WESTERN OUTPOST NEWS

2020 - Volume 3

St Mary's Outpost the 'Train of Knowledge'

St Marys Veterans Centre

St Marys Outpost - VVAA
and St Marys RSL Sub-Branch

LEST WE FORGET

In This Issue

	Page
VVAA St Marys Outpost President's Report	1
Season's Greetings from all our Regulars	3
St Marys RSL Sub Branch President's Report	4
Afghanistan	6
Outpost Computer Classes	8
The Hellenic Prince	10
Hours of Business for Pension Officers Interviews	11
Darwin and Return (Part 13)	12
Education Report	15
Australia Day (The Real Story)	18
HMAS COLAC at Cloiseul	22
That Train	26
The Poppy	27
List of Advertisers	28
St Marys Veteran Centre & St Marys RSL Sub-Branch Committee Lists	29

Various places throughout the 'News'

Front Cover:

The Cenotaph
Martin Place, Sydney NSW

DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATION

December 2021 ..... 15 November 2021
April 2021..... 15 March 2021
August 2021 ..... 15 July 2021
Articles of a general nature may be submitted at anytime,
please send to: davoddg38@gmail.com

Correspondence to:
VVAA St Marys Outpost Veterans Centre
PO Box 3049,
South St Mary's NSW 2760

PHONE: 9833 4700.
Fax 9833 4022
Web Page: vvaastmarys.com.au
Email: vietvet@tpg.com.au
*****
St Marys RSL Sub-Branch Email: stmsub@tpg.com.au

Web: Log on to: vvaastmarys.com.au. OR
Google: St Marys RSL Sub Branch
Phone: 9623 6555

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
ST MARYS VIETNAM VETERANS OUTPOST

"WHERE IT ALL COMES TOGETHER"

New Years has come, we have been through one of the hardest years most people would have encountered.

Australia has been hit by many events in the last 12 months – drought, bush fires, floods, Covid-19. These are things that have hit people hard, we all know someone who has been affected in one way or another.

We have always experienced bushfires, floods and drought in Australia - that is part of our landscape and Australians have never shied away from the courage needed to move past these, however, Covid-19 is the one that has really affected us as humans and at the core of how we interact with each other.

With Covid-19 came the introduction of social distancing which meant we were unable to interact with each other as we had been doing for several years, this was the hardest thing we have had to work through and with this we had to make the tough decision to close our doors for 3 months.

The benefit by closing for 3 months was that people found that there is more to life then just going to the train each day, it forced us to spend time away from the Veteran community which opened the opportunities to spend time with close family and friends.

Even though we may not have liked the hard and fast changing to our lifestyle such as signing into venues, wearing masks etc. we do these things as to not only benefit ourselves but the rest our community, it's a pity State Premiers do not share the same view and look to make changes that would benefit not only their community but the whole of Australia.

Even though we were closed we were still able to process pensions and assist with enquires as the pension officers worked successfully from home, the grounds of the Train and all required maintenance were also kept up to date.

We did not allow Covid-19 to disrupt the work as a Veterans Centre for Veterans and their Families. All members of the St Mary's Veterans organization demonstrate commitment, pride and empathy everyday and for these reasons I am very proud to be a part of this organization.

Let us hope that 2021 is a whole lot better.

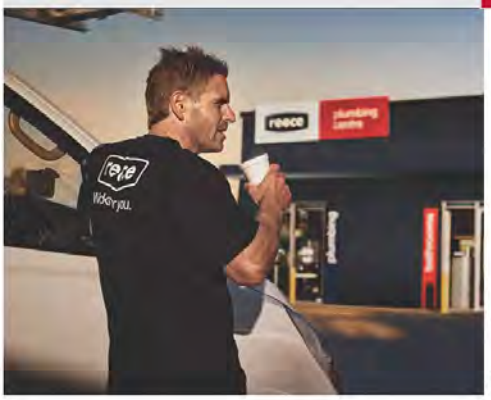
Reminder: Membership for 2021 is now due, $25.00 for single and $35.00 for couples.

Please Note: Our AGM will be held on Sunday 28th February 2021 commencing at 11.00am Followed by a BBQ lunch.

Tony Mullavey
President

SUPPORT OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

reece™ plumbing centre



Minchinbury
Reece Plumbing Centre
10 Grex Avenue Minchinbury, NSW, 2770
(02) 8867 5810
(02) 8867 5829 (fax)
minchinbury.plumbing.nsw@reece.com.au

Trading Hours

Monday - Friday	07:00am - 05:00pm
Saturday	08:00am - 12:00pm

Little Johnny's kindergarten class was on a field trip to their local police station where they saw pictures tacked to a bulletin board of the 10 most wanted criminals. One of the youngsters pointed to a picture and asked if it really was the photo of a wanted person. 'Yes,' said the policeman. 'The detectives want very badly to capture him.'Little Johnny asked, 'Why didn't you keep him when you took his picture ?'

Heavenly Celebrations
Celebrate a loved one's life

Michelle Latham
michelle@heavenlycelebrations.com.au
PH: 9623 6656 | MOBILE: 0418 250 242
186 Queen Street, St. Marys (Star Arcade)

Contact Michelle for
Pre-Planning & Pre-Paid Funerals
1300 HEVNLY (1300 438 659)

ST MARYS RSL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

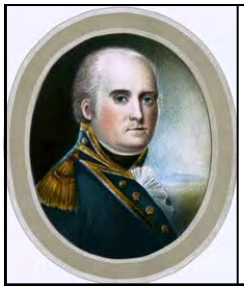
For more information contact:
Honorary Secretary – Kerry Squires
Email: kerrysquires@gmail.au

Nepean Wives of Vietnam Veterans, Women's Support Group

Winter Report

President: Maree Johnson	**Phone:** (02) 96237126	Registered Office C/O VVAA St Marys Outpost Cnr Mamre Road and Hall Street St Marys NSW 2760 **(All Mail To the PO Box)**
SecretaryMaureen Clements **Treasurer:** Kay Hibbard	**Phone:** (02) 96753998 **Phone:** (02) 98323562	

FROM US ALL ....
WE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A VERY, HAPPY, SAFE



ST MARY'S GOVERNOR KING DAY CLUB

Sponsored by St Marys RSL Sub-Branch

" An RSL Service to the Community"

Nepean Wives of Vietnam Veterans Women's Support Group

This is a non-profit community based support group for wives of veterans and are part of the VVAA St Marys. The group meet on the second Thursday of each month at 10.00 am at the St Marys RSL Youth Club Hall.

