



TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH

Newsletter



Issue 86 – July 2023

NEW SUB BRANCH MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new Sub-Branch Members:

Auxiliary

Jill Phillips

Sub-Else

Anthony Larnach-Jones

VALE

Lest We Forget



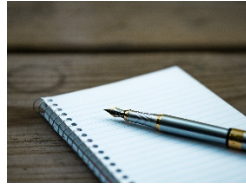
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**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.**

Next General Meeting	Monday 3 July 10.30 am
Wellness & Wellbeing Xmas in July party	Sunday 16 July 11.00 am
Next Committee Meeting	Monday 17 July 10.30 am
Welfare Meeting	Monday 24 July 11.00 am
August General Meeting	Monday 7 August 10.30 am
Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Service	Friday 18 August 11.00 am

Toukley RSL Sub Branch President's Report:



June was a quieter month for the Committee. We had two committeemen attend the funeral of one of our members Edward Taylor and seven committeemen at the interment of ashes for Keith Pritchatt.

Mike Humphries and I attended the CCDC at Long Jetty. We both feel these meetings are worth the effort to attend as there is a lot of useful information on RSLNSW coming from the Chair as well as interesting comments from the other delegates who attend.

We still have not been able to find a replacement Bookkeeper yet. I have been trying to get a quote but as it is the end of the financial year the firms I have approached have been very busy. I will continue to work on this and hope to have something in place by the next meeting.

At the last meeting it was decided not to proceed with the Club Limited offer to fund 50% of a Marketing discovery plan. I conveyed this in writing to the CEO of The Ary. The CEO and I then had a discussion where he asked me what would be the sub-Branch position if the Board of Director's decided to proceed with the marketing study at their expense. I took this to our Committee who agreed we had nothing to lose. I then advised the CEO of this decision and subsequently he advised me that his Board of Director's have agreed to proceed with the development of a strategic marketing plan. The executive will be involved in this process and I will report back to the August meeting on any progress.

Mike Humphries, Tiffany Kelly and I will be attending a meeting proposed by DVA with input from RSL Life Care and RSLNSW re the establishment of a 'Veteran Wellbeing Centre' on the Central Coast servicing returned and active service men and women from the Hawkesbury to Swansea. There has been talk – although there is nothing in writing – that Diggers may be one location to be considered. Again I will report back on the outcome of this meeting in August.

Tickets are again on sale today for our Wellness & Wellbeing Function (Christmas in July), which will be held on Sunday 16 July 2023 from 11.00am through until 4.00pm. Cost is \$20.00 each per member and partner and will include a 3-course luncheon with refreshments and entertainment. This is excellent value and a popular function. As usual, there will be a monster raffle with fantastic prizes. **If you wish to reserve a table of 8, then money (8 x \$20) with names must be given at the time of booking.**

Ian Collier
President

**You know how they
throw the ball into the
crowd after they win
the game? That's not
allowed in bowling.
I know that now.**

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 3rd 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

Volunteers required for Vietnam Veterans Park at Gorokan.

