



Birdwood Bugle

The quarterly newsletter of Geraldton City RSL Sub Branch
Summer 2024



What's On



FRIDAY BBQ NIGHTS

December 13th
January 10th & 24th
February 7th & 21st

Theme meals on alternate Fridays. See bar notice for details



* BAR HOURS

Thursday 1200 -1400
Friday 1700 - late
Sunday 1200 -1500

*PLEASE NOTE:

It is at the discretion of the Bar person on duty at the time if s/he remains open beyond the nominated closing times.

DECEMBER

Sunday 1st : Kid's Christmas Party 11am

The RSL will be closed for the Christmas Break from Monday 23rd December to Saturday 4th January (inc) - bar will reopen Sunday 5th Jan.

JANUARY

Sunday 26th: Australia Day BBQ

FEBRUARY

Sunday 23rd: General Meeting

Pilgrimage to the Cemetery

This year we honoured those who have served in the Armed Forces with the annual Pilgrimage to the Commonwealth War Graves at Utakarra Cemetery on Sunday 10th November .

Warren Nathan capably led us through the services, RSL Chaplain Scott Norman did the prayers, Ken Morris laid a wreath. As always, a bugler from the Geraldton City Band provided the Last Post and Rouse. Naval Cadets from TS Morrow formed the Cat-afalque Party.



Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day saw a good turn out with an estimated eighty to ninety attendees. Twenty veterans marched out on parade with Glenn Law as their initial Parade Commander with other responsibilities calling him away after assembling the Veterans on the Parade Ground.

The 11th Battalion (with new guard member Andy Broadley) conducted their duties as Catafalque Party as solemnly as always.

Master of Ceremonies was Warren Nathan (MNZM) with Chaplain Scott Norman (RSLWA) conducting the heavenly duties for the event.

Kevin Forrest recited *In Flanders Fields*, the Remembrance Day Address was given by Ken Morris and the *Ode to the Fallen* was recited by RSL Treasurer Barry Stinson.

Approximately ten wreaths were laid by officials and organisational representatives. The bugle was played by the Geraldton City Band Bugler Lena Gedero while the flag was raised to full mast and again as it was lowered back to half mast.

A flyover of four aircraft was conducted by Midwest Aero Club led by Paul (Butch) Pettet blowing smoke replicating a damaged aircraft being escorted home by three accompanying craft. All stood and the Catafalque Party Presented Arms for the National Anthem thus effectively closing the half hour solemn Remembrance Day Service.



Veterans Marching on



Midwest Aero Club Flyover

Champion Bay Students Laying a Wreath. Poignant in that it shows the past generation moving into the background as a new generation take up the mantle.



Mounting the Guard

Photo Credit: David Ford

Poppy Day Appeal 2024

In preparation for Remembrance Day each year the RSL holds a Poppy Day Appeal. Thousands of supporters from the RSL, Legacy, Laurel Club, Probus, Naval Association and numerous other organisations volunteer to staff collection booths in shopping centres and busy areas to collect donations for Poppy Day all across Australia. Geraldton itself had around 40 volunteers, without which the day would not have been nearly as successful as it was.

Our Geraldton RSL Sub-Branch alone distributed an estimated 4,000 poppies and 770 badges leading up to and including Poppy Day this year with over \$10,000 collected excluding online and QR donations yet to be tallied.

While for most of us Poppy Day is a one day event, the poppies, badges and donation tins don't order themselves. They have to be procured and distributed prior to, then collected shortly after the volunteer collectors have called it a day. Collection points have to be arranged and set up (Ken & Jenny Morris) and the takings counted (Barry Stinson). In addition, around 50 businesses, schools and council premises have a donation tin/ collection point around a week prior to Poppy Day who's efforts are not to be understated here either.

A Poppy Day Co-ordinator is essential to make this run smoothly. Our Poppy Day Co-ordinator for the past 10 years has been Ken Morris ably assisted by wife Jenny. Due to age and health issues Ken has regrettably had to *pull the pin* and stand down from most of his duties on the RSL Committee, as a director of RSLWA's state board and his aforementioned duties as Poppy Day Co-ordinator. Accordingly we'll be actively looking for a new Poppy Day Co-ordinator early in the new year.

