



# TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH

## *Newsletter*



Issue 81 – February 2023

## **NEW SUB BRANCH MEMBERS**

Welcome to the following new Sub-Branch Members:

Chris Doyle

## **VALE**

***Lest We Forget***



## ***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY***



**Sub Branch General Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month,  
At 10.30am, upstairs in Club Toukley RSL, with the exception of January.  
All Members are invited to attend.**

Annual General Meeting	Sunday 19 February 10.30 am
Next General Meeting	Monday 6 March 10.30 am

## ***Toukley RSL Sub Branch President's Report:***



I trust you all had a wonderful festive season and that 2023 has begun well for all of our members and families. Welcome to the February President's report.

The year 2022 ended for the Committee with a number of invitations to ceremonial events, and I am pleased to be able to report that the Sub Branch was represented at each one. The month of December commenced with the Annual Memorial Service at Norah Head on Saturday 3 December 2022 for Merchant Mariners lost in time of war, at which eight Committee members were in attendance. This annual event has been supported by the Sub Branch for many years and we are proud to be invited to participate in these memorial services.



Vice President George Meier and Committeeman Tom Hobbs laid a wreath  
On behalf of the Sub Branch at the Merchant Mariners' Day at Norah Head.

The December General Meeting on Monday 5 December was well attended by our members, followed by the presentation of RSL Life Membership to Tom Hobbs. It was one of my proudest moments as President to be able to present



Tom, on behalf of the members, with this most prestigious award after many years of Sub Branch membership and dedication on the Committee. This is an outstanding Award for a worthy recipient. Well deserved, Tom.



A proud and well deserving Tom Hobbs with his Life Membership Certificate

The 236 Army Cadet Unit (North Lakes) had their final parade at Gorokan on Monday night, 5 December 2022 which Secretary Judith Walker attended. Judith reported that she was proud to be invited and part of this important event and present an Award.

Three of our Committee members attended 311 Squadron's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Review Parade at Erina on Thursday 15 December. We are proud to be able to provide Sub Branch support and representation at these events.

The annual Wellness and Wellbeing Function (Christmas party) was an excellent way to finish off the year on a positive note, by getting together for a day of comraderie, good food, great music and celebration. The monster raffle again proved popular and I have received many positive comments on the day. It was nice to see a few new faces at the function and we look forward to seeing

you at our next year's Christmas functions (Christmas in July, on Sunday 16 July 2023 and the Christmas party on Sunday 17 December 2023).



The Christmas Party in full swing

April 2023 marks fifteen years since the Sub Branch sold the building to Club Limited. A perpetual 15-year Agreement between the two parties was entered into at the time of sale, with an option to automatically renew for a further fifteen years. The Committee is aware of the contents and terms of the Agreement, and wants to ensure continuity of the current arrangements. The Agreement will, therefore, run until April 2038. We thank Club Limited for their ongoing support and assistance.

On 9 November 2023, the Toukley RSL Sub Branch will celebrate 75 years in operation. This is a fabulous milestone and perhaps something that we could celebrate in the form of a commemoration dinner.

Anzac Day preparations are well under way with, to date, thirteen services booked in for schools and Aged Care Facilities, commencing at the end of March 2023. It is anticipated and services will continue into early May 2023. This is a very busy time for the Committee which will attend an estimated 22 services,

including the Dawn and Morning Services at the cenotaph. Tickets for the Anzac Day luncheon for members and partners will be available for purchase at the March 2023 General Meeting.

Just a reminder to those who may not be aware that the CEO and Board of The Ary Toukley have granted free membership of The Ary for Toukley RSL Sub Branch members. Membership fees for 2023 for the Sub Branch remain free. We always welcome and encourage new members to join our Sub Branch, and hope that this generous initiative from Club Limited incites our membership growth.

As you will all be aware by now, the Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 19 February 2023 commencing at 10.30am. Please ensure that you arrive prior to 10.30am and have your Sub Branch Membership card with you to gain entry. Arriving late, or not having your Membership card with you, will mean that you will not be granted entry to the AGM. **Nominations for all positions on the Committee, as well as one (1) Trustee position, closed on Sunday 5 February 2023 and no further nominations can be received for the AGM.** Nominations will be posted on the Noticeboard by the Secretary following the February 2023 General Meeting for the information of members.

