

Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

PO Box 7019,
Bass Hill, NSW 2197
Email: sub-branch@basshillrslsb.org.au
www.basshillrslsb.org.au
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"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"

Newsletter

Issue 109

March, 2022

SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE—2020—2023

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Vice Presidents Ambrose Dinh JP, Jamil (Jim) Baba
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..... Ian Kennedy, Greg Brown
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For service, ring the Secretary, Gary Roser on 0409 919 364

* Life Member



EDITORIAL** Gary Roser, Editor

The biggest catastrophe since World War Two is looming. Australia has fought alongside it's allies against communism since WW2. And, under another name (although not communism) war has raised it's ugly head again. Putin of Russia, a trained communist KGB man, the criminal leader of Russia, has used his troops to invade The Ukraine. What he is doing is outright genocide. The bombing of a maternity hospital and building known too only contain women and children is criminal and certainly a war crime. I can only say that this is communist training that Putin is using to obliterate his enemy. Anyone, including his fellow Russian Citizens, who stand in his way, are done away with. An evil regime. Pray for the people of The Ukraine.

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

Sub-Branch Meetings	
Committee Mondays 5:00pm	Sub-Branch Sundays 10:30am
11.4.22	No April Meeting
ANZAC Day, Mon, 7am, 25 April	
ANZAC Luncheon, Sun 1 May, 11:30	
16.5.22	22.5.22
20.6.22	26.6.22
18.7.22	24.7.22



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The elections at the AGM in February were a great success. Congratulations to Ian Muirhead on becoming President , going up from Vice President. Of course that left a vacancy for another Vice President. Jamil Baba who we know as Jim stepped up to the plate as he is now semi-retired. Even as a “*nine mile sniper*” he is very welcome to take the reins.



Then their was the election of two Trustees that needed to be d one. Jim Baba with business experience, and Jeffry Stone, who is still working and is an experienced current businessman, have both taken it on. Welcome gentlemen, and thanks for taking on such an important job.

Of course the positions of Trustee is only a temporary measure. This sub-Branch will eventually become Incorporated which will alleviate the need for Trustees, but hoping those men will stay with their role of assisting to guide us financially in the future.

I am hoping that talking to our solicitors this week will allow the Committee to let you know the current position with our Incorporation. Lets hope it is good news. In the mean time this sub-Branch will carry on as usual do its best for you, our Members.

Gary Roser, Hon. Secretary

Quotation by our Member, former
Staff Sergeant Roy Schmidtke, 1/19 RNSWR

If you want to get lost, give an officer a map and a compass.

Meet your new Vice President and Trustee

Jamil Baba, known as “Jim”

**Lebanese Christian Army to
fight the Palestinian Liberation
Organisation 1975—1976
(Infantry)**

**Bombardier - CMF
1978—1991 23 Field Regiment,
11 Battery**

Joined our Sub-Branch in 2017



Meet your new Trustee

Jeffry Peter Stone

**Lieutenant
United States Air Force**

1980—1985

Joined our Sub-Branch in 2018



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

Barbie turns 85 today 🎉



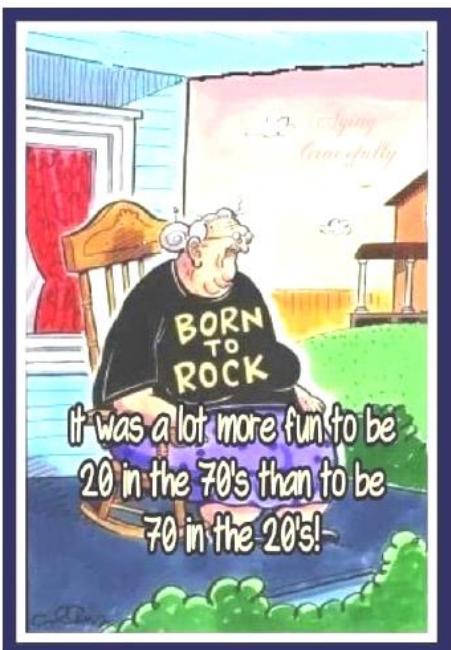
**Remember when
we used to line
up at a fair and
pay to see a fat
tattooed lady?
Now they're
everywhere!**

I'm So Old

That I've actually dialed a rotary phone before, while listening to an 8 track, next to a black & white TV with aluminum foil on top of its rabbit ear antennas!



