

Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

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"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"

Newsletter

Issue 97

July, 2020

SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE—2020—2023

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FSMDC Delegates Ron Duckworth, Ian Muirhead
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Bankstown City Aged Care Ian Muirhead, Greg Brown
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For service ring the Secretary, Gary Roser on 0409 919 364



EDITORIAL** Gary Roser, Editor

We were having a good run with our lockdown in NSW until people in Victoria stuffed the system up with their lack of government control in the hotels. And the demonstrators on the streets probably didn't help either, although the government officials deny it.

I only hope the message gets through after this long period of lockdown teaching them a lesson that they will never forget. As a former serving copper I feel for the police who have to deal with the problems associated with it because there are always that minority that will cause problems.

And lets hope we prevent the virus coming north. Stay safe folks.

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

Sub-Branch Meetings	
Committee	Sub-Branch
Mondays 5:00pm	Sundays 10:30am
TO BE ADVISED	

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

First, I would like to thank the committee for making themselves available for an informal meeting the other Monday night. "Patience I am told is a virtue seldom processed by a man". Many items where discussed and with the apparent success of controlling the virus and coming out of the lockdown, I asked the committee to consider the possibility of meeting as a Sub-Branch. A tentative suggestion of a picnic in a park in late August, Saturday lunch at the Liberty Palace at Bankstown and Remembrance Day in November where events that were considered.



At this moment in time, we cannot have a picnic as there is to be no more than 20 persons. One can only hope that we in NSW can miss the lockdown that Victoria is now in. The committee will meet again on the third Monday each month to access the situation and work towards a suitable meeting of the Subbranch.

One thing that has come out the lockdown and refurbishment of Chester Hill RSL Club is that Tom and Hong are now running the restaurant and the food is as good as it was at Bass Hill.

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

Trước tiên, tôi muốn cảm ơn các ủy ban để làm cho mình có sẵn cho một cuộc họp không chính thức của đêm thứ hai khác. "Kiên nhẫn tôi đã nói là một đức hạnh hiếm khi được xử lý bởi một người đàn ông". Nhiều mặt hàng mà thảo luận và với sự thành công rõ ràng của việc kiểm soát virus và sắp ra khỏi Lockdown, tôi yêu cầu các ủy ban để xem xét khả năng của cuộc họp như là một subbranch. Một gợi ý dự kiến của một cuộc dã ngoại trong một công viên vào cuối tháng tám, ăn trưa thứ bảy tại cung điện Liberty tại Bankstown và Remembrance Day trong tháng mười một nơi mà các sự kiện được xem xét.

Tại thời điểm này, chúng tôi không thể có một bữa ăn ngoài trời như có được không quá 20 người. Một chỉ có thể hy vọng rằng chúng tôi ở NSW có thể bỏ lỡ Lockdown rằng Victoria là bây giờ. Ủy ban sẽ gặp lại vào thứ

... ... *Continued*

Continued hai thứ ba mỗi tháng để truy cập vào tình hình và làm việc hướng tới một cuộc họp phù hợp của chi nhánh.

Một điều mà đã đi ra khỏi khoá và tân trang của Chester Hill RSL câu lạc bộ là Tom và hồng đang chạy các nhà hàng và thực phẩm là tốt như nó đã được ở Bass Hill.

Một lần nữa, tôi yêu cầu tất cả mọi người đi lưu ý của bất kỳ lời khuyên y tế đưa ra và giữ gìn sức khỏe.

Mong muốn gặp bạn một nơi nào đó trong tương lai.

Ralph Hannaford

President



Coronavirus: advice to keep you and your family safe

The news about novel coronavirus continues to develop. It's important to **take sensible steps to look after yourself and your family**.

Keep an eye out for **updates from reliable sources** such as the **NSW Government website**

If you develop a **fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath** within 14 days of overseas travel or are in contact with someone else who has Coronavirus, seek medical attention: call your GP, Healthdirect on **1800 022 222**, or in an emergency, your local hospital emergency department

Protect yourself and others: clean your hands regularly, cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Face masks aren't recommended for people without symptoms. Importantly – stay at home if you're feeling unwell.