The Committee has also discussed the importance of having a defibrillator at Diggers' Inn, and purchase was approved at the November 2022 Committee Meeting. We have made enquiries on the most appropriate type for our needs, together with the necessary training, and have sourced one which has now been purchased and installed in a cabinet at Diggers' Inn. We have contacted a local Paramedic who has said he will make himself available to conduct the necessary training, which will be held as a matter of priority for Committee members, and those using Diggers' Inn on a regular basis, such as Open Arms, Legacy and Pensions Officers. Training will be undertaken at Diggers' Inn on Thursday 16 February 2023 at 11.00am.



The defibrillator at Diggers' Inn

Just a reminder that the Sub Branch main office is open each Thursday from 10.00am-12noon for enquiries. Please feel free to drop in during opening hours if you need assistance.

We are also working with Tiffany Kelly (Open Arms) and Cathy Every (Legacy) to have Diggers' Inn open on a more regular basis to assist veterans on the coast and also run classes/workshops. This is currently a "work in progress" and members will be notified once more information is available.

For those who may not be aware, applications are now open for the Regional Seniors' Travel Card. This travel card provides eligible seniors in regional, rural and remote areas with a \$250 prepaid card to help ease the cost of travel. You can use the travel card at certain retailers across Australia to pay for fuel, taxis and pre-booked NSW TrainLink regional trains and coaches. The regional seniors travel card is valid for 14 months from the date of issue. Check with Service NSW for your eligibility. This will be the last time that these cards will be issued.

The Sub Branch receives many varied enquiries, and the Committee always endeavours to assist as best as possible. We recently received an enquiry from a Sydney based Sub Branch requesting a welfare check on one of their members



whose last known address was in Toukley. Following a visit to the property and also to a few neighbours, we were able to ascertain that the member had not lived at that address for some time. Together with the Secretary, we were able to finalise the matter and respond to the Sub Branch in question, which was very appreciative of our efforts.

It is now fifty years since our involvement in the Vietnam War ended. The last Australian troops left Vietnam in December 1972 and Australia's war officially ended on 11 January 1973 with a proclamation by Governor-General Paul Hasluck. Almost 60,000 Australians from all three services served in Vietnam. More than 3,000 service personnel were wounded and 521 lost their lives. We remember the courage and sacrifice of all those who served. This year, the Australian Government will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, culminating with a National Commemorative Service in Canberra on 18 August 2023. *Lest We Forget.*

*Bob Wilson*  
President

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### **. 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 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.





## **WANTED NEW MEMBERS**

### **National Servicemen's Association Central Coast Sub-branch Toukley**

Benefits- monthly meetings held 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every month except APRIL, DECEMBER and JANUARY, regular social luncheons for members, family and friends, BBQ's, Bus trips to places of interest.

Membership forms available from our Membership Officer Bobby Byrnes on 0400 352 811 or email [robertbyrnes7@bigpond.com](mailto:robertbyrnes7@bigpond.com)

### **Volunteers required for Vietnam Veterans Park at Gorokan.**

The Vietnam Veterans Park which is on the left hand side of Wallarah Road just as you drive over the Toukley Bridge towards Gorokan is maintained by the Vietnam Vets group. The group would appreciate some assistance if anyone has a few hours to spare. They meet on a Wednesday at 9.30 every five weeks in winter and about every 2-3 weeks in growing season. If anyone has some spare time please contact John Fraher on 0408 092 230 or email at [jffcashman@hotmail.com.au](mailto:jffcashman@hotmail.com.au).

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# Puzzle Corner



## Trivia

1. Which singer was drafted into the US Army at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas in March 1958?
2. Which music artist had hits in the 1950s with songs like "Whole Lotta Shakin' Going On" and "Great Balls of Fire"?
3. Which singer has been nicknamed the 'godfather of soul'?
4. "Day-O" is the lyric most associated with which singer?
5. Who sang "Help Me, Rhonda" in the 1960s?
6. Who sang "My Guy" in the 1960s?
7. Who sang "Happy Together" in the 1960s?
8. Who sang "El Paso" in the 1960s?
9. Before the introduction of the Euro, what was Italy's currency?
10. Which wall was the physical manifestation of Europe's 'Iron Curtain'?
11. Which European city has the highest population?
12. What is the name of the airport in Amsterdam ?
13. RyanAir is an airline from which nation?
14. What was infamously founded in Milan in March 1919?
- 15 The statue of Christ of the Redeemer stands above which city?
16. What city is located where the Mississippi meets the Missouri river?
17. What is the capital city of Taiwan?
18. What is Jonas Salk, M.D. is known best as?
19. Finish this movie title about Stephen Hawking, "The \_\_\_\_\_ of Everything".
20. What lake has as its basin countries Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya?
21. What drink replaced beer in the Royal Navy in 1655?
22. In 1934, the Shah changed which country's name from Persia?
23. In 2011, which country eventually passed a law to allow citizens to own homes?