Phone: Maureen 0418 253 199 or Maree 0411 679 230

ST MARYS RSL SUB-BRANCH

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Aug to Nov 2020

I start this report by announcing the passing of Sub-Branch member Walter (Wally) Thomas Charlwood on the 22nd of October. Wally became a member of this Sub-Branch in February 2001 and he volunteered at the Governor King Day Club for over 12 years and as co-ordinator for approximately 5 years, before moving to Queensland. Wally will be laid to rest at Pine Grove Cemetery Minchinbury, once border restrictions are lifted and a Memorial Service will be held there. Date to be advised.

The rest of the reporting period has been reasonably quiet with following activities and events:

- **15th of August** - VP Day - Sub-Branch member David Trist, accompanied by Tony Fryer was one of only a few surviving WWII Veterans invited to attend the Victory in the Pacific Ceremony held at the Cenotaph at Martin Place Sydney. After the ceremony David and his Wife Betty joined your executive here in this club for lunch. It was a memorable afternoon with David recalling some of his War time stories. Thank you, David, for your service.
- **18th of August** - Vietnam Veteran Day - With the Vietnam Veterans Day service being cancelled due to Covid 19 a luncheon was held in the St Marys Diggers and Band Club's Gt Western Highway premises' auditorium. I believe that about 80 veterans and their partners attended, which included our local federal and local politicians and our patrons, my wife and I enjoyed the company, the food, and the entertainment. Thank you to all involved in the setup and running of this event.
- **24th and 25th of August** - Corridor of Honour, display cabinets lighting upgrade - thank you to Reno Ciantar, John Barlow, John Celeban, Dave Cuff, Ken Morgan, Ivan Finch and Tony Fryer for helping to empty and then replace all the items held within the cabinets so new LED lighting could be installed, if it were not for your help it would have taken Tony Fryer and myself a week to do. Thank you all.
- **September 21st** - Saw Frank Lawton, Tony Fryer and I busily judging the current entries from our six High Schools that take part in the Colin Shephard OAM School Scholarships program, the entries ranged from above the norm to outstanding and it was a pleasure to be able to be one of the judges, well done to the winners and best wishes in their future endeavours.
- **14th October** - I attended the Governor King Day Club's 16th Anniversary luncheon, with everyone having a great time, I enjoyed good company, good food and great entertainment thank you for the invite
- **19th and 20th October** - Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF) was carried out in two shifts due to Covid 19 restrictions, however our mission was completed without any problems, with 1400 care packages filled with comfort items for service personal currently serving overseas. I want to thank the following Sub-Branch members for giving up their time to carry out this task, Tony Briffa, John Barlow, John Celeban, Dave Cuff, John Foeken, Dave Kitley, Jeff Perry, Paul Pono. Gary Wright and Bruce McGarrity for day 1, and Ted cooper, Ted Fish, Frank Lawton, Alex Mangion, Bill Peet, Burke Rogge, Paul Tarlington and Ken Morgan for day 2. At the end of packing on each day, a BBQ

was put on by RSL National and I thank Renee for doing this. AFOF will be on again in March 2021, dates TBC.

- **27th and 29th October** - Men's Health Week. Our Sub-Branch held two morning teas with 20 members each day at the Train this was because of Covid restrictions. A good selection of sandwiches and cake were provided and a big thank you to Sam Veechio for organizing this important gathering.
- **3rd November** - Remembrance Day Video was produced by Dylan from In House AV, and with Lord Mayor of Penrith Karen McKeown, State MP's and Patrons Prue Car and Tanya Davies, and Melissa McIntosh Federal Member for Lindsay having pivotal roles in our service and Frank Lawton as MC, the recording of our service went very well, with only two retakes having to be made of the wreath laying and Frank saying the Ode again. I'd like to thank WO2 Brad Scaroni and the 5 Engineer Regiment's soldiers for being our Cenotaph Party. After the filming, the Sub-Branch shouted lunch for those involved in the service.
- **4th November** - 323 Sqn Air Force Cadet Unit - Tony Fryer and I attended 323 Sqn Cadet Unit's Remembrance Day Service at Glenbrook. The service was organized and run very well by the cadets and they all should be incredibly pleased by their efforts. We anticipate an invite to their end of year parade in December and look forward to this event.
- **5th November** - Colin Shephard OAM School Scholarships - Unfortunately we were unable to hold this event due to Covid and the NSW Education Department's ban on inter school interaction, however we are working with the school to get the winning students together and get their certificates and a photo opportunity and if possible to do so in person, we will let you know how things go at the December Meeting.
- **11th November** - Due to Covid restrictions, our Remembrance Day Service was cancelled, however we held a quiet gathering so veterans and members of the community could lay their own tributes at the Guns War Memorial at the Train. We played appropriate music and at 1100hrs Cameron Henderson played the Last Post and the Rouse on his Electric Guitar, with the highlight of the day was a fly pass by a FA18A fighter aircraft from 77 Sqn RAAF and Cameron's playing of the Last Post and Rouse.

Ron Blakely
President November 2020

This morning on the motorway, I looked over to my right and there was a Woman in a brand new VW Golf !! Doing 110km/hr.
With her face up next to her Rear view mirror putting on her eyeliner!
I looked away for a couple seconds and when I looked back she was halfway over in my lane, still working on that makeup.
As a man, I don't scare easily, but she scared me so much I dropped my electric shaver, which knocked the meat pie out of my other hand. In all the confusion of trying to straighten out the car using my knees against the steering wheel, it knocked my Mobile Phone away from my ear, which fell into the coffee between my legs, which splashed and burned "Big Jim and the Twins", ruined the phone, soaked my trousers, and disconnected an Important call.
BLOODY Women Drivers!!

Every Australian needs to read this.

It illustrates a systemic failure of the ADF leadership and the media that prioritised to investigate alleged outcomes of a few, rather than address and examine the cause.

The suicide rate of those who served is 7 times the KIA deaths.

Who is responsible for that outcome?

AFGHANISTAN

The contributors named below were Junior Officers, NCOs, or Diggers in Vietnam.

We served in combat roles with 2RAR/NZ (Anzac) Battalion May 1970 to June 1971, experiencing the horrors and triumphs of armed conflict. We understand the ongoing effects on ourselves and our comrades. We wish to record our disappointment and distress on how the allegations of atrocities in Afghanistan have been addressed by the Prime Minister, and in particular the Chief of the Defence Forces.

Prior to the release of the report the Prime Minister created an expectation of horror, with at least an impression that the contents were proof of criminal conduct by members of SAS Regiment. On the release of the report his obvious rage supported the impression he had given the week before. To confirm that impression he advised that he had formally apologised to the Government of Afghanistan. It is not unreasonable to conclude that the various addresses adopted a 'Presumption of Guilt', contrary to Australian Law and the UN Charter.

