

Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

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"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"

Newsletter

Issue 110

May, 2022

SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE—2020—2023

President	Ian Muirhead*
Vice Presidents	Ambrose Dinh JP, Jamil (Jim) Baba
Secretary	Gary Roser JP *
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Minute Secretary	Lee-Ann Taylor J.P.*
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.....	Ian Kennedy, Greg Brown
Welfare Officer	Greg Brown
FSMDC Delegates	Ron Duckworth, Ian Muirhead
FSMDC Alt Delegate	Ian Kennedy, Gary Roser JP
Sub-Branch Trustees	Ron Duckworth, Jim Baba, Jeff Stone
Newsletter Editor	Gary Roser JP - 0409 919 364
Newsletter Editorial Production	Ron Duckworth
Bankstown City Aged Care	Ian Muirhead, Greg Brown
Schools Liaison Officer	Ambrose Dinh JP

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

* Life Member



EDITORIAL ** *Gary Roser, Editor*

When you read my Secretary’s report you will see I am aghast at the RSLNSW’s paper put out for comment regarding Charitable

Purpose.

There is no doubt that some sub-Branches may go overboard. But in the main, food and drinks for members to enjoy the camaraderie are a welfare consideration.

If this is adopted without discussion there will be consequences to all RSL sub-Branches.

Of course if this does get through there will be extra money that can be donated. Of course they now get 51% towards charitable purpose. And they are looking for more. There is also a *rumour* that RSLNSW is struggling financially at the moment.

People have been saying that the RSLNSW needs to be run like a business. It is not a business. It is a charity. How much is being spent on this “Strategic Plan”? How much is being spent on our administration? How much is it costing them to send people around the State espousing their rhetoric? How much is being spent on employment? And they now have free membership. What more bulldust will they come up with?

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

Sub-Branch Meetings	
<u>Committee</u> Mondays 4.15pm	<u>Sub-Branch</u> Sundays 10:30am
16 th May 2022	22 nd May 2022
20 th June 2022	26 th June 2022
18 th July 2022	24 th July 2022

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello Members,

A busy time since our last meeting in March with the lead up to ANZAC Day and its associated functions.

I attended Georges Hall Public School before the school holidays, where I addressed the assembly with the ANZAC tradition. Firstly, kindergarten to year 2, followed by years 3 to 6. Also I went to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway for their Service. Following ANZAC Day, I conducted the Service at Bass Hill Public School.

On Sunday, 1st May we had our ANZAC Luncheon. A delicious 2 course lunch and good company.

The proposed incorporation of our Bass Hill RSL sub-Branch has now been placed in the hands of our solicitors.

We have given RSL NSW until Friday, 27th May to respond to our request. Failure to do so, we intend to raise it to a “Dispute Resolution”. The State Secretary, Jeff O’Brien sent an email attempting to steer us towards the Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG), which is still in the process of being organised. The email has been forwarded to our legal representatives

The Constitution does not specify the type of Incorporation, which leaves it open to become an Incorporated Association and we have instructed our solicitors that this is the way we prefer.

Take Care,

Ian Muirhead

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Dear Members and Friends,

You may be wondering why this Newsletter is devoid of the usual stories and entertainment.

What I have done is put in this Newsletter what every sub-Branch Member needs to know what RSLNSW wishes to impose. They are using the Australian Charities Not-for-Profits Commission to rein in spending by sub-Branches.

This sub Branch, and I know Ashfield, have written to the ACNC asking for a definition of “Charitable Monies” in particular money from investments which have been obtained through the investment of the monies received through the sale of club premises.

The ACNC sent out a whole lot of gobbledygook to both sub-Branches which did not answer our questions.

However the RSLNSW appears to have made their own definition which include all funds owned by the sub-Branches.

Of particular interest is RSLNSW’s determination that money shall not be spent on alcoholic beverages and money can only be spent on social functions, not after, or during normal meetings. But I ask you, isn’t this camaraderie within the definition of “welfare”?

How did our original Members raise money to build club premises? Not through charitable donations. Now most of us have sold those premises and rely on the investment income to support our range of activities especially charity.