## **Member Profile : Edwin Lawrence Bartlett**

Laurie was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 1934 at Ganmain N.S.W. which is half way between Junee and Narrandera on the Canola Way.

His family lived on a 1300 acre farm that was owned by his grandfather at Kockibattoo out near the Old Narrandera Road which is about “9 miles from Ganmain as the crow flies”. The property ran sheep, wheat, hay and chooks.

Laurie’s Primary Schooling was at Ashbridge Public School and he and his cousins used to hitch-up a sulky and ride to school which had 13-14 kids in attendance. Laurie and his cousins would sing “you are my sunshine “all the way there and home. They unhitched the horse and let it loose in the paddock next to the school.

The family moved to a 5 acre farm in Bossley Park in Sydney around 1940 when Laurie’s father joined the Army.

Laurie’s secondary schooling was at Hurlstone Agriculture High School located at Glenfield.

After finishing school Laurie worked on the family farm at Bossley Park which ran poultry and vegetables.

In 1950 Laurie became an apprentice as a Fitter and Turner at a factory near Concord West in Sydney.

Laurie at age 18 worked for Goodyear Tyres at Granville.

Laurie also worked for J. J. Woods, Bill George and Brambles for 14 years and later sold spare parts for Fallshaw’s and All Models.

Laurie was conscripted into National Service in 1952 and served in the R.A.A.F. at Williamtown.

Laurie joined the N.S.W.R.S.L. on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2007

Laurie met the love of his life Marcia in February 1954 and they were married on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 1955.

They lived for a while on Marcia’s sister’s farm at Smithfield in a caravan.

Marcia and Laurie brought their first home at Canley Heights and lived there for 44 years.

They retired to Blue Haven.

Laurie and Marcia have 5 children, Rodney, Robyn, Peter, Debra and Nicole. They have 8 grand-children and 9 great-grandchildren.

Laurie with his son's Rodney and Peter restored old Chevrolet's.

Laurie and Marcia also enjoy gardening.



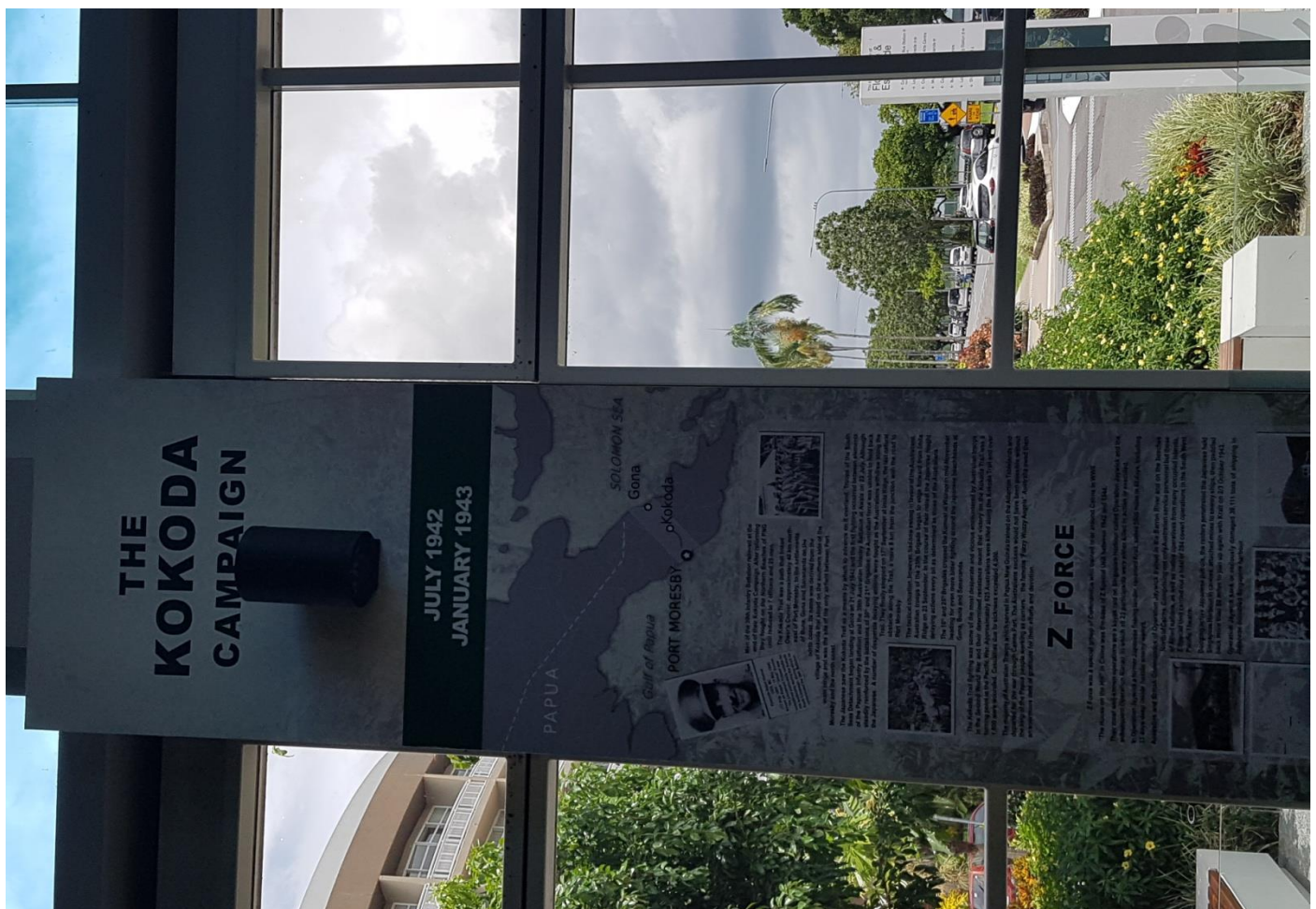
**Laurie and Marcia taken on Anzac Day 2022**