The Chief of the Defence Force essentially echoed the words of the Prime Minister. He compounded the issue by not only adopting the 'Presumption of Guilt', but by announcing outrageous initial retributions that would be imposed. The Chief of the Defence Force then offended many veterans and current service members by restating the unfortunate observation in the report that 'no officers were involved' in the various activities. No mention of the other 26,000 armed service personnel who served there, many of whom sacrificed life and limb and mental health, and insulting many officers who consider that they are an integral part of the unit they serve or served with. His address was insulting, inappropriate, self-serving, and extremely poor leadership. The Chief of the Defence Force may well be a person to bear part of the responsibility for the numerous failures obvious in the conduct of the conflict.

The Prime Minister and the Chief of the Defence Force were intense in their moral indignation, clearly intended to represent their responses and behaviour as virtuous. Having clearly adopted and encouraged the Presumption of Guilt, then promised all accused an independent investigation and a fair trial.

It may be the case that no officer has been identified as being involved in any of the events. To suggest that for a period of more than five years and thirty-nine atrocities, not one officer was close enough to his troops, or had access to the usual boozer gossip to at least be aware of some allegations, is simply not credible.

Official reports inform that in the period 2001 – 2016, a total of fifty six Australian service personnel were killed in action, and three hundred and seventy three of the veterans who served in that period committed suicide. The suicide rate was seven times more than battle casualties. What more warning was required to the Government and the military hierarchy to thoroughly investigate the causes of suicide and develop appropriate responses? To our national shame the suicide rate has increased and is more likely to be ten times above battle fatalities, with another nine suicides in the last few months.

If the same proportions applied to all wars we have been involved in, we would have experienced over one million suicides. Unimaginable.

It may be that with the retirement of General Peter Cosgrove, the army lost the last Commander who had any serious and life-threatening battle experience. Those who followed were undoubtedly qualified academically, but may not, and probably could not, have a meaningful understanding of the psychological impacts of battle, including the impact of over exposure to traumatic experiences, the initial paralysis of fear, the horror of loss or mutilation of comrades, and the images that will never be erased.

It is a simple reality that soldiers dehumanise their immediate enemy combatants. Any one of sound mind could not callously take the life of another non-combatant human being, yet innocents have been massacred in every war in history. It is only when the perpetrator dehumanises an entire country or a section of a country, that this will happen, and has happened throughout history, and continues in many conflicts today. The focus for Australia, at least from 2016, should have been on the origins of mental health issues, starting with the initial recruitment, basic and corps training, leadership, tolerance assessment, and over exposure to battle.

Many SASR soldiers have served multiple tours of Afghanistan. Up to six or eight tours is not uncommon, with one reported as having had sixteen tours. In time spent in actual operations on six tours, it would equate to the actual time spent in operations that a digger would have served in the entire WW2. Sixteen tours would equate to the total time spent in operations in all wars since Federation. How the hierarchy could have approved and encouraged that level of multiple tours, especially after the 2016 report, is incomprehensible and requires explanation.

The Australian Defence Forces senior management, including the Chief of the Defence Forces, will eventually have to answer for their failures.

We do not in any way condone any violations of the Geneva Convention, notwithstanding that in both Vietnam and Afghanistan our enemies were not distracted by any such niceties. We are however determined to ensure that all relevant matters required to give a complete perspective are canvassed, and that the accused are not sacrificed at the altar of the bureaucracy.

Any of those accused who are of sound mind and are found or plead guilty will have seriously diminished the proud reputation Australians have earned in battle since Federation. They will receive no sympathy.

D W Horrigan DCM, Rifleman
B R Seeley MID, Platoon Sergeant
T H O'Neill, Platoon Commander
P M Wood MID, Section Commander
R G Franklin, Platoon Commander
P D Savage MC, Platoon Commander

Judge Softly

Just walk a mile in his moccasins
Before you abuse, criticize and accuse.
If just for one hour, you could find a way
To see through his eyes, instead of your own muse.

..... Mary T Lathrap, 1895.

MICHAEL JOHN FITZGERALD SOLICITOR

Level 8
65 York Street Sydney 2000

Phone: 9283 2500 or 0419 440 990

FAX: 9283 2600.
ABN 18095746334

COMPUTER TRAINING CLASSES

Computer Classes are conducted at the Vietnam Veterans Train situated at the St Marys RSL Club Mamre Road St Marys as follows:

Thursday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Thursday classes teach Digital Photo manipulation using Photoshop Elements 5, only 5 students at a time **Bookings essential.**

The classes are informal and we teach mixed classes from the 'beginner' to the more experienced and retired seniors wanting to familiarise with current software and learn to use the Internet to send E-Mails and carry out research and other technology related issues.

For more info call Keith 9833 4700 or
email vietvet@tpg.com.au

Isn't it weird that in AUSTRALIA our flag and our culture offend so many people, but our benefits don't?

Minchinbury
Community Hospital

Rehabilitation | Surgical | Medical

Physiotherapy and Hydrotherapy

Minchinbury Community Hospital offers inpatient and day patient personalised rehabilitation services to suit your needs. Our team of caring professionals are here to assist patients reach their individual goals and work in conjunction with their families to meet any of their concerns.

DID YOU KNOW: Depending on your health fund product, your health fund may cover your hospital stay with no out of pocket expenses? We also accept self-insured, DVA and Workers Compensation patients.

Contact our friendly Administration team for more information and your health fund eligibility 02 9625 2222.

Surgical & Medical

Our highly qualified and talented visiting Specialist Surgeons perform a wide variety of specialist care including:

- Ophthalmic Surgery
- General Surgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Dental Surgery
- Plastic Surgery
- Gastroscopy and Colonoscopy procedures

www.mhsminchinbury.com.au
facebook.com/MinchinburyHospital
02 9625 2222
Cnr Great Western Highway & Rupertswood Rd Rooty Hill NSW 2766

Minchinbury Community Hospital has been providing expert rehabilitation and nursing care to the local community for the past 10 years.

The hospital is within easy reach of all major arterial roads including M4 & M7 with free onsite parking

I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE ON THIS PLAN: The COVID-19 vaccine should be tested on politicians first. If they survive, the vaccine is safe. If they don't, the country is safe.

THE HELLENIC PRINCE

(ex-HMAS/HMS Albatross 1950 - a migrant ship with a proud Naval History)

By Geoffrey Dougall

A history from Victorian Collections by one of the migrants on arrival in 1950.

In 1949 the HELLENIC PRINCE with its 3 hospitals, 2 cinemas, and air-conditioned accommodation was chartered by the International Refugee Organisation to transport displaced persons from Europe to Australia. Its first trip was to Sydney where it arrived with 1000 passengers on 5 December 1949. On the third trip it left Naples on 23 March 1950, and arrived in Fremantle on 20 April 1950, and in Melbourne on 25 April 1950. The men and women were separated for the voyage with my father sleeping on a hammock in a large room with other men, while my mother, my brother, and I had bunks in a shared cabin.