"First you buy me a new coat and now
a trip to Lion Safari Park. What's got
into you lately?"





"Anybody that can do at 65 what he was doin'
at 25 wasn't doin much at 25!"

My wife is singing in the house



I'm sitting outside so the
neighbors don't think I'm
hitting her

A woman was surprised to find an old picture of herself,
younger, slimmer and falling in love with her future husband.
When she showed him the picture he said, "WOW, look at that..."



WE MIGHT BE OLD ...



BUT WE HAD GREAT HAIR,
LISTENED TO COOL MUSIC,
AND DROVE THE BEST CARS!

"That's my old Impala!"

At our age, we can hide our
own Easter eggs, Wait half
an hour, and have no clue
where we left them.

A LETTER HOME FROM EGYPT IN 1916

'Goulburn Evening Penny Post' (New South Wales), 30th March 1916.

**FEATURE
ARTICLE**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/361603404551786/permalink/914763102569144>

3 February, 1916

Pte. Keith Grovenor, 3rd Battalion Australian Infantry, wrote to his father while convalescing in Egypt on 3rd February 1916. He had been evacuated from the Gallipoli peninsula aboard the hospital ship 'Oxfordshire' on 12th December 1915.

"As no doubt you know, I was frost-bitten and left at the beginning of the evacuation and went to a hospital in Alexandria. As I wished to go back to my unit I was sent to Overseas Base at Ghezireh, and as the doctors considered me to be still convalescent I have been drafted to light duty guard here on Cairo railway station, and in another week will be back at Tel el Kebir with the battalion. There it is in a nutshell; but, take my word for it, it covered a lot of ups and downs. My last letter was written in the snow, and from that out it grew steadily worse — water ran out, provisions could not be landed owing to the rough sea. We had to bestow great care on how much "bully" we ate for dinner. The only thing we had was a few vegetables cooked in salt water. It was in company orders in November that salt water be used for vegetables and fresh water for tea when possible. You know no doubt what thirst in the heat of summer is like, but although I had felt that out at Baden Park it cannot be compared with the terrific throat-scourging thirst in the icy cold. All along the trenches we went scraping frozen snow together and eating it. This only served to aggravate it. And at night in the freezing blizzard I thought I was experiencing at least one of the tortures of the damned. Every day we would brave "Beachy Bill" and go to the beach in the hope that some water might be landed, but all in vain — the pipes burst through the cold and let our water supply out, and no more could be landed. My hands and feet for some time had been more of a hindrance than a help to me, and only by seeing them would I believe they were still joined to my body. At last one morning after struggling and slipping to the beach they must have warmed the blood, for an excruciating pain passed through my legs and I was taken to the hospital here. I saw hundreds the same as myself with feet and legs, hands or face, in a terrible state. At the hospital we were given some rice as a luxury, and had to wait until hospital ship could come in. One evening some big 8.2 howitzer shells lobbed right close by. We all heard them coming, and, obeying a natural instinct, struggled out of the way, and the groans and yells made every one think a shell had fallen amongst us; but

