly and comfortably as possible.

“It is our privilege as well as our duty to take them in hand when they re-join the bank, and to help them overtake the lag in their training. I appeal to all those with whom they work to make this a personal matter and to exercise patience and tolerance especially with the men who have suffered in mind or body while fighting to protect us.”

Heffer's genuine concern for those returning from the war is palpable in this note, his first to the bank's staff after succeeding long-term chief Sir Alfred Davidson just months earlier in June 1945. At the time, more than 1900 employees were yet to return to the bank. Some, of course, never would, and for those who did, the struggle would have been both physical and emotional, as Heffer well knew as a former serviceman himself.

His compassion is also unmistakable in the many other meticulous files he kept on bank staff members who served in the military during the war, all stored in the bank's archives.

At first glance, his empathy may seem to simply reflect what the nation was feeling at the time.

But a deeper dive into Heffer's past provides a richer explanation.

As a younger man, he had served in the First Australian Imperial Force during World War I and was wounded twice, sustaining injuries that

affected him for the rest of his life. His approach to returning service men and women, arguably far more empathetic than he saw 26 years earlier, doubtless came from this personal experience. Born in New Zealand, Heffer joined the bank's branch in Blenheim at the top of New Zealand's South Island in 1903, just after his 18th birthday. He worked his way through the ranks, with postings to New Zealand's Wellington Head Office and in Fiji's Suva and Lautoka, before transferring to Australia.

As the Great War took hold, Heffer was granted leave from the bank to enlist in June 1915, aged almost 30, and was appointed Lieutenant with the Australian Imperial Forces in the 8th Reinforcements of 19th Battalion.

He left Sydney in December 1915, spent six months training in Egypt and, by July 1916, was in action with the 15th Battalion in France during the Somme campaign.

In February 1917, while in action at Gueudecourt, Heffer's femoral artery was severed by a shell fragment, the wound later turning septic. He recovered within four months, but was left with a permanent limp. After being promoted to Captain, he was sent back to the front in October 1917.

In action around Villers-Bretonneux in August 1918, Heffer was wounded for a second time, taking shrapnel in the back, chest and arm. Attempts to remove the shell fragments lodged in his spine were unsuccessful, leaving him with chronic pain and difficulty walking, and bringing his military career to an end.

Heffer arrived home in Australia in January 1919 and, after many more months of rehabilitation, was finally fit enough to return to work at the bank's Sydney Head Office in November, at which time the nation's recovery from war was overtaken by a new crisis - the [world's last great pandemic, the Spanish Flu](#).

Heffer's work record shows he resumed his banking career, holding several senior positions throughout the 1920s and 30s, becoming a prominent figure in the chief executive's office before his appointment as deputy chief executive in 1943.



CAPTAIN THOMAS BAKER HEFFER
15th Battalion, A.I.F.

As the Second World War unfolded, Heffer's main tasks were to manage the bank's staff and its relationship with the government, at a time when banks were required to free up staff for the war effort.

A staggering 73 per cent of the bank's male employees enlisted in the armed forces over the six-year war, radically altering the composition of staff as significant numbers of females joined to fill mainly back office roles. Due to staff shortages, many branches were forced to close.

Heffer's focus on staff on military leave never wavered, his office keeping meticulous records including a series of index cards with each serving officer's name and details noted as information came through. Particularly touching are the cards of staff taken prisoner, with Heffer's office tracing their condition and whereabouts right through to when the lucky ones returned home.

You can almost feel the relief when the entry 'Missing' is crossed out to read 'Safe', while the sadness of 'Death Presumed' still resonates almost 80 years later.

Heffer's compassion for the veterans of WWII, evident in his ongoing communication with staff throughout 1946 and beyond, set a new standard for welcoming home those who had served their country and recognising the difficulties veterans faced.

We can see some of that legacy in the way the bank [supported returning Vietnam veterans](#) a generation later.

It is a standard the bank continues to this day, as staff commemorate those who serve, every year.

Lest we forget.

