

# Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

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*"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"*

# Newsletter

**Issue 104**

**July, 2021**

## SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE—2020—2023

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**Newsletter Editorial Production**..... Ron Duckworth  
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*For service, ring the Secretary, Gary Roser on 0409 919 364*



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

Lockdown. Who would have ever thought that this would happen to our Aussie society. Why? Because of a bunch of self centred, mongrels that either, Don't believe that Covid is dangerous, or have the attitude no one can tell me what to do.

Have you experienced the self centred attitude of people today? Every day someone says or does something to display their contempt for others. Not only because of the pandemic, but in general.

As RSL Members we care about each other. We are there to help and support those Members who are having trouble. We have a few Members who are unwell and are regularly contacted by Greg Brown our "welfare officer". Greg does a great job which is reflected in his monthly reports.

If anyone is aware of one of our Members having trouble and needing help, please let me know. If we can, we will help.

*\*\*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
20 September	26 September
18 October	24 October
11am, 11 November "Remembrance Day" 	
22 November	28 November

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

We live in some interesting times as we are faced with this very contagious version of covid. By know you have received an email indicating that the Club is shut down till the end of the month. With all the restrictions imposed by the Government there will be no committee and general meeting, for the month of July. Unless there is a change to all restrictions, I have decided to cancel all meetings for August.



Meetings for September will also depend upon the easing of the restrictions and advice from the club. I will let you know as soon as possible. My thanks to Gary and Ron in putting together another issue of our newsletter.

I would ask that you keep in touch with everybody especially those you live by themselves.

Please take note of any medical advice given and keep healthy.

Look forward to seeing you at our meetings   Ralph

Chúng ta đang sống trong một thời kỳ thú vị khi phải đối mặt với phiên bản covid rất dễ lây lan này. Được biết, bạn đã nhận được một email thông báo rằng Câu lạc bộ sẽ ngừng hoạt động cho đến cuối tháng. Với tất cả các hạn chế do Chính phủ áp đặt, sẽ không có ủy ban và đại hội đồng nào trong tháng Bảy. Trừ khi có sự thay đổi đối với tất cả các hạn chế, tôi đã quyết định hủy tất cả các cuộc họp cho tháng Tám.

Các cuộc họp vào tháng 9 cũng sẽ phụ thuộc vào việc nói lỏng các hạn chế và lời khuyên từ câu lạc bộ. Tôi sẽ cho bạn biết càng sớm càng tốt. Tôi cảm ơn Gary và Ron đã cùng nhau đưa ra một số báo khác của bản tin của chúng tôi.

Tôi sẽ yêu cầu bạn giữ liên lạc với tất cả mọi người, đặc biệt là những người bạn sống một mình.

Hãy lưu ý bất kỳ lời khuyên y tế nào được đưa ra và giữ gìn sức khỏe.

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



*This is what our President  
Ralph has been doing during  
Lockdown. HMS Supply.  
Well done Ralph!*

The Flat Earth Society are  
worried that social distancing  
will push people over the edge

Wife and I went to the  
store with our mask on,  
got home took off mask,  
and brought home the  
wrong wife...pay  
attention people!!!

## SECRETARY'S REPORT



I think President Ralph has summed up the situation we are in quite well.

I just can't understand why people can't obey the law. Maybe it's because of my professional background as an enforcer of the law.

On the first week of the lockdown both Ron and I went into the office on our usual Thursday. We were lucky to do so as the Club was closed and only security was there. But we needed to get things out otherwise you wouldn't have this newsletter.

But saying that, there is SFA to pass on to you. As a veteran you will know what that stands for.

Things must have got boring at the Duckworth house. His yard has been completely cleared of stuff. He organised it. I won't say more.

Stay at home. Get all of the jobs done that you can and have been putting off for months/years. That's what I am doing. Even raising a sweat. Heaven forbid.

*Gary Roser, Hon. Secretary*

Q: I'm two months pregnant now. When will my baby move?

A: With any luck, right after they finish university.

**Lockdown can only go 4-ways. You'll come out a monk, a hunk, a chunk or a drunk. Choose wisely. 🤖**

Now there's an idea.





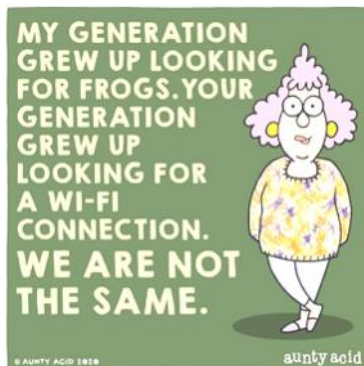
# You Know When Your Over the Hill When.....