## Singapore Pilgrimage

In early January two Sub-branch committee men Roy Norman and Ian Collier undertook a 16 day cruise from Sydney to Singapore taking in three coastal stops up the Queensland coast then thru the Torres Strait to Darwin. Then there were stops at three Indonesian islands before arriving in Singapore for a two night stay before flying back to Sydney. Before departing we decided to take in as much military information/history as we could. This actually started on the ship when the cruise line – the Westerdam part of the Holland America fleet organised Military meetings at one of the bars on the ship. This was a great idea and gave us the opportunity to meet ex-serving and some current serving members from USA, UK, New Zealand and Australia. There were a few Vietnam Vets from USA and Australia and it was good to hear the different stories. One of the UK guys still serving is currently with NATO and had some interesting stories but could not talk about the current position in Ukraine.

Our first military stop was Cairns where we found our way to the Cairns RSL. In the bottom bar on the walls there are 5 different montages one of which is shown below.





Then from Cairns we headed to Darwin. Our first stop was the Charles Darwin National Park where there were 6 large bunkers to store ammunition. The next two photos show one of the bunkers and some of the information inside.

**The Bitter End**

Even though the allies had the upper hand in the war by mid 1942, it was not over until August 1945. In Europe, Germany was defeated by the Soviet Union from the east and the allies from the west. Germany surrendered on 8 May 1945.

Still the war in the Pacific remained fiercely intense. Japan refused US requests for unconditional surrender. The US dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima then Nagasaki, killing hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians. Japan finally surrendered on 14 August 1945.

Peace came at a terrible cost.

**Cultural differences cause bitter battles**

For years cultural beliefs between Japanese and allied forces help to explain some of the pain and suffering of the Pacific War. Allied forces fought believing that:

- you don't go in to battle unless you can win
- withdrawal or surrender means you are a coward
- you follow the rules of war and don't kill civilians
- you are not bound by the Geneva Convention.

Japanese forces fought believing that:

- soldiers are part of the great Japanese family, and so are civilians
- your actions are condoned by your Emperor, a living God or deity
- surrender is shameful, punishable by military court martial or death
- sacrificing your life for your country and Emperor brings great honor to you and your family
- you are not bound by the Geneva Convention.

These differences help to explain some of the horrors of the conflict. The cruelty of some Japanese soldiers, the inhuman conditions of some Japanese prisoners of war camps, the battles fought to the last Japanese soldier, the Japanese suicides and kamikaze pilots.

**Colonyes break free**

Prior to the war most of South East Asia was colonised by European nations. Their forced removal during Japanese invasion stimulated a widespread drive for independence. When colonial powers tried to reestablish their control after the war, they were met with local opposition.