we had only tried to use our frozen limbs without thinking. But we were lucky, for the following day the New Zealand hospital was shelled and the wounded and sick were killed before they could be rescued. I'll acknowledge that I'm a coward as regards pain, but I afterwards wished that those shells had fallen on me, for it is when circulation begins that you realise what Britons our nurses are. Although I might know that I was doing it for his good I really don't think I could have given a chap the agony the nurse did when dressing me, but my best thanks are due to her, and I'll remember her all my life, for the doctor on the ship when he saw me said, "An amputation here, sister," but she asked to be given a chance, and now I hope to have the pleasure of forcing the doctor to acknowledge that my pedal extremity has lost none of its original vigour. You must know what it means for a sister to do other than her duty on a shipload of a thousand sick and wounded men, for no one can tell what they have to put up with. Fancy a nurse overworked and tired after ministering to such wrecks that beg and pray to be released from their suffering all the time she is on duty, foregoing her rest only to save the foot of one of the thousand. Truly are they angels of Him Who is all mercy. Mine is only one case of many, and any one can remark the high esteem in which the sisters are held by all, especially those who have been in hospital. It is with pleasure that all pass a respectful salute to a "Sister."

"I know that the above is not a pleasant subject, but here amongst strangers one gets conservative, and it is a great relief to be able to tell you all, for I know you will always turn a kindly ear, even though it be a tale of woe. Contrary to belief, a soldier never uses a hurt or wound as a thing to boast of; rather it is his touchiest subject, and you will be among them for months and never know that they've even been to the front.

"Christmas here was not so much a time of festivity but rather a time of sorrow for departed comrades, for had we not left 5000 of the truest and best in lonely graves on the hills and in the valleys around Anzac Cove; had we not buried there comrades who had gone through hardships by our sides? Had we not carried some pal from a neighbouring loop-hole — mates who shared with us their water and biscuits when hunger gnawed equally on them as on us? Was not the last sight we looked on as the boat sailed away a little graveyard on a bluff above Shrapnel Green overlooking the bay, and many a rough hand dashed away a tear as we glanced for the last time on the group of little white crosses. No wonder that we went away by ourselves on that Christmas Day and sent a prayer to Him for those we had left in those snow-covered graves.

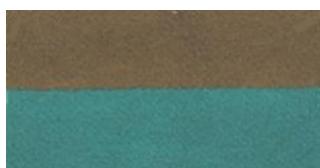
"I have been scanning the faces of all soldiers lately in the hope of striking some one I know, but it's a case of the old fogey who took a lamp and

looked for an honest man — so far unrewarded. Surely it can't be that Gunningites are not enlisting, for did they not play good football, and surely the sporting instinct to "Follow on" has not died down. Old Joe Denny used not to sing "Gorn Gunnin'" for nothing. We are now having "half-time," and it's the second half that counts, so when next the whistle blows I'd like to have some of the old red and blue to do the passing rush with, for we are going to win, and won't it be great if Gunning scores a "try?" You may as well know that I'm writing this by the light of a few coals near the line that I'm patrolling — in the army you're "resting" so long as you're not dodging shrapnel — therein lies its charm.

"I heard a Light Horseman talking at Ghezireh and he mentioned Reg. Leahy. I asked and found that he is Jack's relation. This chap, Frogley (6th L.H.), said that Reg. was a trump, no fear, and on several occasions rescued men under heavy fire — he is a stretcher-bearer, so he belongs to a band of heroes, every one. The hospital trains are excellently fitted considering that they have been made out of ordinary carriages since war broke out. An Indian staff is on each. They make first-rate orderlies and stretcher-bearers — so careful, noiseless, and quick. We are great friends of theirs and always get "chapattis" at 11 o'clock. They never eat European food; always cook their own, which is always clean and tasty."



'The Sphere,'
Newspaper
6th November 1915.
*Injured returning to
safety*



3rd Australian Infantry Battalion (NSW) 1st Brigade, 1st Division Australian Imperial Force

The 3rd Battalion was raised in August 1914 as part of the 1st Brigade in the 1st Division. Its colour patch is its 'pedigree'. The rectangle signifies the First Division. The green lower portion indicates the first brigade in the Division and the brown upper the third battalion.

OUR WAR INVOLVEMENT IN NEW ZEALAND

Remembering Our Aussie Veterans

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/361603404551786/permalink/914475019264619>

Information from the Australian War Memorial



James Frisby Wilkinson after the war.