At Service NSW our customers are our priority. We are putting in extra measures to ensure your safety. We have **improved cleaning and are providing hand sanitiser and single-use pens** at all our centres.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hello Folks,



As has been mentioned by our President Ralph Hannaford, very little has occurred in the sub-Branch since the last Newsletter.

As your editor of this Newsletter I have tried to find an interesting feature article and I hope you will enjoy it.

You might remember in the last Newsletter I said that there was a mistake in it and invited the first person to contact me would be looked after with a prize. Would you believe it? No one rang me. However last week whilst in the Club I was approached by a lady who wanted to tell me the mistake. I told her that the next Newsletter was due out and it was too late. Question: Are you reading the Newsletter? If not I can stop putting it out. What do you reckon?

In the mean time as Ralph said, as a Committee we are trying to plan a few things ahead. But of course with the restrictions we are finding it very hard.

I hope that Remembrance Day in November is free of virus and we can get together at the cenotaph. If not we have some ideas to cover it which need to be discussed at Committee level and with Chester Hill—Carramar Sub-Branch. We will see what happens, and of course will let you know in good time.

At the moment, NO NEWS. Sorry about that.

Stay safe. Social Distance

*Gary Roser
Hon. Secretary*

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

This is what we, who are aged 70 or 80 years plus, can look forward to.

This is something that happened at an assisted living center. The people who lived there had small apartments but they all ate at a central cafeteria. One morning one of the residents didn't show up for breakfast so my wife went upstairs and knocked on his door to see if everything was OK. She could hear him through the door and he said that he was running late and would be down shortly, so she went back to the dining area.



An hour later he still hadn't arrived, so she went back up towards his room but found him on the stairs. He was coming down the stairs but was having a hard time. He had a death grip on the hand rail and seemed to have trouble getting his legs to work right. She told him she was going to call an ambulance but he told her no, he wasn't in any pain and just wanted to have his breakfast. So, she helped him the rest of the way down the stairs and he had his breakfast. When he tried to return to his room, he was completely unable to get up even the first stair step, so they called an ambulance for him.

A couple of hours later she called the hospital to see how he was doing. The receptionist there said he was fine, he just had both of his legs in one side of his boxer shorts.

I'm sending this to my children so that they don't sell the house before they know all the facts.

I REMEMBER BEING
ABLE TO GET UP
WITHOUT MAKING
SOUND EFFECTS...

GOOD TIMES.

Sixty might be
the new forty
but 9:00 is the
new midnight.

The older
I get the
earlier it
gets late.

**People who
wonder whether
the glass is half
empty or half full
miss the point.
The glass is
refillable.**

**I'M NOT AN ALCOHOLIC,
ALCOHOLICS NEED A DRINK**



AND I ALREADY HAVE ONE

Who remembers?

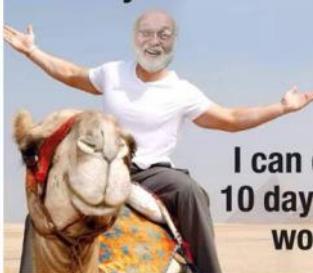


**WAITING TO CALL LONG
DISTANCE AFTER 7PM
BECAUSE IT WAS CHEAPER**

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FASCINATING FACT #97

A camel can work for
10 days without drinking...



I can drink for
10 days without
working.

GRUMPY OLD GITS

DAN BACKLAND FOR GRUMPY OLD GITS | © Little Church Mouse Ltd MMXVII

My ability to remember the words to a song of the 60's outweighs
my ability to remember why I walked into the kitchen

THE SOUVENIR KING - AKA: WILD EYES

The man, the legend!

By [Marilyn Jennifer Carrero](#), Facebook 14 May 2020

John “Barney” Hines, whose World War I Army file details remarkably few wounds and remarkably many breaches of military discipline. On one level, Private Hines was a thief and scrounger with a propensity for violence that verged on the psychopathic. But in a place where even brave men were terrified, especially of showing fear, he excelled. He also happened to be one of the most deadly infantrymen of the war. At a time when hardly anyone but sailors had tattoos, “Barney” had plenty, he was regarded as big – a touch over six foot but a genuine “16 stone” heavyweight with a barrel chest and muscle from a lifetime of manual labour.