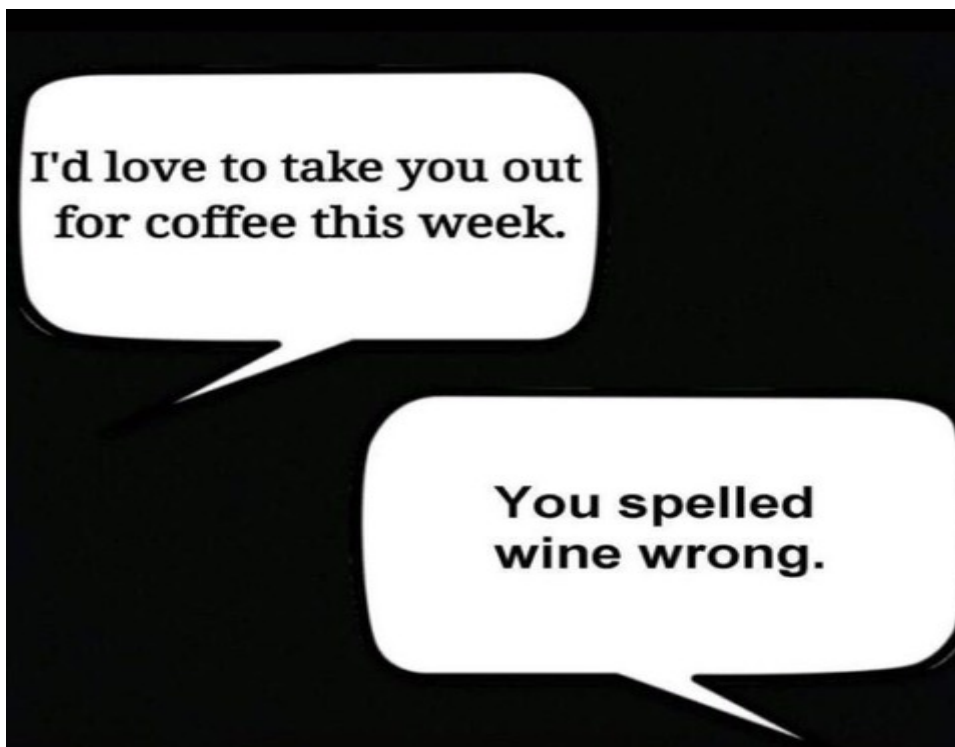
The Vietnam Veterans Park which is on the left hand side of Wallarah Road just as you drive over the Toukley Bridge towards Gorokan is maintained by the Vietnam Vets group. The group would appreciate some assistance if anyone has a few hours to spare. They meet on a Wednesday at 9.30 every five weeks 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.

Toukley RSL sub Branch Auxiliary



The RSL Auxiliary raises funds to support the charitable objects of the sub-Branch by holding raffles, selling tokens during the ANZAC and Poppy Appeals, as well as other fundraising activities that arise throughout the year in the local community.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining the Auxiliary, please have them call Sue Allen on 0409608901 for more information.



Bus Trip to Museum Discovery Centre at Castle Hill



On Saturday 24th June, Sub Branch Members visited the Museum Discovery Centre (MDC) at Castle Hill. The range of items viewed on the day ranged from Aeroplanes hanging from the ceiling, models of ships, a tram car even an Electric car made in 1911.

One wall has a collection of old bicycles from penny farthings to the latest Carbon Fibre models. There are racks of items such as Lawnmowers, each model from a different year all laid out side by side, including the first Victa mower through to the latest models.