While most of Australia's military history focuses on our involvement in major conflicts, over the past century and a half Australians have also fought in less well-known wars all around the world. Men and women from Australia or its former colonies have fought in far-flung places from North Russia to South Africa, from Sudan to Spain and Azerbaijan. They also have fought much closer to home. The New Zealand Wars between 1845 and 1872 were fought over two main issues: land and sovereignty. Deceived by the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi, the Māori chiefs who signed it believed they were not ceding sovereignty or land rights. But to the colonists they had, and as more and more settlers arrived, that rapidly became all too apparent. The Northern War broke

out in 1845 at Kororāreka (today's Russell), followed by outbreaks of fighting around Wellington and Whanganui. Then, after a pause of several years came the First Taranaki War of 1860–61. Everywhere, it seemed, the Māori were under increasing pressure and losing their lands and control of their affairs.

During the earlier campaigns, the Australian colonies' military involvement was largely confined to releasing British Imperial regiments for service in New Zealand.

Following the outbreak of the Second Taranaki War in April 1863 and the invasion of the Waikato in July, the New Zealand government sought additional troops for military operations, and to occupy and settle the conquered lands. In July and August 1863 recruitment began in Otago and in the Australian colonies. Ultimately, some 2,500 men from the Australian colonies signed up for New Zealand's military settler scheme. After three years' paid service they would be entitled to settle a block of land.

Continue reading: <http://ow.ly/bXsF50HJVis>

This article, The River and the Redoubt, is published in the new issue of Wartime magazine, "Wars of Empire": <https://www.awm.gov.au/wartime>



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

COL 67 0109 V1

Vietnam. 1967. Private Peter Boyd of Sefton, NSW, as he patrols the jungle near Task Force Base with his mates of Delta (D) Company. After nine months of combat young soldiers of the 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (5RAR), have turned into one of the best fighting forces Australian has ever sent overseas.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

EKN 69/0074B VN

Nui Dat, South Vietnam. c. 18 August 1969. A line of soldiers of 6RAR / NZ (ANZAC) (The ANZAC Battalion comprising 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment and a component from the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment), wait for an Iroquois helicopter to move them back to Long Tan to set up a memorial cross and a commemorative service at the battle site.

When did the military start using radar?

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1660282307628928/permalink/3143823345941476>

One of the earliest radar systems was the home chain radar system in the UK. It used lower frequencies than today's radars so it had many sets of huge towers with wires strung between, rather than the rotating dishes we are used to seeing today.

It was set up in 1938, looking out from the east coast of the UK, looking at Europe.

A very fortuitous event, as it was instrumental in directing fighter aircraft towards their approaching German targets in the Battle of Britain in the summer of 1940.

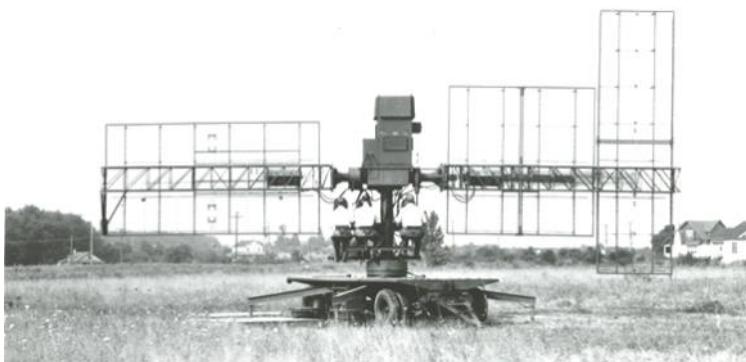
It gave enough warning that the short range British fighters (mostly hurricanes and Spitfires) could scramble, climb hard, and be in position to defend, without wasting fuel. That meant they had maybe 30 minutes of fighting time before having to return to the airfields to refuel and rearm. The German fighters had a similar endurance of less than 1 hour 30 minutes but had to come from France which gave them only 5–10 minutes of fighting time over England.

And of course that extra fighting time meant they could run several attacks on bombers before heading for home.