He had black hair, dark eyes and a look that made people nervous, this earned him another nickname, wild eyes. At a later date the commanding officer said “I always felt secure when Wild Eyes was about. He was a tower of strength in the line - I don't think he knew what fear was and he naturally inspired confidence in officers and men.”

The Diggers called him “Souvenir King” because even in an army with its share of thieves, scally-wags and “foragers”, he stood out. Among young recruits, he was a seasoned veteran. When he first enlisted in 1915 he claimed to be 28. He was in fact 42 and had been fending for himself for 30 years, ever since he ran away from home aged 12, as a seaman, a labourer, a Boer War guide, gold prospector and other things all over the world

In a battlefield of horrors beyond imagination, Hines seemed to reduce brutal combat to a sort of macabre sport “souveniring” German loot was maybe a way of keeping score, a logical thing to do in a place with no logic, where men lived miserably and died terribly and at random.

He killed and captured dozens of Germans because he was good at it and he robbed them because he needed the money. He'd had his pay docked



The photo shows “Barney” with his “loot” after the fighting at Polygon Wood, Belgium.

so often for brawling, drinking and going absent without leave that he was effectively fighting for nothing. He would take money, watches ,rings, knives ,anything he could sell was taken. Reports indicated he had collected more than 4000 francs, 6 bottles of whisky, diamond earrings, a diamond brooch, gold rings, around 1 million German marks, a variety of watches and sufficient iron crosses to fill a sandbag

His fame spread beyond his own battalion as stories of his exploits passed along the lines.

There might have been snipers with more known “kills” but some suggest Hines single handed, killed or captured more Germans than any other foot soldier — and certainly robbed more of them.

On one occasion he rushed a German pill-box, he ran straight at it, leapt on its roof and preformed a war dance while taunting the Germans to come out. When they failed to comply, Hines lobbed a couple of Mills bombs through the gun port. A few minutes later the 48 Germans who had survived staggered out with their hands above their heads. Hines collected his "souvenirs" before herding his prisoners back to the Australian lines. Later the same day, he went back into the field and "knocked out" a German machine gun post.

He did not like to use his 303 rifle, he went into action clutching two sand bags stuffed with Mills bombs, then he would use the bags for his "loot". Battalion officers recognised his natural fighting ability but despaired of ever turning him into a trained and disciplined soldier.

Lieutenant Colonel Allen thought of attaching the big fellow to a Lewis gun. Hines was entranced by the weapon and its spraying power. 'This'll do me', he growled... 'it's just like hosing the bastards down"

Another time he returned from Amiens with suitcases full of French francs, apparently “found” in a bank. British military police arrested him but he caused so much trouble and they couldn’t prove he stole it, so they let him go and he returned to his unit.

At Passchendaele, a shell burst killed every man in his Lewis gun crew. Hines was thrown 20 metres, had the soles ripped from his boots but still managed to crawl back and keep firing until he fainted from his wounds. After he recovered in hospital he returned, to be wounded again and gassed. He was sent back to Australia a month before the Armistice and discharged in 1919. He went back to doing the best he could – droving, prospecting and timber cutting. When a new war broke out in 1939 he tried to join up again, aged 66, but this time he couldn’t fib his way in.

“Barney” died broke in 1958 at 85.

‘Not substantially European’: the Chinese Anzacs who fought for Australia in first world war had to fight racism first – 25 April, 2020

*An extract from Ian Young’s article,
printed in the South China Morning Post, Vancouver*

The author’s great-uncle, Fred Goon, was among some 250 Chinese-Australians who fought in World War 1, defying a ban on non-white recruits. Goon, who was gassed on the Western Front, was rejected eight times before he successfully enlisted – and he may have walked 700km (435 miles) to do so.

The first world war was raging in Europe, and Australian greengrocer Fred Goon, son of Louey Fong Goon and Elizabeth Johnson, wanted to fight. Desperately. But to do so he would have to defy a Defence Act that banned men “not substantially of European origin or descent”. Australia was in the grip of the White Australia Policy, used for decades to exclude Chinese immigrants; the recruitment rules reflected similarly racist intent.