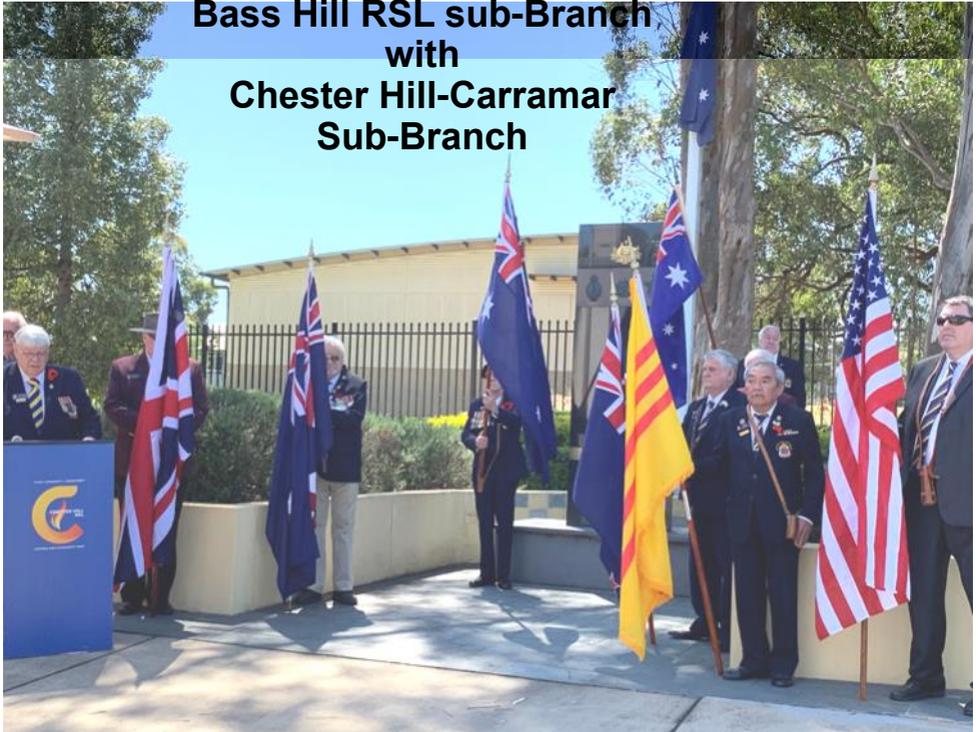


INNER PEACE

If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,
If you can conquer tension without medical help,
If you can relax without alcohol,
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,
Then You Are Probably The Family Dog!

Remembrance Day 2020—on line broadcast

Bass Hill RSL sub-Branch with Chester Hill-Carramar Sub-Branch





Naidoc Week is important to our Indigenous Members and their Families.



From:

[Australian War Memorial](#)

On Facebook

*Yarrabah Mission, Qld.
April 1969. These Aboriginal
troops, all from Yarrabah
Mission, near Cairns, are
serving with the 51st Battal-
ion, Royal Queensland Regi-
ment. DNE/69/0223/NC
Photographer: Bryan Rupert
Dunne.*

Imagine having to lie about who you are to serve your country. That's exactly what one soldier had to do to enlist during the Second World War.

One of thousands of Indigenous Australians who served during the war, his name is now recorded on the Australian War Memorial's new Indigenous Service List.

Danusha Cubillo, a proud Larrakia woman, has been working on the list with the Memorial's Indigenous Liaison Officer Michael Bell.

"My work here is discovering or finding hidden names that we didn't know before," Danusha said.

"It's about respect and giving that person their due. They fought for this country, and we want to acknowledge them for who they are, and be able to tell people proudly who this person was."

The Indigenous Service list is now available online.

Read the article in full: <http://ow.ly/VICf50Cg99I>

NAIDOC Week hub: <http://ow.ly/Bznpj50Cg99J>

By Don Kelly, Visual storyteller on Facebook,

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1660282307628928/permalink/2863709573952856>

How do soldiers maintain their personal hygiene while on the front ?