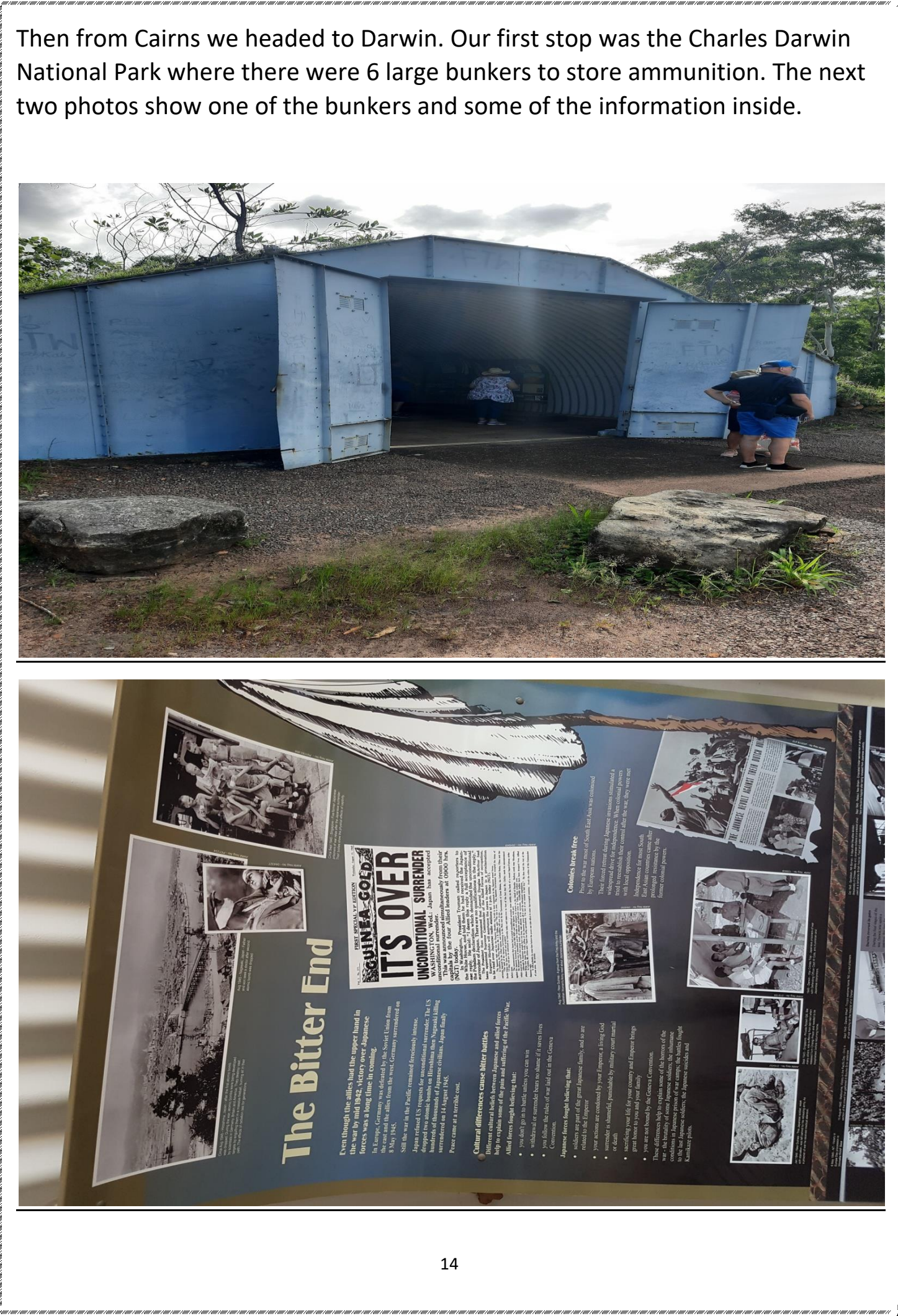
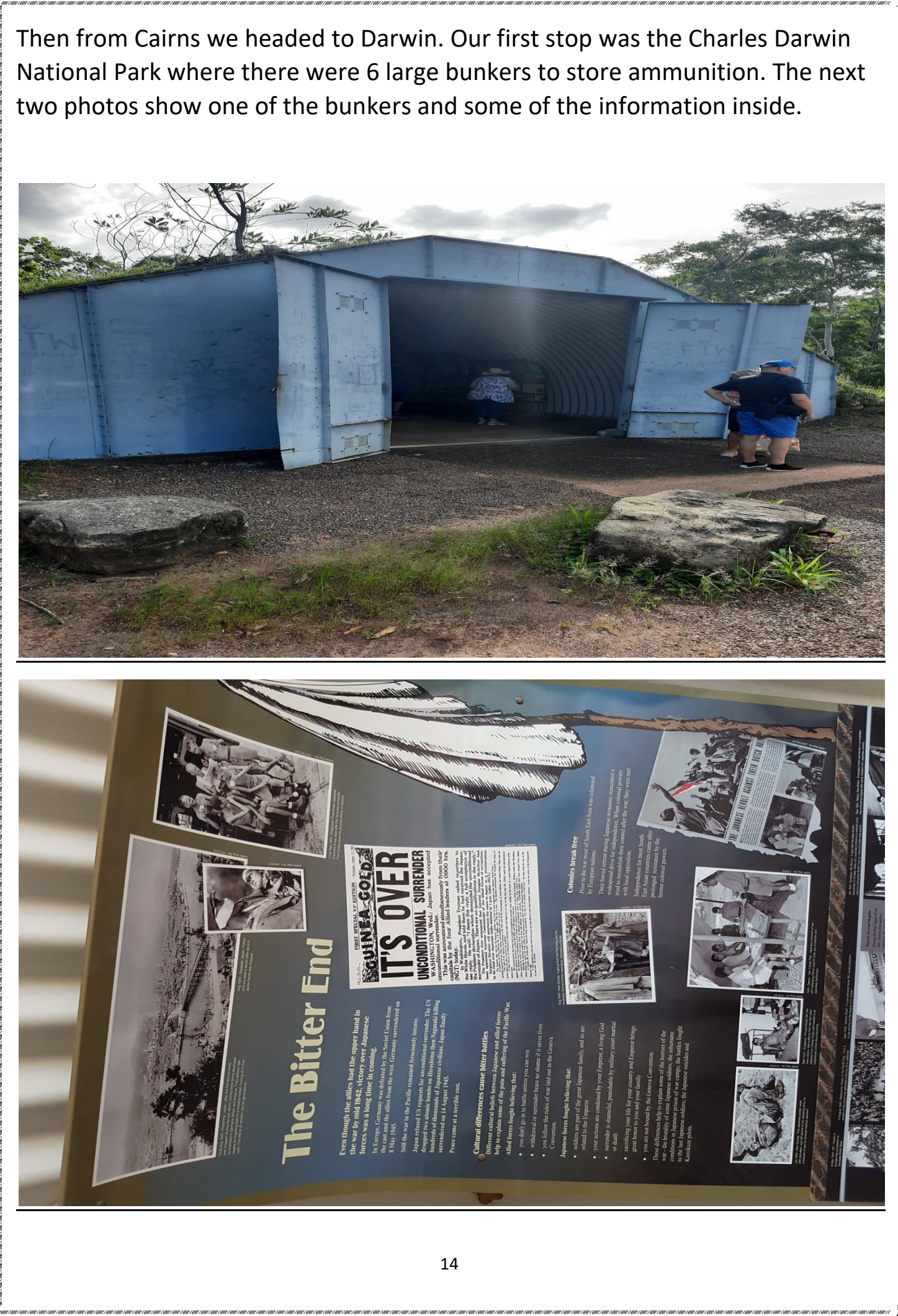
Independence for most South Asian countries came after the war. Some resistance by the former colonial powers.