In their Discussion Paper, RSLNSW have used Legacy as an example. They could not have chosen a worst example. I have contacted our local Legacy Chairman and he informed me that every cent obtained from the public is used for their charitable purpose. But their investments are used for administrative purposes including awards and functions for their hard working volunteers. Isn’t this what we do also. As well as use that income for charitable purpose.

Members, you need to read this. Take note of the highlighted wording. We need to discuss how we are going to tackle their restrictive ideas. If we don’t, there will be many sub-Branches that will go to the wall as they rely on getting together as a welfare practice.

Gary Roser, J.P.



A balloonist in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a man below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The man below replied, "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and 60 degrees west longitude."

"You must be a NCO," said the balloonist.

I am, "replied the NCO, "How did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is, technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip.

The NCO below responded, "you must be an officer".

"I am," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," said the NCO, "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is, you're in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault.

Discussion Paper - Charitable Purpose & Donations

Secretary Comment: *This paper has been emailed to District Presidents and it needs to be discussed urgently by all members. If this is adopted without discussion there will be consequences to all RSL sub-Branches.*

There is no doubt that some sub-Branches may go overboard, but in the main, food and drinks for members to enjoy the camaraderie are a welfare consideration.

*Take note of the section I have highlighted in **RED** of the paper. You will be surprised.* Gary Roser, Hon Secretary

Purpose

The purpose of this Discussion Paper is to seek feedback on what is appropriate Charitable Funds expenditure and the application of monies to the Charitable Purpose, to inform the Charitable Purpose Policy and associated Standard Operating Procedures. RSL NSW invites comments on all matters in this Discussion Paper.

Scope

The matters considered in this Discussion Paper apply to all members of the RSL in NSW.

Charitable Purpose Policy Objectives

The objectives of this Discussion Paper are to seek feedback to enable RSL NSW to:

set out clear and consistent rules in applying Charitable Funds

guide directors, sub-Branch executives, trustees and members as to appropriate application of Charitable Funds;

assist sub-Branches to meet their obligations as Registered Charities and to understand their Charitable Purpose; and

create a culture of transparency, accountability, and prudence in the conduct of the RSL's activities.

RSL NSW may vary or update the information contained in its policies and procedures at its discretion. All policies are to be read in conjunction with the RSL NSW Act, the Constitution of RSL NSW and associated Standard Operating Procedures.

Feedback on the policy objectives is invited.

Background/Context

To achieve RSL NSW's Charitable Purpose, including the continued presence and role of the RSL in all NSW communities, Charitable Funds must only be directed to recognised RSL related activities and services, not to other organisations.

Sub-Branches are at the centre of what the RSL stands for and what it does. Therefore, sub-Branches must direct charitable resources, whether voluntary member efforts or financial resources, to veterans and their families in their Local Community.

As fundraising for veterans and their families is a core RSL purpose, excess funds beyond what is spent (budgeted for) on the Charitable Purpose in the Local Community and maintaining the value of assets in real terms, must be donated to RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund initiatives in accordance with the Veteran Support Fund Standard Operating Procedure. Donations by sub-Branches must be individually recognised so members attached to that sub-Branch can be confident their support is appreciated.

Charities law states that Members of a charity cannot obtain a benefit from the charity by virtue of their membership. RSL NSW sub-Branches are not registered *clubs* which can provide benefits to members (such as drinks discounts and coupons) because they are not (and can't be) charities registered with the ACNC. However, RSL NSW members who are current and former members of the Australian Defence Force (defined as veterans and particularly elderly members or those who have been injured by their service) may need support. Such support is allowable as these members fall within the definition of the Charitable Purpose.

RSL NSW (State Branch and all sub-Branches) are all charities registered with the ACNC. All charities are required to meet a set of ACNC governance standards which set out core minimum standards of governance for all registered charities. Under governance standard five, a charity must ensure that its board/sub-Branch executive members are aware of and are subject to a set of duties - one of which is to disclose perceived or actual conflicts of interest.

This means that any person in a sub-Branch who has a membership or relationship with another ESOs or charitable organisation must declare that membership and there must be no involvement in facilitating or

being involved with recommending RSL funding be directed to those related charities.