This year Ken was contacted by a year 12 student (Haley Driscoll) who after finishing a school exam earlier in the day was very keen to assist with manning a collection point and assisted Doug Lee (Probus) in Wandina Shopping Centre. In Ken's own words "Gives one hope the RSL or at least Remembrance Day may continue."

The Poppy Day Appeal has been being conducted for more than 100 years. The funds raised are used by the RSL to deliver armed forces personnel and their families life-changing welfare and financial support. On behalf of the RSL I would sincerely like to thank Ken & Jenny Morris, Glenn Law and Barry Stinson for their behind the scene's efforts. Thanks too to all the volunteers that manned a collection point throughout the day and to my two reprobates (Mark Long & Mic Mac) that accompanied me on a frontal invasion on the Geraldton CBD.

Karl Edwards

11th Battalion Secretary

Geraldton City RSL Vice President

Barry Stinson, Jenny & Ken Morris



Ken Morris



Hayley Driscoll & Doug Lee



Shaha Helel and Pat Clarke



11th Battalion Roving Collectors

HMAS Sydney II Commemorative Sunset Service

HMAS Sydney/HSK Kormoran Afternoon Tea was again co-hosted by the mayor, City of Greater Geraldton and Dr Gabriele Maluga and attended by some 60 people. Some presentations were made after a few formal words of welcome and speeches. A nice selection of finger food was laid out as people mingled and caught up or met for the first time.

HMAS Sydney Commemorative Service was this year held at the QEII Centre due to the inclement weather preventing the use of the HMAS Sydney Memorial as the usual venue. Some 200 odd people attended the event pretty well filling the QEII Centre. Warren Nathan (MNZM) was the Master of Ceremonies keeping the service running as smoothly as possible in the confined space of the venue. As usual a significant number of wreaths were laid under the watchful eye of the TS Morrow Catafalque Guard with a signal cannon firing concluding the formal service.

Karl Edwards



Guard and Veterans preparing to march on.
Credit: Mullermind Creative

Sunset - Credit: Kelly Monro (Westcoast Fireworks).



Wreaths relocated from QEII to HMAS Sydney Memorial Credit: David Ford

President's Report - November 2024

Firstly, my thanks for the Vice President for deputising for me in my absence.

His report, which I'll let him address, comprehensively covers most the activities during the last month.

I would also thank Barry Stinson for his ongoing work in producing our financial reports and coordinating maintenance activities. Similarly my thanks also to Barry Lapham for his work and improvements in the Annex

I would personally thank Ken Morris for all his effort with the success of this major fund raising – we expect to achieve over \$10,500. Ken is standing down in this role so it is important that we find a replacement.

We also have vacancies for a Bar Manager to manage the rosters and re-ordering.

Upcoming events include the Children's Christmas Party and possibly an Australia Day BBQ.

It was disappointing that our Melbourne Cup function had to be cancelled, apparently due to low numbers.

The Bugle is due out soon so any last minute additions please see the editor/Secretary/Natalie.

We have now been regularly receiving financial assistance from Karara Mining to the value of \$150/week.

We have used these funds to increase the value of the raffle prizes and to subsidise the cost of the BBQ meat packs (only \$5 each, a trial until the end of June 25).

Your committee continues to meet monthly to manage the regular activities of our Branch and I encourage you all to communicate with us with your suggested changes and ideas. The suggestion box is also available to be used.

Police Remembrance Day

29th September brought overcast skies and intermittent rain. The Police Remembrance Day service was conducted indoors at the Police Station prior to the whole service moving outdoors during a break in the rain to lay the wreaths and touch the rock.

Warden Ken Morris laid a wreath on behalf of Geraldton RSL. Ken, Jenny Morris and Gillian Sharp attended on behalf of the RSL. The service was well attended despite the poor weather. The Police, as always served up a very nice morning tea for the attendees. Alan and Sue Harms represented the NAA, Alan also laying a wreath on behalf of the NAA.



Visiting Schools and Childcare Centres



In the lead up to Remembrance Day, several of our members were invited to visit schools and childcare centres. Glenn Law went to Bambi Childcare in Fitzgerald Street. After talking with the children, Glenn was presented with poppies which the children had made for us to display at the RSL.

The plaque at the back of the poppies says ...

"I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for taking the time to speak with us about the RSL. We truly appreciate your insights and the opportunity to learn from your experience."