Roland Bartetzko, former German Army Paratrooper, Croatian Defence Council, Kosovo Liberation Army

There are three body parts that you must keep clean, even on the battlefield. If one of those parts gets infected or causes you any other trouble, the war will be over for you:

Your teeth

I always had a toothbrush with me. I used the plastic bags from the MRE combat rations to protect the brush from dirt. You get used to cleaning your teeth while doing something else at the same time (like watching the terrain, listening to an officer giving orders or checking your rifle). There is really no excuse for not brushing your teeth.

Your butt

You can use wet wipes to wipe your ass. If you don't have any, try to clean your butt (and your genitals as well) with water from time to time. You should also change your underwear whenever you can. There is always some space in your backpack to take some spare underwear with you.



Your feet

Always carry at least one pair of spare socks with you! Change your socks whenever there is an opportunity and let the old pair dry. Wet wipes or alcohol are perfect for cleaning your feet if you have no water. Sometimes, if the situation allows for it, just take off your boots for a few minutes to let your feet get some fresh air.

You will get quickly used to this “field hygiene”, but sometimes, you will be tired and just want to rest and then you really have to push yourself to make this extra effort and dedicate a minute of your time for

your personal hygiene.

If you follow this advice and keep these three body parts clean, you will be fine!

Photo: (US. Army) If there is a break, always dry your feet and change your socks.

Innovative training delivers future capability

Defence News, Published on 13 November 2020 SBLT Huon Fairbairn (author),
ABCIS Riley Smith (photographer)

The global pandemic has certainly presented challenges and hardship for the Australian community to endure. However, it has also presented the Royal Australian Navy the opportunity to devise innovative approaches toward training delivery and generating future capability.

Nowhere was this more evident than through the remote delivery of Small Ships Navigation Course No. 67, which was recently conducted in Darwin. This is first time ever that this training has been delivered anywhere other than Sydney.

Ordinarily the Small Ships Navigation Course is delivered at the School of Navigation Warfare at HMAS *Watson*, on Sydney's picturesque South Head.

Lead instructor for the course, Lieutenant Commander Alicia Runde spoke of the important milestone the course provides in the careers of the students involved.

“In the Minor War Vessel community, many of our sailors and officers are required to multi-task in a variety of different roles that they would not normally perform elsewhere in the fleet.

“Performing the role as Officer of the Watch on a ship's bridge and keeping the vessel navigationally safe is just one of these very important roles,” she said.

The Small Ships Navigation Course delivers the foundation skills and knowledge that prepares the students to gain their Limited Navigation Watchkeeping Certificates - as the basic qualification to stand bridge



Leading Seaman Boatswains Mate Thomas Hiramatsu, right, drives HMAS Ararat from the port bridge wing, supervised by Executive Officer Lieutenant Iris Van Kampen, and with Lead Instructor Lieutenant Commander Alicia Runde, during the Small Ships Navigation Course at sea off the Kimberley coastline.

watches aboard minor warships in future postings and generating this capability for ships at sea.

The decision to remotely deliver the Small Ships Navigation Course in Darwin removed the need for mandatory quarantine and interstate travel.

The students completed six weeks of theory, generously delivered by local Navigators and Navigation Specialists from HMAS *Coonawarra*.

The theory module was then followed by two weeks of practical assessment at sea in HMAS *Ararat*.

Commanding Officer of *Ararat*, Lieutenant Commander David Martinussen said the remote delivery of this training in Darwin was both practical and cost-conscious.

“The cost of flying a cohort of trainees to Sydney, with the additional expense of having to quarantine prior to the course, made this remote delivery a more practical option,” Lieutenant Commander Martinussen said.

“More importantly, this provided the Patrol Boat community the chance to generate its own future capability on the platform the students will eventually serve in.”

At sea in *Ararat*, the students stood supervised watches on the bridge by day and night as the ship operated near the Tiwi Island group to the North of Darwin, and the coastal fringes of the Kimberley Ranges.

In this setting the students were exposed to coastal navigation, engineering breakdown drills and operating the ship’s sea-boats.

Course student Leading Seaman Boatswains Mate Jack Bellingham said the course was both challenging and enjoyable.

“It was one of the most practically focussed courses I’ve completed in my career to date,” he said.

“I am confident that it will prepare me for keeping watches on the bridge of my ship, which in itself is a unique and rewarding experience.”