The phone my sister has (she's six)



The phone I had when I was six



"You getting athlete's foot is about as ridiculous as a coal miner with sunstroke!"

You know you are getting old when everything either dries up, sags or leaks.

### ***God's Plan for Aging.***

On the 8th Day God created Seniors

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys, and other things, thus doing more walking.

And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch.

And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise.

And God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find, as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will.

It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

Nine Important Facts to Remember as We Grow Older:

#9 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.

#8 Life is sexually transmitted.

#7 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

#6 Men have two motivations: hunger and hanky-panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.

#5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.

#4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.

#3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

#2 In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

#1 Life is like a jar of jalapeño peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

### ***Love dress.***

A mother-in-law stopped by unexpectedly the recently married couple's house. She knocks on the door, then immediately walks in.

She is shocked to see her daughter-in-law lying on the couch, totally naked.

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"I'm waiting for Jeff to come home from work," the daughter-in-law answered.

"But you're naked!" the mother-in-law exclaimed.

"This is my love dress," the daughter-in-law explained.

"Love dress? But you're naked!"

"Jeff loves me to wear this dress! It makes him happy and it makes me happy."

The mother-in-law on the way home thought about the love dress. When she got home she got undressed, showered, put on her best perfume and expectantly waited for her husband, lying provocatively on the couch.

Finally her husband came home. He walked in and saw her naked on the couch.

"What are you doing?" he asked. "This is my love dress," she replied.

"Needs ironing," he says, "What's for dinner?"

# The Jeep Trains of Borneo in WW2

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeep\\_train](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeep_train)

**Jeep train** usually refers to a railway train hauled by jeeps with rail wheels. World War II jeeps were converted from road vehicles into steel-wheeled rail switchers (shunters), light locomotives, or speeders (draisines).

The phrase was also used for supply trains consisting of jeeps and for columns of jeeps linked together and pulled through bad ground by tractors. Not all primary sources will use this phrase in the same way.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

111045

BEAUFORT, BORNEO,  
1945-07-22. THE JEEP  
TRAIN, KNOWN AS THE  
MEMBUKUT SPECIAL,  
PULLING OUT OF THE  
LOCAL RAILWAY STATION  
LOADED WITH MEMBERS  
OF 24 INFANTRY BRIGADE.  
ON THE RETURN TRIP THE  
TRAIN WILL BRING BACK  
ROCK AND GRAVEL FROM  
THE QUARRY AT GREIG  
SIDING.

[https://www.awm.gov.au/  
collection/C22197](https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C22197)

KIMANIS, BORNEO.  
1945-08-02. JEEP TRAIN  
CROSSING THE NEWLY  
REPAIRED RAILWAY  
BRIDGE OVER THE KIMANIS  
RIVER ON THE BEAUFORT-  
JESSELTON RAILWAY LINE.  
THE BRIDGE WAS  
REPAIRED BY MEMBERS OF  
2/16TH FIELD COMPANY,  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN  
ENGINEERS

[https://www.awm.gov.au/  
collection/113582](https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/113582)





## War Letters – Borneo: 3 Aug 1945, Weston; Jeep train to Beaufort

W. E. Pidgeon  
c/o Public Relations  
1 Aust Corps  
3 Aug Friday [1945]

Dear Jesso,

Am in a stinking little grey bleached place called Weston – arrived here after 4 1/2 hours in another barge and the trip was just as hot and dull as that from Brunei. Soft lotions of frankincense and myrrh would be more beneficial to my skin than these down pouring blasts of heat. Yesterday in Labuan we took a day off and lazed in the sun and surf and under the coconut palms while the China Sea sent sweet cooling winds to dry away the sweats. It seemed so cool, although it was 87 degrees (symbol) in the shade of the tents that Cliff and I just sopped up sun in a big way. Half an hour after retiring to the tent I took on a particularly choice hue of Alizarin Crimson which makes a very striking colour combination in juxtaposition to my green shirt, and makes for a very tender shoulder, not the sort of shoulder on which to sling the many and weighty packs I am lugging around. We got up at 5.30 this morning, and waited till 8.15 for the barge to pull out. Of course this barge must miss contact with the 12.00 jeep train that runs from here to Beaufort. So we are waiting again. Just a mere 2 hours for the next. 2 hours as lively as one could wish for – just as if you were on one of those unattended railway stations out west. This jeep train is, I believe, as I haven't yet seen it, a collection of motley old carriages and trucks pulled along a light narrow gauged line by a jeep which has had its ordinary wheels replaced by a railway type. Weston is a hive of activity – three natives just staggered past.

