



TOUKLEY RSL Sub Branch NEWSLETTER



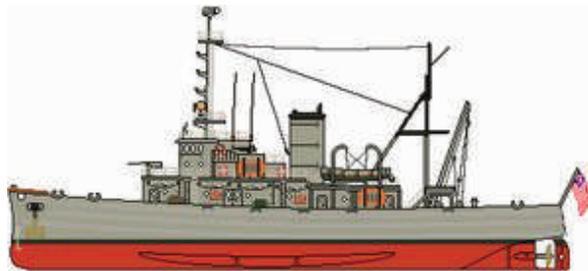
Issue 6

6 Jul 2015

Garden Island Dockyard (GID) & Museum

Bus Trip

Brian Smith is keen to arrange a bus trip for members & partners to GID Museum & surrounds. He has made some enquiries & needs to have a group of 15 or more. Numbers will be constrained by our 19 seat Mini Bus. Interested members should get in early by contacting Brian on 43965037.



Position Vacant

A Pensions Officer is urgently required to assist the current hard working Welfare & Pension Team in their new office space at "The Diggers In". You should be prepared to attend training to gain qualifications (not difficult) & be able to use a computer (Basics only).

You will be helping Veterans, Ex Service personnel or their partners with DVA Issues.

If you're not comfortable with people you would still be value as a researcher. Come down for a chat,

Trevor 49761209 (M) 0404 153 189

Tom's At It Again



Our resident runner will be at it again on August the 9th 2015, TOM will be running the city2surf for about the 36th time. He will be Raising money for the children's hospital Westmead and also Bear Cottage so a bit of extra cash at our August meeting will be encouraging. TOM has pledged \$1500.00, with this he gets to start right behind the elite runners.

Tom is training indoors at the moment, he says he doesn't like the cold weather!!!!. He has a warm up run through the Hunter Valley Gardens, Newcastle on 26th July 15.

A busy couple of months coming up with the city2surf, the Lake Macquarie Half Marathon at the end of August, Dubbo Half Marathon early Sept and then the Bumble Hill Burn in Sept 2015.

Do feel free to join him if u wish.??????



I am proud of who I was and will always be a.....

"I went where others fear to go
And did what others feared to do.
I asked for nothing from those who
gave nothing
And reluctantly accepted the thought
of eternal loneliness...should I fail.

I have seen the face of terror.
Felt the stinging cold of fear, and
enjoyed a sweet taste of a moments love.

I cried, pained, and hoped....
But most of all,
I have lived times that others would only
say are best forgotten.

At least some day I will be able to say
that I am proud of who I was, a

.....

Author unknown

For your own gratification, fill in along the dotted lines with one of the following:

- 1. Sailor
- 2. Soldier
- 3. Airman
- 4. Nasho
- 5. Queenslander
- 6. New south Welshman
- ????????????????

MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

This month marks the beginning of Australia's most comprehensive study into the impact of contemporary military service on the health and wellbeing of serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel.

Announcing the opening of the Transition & Wellbeing Research Programme survey, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson said invitations to around 50,000 potential participants would be sent out starting this month.

The investigation will include:

- Ex-serving ADF members who transitioned from the regular ADF between 2010 and 2014
- current and ex-serving ADF members who participated in Defence's Military Health Outcomes Program (MilHOP) in 2010–12
- a random sample of current ADF Reservists who have never been full-time ADF members
- a random sample of current serving regular ADF members
- Family members nominated by the above.

The survey period is open from June to November 2015. To find out more, visit

www.transitionwellbeing.adelaide.edu.au.

THE GREAT SOUTHERN RAIL Including THE GHAN

Advice has been received through the TPI Association that Great Southern Rail is in the process of being sold by its UK based owners, Serco Group plc, to Australian owned Allegro Funds. The business of Great Southern Rail will continue to be developed with the change of ownership and specifically, no change to the entitlements of concession holders, including TPI's, will result from the change in ownership.

Also of note is the statement in the 2014 Federal Budget announcing that the funding for concessions on Great Southern Rail journeys will cease from 1 July 2016. This impact of the cessation of this concession beyond that date is still being assessed. All relevant stakeholders will be advised of the outcome once the impact for concession holders has been determined.

The TPI Association have further advised that this issue will be discussed at its next Committee meeting – more to follow!!

Hint - those planning to travel via Great Southern Rail to either Perth or Darwin may well need to do so before 1st July 2016.



Peter Bright

Secretary

VVAA Victorian Branch

(03) 9747 8125 M 0438 597 932

AND THEN IT IS WINTER.....

You know. . . Time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went.

I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But, here it is... The winter of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me...but, I see the great change...Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory!

Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will

last...this I know, that when it's over on this earth...it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY!
HAVE A GREAT DAY Remember "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE SO - ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.

~Your kids are becoming you.....but your grandchildren are perfect!

~Going out is good.. Coming home is better!

~You forget names.... But it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!!!

~You realize you're never going to be really good at anything....

Especially golf.

~The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.

~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed.

It's called "pre-sleep".

You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch ~You tend to use more 4 letter words ...

"what?"... "when?"... ???

~Now that you can afford expensive jewellery, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.

~You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless"?!!!

~What used to be freckles are now liver spots.

~Everybody whispers.