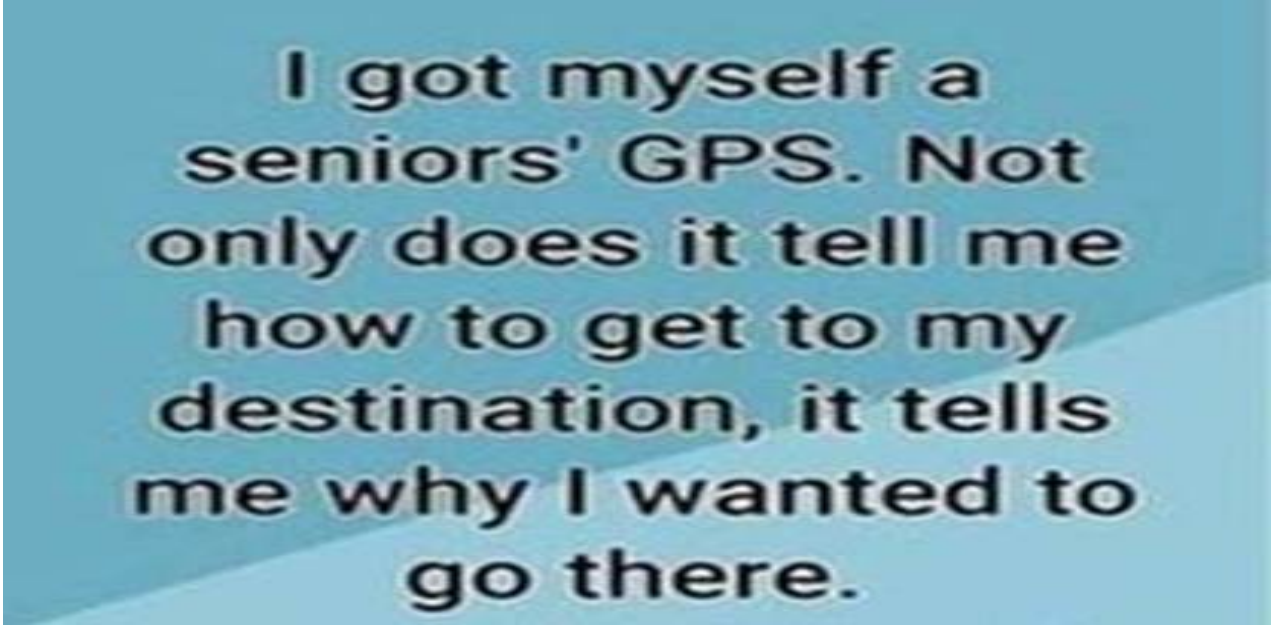
Another rack had Fridges from the Coolgardie Meat Safe to the latest models including an Upright model that is about 600mm in dia. All of the shelves rotate so that nothing is left “at the back “, everything becomes accessible.

Racks included TV’s from the earliest to the latest, Radios, Washing Machines etc. Each display shows how technology and ergonomics have advanced over the years.

Given the average age of our SB members they could all happily walk down “Memory Lane” and relate to the displays of Meccano models, Matchbox Toy Cars etc. that they were familiar with in their youth.

For lunch the group visited Castle Hill RSL and were all quite disappointed at the lunch menu. At \$29, for basic Fish and Chips they all considered the Ziva menu to be of greater value.

Thanks to our driver on the day Ron Whitby (who also won the Lucky door prize) , Bob Burns as (Camera Man) and Alan Love for standing in for Bob Swift.



I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.



I just ordered a life alert bracelet so if I get a life, I'll be notified immediately.



Member Profile: Stan Cameron

Stan was born on the 9th January 1933 at Scone N.S.W.

The family owned a dairy farm at Middlebrook and Stan's dad was the local milkman and delivered milk to Scone in a horse and cart.

Stan was the second eldest of 6 boys in the family. His primary schooling was at Scone Public School and in 1940 at the age of 7 years the family moved to Singleton because the farm went broke.

Stan's dad started a trucking business in Singleton and had a contract to build the road from Singleton to the Army Camp and also to transport workers to Sandy Hollow to build the railway.

During the war Stan's dad sold the trucking business and brought a taxi cab which was a 1937 Oldsmobile from H.G. Lancaster who owned the Holden Garage in Singleton. The taxi cab ran on petrol and a gas bag. Ration tickets had to be obtained from the local Police Station. Stan's job every Saturday was to paint the outside of the gas bag which was on top of the cab with fish oil.

Stan's secondary schooling was at Singleton High and Stan left school at the age of 14 years in 1947.

His parents sold the taxi cab and purchased a café in George Street, Singleton called 'The Silvery Anna' which was a mixed business and also catered for weddings, birthdays and had a dining room.

The family moved to Muswellbrook to a farm at Bengalla which ran 90 dairy cows. The farm had no power and milking was done by kerosene lamps. At bath time it was first in best dressed as the copper was the only hot water and water was never wasted.

Because there wasn't enough work on the farm, Stan (riding his push bike) started work with Arnott's Bakery in Main Street, Muswellbrook delivering bread and earning 7 pound 16 shillings per week. A lot more than he was earning on the farm.