Eight times Goon tried to sign up, and eight times he was rejected. But on his ninth try, on January 12, 1917, he succeeded. The medical officer noted the 23-year-old recruit’s dark complexion and hair, but not his Chinese heritage.

A little over a year later, Goon was gulping down German drift gas in the trenches of the Western Front, and he was hospitalised for months. He returned to the Belgian front in time to take part in the last battle of the war involving Australian troops.

“The persistence of Goon, my great-uncle, may be some kind of record. Multiple rejections, I’ve come across,” said Emily Cheah Ah-Qune, who curated an exhibition and research project on the Chinese ANZAC’s (the acronym for the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) for the Chinese Museum of Melbourne.

“But eight times … I don’t think I’ve ever come across someone who went through so many rejections. He must have felt strongly about serving. The story has long held a place in our family lore. According to my late grandmother, Lucy Chong, her brother Fred supposedly walked 700km (435 miles) from their home in the gold-mining town of Bendigo, Victoria, over the state border to Dubbo in New South Wales because Victorian enlists rejected him for being Chinese.”

But the facts of this tall-sounding tale emerge via wartime documents and newspaper clippings, in a search triggered by my sister's recent discovery of a photo of Goon in uniform in a biographical atlas of Chinese families in Bendigo, put together by the city's Golden Dragon Museum.

Uncle Fred stares out in sepia tones, handsome and young, the collar of his greatcoat rakishly flipped. I had never seen his face before.

As Australia and New Zealand mark Anzac Day on Thursday, honouring their troops' service, Goon's story bucks assumptions about the forging of Australian nationhood on the distant battlefields of the first world war. It is a history that once overlooked the likes of Fred Goon.

Despite the barriers that he and others faced, there appears little doubt about the patriotism of Chinese-Australian troops.

Benjamin Moy Ling, another soldier identified by the Chinese Anzacs project, was rejected several times because of his race, according to an



Private Fred Goon in a photo dated January 17, 1917, four days before he boarded a troopship bound for Europe. The same photo was used 18 months later to announce in his hometown newspaper, the Bendigo Advertiser, that he had been gassed on the Western Front. Photos: Golden Dragon Museum/Bendigo Advertiser

... ... Continued

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account by the Australian Department of Veterans Affairs. But he was eventually granted special permission to join by a senior officer.

“If Australia is good enough to live in, it is good enough to fight for,” Moy Ling was quoted as saying in a newspaper in a 1917 report about his enlistment.

Researcher Edmond Chiu, who assisted Cheah Ah-Qune on the Chinese Anzacs project, which was started in 2014 and continues to tour Australia, said it was important to show that Chinese-Australians were part of the nation’s history in ways that defied expectations, “including fighting for this country”.

Chiu said at least 250 Chinese-Australian troops served in the first world war.

Goon was the son of Louey Fong Goon, a merchant from Taishan in Guangdong who joined the 19th century Australian gold rush. In Bendigo, he married Elizabeth Johnson, daughter of Irish immigrants, in 1896 – three years after she had given birth to their son, Fred.

My great-grandparents’ pairing was not unique; there were 28 marriages between Chinese men and Irish-born women in Victoria in a five-year period at the height of the gold rush, and many others involved Australian -born Irishwomen like Johnson.

But Fred was born into an Australia where racism was already endemic – anger about Chinese men marrying white women had helped trigger violent unrest, including the infamous 1861 Lambing Flat riot, in which Chinese miners were expelled from goldfields by white diggers. By 1901, the White Australia Policy was enshrined in law and would prevent most Chinese immigration for almost 50 years.

Cheah Ah-Qune said that when the first world war broke out, Chinese-Australians “desperately wanted to fit in” – and supporting the war effort was one way to do so.

Goon did indeed sign up in Dubbo, far from the family home, his enlistment papers in the Australian National Archives show. Cheah Ah-Qune also sent me a clipping from the Dubbo Gazette and Wellington Independent, dated January 16, 1917, describing Goon among the latest recruits there.

“Goon was anxious to enlist when the war broke out, but eight times he was passed out,” says the article. Goon was previously rejected for not being of “regulation measurement”, it says.