Meet the Members – Paul Shearer

Paul was born and raised in Melbourne.

He has a strong family history of military service. His great-grandfather served in the Boer War with the Victoria Mounted Rifles. His Great Uncle, served in World War 1 with 57 Battalion and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for successfully leading his section on an attack of a machine gun position, and later recovering a wounded member of his section under heavy enemy fire. Paul's grandfather and his grandfather's brother served in the Airforce in World War 2. His uncle initially applied for service with the Army, 2AINF, but at 5 feet 2 inches he was rejected. He then applied for the RAAF. As a School Teacher who loved mathematics, he was accepted and directed into bomber command, (460SQN, 06May42). On his first operational mission, under CO SQNLDR Gilbert, he did not return. His grandfather was an Armament Fitter who was based at Morotai when the war ended. Paul's dad was a NASHO in the 1950's. So, it not surprising that Paul went down the path of military service.

After being in the Airforce cadets (AIRTC), Paul first applied for the Airforce in 1984 and his application was rejected – he was told to “go away and man up”.

He looked at other military options and signed up for the Army Reserve. One night a soldier came into the barracks wearing a commando beret. Paul asked him about the beret and about the commando unit and decided to apply to join the unit based in Williamstown (Melbourne). He applied – along with 108 others – to join the unit, worked really hard on his fitness, passed the IET qualification and after 12 months, he and 12 others, were awarded the green beret. Paul was deployed (as a Reservist) almost immediately to Papua New Guinea on Exercise Night Falcon and Kangaroo 86 in the Bowen Basin in Queensland. He continued (almost fulltime) in the Army Reserve for three years on exercises and on short courses. He gained further qualifications in Basic Parachute, Roping and Airborne Rapelling, Commando Patrol Signaller and Patrol Medic. A highlight was being selected to represent the Commando Company in the 1987 Melbourne Skyshow conducting a demonstration with a Helicopter in front of a very large crowd, of fast rapelling and hot extraction over Albert Park Lake.

In 1990, he applied once again for the Airforce and was selected as the first emergency for the 159 Pilots Course. Eventually he was selected for the 160 Pilots Course in April 1991. Paul completed officer training (with distinction), went through Basic Flying Training at 1 FTS and graduated. He came to 2 FTS for Advanced Flying Training at RAAF Base Pearce, and didn't complete the course, but fell in love with Western Australia. On delisting Paul returned to Melbourne, then spent three years in Tasmania and made plans to return to Western Australia. He arrived in WA at the start of 1996 and worked in the mining industry as a shotfirer, utilising skills from his Army training. This mining role evolved into training and safety roles which continue on today and which led him to Geraldton in 2020.

Paul's ongoing connection to the military over the years has been mainly been through ANZAC Day. Connecting with other Commando qualified soldiers, he founded the Australian Commando Association Western Australia branch as founding President and Secretary. In this role he also represented Western Australia on the National Committee. As part of his duties Paul joined the Veterans Care 2017 Commando Return to Timor Leste (TL) visiting significant sites of WW2 Commando activity as well as significant sites of TL resistance during Indonesian occupation. A very moving experience!

Paul continues to serve as the State branch Secretary for the Australian Commando Association Western Australia. Paul is currently studying two degrees through Deakin University – Commerce and Business Analytics.

He volunteers for Disaster Relief Australia and is about to start training in Geraldton Volunteer Marine Rescue.

Paul was flying gliders (aircraft without engines) before he could legally drive a car. He has a powered aircraft pilots licence and is working towards getting his own plane, he loves the outdoors and enjoys bushwalking, camping and four wheeling driving. You could say that he is a frustrated farmer as he and his wife have dogs, chooks, canaries, budgies and fruit trees. He is a very proud lifelong Collingwood supporter.

Recently Paul became our Welfare Officer here at the RSL Geraldton under training with Glenn Law.



Free Training for Veterans

In partnership with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Mental Health First Aid International is launching Mental Health Protect™, a fully funded mental health literacy and suicide prevention training program available to all members of the veteran community.

Join a nationwide initiative to improve mental health literacy and prevent suicide within the veteran community.

This fully funded training program is open to:

- Veterans who are ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel.
- Families, friends, carers, employers, and colleagues of ex-serving and current ADF personnel.
- Health care professionals and community members supporting veterans and their families.
- Current ADF personnel.