Clauses 9.48 – 9.54 of the RSL NSW Constitution specify how conflicts are to be managed (noting that the Conflicts of Interest Policy will be settled as part of the Written Directions Framework project)

Current Guidelines - Constitution

Charitable Purpose is defined in Clause 3 of the Constitution (Italics and bold are copied directly from the Constitution as amended 2022) as follows:

“3.1. providing assistance, care and relief for current and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families who are suffering from physical or mental ill health, social disadvantage and isolation, distress, poverty, homelessness or destitution including without limitation those who are elderly.”

This means sub-Branches can apply Charitable Funds to achieve these activities, such as training and development of members as WSOs or ATDP compensation or wellbeing advocates. WSOs undertaking activities associated with calls or visits to veterans (including members) is a critical RSL function.

RSL sub-Branch members and WSOs are encouraged to refer veterans and families to RSL LifeCare programs such as RSL DefenceCare to address immediate financial stress, assistance with pensions advocacy and additional wellbeing support. Also, sub-Branches can refer veterans and their families to RSL LifeCare if they are homeless, looking for re-training and employment, or would benefit from the equine (wellbeing) program. Maintaining these quality co-branded RSL services requires ongoing donations from sub-Branches through the Veteran Support Fund.

Examples of permitted expenditure:

Expenditure related to visiting local veterans in need – for example, checking on well-being, connecting veterans to services, assisting with small requirements for example cleaning or mowing lawns.

Expenditure related to members’ training and currency as Wellbeing Support Officers, Wellbeing Advocate or Compensation (Pension) Advocate.

Donations to the Veteran Support Fund to be allocated to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services (which includes such things as RSL

DefenceCare (pensions advocacy, financial assistance and counselling) housing assistance or homeless programs)

Donations to support the function of the RSL NSW Liaison Officer at the National Centre for Veteran Healthcare

Donations to strategic initiatives *suggested by members and recommended by the DPC* that are included in the Veteran Support Fund.

Expenditure associated with conducting local programs by the sub-Branch to meet this charitable purpose – eg. Hiring a facility or equipment (note that such expenditure are not deemed donations)

Feedback on further examples of permitted or excluded expenditure are invited.

“3.2 providing support and assistance for current and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families including without limitation to obtain compensation, benefits and assistance to which they are entitled and in relation to all aspects of transitioning from military service to civilian life, particularly where the member has been detrimentally affected by their service; “

This means the sub-Branch can support and fund the training and development of volunteer pensions (compensation) advocates to provide this critical advocacy service.

Alternatively, the sub-Branch can refer veterans in need to RSL LifeCare’s (RSL DefenceCare program) full-time paid advocates. (Noting preference to support and promote RSL delivered pension advocacy services rather than other charities as the RSL wishes all veterans and their families to know what the RSL stands for and does. If they know this they are more likely to get involved with and join their local sub-Branch.)

Examples of permitted expenditure:

Expenditure related to members’ training and currency as Wellbeing Support Officers, Wellbeing Advocate or Compensation (Pension) Advocate

Donations to the Veteran Support Fund to be allocated to RSL LifeCare veteran services (which includes RSL DefenceCare full-time paid advocates)

Donations to support the function of the RSL NSW Liaison Officer at the National Centre for Veteran Healthcare.

Donations cannot be made to other advocacy organisations if the RSL or RSL related organisations such as RSL LifeCare provides the service being funded.

Feedback on further examples of permitted or excluded expenditure are invited.

3.3 providing validation of service and sacrifice by commemorating those who have served and preserving the memory of those who have suffered and died;

As the RSL is synonymous in Australia with military commemorations, ceremonies which are integral to the emotional and psychological recovery of many current and former serving members of the ADF, Sub-Branches are encouraged to direct charitable resources to conduct local commemorations, and support State level commemorations.

Consistent with the commemoration objective is the education and support to local school activities through sub-Branch volunteers, accessing materials developed and maintained by RSL NSW.

Examples of permitted expenditure:

Donations to not-for-profit organisations that can assist the RSL (sub-Branches) conduct commemoration services and similar activities.

Donations for the preparation and maintenance of materials to support the education and mentoring of students and the greater community about the sacrifices of service and the memory of those who have served.

