



# TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH

## *Newsletter*

Issue 57– July 2020

**From the President:**



Welcome to the 57<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Sub Branch Newsletter. While the club has been closed the Committee have been working at home or at Diggers Inn. The Committee and I can now work back at the club with restrictions in place. It has been decided to go ahead with the Christmas in July Party on 26 July however we are restricted to only 60 attendees. Tickets will be on sale at the general meeting and on Thursday mornings until the tickets are sold out.

Allan Love  
President

**NEW SUB BRANCH MEMBERS**

Welcome to the following new Sub Branch Member:

Peter Hall

**VALE**

Herbert Davis  
Patricia Hartam  
Raymond Longford  
James Lynn

***Lest We Forget***



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**Sub Branch General Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month,  
At 10.00am, upstairs in Club Toukley RSL, with the exception of January.  
All Members are invited to attend.**

Sunday 26 July 2020 – 11.00 am to 4.00  
pm

Christmas in July

Wednesday 11 November 2020 –  
10.40am

Remembrance Day

### Keeping your Sub Branch Details Up to Date

If you have recently moved, or your details have changed, please let the Sub Branch Office know so that we can update your address and contact details.

This information is required so that we can send any correspondence and membership renewals to the correct address.

Also, if you know of a member who has moved, either to another area or to an Aged Care Facility, please notify the Sub Branch Office.

### Advertising:

Do you need a new or serviced computer?

Try the “Computer Guy” at Factory 3, 8 O’Hare Close, Charmhaven

Phone 4392 5697

Martin is the owner/manager and provides excellent service, and advice, as well as giving Toukley RSL Sub-branch members a discount on purchases.

If you are a tech head Martin has everything that you could want.

Give him a try for your next computer and equipment.

## Welfare at Toukley RSL Sub-branch

The Welfare team at Toukley consists of Graham Tredinnick and Bob Williamson.

Graham is qualified under the requirements of the Department of Veterans Affairs training system called the “Advocacy Training and Development Program” at Level 2, while Bob completed the original training package but has chosen to not continue with further training.

The prime roll of the Welfare Advocate is to provide information, and support, as required by the veteran and their family, with much of that information coming from the knowledge of the Welfare Advocate, and from DVA, via computer searches.

The secondary role of the team is communication primarily through regular visits to the veterans in their homes, hostels, nursing homes, and in Wyong and Tuggerah Lakes Hospitals, and of course by phone.

Please note that a Welfare Advocate is NOT a Pension Advocate as they are 2 separate streams.

In the 2019 year the team covered some 2500 kilometers, spent 350 hours in direct contact with the veterans at an average of 1 hour per visit. Graham spends around 50 hours per year in training and meetings.

In addition, Digger’s Inn is staffed by the team on Tuesdays from 9.00 to 10.30 am, and by the Central Coast Veterans Centre/Doyalson team on Thursdays and Fridays from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon.

There is a strong need for members to take up the opportunity of visiting veterans. No exams are required and the only training will be by Graham.

An ability to listen to the veteran, and family members, and to engage in general discussion is all that is required. Any welfare matters are to be referred to Graham.

The task is not hard, but the reward for listening to the veteran is extremely high. Please volunteer.

The Welfare Team.

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## D-DAY & Australia's Contribution

Shortly after midnight on 6 June 1944 Allied forces commenced landing airborne troops in Normandy, France. At dawn, naval vessels would begin landing troops on beaches codenamed Utah and Omaha for the American forces and Gold, Juno and Sword for the British and Canadians. The landings would be preceded by an immense bombardment by Allied air forces, supported by thousands of fighter aircraft. The naval operation involving more than 6,000 vessels was the largest armada ever assembled. It was the first day in the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi occupation.

D-Day is one of the defining moments not only of World War II but also of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the west commemorations marking the anniversary of D-Day have become the most internationally significant events remembering the war. Although the bulk of the forces were British, American and Canadian, more than a dozen Allied nations participated in the operation.

Few people today likely realise that Australians, predominantly members of the Royal Australian Air Force and Royal Australian Navy, were among those who actively contributed to the operation. Australia had entered the war as a partner in the British Empire in 1939. By 1944 Australian forces and personnel were fighting the war on multiple fronts. Australia remained committed to standing strongly by Britain and continuing the fight against Nazi Germany in Europe, while simultaneously dealing with the immense challenge of facing down the Japanese advance across the Asia-Pacific region, which was turned back from Australia's own doorstep in 1942.