He stood just five feet, two-and-a-half inches (1.59 metres) and weighed 122 pounds (55kg), according to his medical records – diminutive, to be sure, but clear of the five-foot-two minimum height for Australian soldiers that had been in force since 1915.

Cheah Ah-Qune said the racism faced by ethnic Chinese would-be recruits was institutionalised, but application of the European-origin rule was up to individual recruitment medics. Some were sticklers. Others would bend the rules.

“One might say, well, you’re Sino in appearance, you have an olive complexion, but your heart is in the right place, so let’s put you in. It was discretionary … especially as the war progressed and more and more men were needed,” she said.

Some Chinese-Australians went to great lengths to enlist, said Cheah Ah-Qune, citing one recruit who travelled from Melbourne to Queensland to sign up, at least 1,700km north.

So did Goon really walk 700km to enlist? The record is ambiguous, but it’s possible, said Cheah Ah-Qune. Although the Gazette and Independent says Goon had worked for a Dubbo grocer for two years, Goon may have spent that time trying to sign up after his long odyssey. “I don’t think we’ll ever know for sure,” she said.

Goon worked as a produce buyer – a semi-itinerant job requiring wide travel – and a blend of reasons may have led him to Dubbo, on foot or otherwise.

“Your uncle might have gone to Dubbo because he was rejected [elsewhere] and decided to try somewhere different,” said Cheah Ah-Qune. “Or he may have gone to Dubbo to work, and decided to have another go at enlistment there.”

Whatever the case, Private Fred Goon posed for a photo in his new uniform on June 17, 1917, and four days later, he boarded the troop ship HMAT Suevic in Melbourne, bound for war.

His experiences in the trenches of Europe are sketched out in his archived service records.

Goon arrived at the front in Belgium on December 29, 1917, in the aftermath of the devastating Battle of Passchendaele, in which both German and British-commanded sides suffered hundreds of thousands of casualties and tens of thousands of deaths.

... ... *Continued*

Continued ...

The worst of the fighting was over, but on March 18, 1918, Goon was overcome by poison gas and extracted by field ambulance. He was rendered mute, and sickened so badly that he would spend 79 days in hospital.

Few other details of his condition are described – certainly no mention of the family tale that he was blinded by the gas – but Goon recovered sufficiently to return to the front with his unit in the 20th Australian Infantry Battalion on September 12, 1918, then took part in the Battle of Montbrehain three weeks later.

It was one of a series of battles that would breach the German Hindenburg Line and bring about an end to the war, and was the final fighting involving Australian troops.

Goon arrived back in Australia on June 19, 1919.

My great-uncle Fred died in 1941, aged just 47; “it would seem likely that his life was shortened by the effects of his war service,” the Golden Dragon Museum’s biographical notes say.



Fred Goon and his sisters, including the author's grandmother Lucy Chong (back right), pictured in about 1940. Goon died in 1941 aged 47, his life likely shortened by his war service, according to Bendigo's Golden Dragon Museum.

Photo: Golden Dragon Museum

QUOTES FROM BRITISH MILITARY ANNUAL STAFF APPRAISALS

1. *His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity.*
2. *I would not breed from this Officer.*
3. *This man is depriving a village somewhere of its idiot.*
4. *When she opens her mouth, it seems only to change whichever foot was previously in there.*
5. *Couldn't organise 50% leave in a 2-man submarine.*
6. *He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.*
7. *The occasional flashes of adequacy are marred by an attitude of apathy and indifference.*

Navy, Army and RAAF Newspapers & Media Releases

www.defence.gov.au/news/navynews,
www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews
www.defence.gov.au/news/raafnews

OPERATIONS INVOLVING ADF PERSONNEL

Numbers of Defence personnel on operation

Operation	Location	Personnel	Government Mandate
Accordion	Middle East Region	600	Ongoing
Aslan	South Sudan	20	Reviewed Annually
Manitou	Middle East Region Maritime	220	Ongoing
Mazurka	Egypt	27	Ongoing
Okra	Middle East Region and Iraq	160	Ongoing
Paladin	Israel	14	Reviewed Annually
Resolute	Australian Maritime Interests	600	Ongoing
Highroad	Afghanistan	200	Ongoing

The figures in the above table reflect the ongoing operational commitment, not the current number of ADF personnel deployed in those locations. Australia will continue to review its force posture as the COVID-19 crisis evolves.