All without having to operate standing patrols which would have worn out aircraft and pilots.

So radar gave the British a big advantage.

Don Kelly, 28 October 2021





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

015469

WWII. New Guinea Campaign. 9 August 1943. Soldiers on their way to the forward area near Mubo stop at a Salvation Army tent for a cup of cocoa and biscuits. The tent is a short distance behind the front lines.
Photo by Gordon Short. [AWM 015469]

Mubo village is located on a trail between Salamaua and Wau inland from the north coast of New Guinea. Borders Lalabia Ridge to the east and Mount Tambu, Bitoi Ridge and the Bitoi River and Salamaua to the north east. To the north is Komiatum and Bobdubi. To the south is the Buyawim River. Prewar, and during the Pacific War located in the Morobe District of the Territory of New Guinea. Today located in Morobe Province in Papua New Guinea (PNG)

In late 1942 OCCUPIED BY THE Japanese Army and used as a logistic base in support of their drive inland towards Wau. During early February 1943, after the Japanese failure to capture Wau, their surviving force retreated to Mubo and dug in to defend the Mubo and Green Hill area to block the advance of the Australian Army.

During April 22 to May 2j9, 1943, the Australian Army 2/7th Infantry Battalion attacked the Mubo area, at features dubbed “The Pimple” and “Green Hill”. This attack was a diversion that allowed the 2/3rd Independent Company to advance in an arc to raid Bobdubi.

During July 7 – 13, 1943, attacked by the Australian Army 17th Brigades 58th Battalion and 59th Battalion the resistance ceased, and the Australians occupied the area and advanced northward.

Note:

The Salvation Army have always been where the Australians are fighting right from the First World War. At the top of the “Golden Staircase on the Kokoda Track” during WW2, the Sallies had a tent set up to greet our climbing troops.

Even today “Everymans” is there with our troops with a hot cuppa.

It is for this reason the Bass Hill RSL sub-Branch support “Everymans” as it is there for our Defence Force.Editor



Catalina A24-17 on the surface. Jan 27th 1944, 4 Cats from 43 Squad, Karumba ,9 Catalinas from Cairns base joined Squads 11 and 20 and headed across the Arafura Sea. The wings from each Cat were hung with four 500 pound bombs & four 250 pounders. Internal of plane laden with 30 pound incendiaries & twenty20-pound frags. Target was

Laha, 8 hours away...The 43 Squad was skippered by Flight Lieutenant Bert Delahunty. At dusk a sub was spotted recharging its batteries on the surface. It failed to respond to signals, but diving before the Cat could attack. Through sunset & heavy thunderstorms. The Cat swung back to attack with Flying Officer Gibson wrestling the controls. Later into the night on the radar screen they spotted signs of a Japanese convoy, It is now one am they dropped a calling card for Laha a 4000-pound bomb load from 8,000.500 feet. Homeward bound back to Groote at 9am with tired eyes & the numbing roar of motors in their ears the Cats straggled back the 600 miles to " Little Lagoon" to hot breakfasts all around.in the old Qantas mess. Five of the Cats had made the targets. One Cat had returned with instrument problems .. Story as told to me from pilot" Bruce". **Jean O'Donoghue**,