**IT'S OVER**

**UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER**

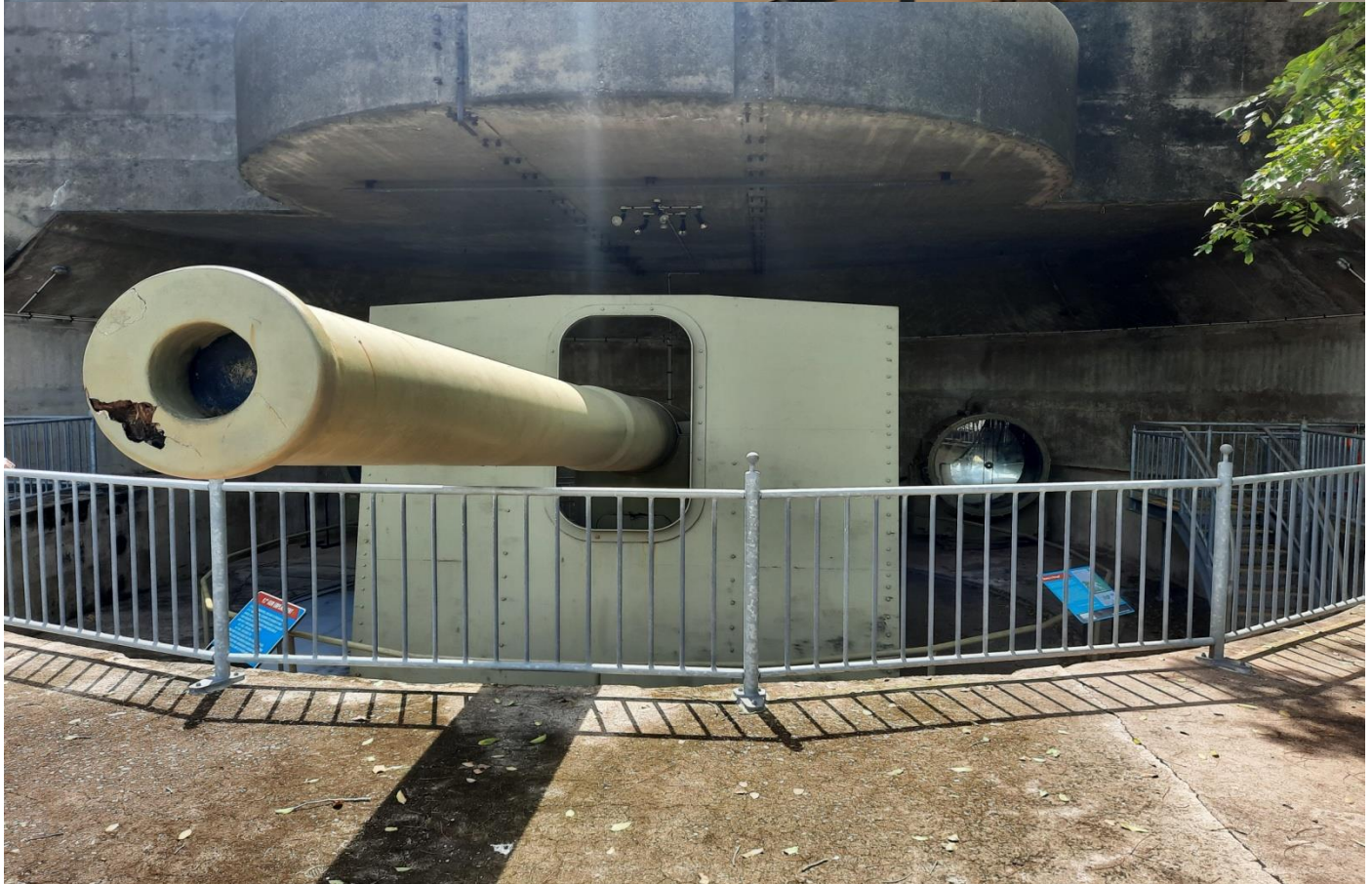
WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Japan's Emperor announced today that his country had accepted the terms of the Potsdam Declaration, which called for unconditional surrender. This was announced simultaneously at 0800 hrs. to the United States, Great Britain, China, and the Soviet Union. The Emperor's broadcast, which was heard by millions of Japanese, marked the end of the war in the Pacific. The Emperor said that the Japanese people had accepted the terms of the Potsdam Declaration, which called for unconditional surrender. He said that the Japanese people had accepted the terms of the Potsdam Declaration, which called for unconditional surrender. He said that the Japanese people had accepted the terms of the Potsdam Declaration, which called for unconditional surrender.

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The next stop was the Darwin Military Museum and the following photos show how extensive it is.