Beaufort 8.30 pm. So far this is a bastard of a place. After a really stinking day we have been unloaded into an old evacuated house to which clings a rare odour of old Chinese or Japs. (At least that is what I presume that is what it is). To cap matters there's no even a bleeding light in the whole flaming joint. Consequently I'm writing this in a Salvation Army social tent housing at the moment 25 lively tea drinkers and one cud-chewer which is me. The tables groan under the weight of many cuppas (or rather tinnas), the conversation is subdued but constant – the radio more than holds its own against all other noise. Four other diligent letter writers compete with my silence. It's all very much like the lounge of an hotel only the liquor is tea (or whatever it may be – I am

completely baffled by the taste) and the only occupants naturally are men. It is quietly social. And is the only place wherein I can find light enough to write this letter. Incidentally I am the only baldy in the place, and for that matter one of the few I meet in the whole army under the rank of Colonel or Brigadier. Nevertheless the fruitful climate of Borneo has brought forth on any arid head a fine crop of 4 or 5 brand new hairs. These grow straight and bravely upright down the centre of the field. My continuity of thought is breaking down under the strain of trying to hear what everyone is saying. The tea is evidentially encouraging them to compete with the volume of the wireless – the general level of noise has risen by 100 percent. I think I'll have another go at the brew that is coming out now – it seems to have some stimulating virtues from what I can here. It's hot and wet – it tastes sweet and has a dark cloudy look – but I still don't know what it is.

The jeep train was worth the trip even if there is little in it as a serious drawing job. Perhaps a comic sketch The steam engines which used to draw the trucks and carriages have broken down and are under repair. The ubiquitous jeep takes their place and draws up to 3 cars behind them. The one we came up on consisted of first a flat top truck, next an ordinary one, and lastly a box car for the rations. Chinese and Malays occupied the first, and soldiers the second.



It is an interesting trip. The narrow gauge leads the train by disused paddy fields through long and delightful tunnels of tropical green. The rubber trees meet in an arch overhead and the undergrowth that has been growing in the plantations for the last 3 1/2 years forms walls of fern and palm and flowering lasiandra which brush the body as you pass. As a rule the track itself is carpeted in grass and only the polished lines indicate the way ahead. An intimate green pathway over which our trucks clunkety –

clunk with all the noises save that of the great asthmatic huffing of a real train. Natives stand aside for us to pass and look just like the line people back home – but you miss the cry of “Paper! Paper!” At occasional clusters of houses in the plantations we pull up at a station and unload to the screechings and joviality’s of the Chinese. I shall continue the train trip further onto Papar in a few days time.

Am looking forward to getting a letter in a few days. I hope that you are both all right – also Mum. How’s the pool and fitties? Have you been giving the Coyes a rest. I am feeling very holy and very well – don’t care if I don’t have a drink at all and certainly have no desire to collect myself any more hangovers.

Lots of love dear – tell little Graham Poppa thinks often of him always when I see the kids up here and there are thousands of them.

Love

Bill <https://wepidgeon.com/pidgeonpost/?p=2127>



*All aboard the jeep train for Beaufort, The Australian Women's Weekly, 8 Sep 1945, p17*

The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

\*\*\*\*\*

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

\*\*\*\*\*

Have you ever noticed: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Air Marshall Sir George Jones**

By Gareth McCray OAM, Aussies & Kiwis for ANZACs

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=gareth%20mccray%20oam>



Air Marshall Sir George Jones, who first served as a private in the 9th Light Horse Regiment at Gallipoli in 1915, said he and his comrades felt well-equipped for battle.

George Jones rose from being a private in the First World War to Chief of the Air Staff in the Second World War. He was born in Rushworth, Victoria, on 22 November 1896 to a farming family. George Jones left school on his 14th birthday after attaining his Certificate of Merit (1910) moving to Melbourne two years later, with his worldly wealth - four gold sovereigns and a bicycle - to become a competent motor mechanic. Enlisting in the Australi-

an Imperial Force (1915), he volunteered to serve at Gallipoli and remained there until the historic evacuation of ANZAC troops on 12 Dec 1915, after which he briefly served with No 13 Imperial Camel Corps.

In October 1916, he successfully applied to join the Australian Flying Corps (AFC) where he qualified and was promoted to 1st Class Air Mechanic. After applying for pilot training, on his 21st birthday, he graduated, and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant, and deployed to No 4 Squadron AFC (Jan 1918) based in France to fly combat missions at the Western Front.