Remembering Our Aussie Heroes, Facebook

PET SPECIALS

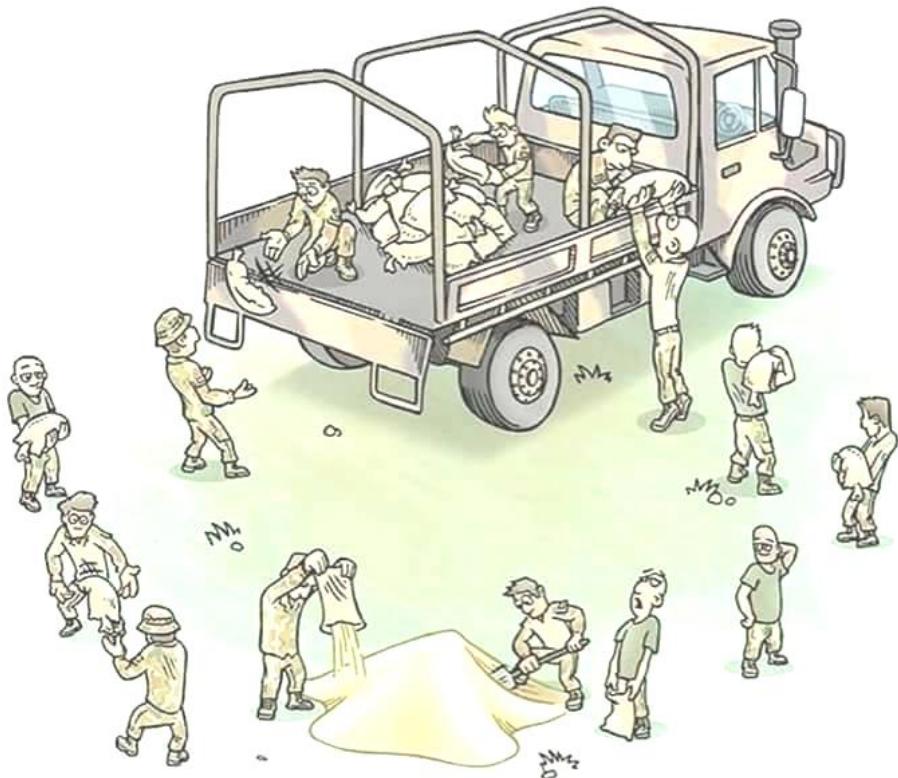


Behind every successful woman, there is a satisfied man.
But behind a satisfied woman, there is an exhausted man

The training process was tedious, but now he knows he is not allowed on the couch.



Join the Army. Learn New Skills they said:



A guy is sitting quietly reading his paper when his wife sneaks up behind him and whacks him on the head with a frying pan.

"What was that for?" he says.

"That was for the piece of paper in your pants pocket with the name Mary Lou written on it," she replies.

"Two weeks ago when I went to the races, Mary Lou was the name of one of the horses I bet on," he explains.

She looks satisfied and apologizes.

Three days later he's again sitting in his chair reading when she nails him with an even bigger frying pan, knocking him out cold.

When he comes to, he says, "What the hell was that for?"

"Your horse phoned."

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) is working with its south-west Pacific neighbours to detect and deter illegal maritime activity in the region.

Operation Solania, the ADF's regular contribution to regional maritime security conducted in partnership with Pacific island nations, recently deployed personnel to Palau and Micronesia in support of the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency's own Operation Rai Balang.

In the first iteration of Operation Solania for the year, a Royal Australian Air Force C-27J Spartan aircraft from No. 35 Squadron conducted aerial maritime surveillance patrols in Palau.

Flight Lieutenant Andrew Burgess, Operation Solania detachment commander in Palau, was proud to lead the mission.

"Through Operation Solania, Australia plays a vital role in supporting sovereign exclusive economic zones (EEZs) in the south-west Pacific," Flight Lieutenant Burgess said.

"Our aerial surveillance work alongside local authorities supports the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency in its coordinated fisheries' monitoring, control and surveillance operations.

"It is rewarding to know the work we do each day is helping our Pacific family here in Palau.

"Our surveillance intelligence will ensure Palau's economic benefits from fisheries' resources are maximised, all while contributing to regional stability and security."

Each day, C-27J Spartan patrols operated over Palau's EEZ to locate ships and vessels of interest for intelligence recording and reporting back to the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency.

"On one particular mission, we located 46 vessels and identified one suspected of illegal activity," Flight Lieutenant Burgess said.



A Royal Australian Air Force C-27J Spartan aircraft from No. 35 Squadron lands following a maritime surveillance flight over Palau as part of Operation Solania.

Royal Australian Navy hydrographic ship HMAS Melville berthing alongside Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.



