



V.P. DAY...SIXTY-FIVE YEARS ON

Sixty-five years on, after the Allied victory in the Pacific effectively marked the end of WW11, the ranks of those who served are thinning. Hostilities ended on 15th August 1945.

The formal surrender came on September 2nd, 1945. For anyone aged under 70, WW11 is a human crisis experienced vicariously, through the eyes and ears of relatives, friends and others who were there. In the popular imagination, that war entered the realm of history long ago. The interpretation and reinterpretation of these events continue.

Australians have of course been away to wars in the intervening years. Australians are on active service overseas today. But for later generations the scale of WW11— and especially the war in the Pacific— can sometimes be forgotten. Almost one million citizens out of a population of just 7.4 million served in the armed forces during the war.

Unlike WW1, this was not a conflict fought on distant soil.

Once Japan entered the war in December 1941, the invasion that Australians had long dreaded became a distinct possibility. When Singapore fell and bombs rained on Darwin and other northern centres in 1942, those fears appeared to have been confirmed. In the end it was probably Australia's distance that provided the greatest measure of protection, coupled with the return of Australia's forces from the Middle East and the US decision to defend Australia from invasion.

But the toll was considerable, more than 39,000 Australians died during WW11, and more than 30,000 Australian Servicemen were taken prisoner, two-thirds of these by the Japanese. One in three of these did not return. These bald statistics tell little of the thousands of Australian families for whom war was much more than a rhetorical abstraction. No conflict in which Australia has been involved has stirred Australia's conscience so much. No conflict has brought so much suffering and anguish to so many.

The war, of course, was far more than a great adventure. This was a struggle for ideology, pointedly against the evil of totalitarian regimes that had stripped their peoples of the democratic freedoms for which the Allies, with the notable exception of the Soviet Union were fighting. The current threat of terrorism and the "global war on terrorism", so-called and declared by the US, hardly bear comparison to the global conflict 65 years ago. The attacks and loss of life are insignificant against the estimated 55 million lives lost between 1939/45. Governments claim certain measures need to be taken to ensure the community's security, and we need to be aware how Australia and other democratic nations appear to be prepared to surrender some of these rights in a putative "war". And once ceded do we have them restored? On this the 65th Anniversary of VP Day, this should give Australians pause for reflection. (*The AGE*)

Executive for 2010

Check out the on-line version at; www.cex.com.au, under RSL Sub-Branch

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Meetings Suck!



**THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:
CREMATION..... Think outside the box!!!**

RAAF WILLIAMTOWN

TO GO ON SHOW

The skies will come alive over Base Williamtown over the weekend of September 18 to 19 when the base hosts it's first air show in more than 35 years.

Head of Special Events AIRCDRE Phil Byrne said it was time the Hunter experienced the awe and excitement of a modern air show as part of the Defence Force annual air show schedule.

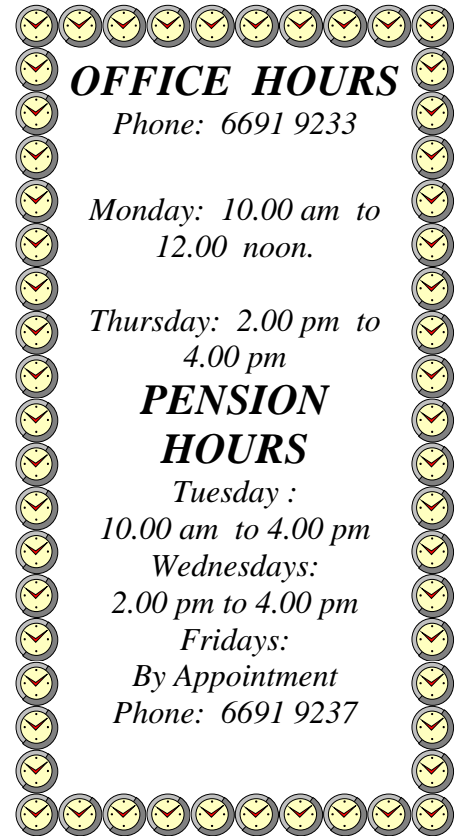
You will have an opportunity to witness Air Force aircraft, historic war-birds and many static displays and stalls.

Flying activities start at 1230 and stop at 1600 each day, but there will be many other activities.

Free parking on the base from 0800.

Tickets may be purchased from:

www.airforce.gov.au/airshow from 1st August, or at the gate.



OFFICE HOURS
Phone: 6691 9233

Monday: 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

Thursday: 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

PENSION HOURS
Tuesday : 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
Wednesdays: 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm
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**ARE YOU
ABORIGINAL or TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER ?**

If so, a meeting will be held at the Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club on Thursday 22nd July at 1000 to form a Mid-North Coast Chapter of the 'Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Veterans and Services Association.

Contact:

Trevor Wilson: 0411065011

Tony Olsen: 6651 9758

MISSING AUSTRALIAN WW1 SOLDIER IDENTIFIED

Missing for almost a century, the remains of Private Alan James Mather Of Inverell, NSW have finally been identified.

Private Mather was one of 216,000 men from Australia, New Zealand And the United Kingdom who fought in the Battle of Messines against The German Empire in West Flanders, Belgium from June 7 to 14, 1917.

The Battle began with the detonation of 19 mines prior to the infantry assault with shock from the explosion felt as far away as London. Ten thousand men lost their lives in the immediate blast: it is history's deadliest non-nuclear man-made explosion. The German lines were broken and the road to Berlin was open.