The stories of the Australian men and women who participated in the battle of Normandy aren't well known yet more than 3,300 Australians were active in the D-Day landings (2800 airmen, 500 sailors and small numbers of men and women service with the British Army ), while thousands more served during the subsequent Normandy campaign. Thirteen Australians were killed on 6 June, but the campaign lasted beyond that one day. On 7 June 20 Australian airmen were killed: on 8 June another 22 died, and the losses continued until August. In fact, more than 1,100 Australians were killed in Europe in the build-up to and during the Normandy battle ( April – August 1944 ). To this day June 1944 remains the costliest month in terms of casualties in the history of the RAAF.

One of the difficulties facing historians in telling the Australian D-Day story is identifying the contributions of thousands of individuals who served attached to British squadrons and naval vessels. No RAN vessel was involved in the landings, but Australian sailors were spread across the British fleet. A small number of Australian officers commanded British destroyers, corvettes, minesweepers, landing craft and torpedo boats. Others served in ships' companies, some commanding gun turrets aboard heavy cruisers. In the air 10 RAAF squadrons were involved and No. 453 Squadron RAAF flying the Supermarine Spitfire, operated from the ground in Normandy in the weeks after the landing. But the majority of Australian airmen were spread across more than 2000 Royal Air Force squadrons.

All of the Australians who served were volunteers. The airmen who served on D-Day had trained as part of the Empire Air Training Scheme, which saw 16,000 RAAF pilots, navigators, wireless operators, bomb armers, gunners and flight engineers join RAF squadrons during the course of the war. Another 11,541 men joined RAAF squadrons formed in Britain. On D-Day, 1,000 Australians served in the 10 RAAF squadrons that participated in the Allied invasion. A further 1,800 Australians who participated were attached to RAF squadrons.

In addition to those in operational squadrons on D-Day, there were 10,000 Australian airmen in training and reserve. Many of them would join operational squadrons as the battle in Normandy raged in the days and weeks after the landing and as casualties to aircrews mounted. To place the RAAF's contribution – and Australia's commitment to the air war in Europe was equal to the size of an Australian army division in the Pacific at that time.

At sea, RAN sailors served in diverse roles and were involved in all the major naval operations of the war. At least 1,100 members of the RAN served at different times, on attachment to the Royal Navy. Of the 500 service in June 1944, more than 400 were officers of the Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve. Many had enlisted in Australia under the 'Yachtsmen Scheme', which targeted recruits with small-ship experience. These men were ideal for training with Combined Operations and for commanding landing craft and ships.

The stories of these Australians who served in Normandy remain little known, but it is important to remember their contribution to the great Allied effort in

1944. Their service is also a reminder that from the outbreak of war in 1939 to the final day of victory in 1945, Australia was committed to the defence of Britain and the free world. This included defeating Nazism and fascism in Europe, as well as defending Australia from Japanese militarism in Asia and the Pacific.

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## 2020 Membership Due now

Sub-branch memberships for 2020 are now due.

RSL NSW still have not advised when the 2020 membership cards will be available.

Ian Collier  
Membership Officer.

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My doctor said now that I'm older  
I need to install a bar in the shower