Out bicycling one day with my eight-year-old granddaughter, Carolyn, I got a little wistful. “In ten years,” I said, “you’ll want to be with your friends and you won’t go walking, biking, and swimming with me like you do now.”

Carolyn shrugged. “In ten years you’ll be too old to do all those things anyway.”

HMAS Toowoomba involved in Operation Manitou



HMAS Toowoomba maintains a watch on shipping traffic in the Gulf of Oman as part of the International Maritime Security Construct.

HMAS Toowoomba is providing support to the United States

led International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC) in the Middle East region as part of the ADF's Operation MANITOU.

As part of that role, Toowoomba's Ship's Company of 190 is supporting the Combined Maritime Forces' (CMF) Combined Task Force 150 that contributes to international efforts to promote security, stability and prosperity in the region.

This is the 68th rotation of a Royal Australian Navy unit in the Middle East region since 1990, Toowoomba's sixth deployment to the region and her second as part of Operation MANITOU. Toowoomba will be available for IMSC, CMF, and national tasking during her six-month deployment.



The boarding party from HMAS Toowoomba boards a dhow carrying a large amount of illicit substances during a patrol in the Gulf of Aden as part of Operation Manitou on the 19th March 2020.

The completion of the Task Group Taji Training Mission

On 5th June 2020 the Australia Government announced the completion of its successful training mission at Taji Military Complex in Iraq.

Since 2014, Australia has trained more than 47,000 members of the Iraqi Security Forces through the joint Australia-New Zealand Building Partner Capacity Program.



We effectively contributed to this training mission, which increased the capacity of the Iraqi security forces to degrade and defeat Da'esh.

Our training and mentoring, based on the professional conduct and team ethos of 10 Army-led Taji Task Groups, increased the ability of the Iraqi Security Forces to plan and conduct their own training. Those of you who deployed on this training mission should be proud of what has been achieved.

The Australian Army was supported in this mission by Navy, Air Force and the New Zealand Defence Force.

The success of our training was apparent in November 2019, when Australia's local partner, the Iraqi School of Infantry, became the first Coalition facility to declare full independent operating capability. This enabled training responsibilities to be handed back to the Iraqi Government.

... ... *Continued*

Continued

Successful operations to counter Da'esh and the ability of the Iraqi Security forces to deliver their own training has allowed Task Group Taji to cease operations.

Army will continue to support the Australian Defence Force contribution to the Global Counter Da'esh Coalition and provide support to Iraq through contributions to the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service, and Coalition headquarters.

This contribution to has strengthened the Iraqi Security Forces to provide stability and security for the Iraqi people and added another significant chapter to Army's story.

Good Soldiering.

Richard M Burr, AO, DSC, MVO

Lieutenant General

Chief of Army

RICHMOND GOLF CLUB

TEMPORARY RULES. 1940

1. Players are asked to collect Bomb and Shrapnel splinters to save these causing damage to the Mowing Machines.
2. In Competitions, during gunfire or while bombs are falling, players may take cover without penalty for ceasing play.
3. The positions of known delayed action bombs are marked by red flags at a reasonably, but not guaranteed, safe distance therefrom.
4. Shrapnel and/or bomb splinters on the Fairways, or in Bunkers within a club's length of a ball, may be moved without penalty, and no penalty shall be incurred if a ball is thereby caused to move accidentally.
5. A ball moved by enemy action may be replaced, or if lost or destroyed, a ball may be dropped not nearer the hole without penalty.
6. A ball lying in a crater may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole, preserving the line to the hole, without penalty.
7. A player whose stroke is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb may play another ball from the same place. Penalty one stroke.

This notice was posted adjusting rules at a golf club in Britain in 1940. You have to admit - these guys really had to like the game to play!

German aircraft from Norway would fly on missions to attack northern England. Because of the icy weather conditions, the barrels of their guns had a small dab of wax in the muzzle to protect them from clogging with ice.