Expenditure associated with conducting a commemoration, such as wreaths, sound and light support (noting that these are not donations, but allowable expense for the conduct of a charitable activity - see 3.5)

Expenditure associated with maintenance or establishment of a memorial.

Feedback on further examples of permitted or excluded expenditure are invited.

“3.4 promoting and facilitating the prevention of social isolation as a cause of veteran ill health by fostering and enabling community engagement, social connection and camaraderie by and between former and current members of the Australian Defence Force and their families; and “

The RSL’s heritage and reputation is built upon ‘looking after mates’ and ‘never leaving anyone behind.’ Camaraderie is a critical function of sub-Branches. Charitable funds can be applied to this, in a reasonable way. Reasonable *does not* include providing meals and alcoholic beverages before or after meetings; but rather these are provided at events that more effectively foster spirit and esprit de corps. Events such as sporting, recreation, social engagement, or commemoration activities organised by the sub-Branch to effectively engage membership and inviting the broader veteran community.

Examples of permitted expenditure:

Expenditure related to sponsoring and/or funding activities to promote veteran wellbeing through camaraderie, such as ANZAC Day, sports and recreation and other wellbeing initiatives.

Expenditure associated with the provision of food and refreshments (not alcoholic) to coincide with an inter-sub-Branch or intra-sub-Branch activity such as trivia, sports, recreation, guest speaker, wellbeing activity that may occur before or after a meeting; and includes an invitation to all veterans, and ideally their families. RSL NSW policy to exclude alcoholic beverages and any alcohol is to be self-funded.

NOTE: This is a challenging category because prior to separation from clubs, ‘membership’ meant access to benefits, including financial benefits. As a registered member-based charity, the RSL’s (NOT club) membership cannot receive a benefit from the charity unless the member is a veteran in need of charitable support, such as they are in financial stress, unwell, and even lonely which has a detrimental wellbeing impact. Membership of the RSL is coveted because the badge is synonymous with mateship and standing up for veterans; it’s about giving and supporting one another and others, the wider veteran community, and their families. **Therefore, unless the objectives include invitations and access to all veterans in need (including members) sub-Branches cannot spend funds on things like bus trips, tours, food and beverages.**

Sub-Branches can support those members hosting and supporting veterans and families where need, so they do not fall into a distressed category, but essentially this is the volunteerism that is synonymous with charities.

Other veterans charities, such as Legacy, do not allow charitable funds to be spent on alcoholic beverages. Should RSL NSW adopt a similar policy, or better define how charitable money is spent on camaraderie?

“3.5 doing all other things necessary, ancillary or incidental to pursuing and implementing its benevolent charitable purpose including without limitation:

- (a) establishing, maintaining and regulating the operation of RSL NSW sub-Branches in New South Wales;*
- (b) researching, promoting and publicly advocating for the interests of former and current members of the Australian Defence Force and their families on matters of public policy;*
- (c) establishing and maintaining literary, social, educational and benevolent activities for the benefit, promotion and advancement of former and current members of the Australian Defence Force and their families particularly where the member has been detrimentally affected by their service; and*
- (d) promoting the defence of the Commonwealth of Australia and guarding the good name, interests and standing of serving members of the Australian Defence Force.”*

Sub-branches can apply charitable resources to effectively manage and administer their sub-Branch and State Branch.

The sub-Branch can apply resources to assist in the development of policies that can be advocated to Government and other bodies to enhance the wellbeing of the veteran community. Publishing newsletters and opinion pieces can help promote the importance of our armed services and the volunteer nature of our personnel who make sacrifices to support our national interests.

Examples of permitted expenditure:

Expenditure related to the operations of the sub-Branch including but not limited to the sub-Branch newsletter, a bookkeeper, maintain an office, administration support, investment

management fees (noting that as unincorporated associations, sub-Branches should avoid engaging employees directly)

Contribute funding to ANZAC House (President's Shield) through the Veteran Support Fund, to support the administration of the league which ensures delivery of services to veterans and their families, including to enable research for example to support cases for DVA changes to improve entitlements for veterans.

Expenditure which is not permitted is the payment of salaries or an honorarium to the sub-Branch executive.