Jones finished the war a captain and an ace, with seven aerial victories from 150 patrols. He was badly injured by a bullet wound and petrol burns in combat with a German fighter in March 1918, and did not return to his unit for three months. On 29 October 1918 he achieved two kills in one engagement, at Tournai, in what is frequently described as "one of the greatest air battles of the war". Amid a confrontation involving over 75 Allied and German fighters, Jones led his patrol of three Snipes in a dive on 10 Fokkers, destroying a brace of enemy aircraft in the attack. He was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross. George Jones finished WWI with an impressive record. He was a Flight

Commander, as a fighter pilot he was recognised as an 'ace' having shot down seven enemy aircraft. The Distinguished Flying Cross citations states:

"A most daring and gallant leader in aerial fighting in which he has destroyed seven enemy aircraft. Captain Jones has always displayed marked ability in all his duties."

Captain George Jones DFC re-enlisted in the newly establish Royal Australian Air Force, rising steadily through various Command positions and ranks prior to World War II. George Jones DFC was appointed Royal Australian Air Force Chief of Air Staff (ACS) on 5 May 1942 with the rank of Air Vice-Marshal and was appointed Air Marshal in Jan 1947. He was the second Australian appointed as RAAF Chief of Air Staff. Aged 45 years, he was the youngest Air Commander in the Allied Forces, and under his leadership, at the end of WWII, the RAAF was the world's fourth largest air force.

He represented the RAAF at the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay. He continued to oversee RAAF operations during the Berlin Airlift, the Korean War, and in Malaya. He retired from the RAAF in 1952 and was knighted in March 1954. Upon retiring he took up the position of Director of Coordination with the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation. He retired, aged 60, in 1957 but continued to serve on the board of Ansett Transport Industries, a position he held for almost twenty years from 1951. He died in Melbourne in August 1992.

He commanded the Royal Australian Air Force at the time of its greatest strength and in wartime. It was Jones who drove the development of the RAAF; it was Jones who successfully oversaw the training organisation, which provided aircrew not only to Europe but also to the South West Pacific. It was Jones who acquired the aircraft to equip the Bostock controlled operational squadrons.

The record of success continued in the post war years. It was Jones who planned the structure of the post war RAAF. This on any interpretation was a significant achievement. So were his successful proposals to equip the Service with modern aircraft.

GARETH MCCRAY OAM

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

LEST WE FORGET



*For those who are in a supervisory capacity and have to evaluate an employee to Management, here are some guidelines to assess that idiot staff member:*

1. Works well only when under constant supervision and when cornered like a rat in a trap
2. His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of morbid curiosity.
3. I would not allow this employee to breed.
4. This employee is really not so much of a has-been but more of a definite won't be.
5. Since my last report, he has reached rock bottom and has started to dig.
6. When she opens her mouth, it seems that this is only to change feet.
7. He would be out of his depth in a parking lot puddle.
8. This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
9. She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
10. This employee should go far, and the sooner he starts the better.
11. This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.
12. Not the sharpest knife in the drawer.
13. Got into the gene pool while the lifeguard wasn't watching.
14. He has a room temperature IQ.
15. Got a full 6-pack, but lacks the plastic thingy to hold it all together.
16. A gross ignoramus. 144 times worse than an ordinary ignoramus.
17. A photographic memory but with the lens cover glued on.
18. A prime candidate for natural de-selection.
19. Bright as Alaska in December.
20. One-celled organisms out score him in IQ tests.
21. Donated his brain to science before he was done using it.
22. Fell out of the family tree.
23. Gates are down, the lights are flashing, but the train is going nowhere.
24. He has two brains but one is lost and the other is out looking for it.
25. He is so dense, light bends around him.
26. If brains were taxed, he'd get a rebate.
27. If he were any more stupid, he'd have to be watered twice a week.
28. If you give him a penny for his thoughts, you'd get change.
29. If you stand close enough to him, you can hear the ocean.
30. It is hard to believe that he beat out 1,000,000 other sperm.
31. One neuron short of a synapse.
32. Some drink from the fountain of knowledge, he only gargled.
33. Takes him 1 1/2 hours to watch the 60 minutes program.
34. Was left on the Tilt-A-Whirl a bit too long as a baby.
35. Wheel is turning, but the hamster is dead.

*As a former Government Employee and supervisor I had to perform work assessments on my staff..... I wish I had this list to follow.....Ed.*



Today's Teaser:  
If you want to find out how fast you react - Turn the light out and try to get into bed, before it's dark.....