Private Mather was listed as missing after the war as were 6,000 other Australian soldiers. His body was discovered at Ploegsteert, Belgium in 2008. His remains recovered along with a significant amount of equipment, along with a corroded identification tag, which was of no use.





“SCUTTLEBUTT”

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM SUB- ASSOCIATIONS



ARMY IROQUOIS BECOME NATIONAL TREASURES

An Army Squadron of 11 Iroquois helicopters will be transformed into tourist attractions around Australia at Military Bases including Bandania and Point Cook in Victoria, Darwin in the Northern Territory, Holsworthy in New South Wales, Oakey and Enoggera in Queensland, along with the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, also Townsville’s RAAF Base.

Five will be kept by the ADF for training and two will be offered for sale to national returned service organisations.

“Huey’s” as they are affectionately known have served the nation since 1962, first flying in Malaysia, however it was their use in the Vietnam War that gave them the iconic status they have today with their familiar silhouette and rotor sound.

SEEKING FORMER 6RAR SOLDIER

Does anyone know the whereabouts of J.S. Van Den Heuval, who served as a private with 6RAR and only discharged within the past few years. His address on discharge was Nerang (Qld) but no longer lives there.

If you know of his whereabouts please contact: Lt-Col Glyn Llanwarne at Military Strategic Command or email:

llanwarne80@hotmail.com

The Lt-Colonel has some lost medals for him.

HOW SHOULD AUSTRALIANS MARK THE ANZAC CENTENARY

Australians are being called upon to share their ideas on how the Anzac Centenary is commemorated in the lead-up to 2015, the Minister for Veteran’s Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, Alan Griffin said. Mr Griffin said between 2014 and 2018 marks 100 years since the First World War. “On Anzac Day the Australian Government announced a National Commission on the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary involving former Prime Ministers the Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser and the Honourable Bob Hawke, and the National President of the RSL Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO. (Retd).”

“The Anzac Centenary provides an opportunity to remember those who fought and served in all wars of the last hundred years and those who stayed behind.”

“The role of the National Commission is to listen to the Australian community about how we as a nation should honour and remember 100 years of service” he said.

“All Australians-every school, community and ex-service organization-are asked to think about how we, as a nation should commemorate the Anzac Centenary and put ideas and suggestions forward to the National Commission” Mr Griffin said.

The Commission consisting of six Australians will play a vital role in seeking Australia’s ideas and reporting to the government early next year.

For information on how to make a submission visit www.anzaccenatary.gov.au. Submissions close 17 September 2010.

“Although there are no living links to WW1 The legacy has continued through the men and women who have served in Australia’s forces since, and we will honour this legacy”

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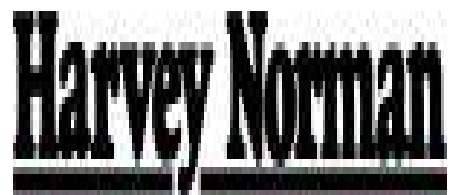


VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

WEDNESDAY 18TH AUGUST

**FORM UP OUT
FRONT OF CLUB AT
1715
SERVICE STARTS
1730**

Fellowship in Vista Lounge



Nuts & Bolts
automotive

All mechanical repairs

Phone Mark on:
02 6650 0599
44 Marcia Street
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

LILLY PILLY CLUB

Meets....Wednesdays

10.00 am ‘til 2.00 pm

**WESLEY METHODIST
CHURCH**

BRAY STREET

Cost: \$5.00 (includes pick-up)

V.P. DAY

SUNDAY 15TH AUGUST

**FORM UP OUT FRONT
OF CLUB AT 1045**

SERVICE STARTS:

1100

FELLOWSHIP:

VISTA LOUNGE

And God Created....AUSTRALIA

In the beginning God created day and night. He created day for footy matches, going to the beach and barbies. He created night for going prawning, sleeping and barbies. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came and it was the second day.

On the second day God created water for surfing, swimming and barbies on the beach. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came and it was the third day.

On the third day God created the Earth to bring forth plants-to provide tobacco, malt and yeast for beer, wood and barbies. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came and it was the fourth day.

On the fourth day God created animals and crustaceans for chops, sausages, steak and prawns for barbies. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came and it was the fifth day.

On the fifth day God created a bloke-to go to the footy, enjoy the beach, drink the beer and eat the meat and prawns at barbies. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came and it was the sixth day.

On the sixth day God saw that this bloke was lonely and needed someone to go to the footy, surf, drink beer, eat and stand around the barbie with. So, God created MATES, and God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came and it was the seventh day.

On the seventh day God looked around at the twinkling barbie fires, heard the hiss of opening beer cans and the raucous

laughter of all the blokes, smelled the aroma of grilled chops and sizzling prawns and God saw that it was good.....Well, almost good. God saw that the blokes were tired and needed a rest.

So, God created SHEILA'S- to clean the house, bear children, wash, cook and clean the barbie. God saw that it was good, no....it was better that, it was bloody great!!!!
IT WAS AUSTRALIA!!

An Englishman, an Irishman and an Australian walk into a bar.....
The barman says, "is this some kind of a joke??"

What's a Tasmanians idea of fore-play....
You awake mum!!!! (ouch!)

New Zealanders love their rowing...
Primarily because they sit down and go backwards!!!

A TRUE YOBBO

A man and his wife were sitting in the living room and he said to her, "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependant on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug.

His wife got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all his beer!!!!!!

**SEE YA NEXT MEETING:
21st AUGUST**

VALE

Herbert Hanson



*WE WILL REMEMBER
THEM*

ALL-WAYS PARTY HIRE

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