Feedback on further examples of permitted or excluded expenditure are invited.

Definitions

ACNC means the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.

Charitable Funds – any monies within the control of the RSL in NSW including RSL NSW sub-Branches whether they are earnings from investments or monies raised by fundraising, bequests, grants, asset sales or derived from other income sources.

Charitable Purpose – see Clause 3, RSL NSW Constitution. For additional clarifications see Appendix A.

ESO - means any non RSL Branded ex-service organisation.

Local Community - A sub-Branch's local community is defined by the local geographic area, the Local Government Area (LGA) in which the sub-Branch is located. Districts resolve disputes in areas where sub-Branches may overlap.

RSL NSW Act - means the RSL NSW ACT 2018 (NSW).

Standard Operating Procedures – means the documents setting out the procedures which supplement the Constitution and relevant policy in governing the operations of RSL NSW, sub-Branches, District Councils and any other relevant body from time to time.

Welfare - Traditionally the RSL has referred to welfare as the caring for another person, with a broad scope of what that care consists of but is generally enquiry and response to health or financial hardship matters. In Australia a 'welfare officer' in the context of a government definition requires the person to have specific qualifications to judge whether a person is eligible for 'welfare' support. Recently, DVA being most

relevant to the RSL has defined and adopted the term ‘wellbeing’ and has relevance to sub-Branch activity, previously referred to as ‘welfare.’

Wellbeing - Physical, mental, and social wellbeing is affected by an individual’s perceptions, emotions, and behaviour as well as their ease of movement and levels of any discomfort. Broader than just mental health, a state of wellbeing is where a person is flourishing in both mental and physical health. It is multi-dimensional, covering aspects of life ranging from civic engagement to housing, from household income to work-life balance and from skills to health status (**OECD, 2015**).

Wellbeing Advocate – Wellbeing Advocates are ATDP-accredited people who have undertaken training to a level they are qualified to provide advice to veterans and their families in need. It covers such things as awareness of legislation/entitlements, ADF transition, homelessness, restoration of wellbeing, mental and emotional wellbeing, physical wellbeing, financial wellbeing, family relationships, and counselling and awareness of services to support a veteran or veteran’s family in crisis. (**DVA Wellbeing Advocates Handbook**).

Wellbeing Support Officer (WSO) - WSOs provide a wide range of valuable support services to veterans and their families, but this does not include providing any form of advice about compensation claims, or wellbeing support. The types of services provided by WSOs include, among other things: visits to home, hospital and aged care facilities; providing simple services such as driving, shopping trips etc; arranging for simple domestic assistance or home maintenance service; assisting with administrative duties in a non-paid position; assisting with the administration of social clubs within a service club environment in a non-paid position; organising and conducting social, family and sporting activities; and provide support to a veteran’s family during time of grief, loss and bereavement. Additionally, in the RSL a trained WSO knows what is contained in and how to use a catalogue of services so they can help guide a veteran in need to connect to the required service, and importantly check in on that veteran. (**DVA Handbook**).

Written Directions Framework – a library of policies, procedures (SOP) and manuals

Feedback on additional definition requirements is invited.

Suggested Implementation

Implementation is suggested from 1 July 2022. The application of the policy means that all Charitable Funds spent by a sub-Branch on activities other than financial investment and the general administration of the sub-Branch are to be applied to RSL led, branded, and managed veteran and veteran family support activities in the Local Community, or donated to the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund. Donations to ESOs by individual sub-Branches, no matter how big or small, are not permitted without the consent of the Board as they will be managed through the elections sub-Branches make in relation to initiatives undertaken through the Veteran Support Fund (see SOPx). In deciding about approving donations to other ESO, directly from a sub-Branch, the Board will consider whether the RSL provides the service being provided by the intended recipient, or whether the intended outcome from the donation can be better achieved if the initiative was funded through the Veteran Support Fund.

The Board has the power to issue Policies under Clause 9.29.

Feedback on the suggested implementation is invited.

Implementation and Breach

The policy, where required, is to be implemented through a Standard Operating Procedure.

Failure to comply with the policy may lead to disciplinary action in accordance with the RSL NSW Constitution.