On board were displaced persons ex Bagnoli Camp Italy, some of whom later built their bungalows on the grassy and rocky paddocks near Sunshine Victoria, and began to establish a new life in a new country. A few of the families that arrived on the third trip and purchased land in the Dunkeld Ave - Sandford Ave area of North Sunshine

The ship first started service in 1929 for the Royal Australian Navy as the HMAS ALBATROSS. It had a standard displacement of 4,800 tons and was 443 feet 7 inches (135.2 metres) long, and its top speed during trials reached 22 knots (41 km/hr). It was built at Cockatoo Island Dockyard as Australia's first Aircraft Carrier (seaplanes), but the aircraft that it was designed for were retired just before the ship went into service. A new plane specifically designed to work with the Albatross began operations after the ship was decommissioned in 1933, and placed into reserve in Sydney Harbour. Seaplanes continued to operate from the anchored ship.

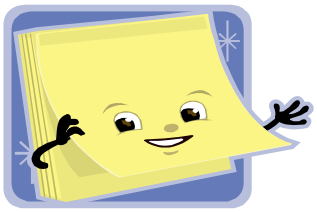
In 1938 the ship was recommissioned and transferred to the Royal Navy as part payment for the light cruiser Hobart. The ship then did military service for the Royal Navy during World War 2. It did patrol and escort duties in the southern Atlantic, and from mid 1942 in the Indian Ocean. By early 1944 the ship was converted so that it could repair landing craft and other support vessels off Sword and Juno beaches. The ship managed to return 132 craft into service and to save 79 others from total loss. On 11 August 1944 Albatross was torpedoed with the loss of either 50 or 66 personnel, but was able to be towed back to Portsmouth. After repairs she did a short service as a minesweeper depot ship, and following that was placed into reserve on 3 August 1945. In August 1946 the ship was sold for commercial use but the plans to convert it into a luxury liner or a floating cabaret fell through. The ship was again sold on 14 November 1948 to the British-Greek Yannoulatos Group, who renamed it HELLENIC PRINCE in recognition of the birth of Prince Charles and his Greek heritage.

Significance

Hellenic Prince has a significance to Sunshine Victoria because some of the displaced people from Europe, who arrived in Melbourne on Anzac Day 1950, were among the first people to settle in the grassy and rocky paddock areas of North Sunshine. These settlers established a residential suburban area out of the paddocks. In those early days there were no services and the planned roads were

basically just drawings on a map. The ship is also significant because it was named in recognition of the birth of Prince Charles.

More information can be seen at:
https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/52e791312162ef15b039b59e



IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING DAYS OF OPERATION FOR PENSIONS AT THE ST MARYS VETERANS CENTRE

Pension claims at the 'Train' are now carried out on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday between the hours of 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, however, these timings are flexible depending on availability of Advocates.

Anyone wishing to see a particular Advocates should phone the office first to ensure they will be in attendance and make an appointment.

Veterans attending the 'Train' for the first time to start a claim should allow for at least two hours for the interview as initial interviews can be time consuming.

Interviews are by Appointment Only

DARWIN AND RETURN APRIL – MAY 2017

PART 13

About 15km from Mt Isa I hit a step in the road approaching a bridge. The trailer bounced on this and the left hand mudguard dropped and tore half of the tread from the tyre. I stopped when I saw the smoke, I thought I might have a puncture. The tyre still had half the tread on its' circumference.

I limped into Mt Isa, found the caravan park where the others were. I gave Ken a ring, he came to see what we could do to the trailer to fix the guard. We took both mudguard off and then went back to his place. He has a good workshop at home, so we made new mounts for both mudguards, raising them by a 50mm in the process.

While were doing this, His wife Shirley made me a cup of coffee and some homemade apple pie to go with it.

When the job was finished we went back to caravan park reassembled the guards. Ken said to ring him in the morning to let him know how I was fairing getting new tyres. I assembled my camper, went and had a shower, sat and talked a bit, it was 2100 when we went to bed.

The next morning, Monday 8th May, I told the others to push on and when I got my tyres I would catch them at Winton, which was to be our next nights' stop. It was a cold night at Mt Isa, I used all my blankets. I was packed by 0730, had a cup of soup for breakfast. There are a few tyre places in Mt Isa, I rang a couple of them but no luck. I rode to one of them where Ken joined and we drove to another. After going to a few the best we could do was to have 2 trucked out from Townsville, that would be overnight, which meant I wouldn't catch the others till Longreach on the Wednesday. I had changed my wheels to 10" from 8" when we were planning this trip. I had trouble getting 8" tyres at Alice Springs 3 years earlier, and 10" should have been easier. The larger the wheel the more km the tyres should do.

I am in the NRMA Premium Care, so I rang them explained my position and that my trailer was my accommodation. At first they said they were reluctant to help me, but on pushing the issue they got me a cabin for the Monday night. I was back at the Discover, Big 4 Caravan Park, this time in a cabin. After settling in at the cabin I caught up with all my washing, it was a hot day and it dried in about an hour. It was writing up my diary at a table, and I caught up with naming and dating some of my photos and also I was in a double bed again. If only for 1 night. My tyres turned up at midday on the Tuesday and I was on the road by 1400.

I rode on to Cloncurry where I filled up and topped up my 10 lt spare fuel container. It sits on the draw bar of the trailer and puts another 7kilos on the tow ball.

I stopped for a rest and a cup of tea about 40 km from McKinlay. Checked the trailer then rode on. I passed through McKinlay about 1700; I would stop the night at Kyuna, another 75km. That way I would catch the others at Longreach the next day. 15km south of Mckinlay something went wrong with the trailer and I could hear it dragging along the ground. I was lucky I didn't come off. The left hand side wheel had come off and gone bush. The trailer had rolled along on the hub. I was amazed; the wheel studs were sheared off, nearly level with the hub. I disconnected the trailer and dragged it well off the road, then went back to Mckinlay.

There's no mobile coverage at Mckinlay, but in the United Garage there was area about 2 metres in diameter where there was coverage. I contacted NRMA Premium again, they arranged a truck to come and pick the trailer up but it wouldn't be till the next morning. They booked me a room, a donger, at the Walkabout Hotel, of Crocodile Dundee fame, in Mckinlay. I also rang Ken in Mt Isa, he knew the people who managed the hotel. Also his father helped build it. He couldn't believe I had another problem. He couldn't help this time. I walked 2 blocks from the hotel to the local Police Station and when the door answered by Desi Hanssen. I explained that all my gear was in the trailer and I needed to get some of it. He told me to wait a couple of minutes and he would take me out to my trailer. We loaded all my gear into the police 4 wheel drive. Then with the use of the spotlights we found my wheel. This was another piece of luck, it was 1930 by and pitch black out in the fields. We unloaded my gear outside my room, spare fuel and all. I was lucky because he was on holidays and was going to Cairns that morning to see his daughter, but put it off for a day. After he left me and had gone home I emptied my spare fuel into the bike. I have since sent Desi a thank you letter.