~You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear.

~~~But OLD is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!!

Stay well, "OLD FRIEND

It's Not What You Gather, But What You Scatter That Tells What Kind Of Life You Have Lived!

- **Answer to little Sum – page 6 = £ 5 /0s/0d**

## **WEARING OF NON-OFFICIAL MEDALS**

The RSL actively discourages the wearing of non-official medals at RSL and other ceremonial or commemorative functions. If Commemorative Medals are worn, they should be positioned on the right breast and not mixed with Service Medals

“Over a number of years some ex-service organisations have created and distributed ‘commemorative’ medals to mark Particular periods of military service. These medals have no official status.

Only those medals, decorations and honours, which have been created under the prerogative of the Crown, have official status. Such medals should be worn in accordance with The Order of Wearing Australian Honours and Awards on the left breast either on an official uniform or civilian dress.

Ideally, unofficial medals should not be worn. However if they are worn as the occasion demands, they may be worn on the right breast.

## **FRAUDULENT WEARING OF MEDALS**

No person, with the exception of a direct descendant of a deceased service man or woman, may wear medals which have not been awarded to him or her personally. This also applies to the wearing of miniature medals and medal ribbons.

Fraudulent wearing of medals attracts penalties under Federal regulations and also attracts subsequent penalties under the RSL Constitution.



## The Wearing of Medals and Decorations

War medals may only be worn on the left breast by the persons upon whom they were conferred. The honour afforded remains with the individual and does not pass to a widow, parent, son or relative when the recipient is dead. Similarly, the same rules apply in cases where a posthumous award is made.

The policy as it stands is that on the death of a recipient, technically, any honours and awards revert to the commonwealth in the first instance. The reality of course is that family members have an ambient claim and the commonwealth would not seek to intervene in medals being passed on directly within the family.

Family members may wear their forebears medals on the right breast which indicates that they are not their own. They should not be worn lightly or where it would be inappropriate to do so.

War Medals (with certain exceptions) are worn on the left breast of the coat, or in a corresponding place on the dress, as the case may be. They will be worn in a horizontal line, suspended from a single bar, of which no part is to be seen, or stitched to the garment. When worn on the coat, the coat should be buttoned up.



**Last month it was announced the most prolific actor in motion picture history, the on-screen legend that was Sir Christopher Lee, passed away in hospital after a lengthy battle with heart problems**

Some of his greatest accomplishments, however, were collected not on stage as Count Dracula, but on the battlefield during World War II.

Little known facts about Sir Lee's, but his distinguished career in the British military and the Special Air Service, will be recognized.

Christopher Lee first enlisted in the Royal Air Force in 1940, where he worked as an intelligence officer specializing in decoding German ciphers.

While leapfrogging from Egypt across Tobruk to Benghazi, Lee moved behind enemy lines from base to base sabotaging Luftwaffe planes and airfields along the way.

After the Axis surrender in 1943, Lee was seconded to the Army during an officer swap scheme, where he officiated with the Gurkhas of the 8th Indian Infantry Division during The Battle of Monte Cassino.

When pressed by an eager interviewer on his SAS past, he leaned forward and whispered: "Can you keep a secret?"

"Yes!" the interviewer replied, breathless with excitement.

"So can I." replied a smiling Lee, sitting back in his chair.

Lee then retired from the RAF in 1946 with the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

"I've seen many men die right in front of me - so many in fact that I've become almost hardened to it.

Having seen the worst that human beings can do to each other, the results of torture, mutilation and seeing someone blown to pieces by a bomb, you develop a kind of shell. But you had to. You had to. Otherwise we would never have won."

Although his service records remain classified; Lee himself was reluctant to discuss anything about his service, after his retirement.

## ECONOMICS MADE EASY

An economics professor at a local college made a statement that he had never failed a single student before, but had recently failed an entire class. That class had insisted that Obama's socialism worked and that no one would be poor and no one would be rich, a great equalizer.

The professor then said, "OK, we will have an experiment in this class on Obama's plan".... All grades will be averaged and everyone will receive the same grade so no one will fail and no one will receive an A... **(Substituting grades for dollars - something closer to home and more readily understood by all).**

After the first test, the grades were averaged and everyone got a B. The students who studied hard were upset and the students who studied little were happy. As the second test rolled around, the students who studied little had studied even less and the ones who studied hard decided they wanted a free ride too so they studied little.

The second test average was a D! No one was happy.  
When the 3rd test rolled around, the average was an F.

As the tests proceeded, the scores never increased as bickering, blame and name-calling all resulted in hard feelings and no one would study for the benefit of anyone else.

To their great surprise, ALL FAILED and the professor told them that socialism would also ultimately fail because when the reward is great, the effort to succeed is great, but when government takes all the reward away, no one will try or want to succeed.

These are possibly the 5 best sentences you'll ever read and all applicable to this experiment:

1. You cannot legislate the poor into prosperity by legislating the wealthy out of prosperity.
2. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving.
3. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else.
4. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it!
5. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that is the beginning of the end of any nation.

**July Babies**

|    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 03 | Jim Irvine       |
| 03 | Edward Morris    |
| 07 | Terrance Parsons |
| 07 | Leslie Quigley   |
| 08 | John Carruthers  |
| 08 | Ronald Dixon     |
| 09 | Malcolm Thode    |
| 12 | Donald Thompson  |
| 14 | Kevin Turner     |
| 16 | Paul Obrien      |
| 16 | Ronald Robinson  |
| 17 | Alan Howarth     |
| 17 | Bob Wilson       |
| 18 | Charles Stokes   |
| 24 | Arnold Cooney    |
| 25 | Barry Mauger     |
| 26 | Vincent Mulchay  |
| 27 | George Meier     |
| 28 | Maxwell Brown    |
| 28 | Sidney Turner    |
| 29 | Alfred Stewart   |



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