## Remembering Our Aussie Diggers

**Gary Perrin**

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/361603404551786/?multi\\_permaLinks=797364050975717%2C797362940975828%2C797110327667756%2C796678124377643&notif\\_id=1626069878417044&notif\\_t=group\\_activity&ref=notif](https://www.facebook.com/groups/361603404551786/?multi_permaLinks=797364050975717%2C797362940975828%2C797110327667756%2C796678124377643&notif_id=1626069878417044&notif_t=group_activity&ref=notif)



*South Vietnam. Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy Province. 1967. The biggest King Cobra killed by Australian troops is the claim of these men of the 1st Australian Reinforcement Unit (1ARU). The snake was caught and killed in a running night battle when it slithered into their four-man tent. The snake measured 11 feet from head to tail. Left to right: Private Alan Graham, Private Dennis Nelson and Private Roger 'Kaz' Kaczmarek. Private Nelson was accidentally killed in a training exercise on 28 September 1967.*

*Photo by Bryan Campbell. [AWM CAM/67/0311/VN]*

### **Elaine Bailey - Regimental Books - Australian Military History**

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/361603404551786/?multi\\_permaLinks=797364050975717%2C797362940975828%2C797110327667756%2C796678124377643&notif\\_id=1626069878417044&notif\\_t=group\\_activity&ref=notif](https://www.facebook.com/groups/361603404551786/?multi_permaLinks=797364050975717%2C797362940975828%2C797110327667756%2C796678124377643&notif_id=1626069878417044&notif_t=group_activity&ref=notif)

*The escort Land Rover attached to Headquarters Australian Forces Vietnam (HQAfV) armed with a pintle mounted 7.62 mm M60 general purpose machine gun.*

*Identified from left: 3167608 Corporal Amat (Aff) Nordin Binnoore, HQAFV, (holding M16A1 automatic rifle); 37668 Sergeant Frank Stanley Hayes, (doorway of Land Rover); 1201149 Private Victor Jonkaitis, (holding M60). The*



*The soldiers are waiting for an Australian concert party group to arrive. The group will be taken by bus (background) to their concert venue. South Vietnam - 1971.*

## **Elaine Bailey - On This Day - Australian Military History**

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### **Battle of Mubo**

On the 14th of July 1943, Australian soldiers of the 2/5th, 2/6th and 2/7th Infantry Brigade (17th Brigade) successfully captured the Mubo village during the Salamaua-Lae Campaign.

After the defence of the Wau airfield, the Australians went on the offensive to capture the key town of Mubo on the Salamaua trail in early April. Attempts to flank the Japanese positions surrounding the town were unsuccessful after the Japanese reinforced their defensive strongpoints with 600 men of the 66th infantry regiment.

Following a heavy artillery and aerial bombardment, Australian forces were able to move up the ridgeline and captured the key positions surrounding the town of Observation, Green, and Pimple Hills on the 12th of July. With the town encircled from the South, the Japanese were forced to withdraw.

Two battle honours were awarded by the Australian Army for actions around Mubo: "Mubo I" to the 2/7th for actions between 22 April and 29 May, and "Mubo II" to the 2/5th and 2/6th Infantry Battalions for the capture of the village itself between 7 and 14 July 1943

*Image: An Australian patrol prepares to move out along the Mubo Track during the advance towards Salamaua, July 1943*



## Peacekeeping in Korea continues

By Signaller Elizabeth Barnes

<https://news.defence.gov.au/international/peacekeeping-korea-continues>



*Signaller Elizabeth Barnes currently deployed in support of Operation Linesmen in South Korea.*

Australia's Operation Linesmen contingent assisting Headquarters, United Nations Command and the UN Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) continues to build trust and rapport with its Korean counterparts.

Operating in the Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Korea, the four-person team supports initiatives from the Comprehensive Military Agreement signed by the two Koreas in September 2018.

Monitoring the implementation of specific projects borne from the Comprehensive Military Agreement and upholding the terms of the Korean Armistice Agreement, Commander of the Australian contingent Squadron Leader Tim Lowther said the time invested in forging strong and effective working relationships across all levels of each Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) Task Force had been critical to mission success.

"Working directly with ROKA personnel, the team has built a reputation of being approachable, helpful and reliable," Squadron Leader Lowther said.

"It has been this cooperative reputation that has enabled the observer team to effectively facilitate the ROKA mission while upholding the strict requirements of the armistice."

Key to the mission has been the Australian team's interpreter Signaller Elizabeth Barnes.

With her Korean heritage, her insight into the local culture and fluency with the language, Signaller Barnes has been vital to the team.



On her first period of operational service, the young soldier said being chosen for the role as team interpreter had been a career highlight.