Enrol in a course to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to recognise and respond to signs of mental health problems, suicidal thoughts or other crises.

Learn more and enrol: www.mhfa.com.au/protect

Important News for Veterans: DVA Coverage for Cancer Treatment

Veterans might not be aware that the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) can potentially cover the costs of cancer treatment—even if the illness isn't related to military service. Through the Non-Liability Health Care (NLHC) program, eligible veterans can receive fully funded treatment for cancer, also known as malignant neoplasm, along with pulmonary tuberculosis (TB). The NLHC framework allows DVA to finance necessary treatments for veterans without requiring proof that their service caused these conditions.

However, eligibility is restricted to veterans who have completed specific types of Defence Service, usually Operational Service or certain full-time service from December 1972 to April 1994. This also includes National Servicemen who served the full term of their National Service post-December 7, 1972. A formal diagnosis of cancer or TB is necessary for eligibility, and veterans must have a Veteran Gold or White Card that includes coverage for these treatments.

For White Card holders who don't have these conditions listed, they can request to add them by submitting form D9215 to the Department or via My Service. Importantly, DVA can reimburse treatment costs incurred up to three months prior to the claim submission. Coverage extends to consultations with general practitioners, medical specialists, oncologists, and hospital treatments for those with White Cards that cover these conditions.

Additionally, veterans can benefit from reduced prescription costs tied to the conditions their card covers and may qualify for a Veterans Supplement to assist with medication expenses, unless they are already receiving similar support from Centrelink.

For more information go to the website: <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/injury-or-health-treatments/free-treatment-cancer-and-pulmonary-tuberculosis>

Geraldton and District Senior Citizens Action Group (Inc) News

Email : gtonsag@gmail.com

Seniors Action Group meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month for a meeting and lunch (\$15)

Venue: QE2 Centre, Durlacher Street. Time: 10am Morning Tea

Come and join us, have fun and make new friends.

CARPET BOWLS: All day Mondays from 8.30am

DARTS: 9am Monday mornings.

TABLE TENNIS: 1pm Monday afternoons

CARDS: 1pm Friday afternoon

CHRISTMAS PARTY: 10th December, 2024 at QE2 CENTRE.

AGE GROUP: 55 YEARS AND OVER Cost \$5 **ALL WELCOME**

Enquiries: phone 0498 999 406 Trevor Hansen, President

Naval Association of Australia – Geraldton Sub-Section

Since the previous Newsletter we have been on a Wildflower excursion and had two General Meetings, one of which was followed by lunch at Mia's. Alan and Sue Harms represented us at Police Remembrance Day and members attended the Pilgrimage to the Cemetery. We laid a wreath at Remembrance Day on behalf of our Sub-Section.

The HMAS Sydney 11 Memorial Service was one of our main events and this year both the National and State NAA Presidents attended. Members were invited to an afternoon tea prior to the ceremony. John Goodridge, who served on the HMAS Sydney 11, laid our wreath. Unfortunately due to the forecast of rain the ceremony this year was held indoors at the QE2 centre.

On the social side we visited Dongara RSL for a very enjoyable evening with a scrumptious meal which included crayfish. We were invited to attend Northampton RSL's Annual Dinner and four members were able to avail themselves of this kind offer. When our State President Ian Holthouse visited we organized a social dinner with him.

While we have members on extended travel or visiting Perth for health reasons, we are pleased to welcome back members Garry and Joyce Hamersley from their stint up North.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Lunch early December and a day out at the Races later, both organized by our Treasurer Gary, and weather permitting some sailing.

Pat McLeod

President NAA Geraldton Sub-Section



Trip to Dongara



Dinner with State President Ian Holthouse



Mike Reymond was suspended from active duty with the Geraldton Navy Cadet Unit TS Morrow pending a medical review of his physical capabilities. As a result of the review he was approved to rejoin the Unit but in a reduced role and capacity that matches his physical circumstances. This photo is of Mike with the CO of TS Morrow (LIEUT Mathew Cooper) welcoming him back to the Unit.

Valé

Graeme Dodds

Graeme Dodds was an affiliate member and served on the committee of Geraldton RSL for many years. He was the go-to for all things electrical, electronic and air-conditioning related. He ran a business in town called Kim Fridge.