In addition to attacking industrial or other targets close to golf courses, as they crossed the coast, they would clear their guns

by firing a few rounds at the golf courses.

Golfers were urged to take cover.

On its 80th birthday, RAAF Base Amberley marks many milestones, from its official opening in 1940, to taking the lead in introducing women to the Defence workforce, to becoming a modern, fully operational platform for the conduct of joint operations.

Starting in 1939, the construction of RAAF Base Amberley was described as one of the largest projects undertaken in Queensland at the time - officially opening on June 17, 1940.

Air base operations began the same month with the first aircraft at station headquarters being the Moth Minor No. A21-26, followed shortly by four CAC Wirraways.

By the end of 1940 there were 54 aircraft based there and over the next two years it was transformed into a centre of excellence for the assembly, maintenance and salvage of aircraft,



which was the primary focus of the base during World War II.

Not long after, Amberley became part of a quiet revolution with RAAF leading the way in introducing women to the Defence workforce.

In 1948, a Lincoln A73-11 aircraft crashed in the north-east corner of the airfield, bursting into flames on impact and killing all 16 service personnel on board.



*The crashed Lincoln A73-11
Copywrite: www.ozatwar.com*

Three years later, the first bomber in RAAF service to be fitted with ejection seats, the GAF Canberra Mk 20, arrived at the base. It was later converted for target-towing and photo reconnaissance roles until 1982.

... ... *Continued*

Continued



opportunity for further expansion of aircraft capability on the base and three years later, 10 Caribou aircraft were relocated to Amberley.

In 2000, redevelopment works began with the relocation of Combat Support Group from Glenbrook and new headquarters for No. 82 Wing, while the base also hosted several operational combat support units and security and fire training capabilities.

The arrival of the F111 in 1973



Development of the “super base” continued over the subsequent years with accommodation, airfield upgrades, a gym, military working dog facilities, security and fire training and the headquarters building.

In 2010, after 37 years of service, the F-111 was retired, with two remaining on display: one at the main entrance to the base and the other at the RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre.



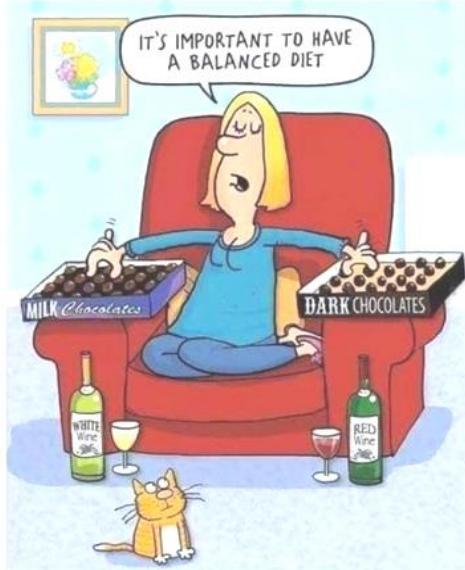
The entrance to RAAF Amberley displaying A F111 aircraft

Throughout its years, the base has hosted elements of the Australian Army. From 1960 to 1973, it was home to Army Aviation and since 2006 has supported a variety of Army units. Amberley now hosts a range of Air Force, Army and joint capabilities and is a fully operational platform for the conduct of joint operations.

Today, RAAF Base Amberley accommodates about 6000 military personnel, Commonwealth public servants and Defence aviation contractors, and provides permanent facilities for many aircraft.

Just before I was deployed to Iraq, I sat my eight-year-old son down and broke the news to him. “I’m going to be away for a long time,” I told him. “I’m going to Iraq.”

“Why?” he asked. “Don’t you know there’s a war going on over there?”



They'll be singing this soon at kindergartens and primary schools:
"Baa Baa non-specified coloured grain fed halal-certified sheep
Have you any cruelty free wool? Yes gender-neutral person, yes gender-neutral person,
three recycled, eco-friendly bags full"

If you answer
the phone with
"Hello, you're on the air!"
most telemarketers
will quickly hang up...

I phoned my local radio station today.

When the guy answered the phone he said, "Congratulations on being our 1st caller, all you have to do is answer the next question correctly to win our grand prize."