On the 13th August 1952, Stan and brother Don, were conscripted into National Service at New Holsworthy and ended up in the same bunk house. Stan was discharged on the 11th April 1954 after serving with the 12/16 Hunter River Lancers and the 24th Light Horse with the rank of Corporal.

Stan married Joy in 1953 and moved to Muswellbrook and had 2 boys, Stuart and Bruce.

Stan was employed by International Combustion at Little Power Station in Muswellbrook as a crane driver.

In 1957 he was transferred to Tallawarra Power Station at Yallah N.S.W. and the family lived at Oak Flats.

In 1960 he was transferred to Vales Point Power Station as a crane driver and then to Munmorah Power Station and Newvale Colliery at Budgewoi as a winding engine driver.

The family lived in Hammond Road, Toukley in a garage until the company found them a house at Wyong but Joy decided it was better at Toukley.

In 1966 Stan and Joy brought a house in Hammond Road, Toukley.

In the 70's as Stan was working the afternoon shifts he was made 2nd Captain of the Toukley Fire Station for 7 years.

Stan joined the Toukley RSL Club Ltd in 1960 and started playing bowls during the 1970's and was an active member in the fishing club and helped run the Sunday fisho raffle.

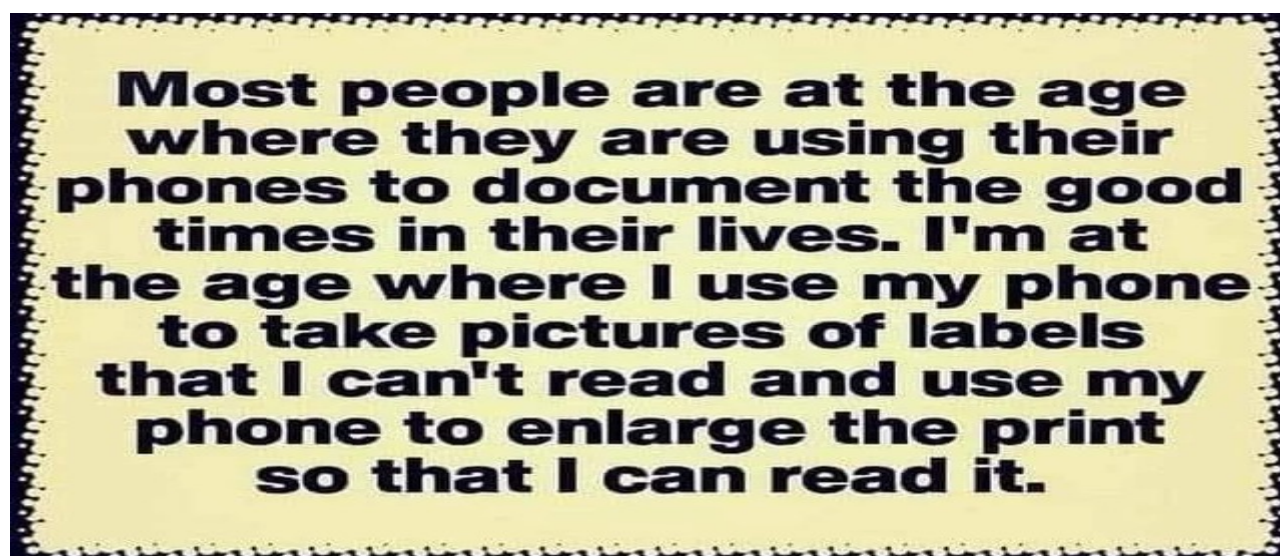
With Billy Jones (Sgt of Toukey Police), Don Gellard and Les Dumbrill they organized through Toukley RSL Sub Branch who donated an old building started a Youth Club in Hedor Street, Toukley.

Stan retired in 1991 and enjoyed playing bowls and fishing.

In 2007 his wife Joy passed away and Stan moved to North Point in Holmes Ave, Toukley.

Stan joined RSLNSW on the 4th May 1981.

Stan has 3 grandchildren and is a keen Parramatta Supporter and can be seen in The Ary most afternoons as he is an extra keen punter...