It wasn't a good night, up and down to the toilet, 5 rooms away along the veranda and worrying about how to fix the trailer. I was in the United Garage talking to Don when the flat top truck turned up at 0810. I went with him out to the trailer and helped him winch it onto his truck. The damage to the hub wasn't as bad as I imagined. It was burred over, but that could be cleaned up and the studs could be pressed out and replaced. We went back to the hotel and loaded my gear back into the trailer and I followed him the 110km back to his yard and workshop in Cloncurry.

He said he would clean the hub up and put new studs in. I wanted bigger diameter ones but didn't want to drill the holes in the hub any larger. I thought it would be better if he did the other hub as well. One of the reasons why the studs could have sheared off could be that they were weakened by over- tightening the wheel nuts up with a rattle gun. He said to leave it with him and come back in a hour or two.

I hadn't had breakfast, only some water, so could do with a coffee and something to eat. I was told of the local Bakery and had one with a couple of sausage rolls. Back at his workshop he had finished the job. He put the next size screws in without drilling the holes and used nylock nuts to hold the wheels on without over-tightening them. He had done both sides. He had done the work while the trailer was on his truck, no bending down to work. I paid him $100 which I thought was reasonable for a couple of hours work and 4 screws and nut. I noticed that the left-hand side rubber suspension was starting to collapse, it was lower by 40mm than the right-hand side.

I was on the road again. I fuelled up my container too and was riding out of Cloncurry by 1430.

I passed through Mckinlay then refuel again at Kyuna. The left-hand side swing arm was now resting on the base of the trailer. I checked for damage, but there was none. It was trailing alright so kept going.

An adventure by Ross Pearson, known to you all as a member of the Veterans Outpost, St Marys RSL Sub-Branch and a member of the Ulysses M/C.

Part 14 in the next issue ....

UNTAMED FLOWERS

Shop 174 Queen Street St Marys NSW 2760

Phone 02 9623 0585

Send beautiful flowers for all occasions

Deliveries to all suburbs
Wedding flower specialist
Wedding packages available
Classic and elegant to rich and romantic bouquets
Creative and modern to traditional arrangements
Gourmet baskets
Balloons and bears for birthdays and baby
Fruit baskets
Roses for "I love you" and"just because"
Funeral flower specialist
Contact Colleen 02 9623 0585

Weddings by appointment only *Credit Cards Welcome*

Japanese Bank Crisis

Following the problems in the financial sector in the US, uncertainty has now hit Japan.
In the last 7 days Origami Bank has folded, Sumo Bank has gone belly up and Bonsai Bank announced plans to cut some of its branches.
Yesterday, it was announced that Karaoke Bank is up for sale and will likely go for a song, while today shares in Kamikaze Bank were suspended after they nose-dived.
While Samurai Bank is soldiering on following sharp cutbacks, Ninja Bank is reported to have taken a hit, but they remain in the black.
Furthermore, 500 staff at Karate Bank got the chop and analysts report that there is something fishy going on at Sushi Bank where it is feared that staff may get a raw deal.

EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORT

APRIL 2020

COVID cluster bombs and restrictions have torpedoed many of the planned VVAA St Marys Outpost Education Program's 2020 operations.

Only 16 of the usual 45 or so school programs have been completed. The word CANCELLED is the standout feature across the yearly operations spreadsheet. School visits were postponed, cancelled and rebooked only to be cancelled again as schools responded to Federal and State COVID directives.

Social distancing became the big issue. Schools/Colleges with large auditoriums had more options. The usual role play/dress up segment of the school presentation program was 'stood down', although in one school the female head teacher volunteered to be the dress up soldier.

Only one of the usual four Outreach visits was possible - Gilgandra High. The country side west of the ranges in that direction looked beautiful after the good rain, however the effects of the catastrophic bush fires across the Great Dividing Range were still rather haunting. Outreach schools have conveyed their disappointment at missing our program across 2020 and indicated they will welcome the Outpost Education Program back in 2021 - hopefully!

Attending the Australian War Memorial's book launch of Dr Peter Yule's tome - 'The Long Shadow', together with Outpost President Tony Mullavey and Hon-Sec Sam Vecchio was a momentous occasion. COVID restrictions kept the launch to a low-key affair. Looking forward to reading 'The Long Shadow' - almost 50 years on from the Vietnam War, and hearing from Outpost members their views on the content!

Outpost members at the recent book launch of *'The Long Shadow'* by Dr Peter Yule in the Vietnam Gallery.
L - R: Sam Vecchio, Tony Mullavey, Robynne Mitchell, Nancy & Vin Cosgrove

One of the highlights across the COVID year came in three stages:

1 Presenting the Vietnam War Topic to Hilltop Road Public School earlier in the year before COVID exploded across our area of responsibility. A little unusual because our program is designed for senior students. A few changes were required to make the usual content primary school friendly.

The Long Shadow on sale at the AWM - 28/10/10 - a queue to purchase a copy!

2 Some weeks later, we (Vin & Nancy Cosgrove) were interviewed along with members of the Merrylands RSL Sub Branch by Hilltop Road Year 6 students about military and post military experiences.

3 Finally, Hilltop Road students utilised the interviews to gather information and broaden their understanding of Australian Military History. Students then created artworks based on what they had learnt and wrote an annotation to accompany their art piece.

The above three part process culminated with an exhibition by Hilltop Road Public School titled 'VALUING OUR HISTORY' at Merrylands RSL Club in late October. Check out the website for this amazing exhibition at: www.valuingourhistory.com

Angel of Mine
By Jahzara Azzizi

This artwork is titled 'Angel of Mine'. It was created using watercolours on card. This artwork was created after listening to Mrs Nancy Cosgrove's interview and listening to her during the incursion that she cohosted. The wives of returning soldiers supported their husbands through simple comforts and a lot of compassion. It takes a partnership to survive after war. The wings represent how angelic she is, they also represent the weight of her worries, while her husband unpacks the many experiences, memories and stresses that war has given to him. The two roses represent how she feels. The dying rose illustrates her worries while the blossoming rose represents the many wonderful life experiences she shares with her husband. The scale symbolises the moving emotions and worries of her and her husband's life. The glass bell jar with the heart inside of it, is the husband's heart, that the wife is protecting.