“Liaising with many elements and organisations has given me an appreciation of how complex the division of military responsibility is,” Signaller Barnes said.

“Each day comes with new discussions and being able to ensure that intentions are conveyed effectively has been the most challenging part of the job.”

The team’s second-in-command, Lieutenant Eren Ulusoy, said working and developing strong professional relationships with the ROKA had been the most satisfying part of the job.

“I am certainly grateful to be working alongside the ROKA. One can quickly see they are a professional workforce who hold themselves to a high standard,” Lieutenant Ulusoy said.

“It has been enjoyable to interact with them on a daily basis. The soldiers on the ground have been enthusiastic in developing my understanding of Korea’s language and society. I will walk away from this experience with a newfound appreciation for Korean culture.

“I count myself lucky for the opportunity to work in a triservice team within the wider umbrella of the United Nations Command. It has been a fantastic learning experience to get exposure from so many different elements within the multinational and multi-service environment.

“Rotation #5 has benefited from the hard work of previous rotations and I’m proud to have contributed to the continuing the success of Operation Linesmen into the future,” she said.



*Commander of the Australian Contingent under Operation Linesman Squadron Leader Tim Lowther, right, and Signaller Elizabeth Barnes talk to a Republic of Korea Army soldier at White Horse Hill.*

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he knows when he's really in trouble.

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Victor 'Ray' Leonard, the last survivor of the corvette HMAS *Armidale I*, sunk in action in 1942, has died in Victoria.

*Armidale* was lost in a fight for survival against Japanese aircraft on December 1 in the Timor Sea.

Her demise was distinguished not only by the resolve of her

ship's company, who fought their ship to the end, but also by the bravery of 18-year-old Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean, who returned to his 20mm Oerlikon anti-aircraft gun after the 'abandon ship' order had been given.

He went down with the ship, and 78 years later, on December 1, 2021, a long fight to have Sheean's bravery recognised with a Victoria Cross succeeded.

Dr Leonard was a part of that fight.

Most of *Armidale*'s sailors, and those Dutch soldiers she had taken off Timor, died with the ship.

But 49 of the 149 on board survived.

They took to the shattered boats and Carley floats in the tropical seas, and for several days, battled for survival, seeing many of those on board die.

Dr Leonard was among those who made it back to Darwin.

At the time, Dr Leonard had only been in the Navy for a year and a month.

It had been a fierce and bloody fight, but it did not deter him.

He continued to serve in the RAN until December 5, 1945, by which time he was a 24-year-old able seaman.

Dr Leonard was born in Elsternwick, Victoria, and it was to Victoria he returned where he spent most of the rest of his life.

He trained in psychology, completed a doctorate, and later went on to become the chief psychologist with the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

He was married to Beryle for more than 75 years, with whom he had several children who survive him.

Dr Leonard was always a strong supporter of the campaign to see the original Mention in Despatches awarded to Teddy Sheean upgraded to a Victoria Cross and was delighted when the award was made last year.

In the last few weeks of his life, Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Mike Noonan sent a letter to Dr Leonard telling him how greatly his service had been appreciated by his country. It was read out to Dr Leonard, who was most touched.

## Navies prove strength in numbers

By Lieutenant Sarah Rohweder

<https://news.defence.gov.au/international/navies-prove-strength-numbers>



*HMAS Brisbane conducts maritime manoeuvres with ships from Japan, South Korea and the US during Exercise Pacific Vanguard. Photo: Leading Seaman Daniel Goodman*

Warships from Australia, Japan, South Korea and the US have joined forces to conduct a series of high-end warfighting activities for five days. Royal Australian Navy destroyer HMAS *Brisbane* is working alongside the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyer JS *Makinami*, the South Korea Navy destroyer *Wang Geon* and the United States Navy destroyer USS *Rafael Peralta*.

It is part of Exercise Pacific Vanguard, which is enhancing relations between the partner nations, boosting interoperability and refining navy-to-navy skills. Commanding Officer *Brisbane* Commander Aaron Cox said the exercise reaffirmed confidence in the four nations' ability to work together as a combined force in an increasingly challenging strategic environment.

"Exercise Pacific Vanguard demonstrates Australia's commitment to working with regional partners to address shared challenges, including our region's maritime security," Commander Cox said.

"Operating as a single Task Group led by *Wang Geon*, we will be conducting high-end training serials, including air, surface and sub-surface warfare, missile firings and ship-to-ship communications.

"By continuing to work with like-minded partner forces, Navy contributes to the stability that underpins prosperity in the Indo-Pacific."