As graduates of the Small Ships Navigation Course, all students now return to their Darwin-based Armidale Class Patrol Boats, ready to tackle the next milestone of their career - achieving their Limited Navigation Watchkeeping Certificates.

Indigenous mentor driven to achieve dream

Defence News, By Corporal Ash Watts, 10 November 2020

Private Pamela Amber, a Panaygal and Samu woman from an island in the Torres Strait, has achieved her dream of joining Defence and is now setting her mind to being a role model, mentoring future Indigenous soldiers.

“Being Indigenous and a female, it’s always hard to get out of the community so I wanted to challenge myself and see where it could lead me,” she said of her decision to join the Army.



Private Pamela Amber conducts an inspection of a vehicle at Lavarack Barracks, Townsville.

Photo: Private Madhur Chitnis

Growing up immersed in culture, the 19-year-old fulfilled her dream, enlisting as a driver in 2015.

But adjusting to a military life came with challenges.

“Initially it was quite hard, especially being away from home – coming from a small community on an island, then moving to Cairns and adapting to city life, then joining the military and adapting to military life,” she said.

“I didn’t know there were many Indigenous soldiers, sailors or airmen until I attended a Defence Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander National conference (DATSIN) in Canberra.

“That’s when I found out there was a whole heap of us Indigenous mob in the Defence Force.

“Being Indigenous, when you see another Indigenous member within Defence, you have that natural instinct of connecting, and that’s the best thing about us.”

Private Amber said she was thrilled the number of Indigenous personnel in Defence was increasing.

“Now there are so many of us coming through. We are brothers and sisters now,” she said.

She is posted to the 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion where she found her second home – a family within Defence.

“Being Indigenous, culture is a big part of my life. It signifies my ancestors, my family and my people,” she said.

“I think we need to uphold that strong heritage of our culture, and when younger generations come in the future, they will look up to us.”

Private Amber said Indigenous history should be passed on through the ADF to increase cultural awareness.

She has been involved in the ADF Indigenous Mentoring Program with the Tiwi Island Youth Girls over the past three years, guiding participants, encouraging them to be confident and to grasp opportunities.

“My message to young Indigenous people is: take it as it comes and give it go. You never know where it can lead you,” Private Amber said.

Private Amber also has represented Army and ADF in women’s AFL.

Watering hole mural honours unit's history

Defence News, By Captain Jesse Robilliard, 13 November 202



Lance Corporal Jessica Haines-Hann in front of the mural she painted at the Gallipoli Barracks Sergeants' Mess.

A room at Gallipoli Barracks now features a painting of a watering hole, in a tribute to the history of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry).

Baseballer spins the wheel to become a Roulette

Defence News, By Flying Officer Steffi Blavius, 13 November 2020

During Army National Service training, Ron Biddell watched the Air Force Mustangs and Canberras fly over, but never imagined he would be in the cockpit.

“There was never any conscious desire for me to be a pilot, although I was somewhat envious of the Air Force pilots as they flew over us at low level while we trudged on our day-long pack marches,” former Wing Commander Biddell (retd) recalled.



Wing Commander Ron Biddell (retd) organised for the Roulettes aerobatic team to be photographed flying over Uluru at sunset on June 7, 1977.

But in 1961 at the age of 21, he decided to apply and, after a long recruitment process, Mr Biddell received good news via telegram.

“I had been accepted for pilot training on No 44 Course and was to be in Point Cook on August 24, 1961 – just two weeks’ notice,” he said.

Mr Biddell almost didn’t join the Air Force; he was working for the South Australian Government, studying civil engineering at university and even had a promising baseball career.

He graduated from pilot training and was posted around Australia and overseas, including to No 2 Operational Conversion Unit for Canberra aircraft conversion and No 2 Squadron in Butterworth, Malaysia.

Fourteen years after enlisting, Mr Biddell was appointed chief flying instructor at the Central Flying School at RAAF Base East Sale and became leader of the Roulettes aerobatic team.

The Roulettes, flying Macchi jet trainers at the time, were increasing the number of displays they performed each year, which led Mr Biddell to think about redesigning the logo to be more in line with other military aerobatic teams.