Puzzle Corner



Trivia

1. What is the coldest planet in the solar system ?
2. Who voiced Santa Claus in *The Polar Express* ?
3. What does FTP stand for in the field of IT ?
4. What was the name of the first First Lady of the United States ?
5. Which country did the music duo Daft Punk come from ?
6. How many points is the letter K worth in Scrabble ?
7. What is the name of the renowned animation studio behind films such as *Spirited Away* and *Howl's Moving Castle* ?
8. What is the smallest South American country by area ?
9. What colour is an octopus' blood
10. In which state would you find the Barossa Valley
11. How many were present at the last supper?
12. Prosecutor Kenneth Starr was involved in impeachment proceedings against which US President?
13. What is the more popular name for the Vietnamese New Year?
14. Which French Emperor died in St. Helena?
15. The Tate Modern is an art gallery in which city?
16. The George Bush Center for Intelligence are the headquarters of what?
17. In which ocean is Hawaii?
18. Which European country's flag is called the Tricoloure, which translates to 'three colours'?
19. In what city can you visit the Getty Center and the Kodak Theatre?
20. Who won the Presidential election in 1960 with 303 electoral votes?

Vietnam Veterans Day

Editors Note : In 2023 we commemorate 50 years since the withdrawal of Australian servicemen and women in Vietnam. In the next two newsletters I will be continuing to re-print some transcripts from servicemen about their experiences in Vietnam. This month's is from Adrian Roberts.

Adrian Roberts was born at Midland Junction in Western Australia in early October 1939, the eldest child in a large family. When Adrian was young, his father was in Europe serving as an RAAF navigator and bomb aimer. He returned to his young son a 'total stranger' but over the years he had a strong influence on Adrian, instilling in him a strong ethos of service.

In 1959 Adrian joined the Citizen Military Forces, serving in the Light Horse. At the same time he was studying at Teachers' College. Although he had begun working as a teacher, and having recently married, in 1962 Adrian was selected to attend Officer Cadet School at Portsea and chose to devote himself to Army life. He later remembered his time at Portsea as both 'the hardest year of my life' and the 'happiest of my memories'.

As a Second Lieutenant, Adrian continued his training in the Armoured Corps. By the mid-1960s he and his wife, Gillian, had two children. In 1965 he was posted to the newly raised 1 APC (Armoured Personnel Carrier) Squadron, beginning another period of intense training before being posted to Vietnam in April 1966.

Among historians of the Vietnam War, Adrian is perhaps best known for his courage and leadership during the Battle of Long Tan, for which he received a Mention in Dispatches, but his service during that conflict encompassed far more. He went on to finish his first tour with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment and in 1971 returned to Vietnam as a member of the highly respected and much decorated Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, serving with the 1 ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) Armoured Brigade in the northern part of South Vietnam before joining US Special Forces in training Cambodian troops.

Adrian returned to Australia, and Portsea in April 1972, this time to work as an instructor for 'three wonderful years'. He remained in the Army for the next sixteen years, serving on a range of postings, including stints at Staff College in England, a period in the Office of the Chief of General Staff and further time in

the Armoured Corps. In 1980 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and two years later took command of the Army's Armoured Centre. By 1984 Adrian had been promoted again, to Colonel. He left the Army in 1988 to return to teaching, only to find the profession much changed from that which he had known in the early 1960s. Nevertheless he found that teaching gave him 'a real sense of achievement' and over the years he has taken great pleasure in meeting those who he taught in schools or in the Army and hearing of their achievements. That, he said, 'would be the most rewarding part of my working life, whether army or civilian.'

Adrian, to borrow his own phrase, now lives in 'quiet retirement.'

Below is Adrian's Long Tan story :

Long Tan started for me the night before. We'd been shelled and mortared the night before, but it didn't fall on our position. The artillery got a bit, the engineers.

A friend of mine lost his leg. He changed bed places, he was an engineer, he changed bed places and his mate would have lost his head but because they'd reversed their beds, he lost his leg.