References & Resources

Legislation, Standards, etc. related to this policy

RSL NSW Act (2018)

RSL NSW Constitution

RSL NSW Standard Operating Procedures 1 – 12

RSL NSW Policies (related)

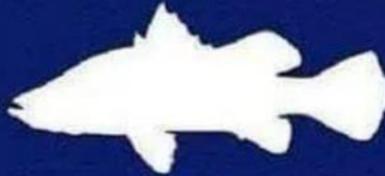
A FISH STORY



fish (fɪʃ)

n. pl. fish or fish·es

An animal that grows the fastest
between the time it's caught and
the time the fisherman describes
it to his friends.



Can you imagine how big Gary's
flathead has grown since he





Head of Air Force Capability, Air Vice-Marshal Cath Roberts AM, CSC, inside the Electro Optic Systems (EOS) control room at Mount Stromlo Observatory, Canberra.

Our Joint Force relies on access to space systems and information – as do the Australian public. The Defence Space Command brings members of Air Force, Army, Navy and the Australian Public Service together under an integrated headquarters within Air Force. The Space Command addresses the critical need for coordination across Defence Space stakeholders, Whole of Government, industry, academia, allies and international partners. It is imperative that Defence partners with Australian industry and academia in order to assist in delivering space capability options. Defence Space Command visited the Mount Stromlo Observatory and met with industry representatives.

Decommissioning of HMAS Maitland

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Royal Australian Navy personnel from HMAS Maitland line the upper decks to start the decommissioning ceremony at Larraykeyah Defence Precinct in Darwin on Thursday, 28 April 2022.

Royal Australian Navy personnel from HMAS Maitland said a fond farewell to the Armidale-class patrol boat in a decommissioning ceremony at HMAS Coonawarra in Darwin on Thursday, 28 April 2022 after 16 years of distinguished service. Since commissioning in 2006, HMAS Maitland sailed more than 435,054 nautical miles -- which is nearly 900,000km or 20 times around Earth -- deployed on Operations Augury, Rai Balang, Sandalwood and Solania, and supported the Australian Government agencies Border Force, Australian Fisheries and Australian Federal Police on Operation Resolute. HMAS Maitland is named after the City of Maitland in New South Wales, and the World War II naval training establishment located in Newcastle, NSW. She is the second Armidale-class patrol boat to be decommissioned.

Battle of the Coral Sea—80th Anniversary

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Royal Australian Navy sailor Able Seaman Musician Will Foster sounds the Last Post during the Battle of the Coral Sea 80th anniversary commemorative service at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.

Royal Australian Navy sailors from HMAS Cerberus supported a commemorative service commemorating the Battle of the Coral Sea at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. The service, attended by the Australian American Association Victoria, the American Ex-Servicemen's Association, and the Naval Commemoration Committee took place on the 1st May 2022, with music provided by Royal Australian Navy Band Melbourne. The Battle of the Coral Sea took place between the Imperial Japanese Navy and naval and air forces of the United States and Australia, in the Pacific Theatre of World War II, from 4 to 8 May 1942. The goal was to enhance the Japanese defensive line and cut ties between Australia and the US. The battle is historically significant as the first action in which aircraft carriers engaged each other, and in which the opposing ships neither sighted nor fired directly upon one another.

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Commanding Officer of 1st Health Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Trent Kirk, welcomes United States Army officer Major General Michael Place (centre right) and United States Navy officer Rear Admiral Pamela Miller (centre), both from US Indo-Pacific Command, to Robertson Barracks in Darwin. Left to right: Australian Army officers Major Peter Zimmermann and Lieutenant Colonel Trent Kirk from 1st Health Battalion; Rear Admiral Miller; Major General Place; and Australian Army officer Major Nicholas Alexander from 1st Health Battalion.

United States military officers from US Indo-Pacific Command visited Australia for 10 days recently to enhance interoperability between the Australian Defence Force and the US military. US Army officer Major General Michael Place, Commander of 18th Medical Command and Command Surgeon for the US Army in the Pacific Command, and US Navy officer Rear Admiral Pamela Miller, Command Surgeon at US Indo-Pacific Command, discussed Australian-US health interoperability, mutual health training and future integration opportunities with Australian Defence Force health personnel.