“On a large sheet of brown paper, laid out on the hangar floor, I drafted my concept of the stylised R and the GT stripe starting at the nose of the aircraft, continuing along the fuselage and sweeping up the fin,” Mr Biddell said.

This stylised R has been used on Roulettes’ aircraft for the past 44 years, including on today’s PC-21s.

“This was a very satisfying achievement during my tenure as Roulettes’ leader,” Mr Biddell said.

During his time on the team, the Roulettes had a display in Townsville and Mr Biddell sought approval for the group to fly back to the team's base at RAAF Base East Sale via the centre of Australia. It was a long shot.

“I thought those communities would never have had an opportunity to see the Air Force and certainly not the Roulettes,” Mr Biddell said.

Approval was granted and the Roulettes flew displays over Uluru, Mt. Isa, Alice Springs and Woomera.

Mr Biddell said the turnout from the locals and schoolchildren in these communities was amazing, and the team delighted in the opportunity to talk to them at great length after the displays.

“We couldn’t have been more pleased or proud of those moments,” Mr Biddell said.

I thought those communities would never have had an opportunity to see the Air Force and certainly not the Roulettes.

While in Alice Springs, Mr Biddell had an idea for the Roulettes to be photographed in formation over Uluru at sunset. This was not a simple exercise as it was a stretch for the fuel range of the Macchi.

“We managed to do it, albeit with low-fuel warning lights on in every aircraft as we returned to Alice Springs at dusk,” Mr Biddell said. “This was one of my proudest achievements.”

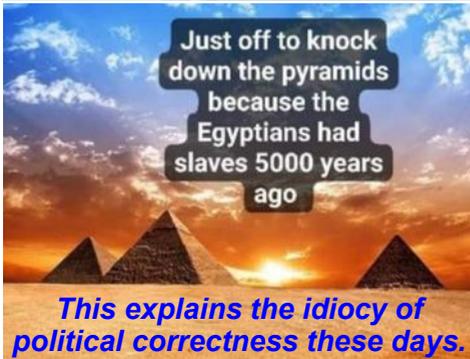
The photographs taken during that flight have since been recreated by the Roulettes.

Mr Biddell left the Roulettes when he was posted to Canberra, firstly to the staff college and then as a personal assistant to an air vice-marshal.

He later returned to RAAF Base East Sale as the commanding officer of the Central Flying School.

That’s where he spent his last two years in the Air Force. He retired in 1981 after 20 years of service.

I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.



YOU KNOW YOU'RE AUSTRALIAN WHEN:

You believe that stubbies can either be drunk or worn. You pronounce Melbourne as 'Mel-bin'. You believe that the letter 'l' in Australia is optional, and it's perfectly ok to call it 'Straya'. You think 'Woolloomooloo' is a perfectly reasonable name for a place. You're secretly proud of our killer wildlife. You believe it makes perfect sense for a country to have a...\$1 coin that's twice as big as a \$2 coin. You understand that 'Wagga Wagga' can be abbreviated to 'Wagga' but 'Woy Woy' cannot be just 'Woy'. Beetroot with your hamburger...of course! You wear ugg boots outside the house. You believe that the more you shorten someone's name, the more you like them. You understand that 'excuse me' can sound rude, but 'scuse me' is always polite. You know what it's like to swallow a fly, on occasion via your nose. You know it's not summer until the steering wheel is too hot to handle and a seat belt buckle becomes a pretty good branding iron. You know how to abbreviate every word, all of which usually end in "o": arvo, convo, garbo, lezzo, metho, milko, muso, servo, smoko, rego, speedo, righto, etc,....you know that there is a universal place called 'Woop Woop' located in the middle of nowhere, no matter where you actually are! And you can understand all of this, had a giggle, and tell all your aussie and international friends. I love Australia!

**There is a spike
in Covid cases
because there's
a spike in
testing.**

**If we had more
IQ tests, there
would be a spike
in morons, too.**

**"Turns out it was a
marble in the ashtray"**



LAST POST



We Are All Here

STOP PRESS

And there's me, always out the back!