Anyway, the next day, I mean there was a bit of running around but not overtly. We went off to see Little Patti. My driver, Piggy O'Rourke, is still the oldest 60s rocker I have ever come across and he took her, after the concert, took her for a ride up to 5RAR and in the middle of all this we could hear the artillery going, shooting shells over our heads and got more and more until I realised it was well over a battery's fire.

It was in fact regiment fire and got back to the squadron, I went under the shower and a runner came over to me to say, "The Major wants you with his map."

And that was the sort of signal that we were off again to play rescuers or silly buggers or whatever.

I chose the route because there's a, we'd call it a river or a creek, called Suoi Da Bang, at a point when I'd been involved with the 173rd Airborne Brigade fighting at Long Phuoc.

I'd seen a buffalo cart enter and exit and there was an agricultural dam or something so I knew I couldn't get swept down because it was raining like billyo at this stage. Monsoonal rain, it's got to be seen to be believed.

So anyway I took off and got to the wire of the engineers and blow me down they'd altered the gap that was there and the engineers were off at dinner so I had to send a runner over there, eventually got someone back, they opened the gate.

Then I got told to send two carriers back for the CO, he'd changed his mind and was going to come out with us so I did that and then I pushed on because I realised it was going to take us a while to get over this creek because of the rain and it certainly was. When I got to the creek, I expected them to catch up. Well they hadn't caught up with me, so I left another carrier.

Tony O'Shea was commanding that to secure the crossing. We actually did an assault crossing which means we put them across in small groups and secure the other side and come across because up on the hill I could see the artillery coming so I knew which way I was going and despite being ordered to halt and I could see the problem D Company was in.

I pushed on and we came up on the flat to cross this stream in flood which was going well over the legal speed for us to swim in. I might just digress and say that back in Australia the only water crossings we'd done were in Lake Eppalock which was dead flat, glassy and no current. Lovely graded entrances and exits.

The problem is if you go in too deep an angle the water gets ingested through the engine on the top even though you've got a bilge pump but it can't contain the water but this was alright but we were actually swimming but we had an additional problem, in the year the carrier had been running, our carriers had been running. All the shrouds, the black rubber thing that go along the track had become busted.

We had none and they're a very vital part of steering in the water. One of our carriers actually did a complete circle bumping against the dam so that stopped it sweeping downstream.

People don't seem to understand that was a battle of nature. Anyway, we got through amazingly quickly and we didn't drown anyone. A carrier got drowned the next day in much less difficult conditions.

I put my carrier into two up formation, that is, two forward one back, two forward one back and myself in the middle. In the normal course of events I would have had a reserve section but they were still stuffing around picking the CO up.

We crossed the road that ran between Long Phouc and Long Tan. That village was just a ruin from the previous year, or something, the Vietnamese and Americans had gone in there. And we burst, the rubber, the young rubber on the outside was about group commander head height, you couldn't see down, and once we came through that it was in a way like the ground stood up. They were all, these dudes in green and they had packs on their back and what have you.

Camouflage. And just for a split second I thought they were our dudes but they...Corporal Gross on the far right, he said "Contact. Enemy." He was part aboriginal. I don't know what part, but he was an aboriginal guy, and he yelled out, he lives in Queensland now, so we began to fire.

The enemy withdrew in very good order. They had rattan loops around their ankles and were dragging their wounded back and by fire and movement, that is to say, some of them were firing at us and others were pulling their people back. Something in the order of 100 people.

We had a frontage of about 120 metres and they were more or less evenly distributed across our front. We got through that group then we hit a second, a second wave, a distinct second wave that these people, again approximately around 100-150, I don't know, and they were all withdrawing. The first lot had been going towards the Task force.