Agent Orange
By Ruth Blanco Pastrana

This artwork is titled Agent Orange. It is a digital piece created using WordArt. After listening to Mr Vincent Cosgrove's interview, I wanted to bring awareness to Agent Orange and the impact it is having on our veterans and their families. This nasty, horrid and dangerous chemical is a poison that was used to clear the forests out during the Vietnam War. Agent Orange has been exposed to 4 million people and now 1 million people are now suffering serious health issues because of it. These issues include; Cancer, Leukaemia, Hodgkin's Lymphoma and genetic deformities! It has been said that Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a mental health condition that is triggered by a terrifying event. As well as Agent Orange, PTSD has also significantly impacted our Vietnam veterans. When creating my artwork, I chose to include words that I believe will make you want to know more about PTSD and Agent Orange. I created an outline of a soldiers head to represent the many Vietnam veterans that are dealing with this war, way after it has ended.

Two examples of the children's artwork/annotations are shown above.

'These artworks were created by Year 6 students remembering the great sacrifices and extraordinary circumstances that our service personnel have been faced with and continue to face in order to preserve the democratic society that we live in today.' (Quote from the VALUING OUR HISTORY Journal which accompanies the exhibition.)

Looking forward to a COVID free 2021 - well, a much better year than this one anyway!!

Christmas wishes and good cheer for a wonderful, happy and healthy New Year to all at the Outpost.

Vin Cosgrove OAM
Co-ordinator,
Vietnam Veterans Outpost Education Program

Blacktown and Districts TPI
Social and Welfare Club

Blacktown and Districts TPI Social and Welfare Club meets on the First Thursday of each month (except January) at the Blacktown RSL Club. Meetings start at 1:00 pm

The Club is open to all TPI Veterans (including Veterans under the MRC receiving the Special Rate of Disability Pension), and welcomes their Carers and Friends.

To join the Club a Veteran must be a subscribing member of the TPI Association of NSW Ltd.

Apart from the Monthly Meetings the Club arranges at subsidised cost, a function, generally each month, which could be a Bus Trip, Luncheon, BBQ.

The Club's Welfare Officers also keep in contact through Hospital and Home visits to those who cannot make the Meetings.

A Newsletter is also distributed to all members, either by email or by 'snail mail'

For further Information, please contact Committeeman:
John Davison at
mobile: 0411737446 or email: davoddg38@gmail.com

A thief entered a house mid-afternoon.
He tied up the woman and at knife-point asked the man to hand over the jewelry and money.
The man started sobbing and said, "You can take anything you want. You can kill me. But please untie the rope and free her."
Thief: "You must really love your wife!"
Man: "No, but she will be home shortly".

AUSTRALIA DAY

Captain Cook did not arrive in Australia on the 26th of January.

The Landing of Captain Cook in Sydney happened on the 28th of April 1770 – not on the 26th of January 1770. The First Fleet arrived in Botany Bay on the 18th of January. The 26th was chosen as Australia Day for a different reason; however, Captain Cook's landing was included in Australia Day celebrations as a reminder of a significant historical event.

Since the extravagant bicentenary celebrations of 1988, when Sydney-siders decided Captain Cook's landing should become the focus of the Australia Day commemoration, the importance of this date for all Australians has begun to fade.

Now, a generation later, it's all but lost.

This is because our politicians and educators have not been doing a good job promoting the day. Our politicians have not been advertising the real reason for Australia Day, and our educators have not been teaching our children the importance of the 26th of January to all Australians.

The media, as usual, is happy to twist the truth for the sake of controversy.

In recent years, the media has helped fan the flames of discontent among the Aboriginal community. Many are now so offended by what they see as a celebration of the beginning of the darkest days of Aboriginal history, they want the date changed.

Various local Councils are seeking to remove themselves from Australia Day celebrations, even refusing to participate in citizenship ceremonies, and calls are going out to have Australia Day on a different day.

The big question is, why has the Government allowed this misconception to continue?

Captain Cook didn't land on the 26th of January. So changing the date of any celebration of Captain Cook's landing would not have any impact on Australia Day, but maybe it would clear the way for the truth about Australia Day.

The reality is, the Aborigines in this country suffered terribly under the hands of British colonialism. This is as much Australia's history as the landing of the first fleet, and both should be remembered, equally. Both should be taught, side by side, in our schools.

Australians of today abhor what was done under British governance to the Aborigines. We abhor what was done under British governance to the Irish and many other cultures around the world. So, after the horrors of WWII we decided to fix it.

We became our own people.

On the 26th of January 1949, the Australian nationality came into existence when the Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948 was enacted. That was the day we were first called Australians and allowed to travel with Passports as Australians.

Under the Nationality Act 1920 (Cth), all Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders born after January 1, 1921 gained the status of British subjects. In 1949, therefore, they automatically became Australian citizens under the Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948.

Before that special date, all people living in Australia, including Aborigines born after 1921, were called 'British Subjects' and forced to travel on British Passports and fight in British wars.

We all became Australians on the same day!

This is why we celebrate Australia Day on the 26th of January!

This was the day Australians became free to make our own decisions about which wars we

would fight and how our citizens would be treated. It was the day Aborigines were declared Australians.

Until this date, Aborigines were not protected by law. For the first time since Cook's landing, this new Act gave Aboriginal Australians by inference and precedent the full protection of Australian law.

Because of this Act, the government became free to help Aborigines, and since that day much has been done to assist Aboriginal Australians, including saying 'sorry' for the previous atrocities done before this law came into being.

This was a great day for all Australians!

This is why the 26th of January is the day new Australians receive their citizenship. It is a day which celebrates the implementation of the Nationality and Citizenship Act of 1948 – the Act which gave freedom and protection to the first Australians and gives all Australians, old and new, the right to live under the protection of Australian Law, united as one nation.

Now, isn't that cause for celebration?

Education is key! There is a great need for education on the real reason we celebrate Australia Day on the 26th of January. This reason needs to be advertised and taught in schools. We all need to remember this one very special day in Australia's history, when freedom came to all Australians.

What was achieved that day is something for which all Australians can be proud!

We need to remember both the good and the bad in our history, but the emphasis must be the freedom and unity all Australians now have, because of what was done on the 26th of January 1949, to allow all of us to live without fear in a land of peace.

Isn't it time all Australians were taught the real reason we celebrate Australia Day?

..... *B E (Brian) Haffenden* OAM

DRINK • DINE • RELAX • PLAY

HALL ST BRASSERIE
Delicious grills, burgers, pastas, light meals & snacks.
PLUS daily blackboard specials!

MR SU'S KITCHEN
Authentic Cantonese food.