Australian submarine HMAS *Rankin* will also participate in the exercise, which is in its fourth iteration.

Normally held in the vicinity of Guam, it is the first time the exercise is being conducted in Australian waters.

*Makinami*, *Wang Geon* and *Rafael Peralta* will make a brief contactless port visit to Fleet Base East, Sydney, at the end of Pacific Vanguard before participating in Exercise Talisman Sabre.

*Brisbane* will participate in Exercise Talisman Sabre alongside HMA Ships *Ballarat*, *Canberra*, *Choules*, *Melville* and *Parramatta* off the coast of Queensland.

## ARMY

### All Australian troops have now been withdrawn from Afghanistan SBS News

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/all-australian-troops-have-now-been-withdrawn-from-afghanistan>

Peter Dutton, (the Minister for Defence), has confirmed all of Australia's defence troops have now been withdrawn from Afghanistan.

The Defence Minister said there had been 1,500 troops in the country, which was recently reduced to 80, and now they have all been withdrawn under the advice of the chief of defence.

The withdrawal comes earlier than the original September deadline.

"That doesn't mean we won't be a part of campaigns with the United States perhaps involving the SAS or special forces where we deem that to be in our national interest or in the interest of our allies," he told Sky News on Sunday morning.

"For now though, that campaign has come to an end. "Hazara Australians fear their people in Afghanistan could soon be massacred.

It comes amid calls for the government to do all it can to protect Afghans who assisted Australia during its mission in the war-torn country.

Locals who were employed by Australian agencies to assist as interpreters and other roles now fear they could be murdered by the resurgent Taliban, which considers them "traitors" for working with foreign forces.

Mr Dutton said the government was taking a "rigorous approach" to granting protection visas, saying it "makes no apology for that".

"If we've got the wrong person here, somebody who had played both sides, somebody who had worked for us in 2016, 2013, 2010, but had now affiliated with the Taliban ... I suspect people that are making the calls for that individual to be here would be not seen and not heard of," he said.

Former prime minister John Howard, who sent Australia into Afghanistan, told SBS News earlier this week the country bears a moral responsibility to help the Afghans who worked with Australian agencies.

"Where it is clearly the case that they could be in danger of retribution, we have an obligation to help them if necessary, by giving them visas to come to live in Australia," he said.

"That is a moral obligation we have. And it was a moral obligation that was shamefully discarded many years ago when we pulled out of

Vietnam. I do not want to see a repetition of that failure in relation to Afghanistan."

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Friday he "absolutely agrees" with Mr Howard and the government was "moving on that as quickly and as safely as it possibly can".

A number of Afghans have told SBS News they applied for the government's Afghan Locally Engaged Employees (LEE) visa program but were rejected because they were indirectly employed by Australia.

More than 230 visas have been granted to Afghans and their families under the LEE program since 15 April, when Australia joined the UK and US in announcing a full troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

More than 1,480 visas have been granted since 2013.

Meanwhile, Mr Dutton says the threat of terrorism hasn't gone away and whether that manifests in Australia, in the Middle East or elsewhere around the world, then Australia will be part of an effort to defeat that.

He wants there to be a national day of commemoration for those 39,000 troops that served in Afghanistan in the past two decades that saw the loss of 41 Australian lives.

"I want those diggers to hear very clearly the message that because of their efforts in Afghanistan, in Iraq and in the region, they have stopped terrorist attacks from taking place in our country," he said.

"We are incredibly eternally grateful for that."

He sees it as a similar story to other days of national significance in the military calendar, such as Anzac Day and Vietnam Veterans Day.



Australian Defence Force members of Task Group Afghanistan salute as the Australian National Flag is lowered for the last time at Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul, Afghanistan.

*Remembering Our Aussie Veterans | Facebook*



## Milestone for pilots

By Flying Officer Bronwyn Marchant

<https://news.defence.gov.au/people/milestone-pilots>



*Pilot Officer Dirk was one of the pilots who completed the first operational conversion course conducted in Australia for the F-35A Lightning II during Exercise Rogue Ambush.*

***Photo: Leading Aircraftman Adam Abela***

Air Force's newest E-7A Wedgetail and F-35A Lightning II pilots completed their six-month operational conversion courses on Exercise Rogue Ambush 21.

The exercise, held from June 15 to July 2 in the Northern Territory, provided a vital foundation for the integration of the two platforms and the people who operate them.

For Pilot Officer Jack Shellcot and Pilot Officer Dirk, the journey to becoming operational pilots started long before commencing their operational conversion courses.