Danny Hawkins

52690 Danny (Denis Patrick) Hawkins 23rd March 1938 - 22nd September 2024

Born in Murrumburrah in the Riverina area of country NSW.

Served with the Royal Australian Navy from 1957 to 1966. In this time completing 3 tours of duty on board the Destroyer HMAS Vendetta...deployed to the Far East Strategic Reserve during the Malayan Emergency. Represented the Navy, playing both rugby codes in Australia and countries overseas.

He marched with the Navy flag on ANZAC Day for many years and had served as a committee member for the Geraldton RSL and Midwest Irish Club as well as a Charter Member of the Navy Association of Australia.

And Santa couldn't have done it without the help of his little Elf helper at the RSL Christmas kids parties. Ringing the bell and helping give out the presents.

RIP Dan

Australian Defence Force Retirees Association Inc. No. A0108026R

We represent the interests of Defence Force Retirees regarding their Superannuation

www: <https://www.adfra.org/>

Email: admin@adfra.org

DFRDB Update – September 2024 (Progress)

Yesterday, 17 September 2024, Clinton McKenzie, Herb Ellerbock and I met with Senator Pauline Hanson and her senior advisor Pat Hancock to discuss an amendment to the DFRDB Act and Explanatory Memorandum we had drafted and presented to her. The amendment to the Act:

1. Ceases the post-commutation reduction of retirement pay and Class C invalidity pay at the end of the period of Life Expectancy and which the reduction was based.
2. Adjusts all DFRDB benefits to a fair level by indexing 100% of those benefits to maintain parity with Average Weekly Earnings from 1976 to 2014. Our aim was to have the amendment tabled in the Senate as a Private Member's Bill.

Senator Hanson gave us an hour of her time. The atmosphere was warm and she showed genuine interest, asking thoughtful questions. That was more time than we have ever been given by any other Senator, Minister, or Member of Parliament over this matter. Based on our discussion, Senator Hanson said she would study our submission but could see no reason at the moment why she would not be prepared to advance the amendment as a Private Member's Bill. However, we are under no illusion. The amendment could be tabled and defeated by the major parties in the Upper House. However, it is the Lower House that controls legislation, and that is another hurdle to be surmounted. The next step will be for Senator Hanson's office to seek from the Parliamentary Library any further information which may be relevant, as well as asking the Parliamentary Budget Office to undertake a costing of the amendment. Once Senator Hanson's office obtains the necessary details, we will circulate the proposed amendment and Explanatory Memorandum.

Plan B is that Senator Hanson could also arrange for a Senate inquiry into the matter. That would also be a good outcome because it would finally provide a public forum for us to air ALL of the detrimental aspects of the current legislation and the skulduggery that led to those outcomes.

We finally have a way forward and must be united behind it. The divergent proposal of altering the Life Expectancy tables and concept of a 20-times 'commutation factor' are not helpful and must be abandoned. If the Amendment Bill is debated and voted on in either or both the Senate and the House, we will know who supports ex-servicemen/women and their families. Some members may think we are entering the political arena here, but we are not. If we want the DFRDB fiasco resolved, we must consider where to place our vote

at the next election.

Jim Hislop

OAM President

The West Australian 27th Sept 2024

We've let Diggers down for too long. We can't fail them again



**MATT
KEOGH**

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has made it abundantly clear that for decades Australia's defence personnel, veterans and indeed their families have not been treated as they should have been.

They've been failed by successive Australian governments.

The harrowing stories we've heard from veterans and their loved ones over the past three years has made sure that fact is now undeniable.

They're stories that cannot be swept under the rug, can't be left to gather dust on a shelf. They're a call to action.

And the time for action is now. The Albanese Government fought for the royal commission from opposition, because the rate of defence and veteran suicide is a national tragedy.

This week the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has confirmed that between 1997 and 2022 there were 1763 known deaths by suicide among serving and ex-serving personnel.

As a Government, we're committed to taking action, and taking that action swiftly.

The Albanese Government will be delivering our response to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide's 122 recommendations before the year is out.

We are working through those recommendations and their detail, meticulously stepped out in more than 3100

pages, across seven volumes, in a timely and methodical manner. Since September 9, the day the report was delivered to Government, we've been working on how and when these recommendations can be implemented.