"Whoohoo!" I shouted with joy.

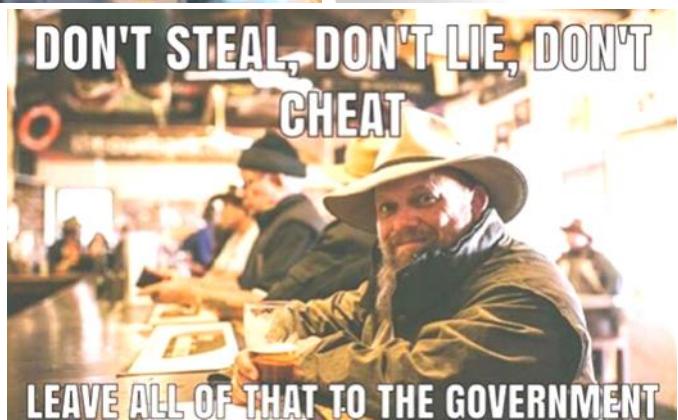
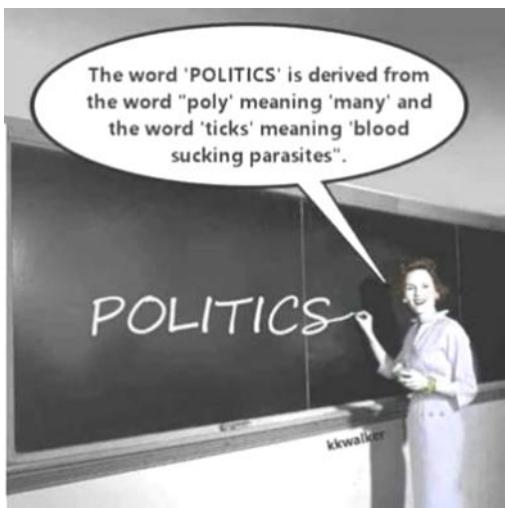
"It's a math question," he said. "Feeling confident?"

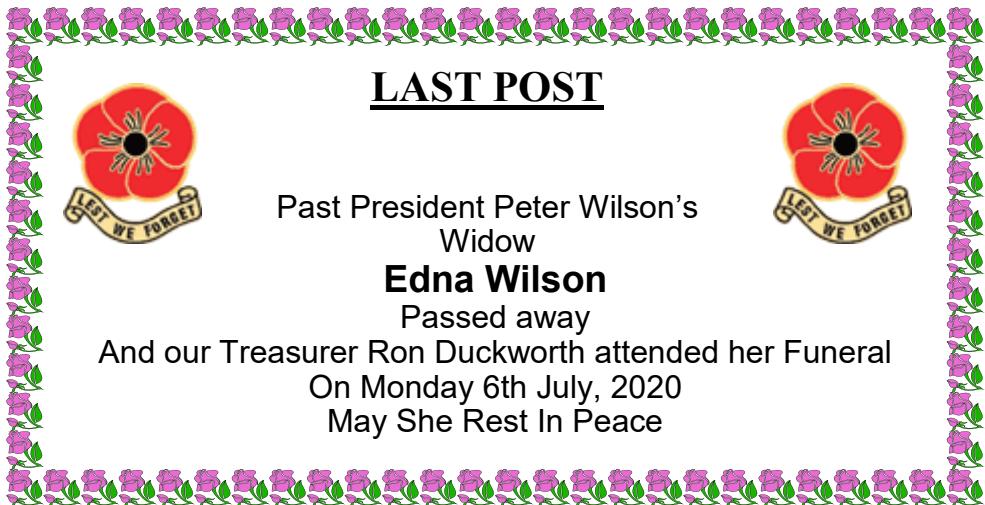
"I've got a degree in math and I teach it at our local school," I proudly said.

"Okay then, to win the 2 VIP tickets to see Justin Bieber and to meet him back stage afterwards, What is 2+2?"

"7," I replied.







LAST POST

Past President Peter Wilson's
Widow
Edna Wilson
Passed away
And our Treasurer Ron Duckworth attended her Funeral
On Monday 6th July, 2020
May She Rest In Peace

STOP PRESS