“That information was reported and passed on to the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency and local authorities, enabling them to act on it and ensure vessels are compliant with relevant legislation.”

While the C-27J Spartan was flying over scenic Palau, Royal Australian Navy hydrographic ship HMAS Melville was sailing in Micronesia, also contributing to the aims of Operation Solania and Operation Rai Balang. Chairman of the Palau fishing cooperative Belau Offshore Fishermen's Association, Okada Techitong, was glad to have Australia's enduring support in the region.

“Fishing is an important part of Palau’s economy, so we are thankful for Australia’s support,” Mr Techitong said.

Australia’s ambassador to Palau, Richelle Turner, said the presence of the C-27J Spartan reinforced Australia and Palau’s close bilateral partnership and shared maritime security interests.

“Australia and Palau share a strong and enduring security relationship, built on a shared vision for a region that is secure, stable, resilient and prosperous,” Ms Turner said.

In 2020, Australia delivered the Guardian-class patrol boat PSS President H.I Remeliik II to Palau under the Pacific Maritime Security Program.

“The Pacific Maritime Security Program sees our Pacific family working together to uphold this vision for decades to come,” Ms Turner said.

Every year, ADF personnel are deployed on Operation Solania across the Pacific from Vanuatu to Fiji, Solomon Islands to Palau and Tuvalu.

ADF helps Brisbane 'get back on its feet'

By Lieutenant Nic Hawkins

<https://news.defence.gov.au/national/adf-helps-brisbane-get-back-its-feet>



A soldier from 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) removes flood-damaged produce from a cold storage warehouse at the Brisbane Markets in Rocklea. Photo: Cpl Nicole Dorret

The recent floods left a large part of the Brisbane Markets underwater, stopping all transport and operations, and causing millions of dollars of damage and loss of produce.

The Australian Defence Force was asked to assist the markets, home to about 5000 employees and hundreds of family businesses, to help rapidly remove rotting produce, damaged infrastructure, and clear mud and debris.

State Minister for Transport and Main Roads Mark Bailey thanked Commander of Joint Task Group 629.3 Brigadier Mark Armstrong.

"We are very grateful, Brigadier, for all you and the Army have done to help, and to avoid a dire catastrophe down there," Mr Bailey said.

"I express my appreciation for a job well done by the Army and yourself. It's been terrific working with you."

As an additional benefit to the community, Brisbane Markets supports more than 200,000 of Queensland's most vulnerable. That includes almost 50,000 children through Foodbank by securing fresh produce for their meals.

Mr Noel Greenhalgh, a director of the markets, explained the significance of the ADF contribution to help get the markets open as quickly as

possible.

“With between \$1 billion and \$2 billion of trade annually, the Brisbane Markets are integral to fresh fruit and vegetables getting to all corners of Queensland and northern New South Wales,” Mr Greenhalgh said.

“The task was enormous. We are very grateful for the help provided by the Australian Defence Force. Their valued expertise cleaning up the markets, opening road corridors and removal of tons and tons of food waste, ensured we were up and running as quickly and efficiently as possible.”

Brigadier Armstrong said his soldiers had worked tirelessly to support the whole-of-government effort to get Brisbane back on its feet as quickly as possible.

“I am humbled by the feedback from residents and business owners over the course of this operation while working alongside our government agency partners, like the state government and Brisbane City Council,” Brigadier Armstrong said.

“I am particularly proud to work with so many like-minded colleagues to help Brisbane get back on its feet. It amazes me how far we have come in such a short space of time, but there is more work to be done and we are keen to finish the job.”



Chief of the Defence Force General Angus Campbell talks with Blakebrook Public School acting principal Louise Tate during General Campbell's visit to Lismore, northern NSW.

*Photo: Corporal Sagi Biderman
<https://news.defence.gov.au/national/school-restoration-symbol-hope>*



Air Force personnel who trained as part of the Empire Air Training Scheme in World War II have been depicted on murals commissioned as part of the Air Force 2021 Centenary at RAAF Base Wagga. Photo: Wing Commander Tony Wennerbom

A memorial honouring the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS) is nearing completion at the entrance to RAAF Base Wagga, in recognition of the contribution to the RAAF by many local communities.