GRAZE BY THE GREEN
Social and corporate functions & events

LAWN BOWLS
Social, competition and barefoot bowls

SPORTS BAR
TAB, Sports Bet, SKY Channel, FOX Sports, Keno

WELCOME REWARDS
Become a member and get rewarded every time you drink, dine or play at St Marys Diggers & Band Club.

OPEN 7 DAYS

Sunday and Monday	10am – 11pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	10am – 2am
Friday and Saturday	10am – 3am

Cnr Mamre Rd & Hall St, St Marys
Ph: 9623 6555 I smdbc.com.au

ST MARYS DIGGERS

SMDBC BOWLERS CLUB

The Bowlers Club welcomes all members and visitors to utilise the excellent facilities available at The Diggers Club. There are two greens, a spacious lounge area, outdoor decks and functions room. We have a great social bowls program and **FREE COACHING** for those interested in starting out. Bowls are available from the club, so there is no cost for beginners.

The club also has a strong representation in both male and female pennant teams (representative). You don't have to be a champion to play pennants, any member can enter. Come along and join the fun!

SOCIAL BOWLS BROGRAM

TUESDAY	ANY PAIRS	9.30am START
WEDNESDAY	ANY PAIRS	10.30am START
THURSDAY	LADIES BOWLS	9.30am START
FRIDAY	MENS PAIRS	1pm START
SATURDAY	**FREE** COACHING	10am – 12 noon
SATURDAY	ANY PAIRS	1pm START
SUNDAY	TURKEY TROTS (Mixed Bowls)	9.30am START

Contact the Bowls Office
Via Club Reception
Ph 9623 6555

Cnr Mamre Rd & Hall St, St Marys
Ph: 9623 6555 I smdbc.com.au

ST MARYS
DIGGERS

HMAS COLAC AT CHOISEUL

26th May 1945

We were involved in what was officially described as "mopping up" operations. In fact, the Japanese were massing troops for a last ditch stand on Bougainville.

HMAS Colac
Town Class Corvette

Only a few weeks before, one of the Corvettes (HMAS KIAMA) had sunk a barge load of troops in Buka Passage to the north. We had recently bombarded a plantation where it was known that there were troops that had been amongst those responsible for the "Rape of Nanking" in China before the War. (We were told later that Chiang Kai Chek awarded a medal to any troops who fought against this particular Marine Division, however the Australian Government did not acknowledge this award).

The previous morning, I had volunteered with about a dozen men to go across to Oema Atoll in an attempt to capture a Japanese prisoner. We were escorting an Australian Intelligence Bureau (AlB) fellow (a Captain Seaton - a German ex-plantation owner familiar with the district).

Seaton had been operating behind the Japanese lines and used to steal rice for food, and petrol to operate his radio. Oema Atoll was a location used by the Japanese as an emergency stop in the event of bad weather or mechanical problems. Captain Seaton had a native with him who had reported that there were a small number of Japanese troops located there. It was only when I was approaching the beach in the Whaler that I realised I should have been travelling in the opposite direction.

In another incident we steamed into a Bay and came across three Japanese troops wrapped in towels strolling down to the waterline for a swim. They were so startled when they saw us that they ran around in circles, particularly when a few rounds were sent in their direction, with one fellow even running into the water again. They escaped.

We had been to Choiseul the night before (25th) and bombarded the shore, as it was reported that a barge repair workshop and a radio centre was located on the Island. An Australian "Boomerang" aircraft from Torakina was spotting for us while we were bombarding positions on Choiseul. My position as a visual signalman up on the bridge gave me a good view of the bombardment. We were told that there were still two AIB blokes ashore (one of them was from Padstow in Sydney).

The next day (26th) we patrolled the Buka Passage. The Captain (Kanga Saville) said we'd have enough time remaining in the day to return to Choisuel to give them another burst. Only problem was, this time they were waiting for us, and in anticipation had brought down mountain artillery from up in the hills.

We had been steaming into the bay between two atolls and the beach and were that close to the shore that you could see mud crabs scuttling on the shore under the mangroves. As we commenced opening up and blasting the place, I heard shells passing overhead with a sound like a train going past, and then we copped one. It took an instant to realise what it was. The first hit was on the waterline on the port side, entering the engine room, water pouring in straight away (this hole was later plugged by the damage control team using three lashed hammocks).

Another shell hit on the port side near the port waist, right under the machine gun mount and shield. It hit a bollard, and shrapnel from the shell spattered Stoker Smith. He looked like the Mafia had hit him with shotgun blasts. At the same time Officer's Steward "Neville" Shute was disemboweled by a heavy piece of shrapnel.

As the communications rating on the after Oerlikon gun I was immediately above this scene and had a good view of what happened. I can still remember seeing Stoker Smith lying in shock on the Mess Deck table before he died, absolutely riddled all over with shrapnel.

The ship immediately started to list, and we started a U-turn as the Japanese were still firing. 'Max' Middleton was firing a Thompson SMG onto the shoreline, and the rounds from it dropped down the inside of the back of one of the other crew's jacket - he couldn't do anything to extricate the hot cartridges.

We were firing into the general direction of the artillery fire, although we weren't absolutely sure where the troops or guns were located. As we were steaming out again (the same way we came in), the ship was listing badly, and a strainer on the side scraped against the coral outcrops. The ship was still taking in sea water all this time. We were damn lucky to get out. Had it hit the pipes in the engine room another two feet back we would have stopped on the spot.

As we cleared the entrance, damage control blocked the hole on the water line and the order was given to lighten the ship. This included throwing overboard the American .50 caliber machine guns we had bludged from the Yanks and pumping out our fresh water tanks. One of our seamen (he used to wear ridiculous Khaki shorts), yelled for attention and held up the bucket of chipping hammers for chipping and scraping the deck and dropped them over the side to the accompaniment of roars of delight from the Seamen. He had provided a bit of humor into the situation when it was sorely needed.

It was just on dark by this time. Leading Stoker Paddy Ryan had the presence of mind to throw oil over the engines before escaping from the engine room, and this enabled the engines to continue running underwater for some two hours. The Engineering Officer (who was in Sydney at the time!) got an MID (Mention in Despatches) and Paddy received nothing. Bluey Donsworth, a friend from Bankstown, was also on board the ship as a Coder (Comms Rating).

A watch was kept while making good our escape, as we feared the Japanese would send out troops on a barge to finish us off, and with the heavy weapons thrown overboard we only had the forehead gun which could only traverse a certain amount of degrees and was facing the wrong direction anyway (we couldn't maneuver). As full darkness- approached (by the grace of God as by this time the engine had stopped), we drifted onto the shallowest reef in Bougainville Passage, where we dropped anchor in the face of rough seas.

By this time the engine room was completely flooded and level with the iron grill at the entrance to the room. The sea was so rough from the wind that we were frightened that the movement of sea water would bust the bulkhead between the engine room and the boiler room, causing an explosion.