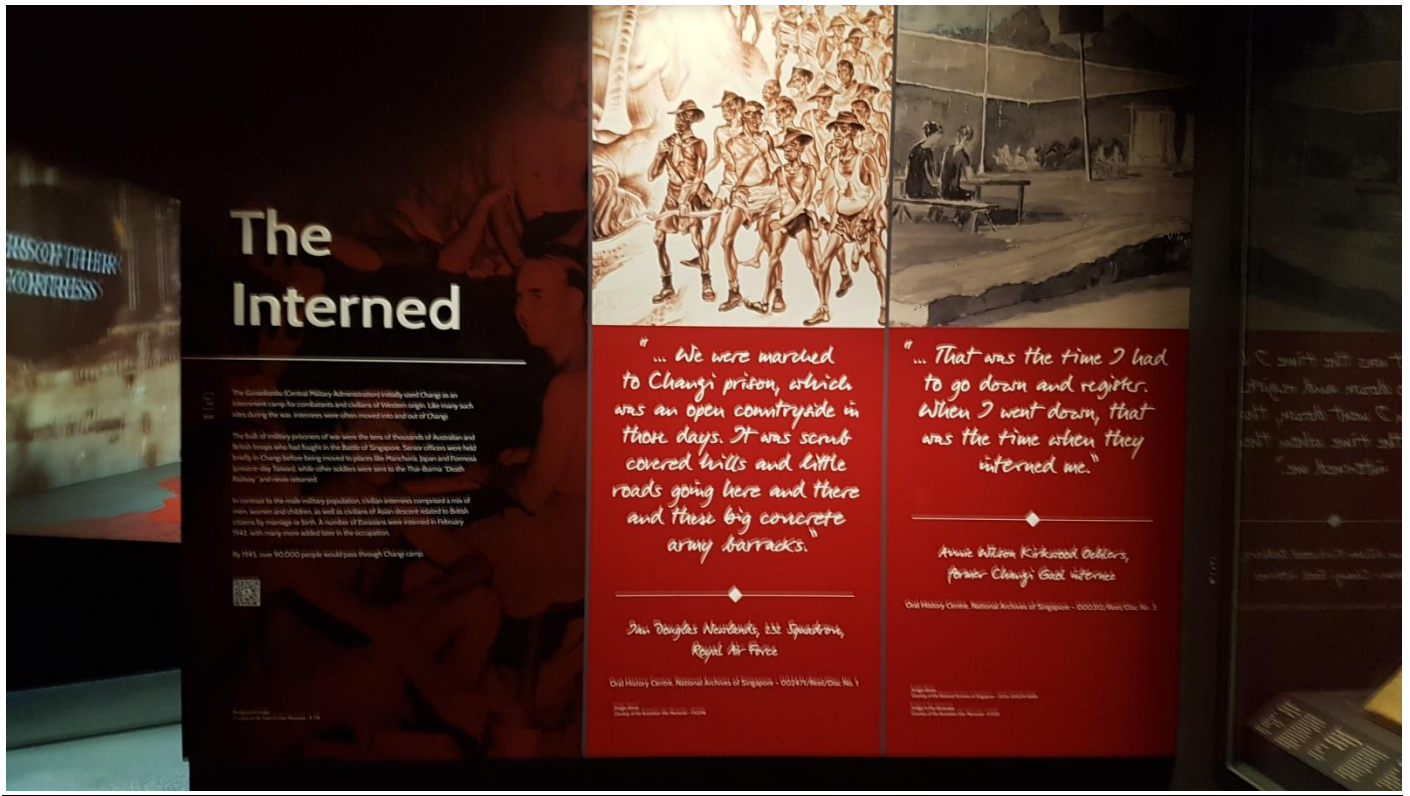




Then we arrived in Singapore and after taking a day to see the sights and get our bearings we decided to go to the Changi Museum and Chapel. This required a trip on their MRT train system then a bus transfer. All was going well until we missed the stop and had to walk back to the Museum. The photos below show the entrance to the museum, one of the rooms and the Chapel.









**The Cross in the Chapel at Changi Museum**



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## Welfare Report

### WELLBEING/VISITATION OFFICERS' MONTHLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2022

OFFICER	NUMBER OF VETERANS/FAMILY VISITS	HOURS	KILOMETRES TRAVELLED	PHONE CALLS	TRAINING HOURS	FUNERALS Interments
Tiffany Kelly	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michael Humphries	3	12	96	0	0	2
Roy Norman	3	36	156	25	0	1
Ian Collier	0	4	60	1	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

VETERAN/FAMILY	AT HOME	AGED CARE
Ray Sutton		Wyong Hospital
Stephen Climpson		Wallarah Point Community Care
Gordon (Len) Webster		Wallarah Point Community Care
Robin Wighton		Kanwal Community Care
Alan Fowler		Hakea Grove Hamlyn Terrace
Geoff Dark		Hakea Grove Hamlyn Terrace
L.Warren		RSL Life Care Narrabeen
James Hislop		William Cape Gardens Kanwal
Bob Crofton		William Cape Gardens Kanwal
Laurie Bartlett		Gosford Hospital

**From the Editor :** Thank you to Roy Norman & Bob Wilson for contributions to the newsletter.

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<b>Emergencies</b>	<b>000</b>
<b>Open Arms</b>	<b>1800 011 046</b>
<b>Lifeline</b>	<b>13 11 44</b>
<b>Kids Helpline</b>	<b>1300 224 636</b>

# Puzzle Corner Answers



1. Elvis Presley
2. Jerry Lee Lewis
3. James Brown
4. Harry Belafonte
5. The Beach Boys
6. Mary Wells
7. The Turtles
8. Marty Robbins
9. Lira
10. Berlin Wall
11. London
12. Schipol
13. Ireland
14. Fascist Movement
15. Rio de Janeiro
16. St. Louis
17. Taipei
18. Scientist
19. Theory
20. Lake Victoria
21. Rum
22. Iran
23. Cuba

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# TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH

Patron:	Karen McNamara
President:	Bob Wilson
Vice Presidents:	George Meier Ian Collier
Secretary:	Judith Walker
Treasurer:	John Fraher
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