The new memorial located within RAAF Base Wagga's Heritage Precinct honours the local towns and aviators who were part of the scheme between 1940 and 1945. The memorial at the base now forms another of the permanent legacies created during the Centenary of Air Force program (AF2021).

The EATS memorial highlights the significant role that regional towns played in support of the RAAF during World War II.

RAAF Base Wagga AF2021 base liaison officer Wing Commander Tony Wennerbom said the memorial was commissioned in recognition of the Centenary of Air Force and was designed in a way that fulfilled the expectation required from AF2021.

"Particularly, engaging with the community and veterans created ownership and pride amongst locals through highlighting the regional contribution the Riverina played in supporting the war effort, and finally inspiring a younger generation," Wing Commander Tony Wennerbom said.

RAAF Base Wagga commissioned mural artist Sam Brooks, and collabo-

rated with the local RSL sub-branch and its veterans to deliver the project. “The role of EATS was a critically important project for RAAF Base Wagga to include in Air Force’s Centenary year,” Wing Commander Wennerbom said.

“It represented the biggest growth period in its 100-year history. It also represented the single largest combined undertaking of the Commonwealth air forces during World War II and remains to this day an incredible example of a coordinated global wartime mobilisation.”

More than 200 training bases were constructed throughout the Empire for the scheme, including 37 in Australia and nine such bases across the Riverina region in NSW. The RAAF Base at Forest Hill aerodrome was developed in direct response to the infrastructure requirements of this mobilisation.

When the memorial project is completed, it will include storyboards and a memorial stone detailing the locations where EATS activities were undertaken around Australia. With the support of Air Force’s History and Heritage Branch, the storyboards will specifically detail the locations across the Riverina where aircrew were trained with airmen and the Women’s Auxiliary Australian Air Force employed in support of EATS.

The other aerodromes in the Riverina where training was located include Narrandera, Temora, Cootamundra, Uranquinty, Parkes, Narromine and Deniliquin.

Tocumwal also played a significant role during this period, being the home to the RAAF’s heavy bomber support and operational conversion units.

More than 27,000 aircrew were trained in Australia through EATS before being sent to Britain for employment with the British RAF. A further 9600-plus personnel completed their training in Canada, along with nearly 600 who received pilot training in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). In total, just short of 40,000 young Australians were trained under the scheme.

Based on the initial feedback and social media interest (exceeding 80,000 views in the first week), the RAAF Base Wagga Heritage Precinct is expected to become a significant tourist attraction for those visitors who follow the Silo Art Trail.

“The significance of EATS is best summed up by then British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, where he is reported in July 1943 to have said: ‘The fact that Australia has been over here ... some of their very best airmen, and the share they have taken in the Empire Air Training Scheme, leaves us heavily in their debt’,” Wing Commander Wennerbom said.

The official opening of the EATS memorial is planned for July 1, 2022, marking the 82nd birthday of RAAF Base Wagga’s formation.



LAST POST

We Are All Here



STOP PRESS

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

Monday, 25 April, 2022

The March will start forming up in
Leicester Street, Chester Hill near the car park
of Chester Square at 7am

And then march in column of route to
The Chester Hill War Memorial
(opposite the Chester Hill RSL Club)

Where the ANZAC Service will commence.

**Dress: Suit or Sports Jacket
Wearing sub-Branch Tie, Name Tag
& Medals (if issued)**

Breakfast will be served to Members and their guests ONLY at the completion of the Service.

ANZAC MEMBERS LUNCHEON

Sunday, 1 May, 2022 at 11:30 hrs pre drinks

Function Room, Chester Hill RSL Club

Please book your ticket. See Ron Duckworth or David Tu
\$25 refundable Deposit per person.



Booking must be in by ANZAC Day