## Edinburgh Castle 100 yrs ago - 1914.....1919

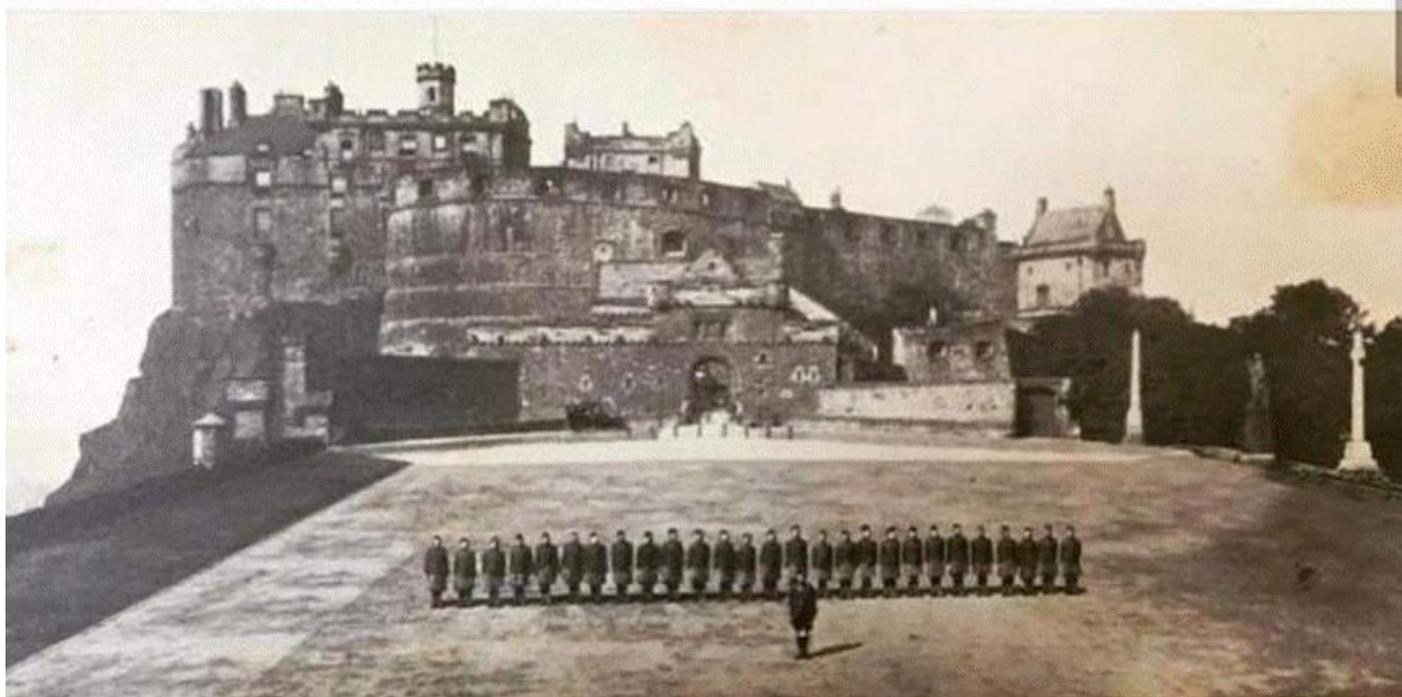
With Anzac Day for this year now past, please look at two incredibly poignant photos!

These have got to be two of the most powerful photographs.

**Below is a battalion of the Cameron Highlanders in 1914, prior to being dispatched to the front line.**

**Below that is the same battalion upon their return in 1918 after the Armistice.**

### Lest we forget!



## Local Source for Toukley RSL Cenotaph Grave Markers

Up until June 2020 CHE Precision Inc. a California based company has provided the material for our plaques, the engraving and express courier service to Australia, all free of charge. They are happy to continue to do so as they consider it an honour. However, the process can sometimes be a bit lengthy and families are sometimes anxious to conduct the interment ceremonies. Not to mention that the Covid 19 has thrown a spanner in the works at the CHE Precision machine shop.

To make things a little easier for everyone we have located a Central Coast company that is eminently capable of engraving our cenotaph grave markers. Lasercraft Australia, located in West Gosford offers a number of services including the ability to print our grave markers, confidential document shredding, woodworking, trophy and certificate engraving on many different materials including wood. You can see examples of their excellent work on their web site at [www.lasercraft.com.au](http://www.lasercraft.com.au) . CHE Precision Inc. provided the Sub Branch with a substantial reserve of plaque material for use in the future.

Who is Lasercraft?

This is not an advertisement for Lasercraft. Rather it is a recognition of something good that has and is happening in our community. It's a happy story at a time when good news seems to be in short supply.

Lasercraft was founded in 1987 by a group of individuals who had a vision to provide supported employment for people living with physical and intellectual disabilities at a time when these services were not readily available. With an excellent training program and the use of the highest quality technology and equipment, Lasercraft has trained and supported hundreds of people living with disabilities, making a genuine difference in their lives and the lives of their families and carers.

So, keep in mind the wonderful work done at Lasercraft. If you know of anyone in need of the fine product that are produced there by their team of wonderful workers, please tell them about Lasercraft.



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**Picked up a hitch-hiker. Seemed like a nice guy.**

**After a few miles, he asked me if I wasn't afraid that he might be a serial killer?**

**I told him that the odds of two serial killers being in the same car were extremely unlikely**

**I ASKED MY GRANDPA, "AFTER 65 YEARS, YOU STILL CALL GRANDMA DARLING, BEAUTIFUL, AND HONEY. WHAT'S THE SECRET?" HE SAID, "I FORGOT HER NAME 5 YEARS AGO AND I'M SCARED TO ASK HER."**



## TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH

Patron:	Karen McNamara
President:	Allan Love
Vice Presidents:	Rod Clark Vacant
Secretary:	John Fraher
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