We had radioed Torakina about what had happened, and three Catalinas circled all night in the event that we needed evacuation. In the morning three Corsair fighters from the RNZAF gave protection in case the troop barges came out to finish us off.

The next morning we buried Smithy and Shute at sea over the side stitched in canvas (with the last

stitch going through the nose in accordance with Navy tradition). Covered by a Union Jack, the board was tipped and the bodies dropped into the sea. The three circling Corsairs dipped their wings in salute.

Several hours later the USS Caledonian Salvor (Tug) from Torakina hoved into sight and towed us to Treasury Island, on the way to Bougainville. That night, incredibly, we went to the movies! From Treasury Island we were further towed to Finschafen where the sloop HMAS Swan towed us back to Sydney.

It was reputedly one of the longest tows of the war. The tow rope would inevitably break when I came off watch and we would have to haul the hawser in by hand. It was like the old days of sail - with the engine under water there was no power for lighting, and no engine noise. Hurricane lamps provided our lighting, and the only sound came from the. creaks and groans of the ship.

We didn't receive any Survivor's Leave - you had to have lost your ship to qualify for that.

..... Sig R F Verecoe S8459

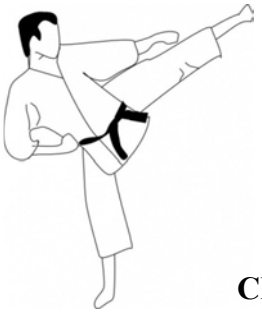
ST MARYS RSL YOUTH CLUB
ACTIVITIES FOR ALL

BOXING 0425 302 432

JUDO0403 218 871

KARATE 0417 285 128

GENERAL ENQUIRIES 0451 144 797



ST MARYS RSL YOUTH CLUB
(NEXT TO RSL CLUB)
CNR MAMRE RD and HALL ST

IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN IN (???????)

The owner of a petrol station (let's say) in Dublin was trying to increase his sales, so he put up a sign that read, 'FREE SEX WITH FILL-UP.'

Paddy pulled in, filled his tank and asked for his free sex? The owner told Paddy to choose a number between 1 and 10. If he guessed correctly, he would get his free sex.

Paddy said 7 and the owner said, "you were close. The number was 6. Sorry, no free sex this time."

A week later, Paddy, along with his friend Mick, pulled in for another fill-up. Again, he asked for his free sex. The owner once more gave Paddy the same story and asked him to guess the correct number.

Paddy guessed 3. The owner said, 'sorry, the number was 4. You were close, but no free sex this time. After driving away, Mick said to Paddy, 'I think that game is rigged. He doesn't really give away free sex.'

Paddy replied, "No, no it's genuine enough Mick. Me wife won twice last week."

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

1. No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
2. When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
3. If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
4. You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
5. The best place to be when you're sad is Grandma's lap.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

1. Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.
2. Wrinkles don't hurt.
3. Families are like fudge. Mostly sweet, with a few nuts
4. Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
5. Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
6. Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD:

1. Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
2. Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
3. When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
4. You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
5. It is frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
6. Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
7. Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

A man walks into an animal hospital with his Bulldog and says:
"My dog is cross-eyed, can you fix it?"
The vet replies: "Let's have a look at what's wrong."
The vet picks the dog up while examining his eyes.
After thoroughly inspecting the dog for a few minutes, he says:
"I'm going to have to put him down."
"What? You're going to put him down because he's cross-eyed?"
No," the vet replied. "Because he is really heavy."

IF YOU, OR A VETERAN YOU KNOW, IS FEELING

THEN IT'S TIME FOR A CHAT WITH OUR WELFARE OFFICERS
VISIT THE VETERANS CENTRE, LOCATED IN

"THAT TRAIN"

CNR MAMRE ROAD and HALL STREET ST MARYS

THE BEST TIME TO ACT IS NOW!

The Poppy

I am not a badge of honour,
I am not a racist smear,
I am not a fashion statement,
To be worn but once a year,
I am not glorification
Of conflict or of war.
I am not a paper ornament
A token,
I am more.

I am a loving memory,
Of a father or a son,
A permanent reminder
Of each and every one.

I'm paper or enamel
I'm old or shining new,
I'm a way of saying thank you,
To every one of you.

I am a simple poppy
A Reminder to you all,
That courage faith and honour,
Will stand where heroes fall.

List of Advertisers

Blacktown and Districts TPI Social and Welfare Club 17
Heavenly Celebrations Funerals 2
Michael John Fitzgerald - Solicitor 8
Minchinbury Community Hospital 9
Nepean News 19
Reece Plumbing Supplies 2
St Marys Diggers & Band Club 20
St Marys Diggers & Band Club, Bowlers Club 21
St Marys RSL Youth Club 24
Total Garden and Handyman Services 25
Untamed Flowers 14

The **"Outpost News"** expresses its grateful appreciation
to all the advertisers that support this publication.

St Marys RSL Sub-Branch
Corner Mamre Road and Hall St.

The RSL Sub-Branch monthly meeting is held the second Wednesday of each month at 6.30 pm in the auditorium, refreshments provided. The office is open most mornings between 10.00am-12noon and can be contacted on **9623 6555**.

ST MARYS RSL SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE

President:	Ron Blakely	02 9623 6555
V/President:	David Cuff	0416 036 185
V/President:	Frank Lawton	02 9623 6555
Treasurer:	Ted Fish	02 9623 6555
Secretary:	Tony Fryer	0414 557 692
Assistant Sec.:	Lesley Ayres	0422 083 717
Committee:	Tony Mullavey	0416 231 993

ST MARYS VETERANS CENTRE COMMITTEE
PHONE: 02 9833 4700 or 02 9833 4711

President:	Tony Mullavey	0416 231 993
V/President:	George Perrin	0415 683 987
V/President:	Uwe Schoenherr	02 9833 4700
Secretary:	Sam Vecchio	0418 247 325
Treasurer:	George Perrin	0415 683 987
Assistant Sec:	Graham Breckell	0488 775 325
Assistant Sec:	Glenn Jones	02 9833 4700

This newsletter is produced and printed at the VVAA St Mary's Outpost in association with the St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch. it is provided free of charge to members of both Associations. Views and statements made within the magazine are not necessarily the views of the St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch or the VVAA St Mary's; the Editor and the organisations are not giving legal, accounting or other professional advice and therefore do not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the opinions or information contained in the magazine. We believe that the sources are accurate at the time of publication. Care should be exercised by readers who attempt to use this publication as a source of reference material for any purpose other than its intended use, which is light informative reading on topics of interest for the Veterans of both associations.

John Davison - Editor

Christmas Party 2020