Australian Defence Cooperation Program --

Timor-Leste

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Australian Army and Timor-Leste Defence Force engineers patrol for mines as part of an engineering training session in Timor-Leste as part of the Australian Defence Cooperation Program.

Australian Defence Force personnel are working closely with the Timor-Leste Defence Force during a series of training exercises under the Australian Defence Cooperation Program in 2022. The series of annual partnered training activities between the Australian Army and the Timor-Leste Defence Force are aimed at enhancing military skills, capability and interoperability. Australian Defence Force contingents, primarily from the Australian Army's 1st Brigade in Darwin, deploy to Timor-Leste throughout the year to help create and deliver training courses on a range of military and trade skills as well as participate in bilateral exercises. The work of Australian Army military training teams continue to strengthen the Australian Defence Force and Timor-Leste Defence Force partnership and enhance the longstanding relationship between our two countries.

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Air Commander Australia, Air Vice-Marshal Darren Goldie, AM, CSC, takes the controls of a flying simulator during his visit to No. 76 Squadron at RAAF Base Williamtown in New South Wales.

Air Commander Australia, Air Vice-Marshal Darren Goldie, AM, CSC, visited RAAF Base Williamtown, near Newcastle in New South Wales, from 27 to 28 April 2022. Air Vice-Marshal Goldie assumed the role of Air Commander Australia in April 2022. Air Command includes the six Force Element Groups of the Royal Australia Air Force: Air Combat Group, Air Force Training Group, Air Mobility Group, Air Warfare Centre, Combat Support Group and the Surveillance & Response Group. Headquarters Air Command is based at RAAF Base Glenbrook in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales.

Trilateral Exercise Crocodile Response Kicks Off In Top End

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Members of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (Tentara Nasional Indonesia) disembark a Royal Australian Air Force KC-30 aircraft ahead of the commencement of Exercise Crocodile Response 2022, a trilateral Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief activity with the Australian Defence Force and Marine Rotational Force - Darwin.

The Australian Defence Force, Marine Rotational Force – Darwin and Indonesian National Armed Forces are conducting the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) activity ‘Exercise Crocodile Response’ in the Northern Territory to enhance trilateral coordinated response to humanitarian crises and providing disaster relief. Personnel from the Indonesian Armed Forces and Indonesia’s National Search and Rescue Agency are participating in the exercise for the first time. Staged at Robertson Barracks in Darwin, Crocodile Response deploys HADR capability to a defence facility in Gove Peninsular township of Nhulunbuy more than 600km east of Darwin. The exercise is a tangible demonstration of how Australia, the United States, and Indonesia would respond together to a humanitarian crisis in the region. The activity develops Australian, Indonesian, and United States joint capability during a humanitarian crisis. The exercise is conducted in partnership with other government agencies including the Department of Foreign Affairs, the US Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, and Indonesian National Search and Rescue Agency.

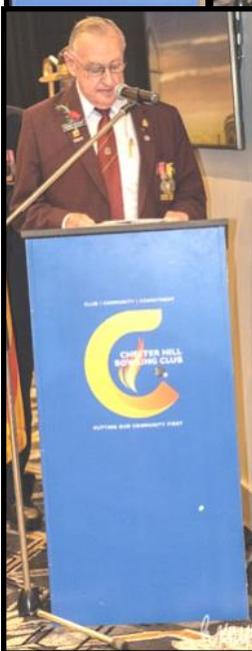
ANZAC Day



Photos by Hao Xuan My



Held inside the Chester Hill RSL Club due to inclement weather





*Bass Hill RSL sub-Branch Committee
(minus Greg Brown—ill & Lee-Ann Taylor)*



*Chester Hill—
Carramar RSL
sub-Branch
Committee*



*Board Members, Administration and Staff
of Campsie RSL Group*



*Our Vietnamese—Australian Members of
The Bass Hill RSL sub-Branch*

LAST POST



Harold Francis DUNCAN
Born 7 February 1926 — Died 14 May 2022
Able Seaman - Royal Australian Navy
17 June 1943 to 7 June 1946
WW II - HMAS Hobart
Pacific Islands & Japan



Lest We Forget

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