The royal commission has noted governments at all levels must work together to improve veterans' wellbeing and reduce the risk of suicide and suicidality. So I've already met with my State and Territory counterparts to start this work.

In recent decades we've seen some 57 inquiries and more than 770 recommendations for change — and ultimately not much to show for it.

I appreciate the apprehension from across the defence and veteran community that we won't take up the challenge put to us by this royal commission.

We remain accountable and

must serve you better. After all, you've done your job, serving for us.

Recommendation 122 of the final report was to "establish a new statutory entity to oversee system reform across the whole defence ecosystem".

This is not a new idea.

The Albanese Government agrees with the need for an independent oversight body as recommended by the royal commission and is working through the detail of this and the other recommendations through the usual Cabinet processes.

I hope you take this as a sign of things to come, and judge us not on what we say, but what we do.

In this regard it is worth noting that we have taken action on every recommendation made by the royal commission in its 2022

interim report, with nine of its 13 recommendations already implemented in full.

I want to thank everyone who helped campaign for and who contributed to the royal commission for their bravery in sharing often harrowing stories about their own experience in service, and those who have given a voice to loved ones no longer able to share their own story.

I also thank the commissioners for their important and sensitive work.

One death is one too many. We must do what we can, as quickly as we can, to prevent suicide across our Defence and veteran community.

**Matt Keogh is the Minister for
Veterans' Affairs and Defence
Personnel**

**Open Arms 1800 011 046
Lifeline 13 11 14**

The Guns of Geraldton

The rapid success of Japanese conquests early in the Pacific War sparked widespread fears of the imminent invasion of Australia. This led to the expansion and installation of coastal defences in various locations, including Geraldton. There was a military assessment that a Japanese assault force would land at Geraldton and strike overland to Perth. This led to both a massive build up in Army forces in the Mid-West to counter such a landing and the establishment of the Geraldton Battery.

Initially this battery consisted of two QF 18 pounder Mark 2 guns, these being installed in July 1942. They were later replaced by two QF 4 inch Mark IX US Navy guns. Both of these types of guns were long in the tooth. The 18 pounder had started development in 1903 - 05 and was the standard British Army field gun in the First World War. It entered Australian service in 1906 until being replaced in the regular army by 25 pounder gun/howitzers in 1940. The American weapon was also designed before the Great War and went on to be the standard 4 inch gun on US destroyers and submarines in that conflict. It then re-armed US submarines as a deck gun in the Second World War and many were supplied to British forces under Lend Lease.

The American guns were sited on the hillside between George Road and Eve Street. In addition, the Geraldton Fortress Engineer Section sited and emplaced two Australian 90 cm searchlights on the sea front between the guns and the beach. Two "fettler sheds" were erected next to the railway line to disguise their location. Practice firings caused extensive damage to nearby houses, which needed repairs before being returned to their owners.

Both sets of artillery were initially manned by a core of artillerymen from the Fremantle Fixed Battery and from the 19th Garrison Battalion. From mid-1943 members of the 7th Volunteer Defence Corps Battalion (Geraldton) were trained to man the guns and formed into Geraldton Battalion (VDC) in September to take over the guns, along with a maintenance cadre from 19th Garrison Battalion. They became Geraldton CA (VDC) in August then disbanded in November and rejoined their battalion in reserve. The Fortress was dismantled in 1944, when the guns were returned to the US Navy.

As an aside, Geraldton's western breakwater was fitted with two naval Depth Charge Throwers to deter a possible attack by frogmen. This was in the wake of successful underwater attacks by Italian frogmen in the Mediterranean. Installed in 1943, they were removed in February 1945.

Sources

War Years Drive Trail, by the Geraldton Regional Library, Local History Department, 2019.

Wikipedia

The Unit Guide, The Australian Army 1939 – 1945 Volume 3, author Graham R. McKenzie-Smith

Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company https://artilleryhistory.org/ad_18_pound_project.html

The Aiming Post, The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of Western Australia Newsletter

http://www.artillerywa.org.au/archives/2000_3.pdf

Mark Gilligan

Sayings from some famous people.

Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself, 'Lillian, you should have remained a virgin.' - **Lillian Carter (mother of Jimmy Carter)**

I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: - 'No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.' - **Eleanor Roosevelt**

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year. - **Victor Borge**

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury. - **Groucho Marx**

I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back. - **Zsa Zsa Gabor**

Money can't buy you happiness. But it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery. - **Spike Milligan**

Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was SHUT UP. - **Joe Namath**

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap. - **Bob Hope**

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you. - **Winston Churchill**

Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty. But everything else starts to wear out, fall out, or spread out. - **Phyllis Diller**

Timor-Leste Peacekeeper Pins

In honour of the 25th anniversary of Australian service in Timor-Leste, RSL WA is offering special Peacekeeper Pins for just \$5 each.

Now available at the ANZAC Club on Level 1 of ANZAC House, or by calling RSL WA (9287 3799), this Antique Brass Lapel Pin is more than a simple accessory – it represents the strength and courage of the people of East Timor in their journey toward independence.

This elegant pin is a reminder of the triumph of peace over violence. Wear it proudly on your lapel, tie or bag to show your support for peace and resilience.

Stocks are limited so hurry, and don't miss out!



Contacts

Executive Committee:

President:

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Vice President:

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Treasurer:

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Secretary:

[Natalie Norman](#)..... 0409 973 391

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Bar Manager: (vacant)

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[Paul Shearer](#)....., 0498 486 270

Membership Officer:

[Mike Marsh](#)0458 806 311

Warden:

[Ken Morris](#).....0427 010 548

Committee:

Barry Lapham
Tanya Yaksich
Andrew Broadley

Committee Meetings

Monday 1700 hrs
9th December
13th January
10th February
10th March

Replacement Medals and Replicas

There are a number of places where you can get replacement medals or replicas of service medals. Here are three that come recommended:

Medal Mounting and Framing (Kalbarri)

Email: medalmountingframing@gmail.com Phone: 0422 737 038

Medals, Mementos and More (Adelaide)

Email: medalsmementosandmore@gmail.com Phone: 0405 672 714

National Medals Pty Ltd (Brisbane)

Email: natmedals@bigpond.com Phone: 0419 196172

The **Veterans Transition Centre (VTC)** offers respite short-term accommodation for your members and their families.

The property is nestled in the Darling Ranges on approximately 42 acres near Jarrahdale in Western Australia. The state forest is on the eastern border and Medulla Brook runs through the property.

The VTC is approximately a 45-minute drive from the Perth CBD, and is located close to the South Western Highway.

If any of your members would like to take the opportunity for a relaxing getaway or would like further information or to make a booking, please contact the Operations Manager, Alan Somers on 0488 188 806. You can also check out the website here

<https://www.veteranstc.org.au/>

Birdwood Military Museum President

[Barry Stinson](#)
0408 222 653

Secretary

[Mark Gilligan](#)
9938 1911

Treasurer

[Mike Marsh](#)
0458 806 311

THE NEXT EDITION

Contributions for Autumn Bugle 2025 (sent out 1st March 2025) can be emailed to Bugle Editor editorbirdwoodbugle@gmail.com or dropped into the RSL at Birdwood House. Deadline for Autumn Bugle is 20th February 2025. No articles can be accepted after that date.

Earlier makes it easier for the editor to get the Bugle assembled, printed and circulated on time. Items generally should not exceed 400 words with pictures and 500 words without pictures.



RSLWA

The Returned and Services League of Australia Geraldton City Sub-Branch

PO Box 1243 GERALDTON WA 6531

Phone: 08 9964 1520

Email: info@geraldtonrsl.org.au

RSL Service, Affiliate and Social Subscriptions Renewal 2025

Please fill in or tick the appropriate lines and return this page when renewing your subscription. PLEASE ensure you pay the correct membership rate. Being a financial member entitles you to legally attend Birdwood House bar and social activities. Your financial membership expires 31st December 2024.

RENEWING FOR:

Social Member \$15

Affiliate Member \$20

Service member \$40.....

Service member ID

Name.....

Postal Address

.....

.....

Contact Number

Email address **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

.....

Please return this completed form with your payment at the bar or office.

Payment may be made by EFTPOS, cash, cheque or online.

BSB 633000, A/C 159564558. RSL Geraldton Sub Branch. Ref. Your name

Affiliate and Social membership cards may be collected at the RSL

Thank-you for your support. For any enquiries please contact the membership officer.

Michael Marsh

Geraldton City Sub-branch

Membership Officer 0458 806 311

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