What happened was Clements, who was my far-left carrier and the carriers I had borrowed to make up the troop, had no gun shields. Clements was hit in the tummy. Ironically, the doctor told me that the flak jacket that he got from the Americans slowed the bullet down or bullets and they tumbled around inside him. He was badly wounded. I sent, I sent that carrier back. I've got to say it was a moment of compassion. If I'd have been a rock-hard soldier, I suppose I wouldn't have done it. He lived until he was twenty, till the 27th August.

The American Red Cross, doughnut dollies they were called, told me that I'd at least given Pete a few...and it didn't make a material difference to our situation.

On the right I was using a sunken road as the axis 'cause that led towards Harry Smith's position. On the right hand side, the carrier just over the road from me, Corporal Carter's carrier, his 50 calibre had jammed and he leapt up on top with an Owen machine gun and killed the crew of a recoilless rifle who, subsequent to the action, I discovered, they fired, hit a rubber tree, then fired again and hit the same rubber tree.

The rain had got into their gun sight and it caused ... and that's why they missed, why they lost their lives. All those other people were trying to kill us and we were trying to kill them. Terrible. It's terrible when you have to run over and through people. Anyway, about this time the CO, after this had happened, that's when the CO finally got to us.

That's when the CO finally got to us and he asked my troop officer who was carrying... which I did and the fire was enormous. One of the things that stays with me is all the rubber trees exploding with white sap. It doesn't look like any more like it did then but then it looked like a great big green cathedral, fairly clean underneath, so we did that and then he asked us to break it off and we did and we came down at an angle and formed a line between D Company and the enemy but there was no more fighting.

All we could see was just, because it was quite dark by that stage, all you could hear was the groaning noise of people crawling away, whatever. We stayed there for, I don't know, an hour or whatever it was while the CO and Harry Smith made up their mind what they were going to do next.

I was looking at my map. We had these wonderful Picto maps that were photographs but they've got the grids on, see that out to the west where we were at the edge of the rubber was a banana plantation which looked pretty clear ground so eventually we loaded up D Company and I put the dead on the front carrier in case we were hit going out, told the blokes to herring bone, that's, all, if we were hit but nothing happened.

The CO of 6RAR of A Company, a little number of B Company that was there, they followed us out and when we got out of the area, formed a hollow square with the cargo hatches open and the interior lights on and I stood out in the middle of this square with my radio operator, Jock McCormick and we guided the helicopters in. I'd never done that before. I didn't actually know. A couple of years later I was on a special course and I learnt how to do that.

One of the advantages of being an officer is that you are so bloody busy trying to deal with the situation in front of you and think about what next 'cause you, in an armoured vehicle, you've got to think at the speed of the vehicle. Let's say its 20 kilometres an hour, so you've actually got to try and anticipate from map and head what's coming and what might come and where it might come, so you're dealing with two things all the time if you're any good. If you're not, then you get whacked.

You're totally absorbed. It's afterwards that it catches up with you and the strange thing is, even as I've been talking, while I can't remember my shopping list down in Coles, I can remember every flash and bang and what have you very clearly and it never seems to go away or become less.

Welfare Report

WELLBEING/VISITATION OFFICERS' MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE 2023

OFFICER	NUMBER OF VETERANS/FAMILY VISITS	HOURS	KILOMETRES TRAVELLED	PHONE CALLS	TRAINING HOURS	FUNERALS Interments
Michael Humphries	4	16	40	2	0	2
Roy Norman	4	32	95	12	0	1
Tiffany Kelly	4	30	43	3	6	0
TOTALS	12	78	178	17	6	3

From the Editor : Thank you to Roy Norman, Mike Humphries, Bob Swift and Sue Allen for contributions to the newsletter.

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

Puzzle Corner Answers



1. Uranus
2. Tom Hanks
3. File transfer protocol
4. Martha Washington
5. France
6. Five
7. Studio Ghibli
8. Suriname
9. Blue
10. South Australia
11. 13
12. Bill Clinton
13. Tet
14. Napoleon 1
15. London
16. CIA
17. Pacific
18. France
19. Los Angeles
20. John F. Kennedy

TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH

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