No. 2 Squadron E-7A co-pilot Pilot Officer Shellcot grew up in Humpty Doo, Northern Territory, and began his career as a commercial pilot before joining the Air Force in 2017.

"One of the biggest inspirations for me was the idea of transferring the highly technical skill that I'd devoted a large portion of my life to and applying it to enable the safe and efficient operation of the E-7A," Pilot Officer Shellcot said.

"This has been unlike anything I have ever done before, so it's been extremely rewarding to reach the culmination of over four years of application and training to qualify as an E-7A co-pilot.

"It is easily the most incredible and capable aircraft I have had the pleasure of flying, and the learning never stops."

Graduating from the first F-35A operational conversion course to be run in Australia, Pilot Officer Dirk said his journey to become an F-35A fighter pilot was one of his most challenging but rewarding experiences.

“When I was a kid, I had the dream to want to fly fighter jets, but I guess I never really believed it would happen,” Pilot Officer Dirk said.

“From starting my basic flying training on a CT-4 back in 2017 to finally becoming an F-35A pilot, it all feels pretty surreal.

“I came into this knowing it was going to be a lot of hard work; early mornings and late nights and there's going to be failures along the way.

“It's been challenging and sometimes you sort of need to search for that extra motivation, but once you get to the end, it is a pretty awesome feeling.”

Exercise Rogue Ambush was the final phase of the two operational conversion courses for F-35A pilots and E-7A co-pilots.

Pilot Officer Shellcot said the exercise came with some unique challenges.

“We're all striving to complete our own individual jobs in pursuit of achieving a mutual goal,” Pilot Officer Shellcot said.

“However the second week of the exercise coincided with the COVID-19 lockdown in Darwin, so we had to reassess the way we were operating.

“The nature of our roles means we're used to working in fast-paced and rapidly changing environments, so this really was the ultimate test.”



*Pilot Officer Jack Shellcot, a co-pilot from No. 2 Squadron, completed the final phase of the six-month operational conversion course for the E-7A Wedgetail on Exercise Rogue Ambush.*

***Photo: Leading Aircraftman Adam Abela***

## ***Before We Go, Important COVID 19 Information***

A friend had his 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the vaccine at a vaccination centre and blurred vision on the way home. When he got home, he called the vaccination centre for advice and to ask if he should go see a doctor or be hospitalized.

He was told NOT to go to a doctor or a hospital, but just return to the vaccination centre immediately and pick up his glasses.

## ***Medical Advice***

Conflicting Medical Advice Medical experts in Ottawa today were asked if it is time to ease the COVID lockdowns.

Allergists were in favour of scratching it, but Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

Gastroenterologists had a sort of a gut feeling about it, but Neurologists thought the government had a lot of nerve. Obstetricians felt certain everyone was labouring under a misconception, while Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted. Many Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while Paediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!" Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while Radiologists could see right through it. Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and pharmacists claimed it would be a bitter pill to swallow. Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter." Oral surgeons and dentists complained that trying to follow constantly changing government directives is like pulling teeth. Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but Urologists were peeved off by the whole idea. Anaesthetists thought the whole idea was a gas, and Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the bums in politics.

There will be no Nativity Scene in Canberra this year!

The High Court has ruled that there cannot be a Nativity Scene in the Australian Capital this Christmas. This isn't for any religious reason. They simply have not been able to find Three Wise Men in Parliament.

The search for a Virgin continues.

There was no problem, however, finding enough donkeys to fill the stable.





A woman goes to her boyfriend's parents' house for Christmas dinner. This is to be her first time meeting the family and she is very nervous. They all sit down and begin eating a fine meal.

The woman is beginning to feel a little discomfort, thanks to her nervousness and the broccoli casserole. The gas pains are almost making her eyes water. Left with no other choice, she decides to relieve herself a bit and lets out a dainty fart.

It wasn't loud, but everyone at the table heard the poof.

Before she even had a chance to be embarrassed, her boyfriend's father looked over at the dog that had been snoozing under the woman's chair, and said in a rather stern voice, 'Skippy!'.

The woman thought, 'This is great!' and a big smile came across her face. A couple of minutes later, she was beginning to feel the pain again. This time, she didn't even hesitate. She let a much louder and longer rrrrip.

The father again looked at the dog and yelled, 'Skippy!'

Once again the woman smiled and thought 'Yes!' A few minutes later the woman had to let another rip. This time she didn't even think about it.

She let a fart rip that rivaled a train whistle blowing.

Once again, the father looked at the dog with disgust and yelled, 'Skippy, get away from her, before she poops on you!'



**STOP PRESS**

All Meetings for July  
and August are  
**CANCELLED**