



TOUKLEY RSL SUB-BRANCH *Newsletter*



NEW SUB BRANCH MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new Sub-Branch Members:

Service

Auxiliary

Joan Kennedy

Sub-Else

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 Committee Meeting	Monday 17 June 10.30 am
July General Meeting	Monday 1 July 10.30 am
Xmas in July Wellness & Wellbeing	Sunday 21 July 11.00 am
Vietnam Veterans Day	Sunday 18 August 11.00 am

Toukley RSL Sub Branch President's Report:



A quieter month for the Committee this month after all the work in the previous couple of months.

Mike Humphries and I attended the Community of Practice Welfare and Advocates meeting at Ourimbah RSL on 10 May to hear a presentation from RSL LifeCare re the Central Coast hub. We were advised that the site was at 31 Hely Street Wyong and that renovations were under way. RSL LifeCare have secured a five year commercial lease on the property.

Then a week later I received an invitation to inspect the property so Mike and I travelled to Wyong. It is still a building site but good progress has been made. The Hub has been modelled on the Hub at Nowra and it will be good when completed. This is scheduled for the end of June with a Grand Opening sometime in August. There will be three fulltime staff – a Manager, an Advocate and one other. The building is in Hely Street behind Aldi. It is a bit of a walk from the station but there will be a vehicle attached to the building. There is also off-street parking for 12 vehicles. We were advised on the day it will take about \$500K per year to stay open. The Government Grant was only to either build a new Hub or to refurbish an existing building.

The RSLNSW SBA or Sub-Branch Annual return was required to be completed by 31 May. Thanks to the support of Bishop Collins our Auditors I was able to send this off on Tuesday 28 May.

Our association liability, public liability and personal accident insurance was also due on 31 May and this has been paid.

I have also sent our annual donation to RSL NSW. As outlined in the Budget I presented to members in December last year we donated \$50K split up as follows :

\$20K to RSL LifeCare Central Coast Hub

\$28K to CCVC Inc – the Advocates that operate out of Diggers

\$2K to Allegra dogs for training of companion animals.

The committee also have three interments to conduct this month. Doreen Porter was interred on 2 June, Laurie Bartlett will be interred on Sunday 23 June at 10.00 am and Kevin Ibbett will be interred on Thursday 27 June at 11.00 am.

Tickets are on sale on Thursdays for our Wellness & Wellbeing Function (Christmas in July), which will be held on Sunday 21 July 2024 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.

Ian Collier

President

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.

Puzzle Corner



Trivia

1. Who played "Soul Deep" during the 1960s?
2. Who played "I Want To Hold Your Hand" during the 1960s?
3. Who fatally shot Lee Harvey Oswald?
4. Which two candidates for U.S. President were the first to debate on TV in 1960?
5. Who was killed in 1968 after winning the Democratic primary for the presidency?
6. What is the capital city of American Samoa, a group of islands in the South Pacific?
7. Bremen is a city In what European country?
8. How many hours a day on average does a domestic cat sleep?
9. On average, how many hours does a domestic cat spend sleeping?
10. A 'bunion' is a painful swelling on which joint?
11. Haddock is a species of which animal?
12. Fiorello LaGuardia was elected mayor of what city in 1933?
13. Of which country was Ferdinand Marcos President from 1965 to 1986?
14. Henry VIII had Anne Boleyn executed on what grounds?
15. The 'Battles of Concord and Lexington' were fought during which war?

Sub-Branch

Christmas in July Party



Sunday 21 July 2024

11.00am – 4.00pm

3 course lunch

Refreshments

Entertainment by Brassick Duo

Monster Raffle

Tickets \$20 per person for members and partners.

Judith Walker will be at Sub-branch office on Thursdays from 10.00 am to noon and also at the July General meeting selling tickets

Tables of 8 can be reserved with names and money (8 X \$20.00 pp) at time of booking.



DENG ADUT

Defence Lawyer and Refugee Advocate

GUEST SPEAKER

McKillop COLLEGE

8 April 2024

Journey from child soldier to Australian Lawyer

Let me share with you, parts of my story. It may be unfamiliar to those who have been born and grown up in a peaceful Australia. To those who have come as refugees from the world's trouble spots, parts of this story will be too familiar. A point of this story is to emphasise how very lucky we are to enjoy freedom from fear, and how very unlucky are many, many others who neither choose, nor deserve their fate.

I was born in a small fishing village called Malek, in the South Sudan. My father was a fisherman. I am one of eight children born to Mr Thiak Adut Garang and Ms Athieu Akau Deng. So the parts of my name are drawn from both my parents. My given name is Deng

When I grew up, my dream was to be a fisherman like my father. Most of his life he was hunting crocodiles, elephants, hippopotamus on the bank of the Nile. Life was beautiful. And so was the life of members of my family. My father was involved in a war 1972. In Sudan People's Liberation Army, where he lost most of his brothers in the war. When they died he acquired most of his brother's widows, including his wife – he had 6 wives, 43 children, I am number 42 out of 43.

Many people think slave trade happened many years ago but it is still happening. My sister -in-law is to this day, is a slave since 1994.

At just six years old I was snatched from my mother and forced to fight in a civil war that claimed two million lives between 1983 and 2005 fighting for (SPLA) in a war that ended up splitting the country.

As they took me away from my home and family I didn't even understand what freedoms I had lost. I didn't understand how fearful I should have been. I was young. I was ignorant. I lost the freedom to read and write. I lost the freedom to sing children's songs. I lost the right to be innocent. I lost the right to be a child.

Instead, I was taught to sing war songs. In place of the love of life I was taught to love the death of others. I had one freedom – the freedom to die.

I lost the right to say what I thought. In place of 'free speech', I was an oppressor to those who wanted to express opinions that were different to those who armed me, fed me, told me what to think, where to go and what to do.

And there was something else very special to me that was taken away. I was denied the right to become an initiated member of my tribe. The mark of 'inclusiveness' was denied to me.

I lost friends in the war and sustained injuries in the process, including bullet wounds and shrapnel wounds from bombs and exploding landmines. Soldiers contracted diseases like cholera, measles and chickenpox. Nevertheless, when I had my first chance to escape, I returned to the army.

“That’s how brainwashed I was. You don’t want to escape, you just want to go back,”

But things changed when around the age of 12, my brother, John, visited me and eventually convinced him to leave the army.

“He told me: ‘if you leave with me, you’re going to go to school, study. You could be somebody.’”

In 1987, I was among many young children forcibly removed from their homes and families and marched to Ethiopia, for reasons that were unknown to me at the time. I walked thousands of kilometres without shoes or underwear.

I witnessed children like myself dying as we made our way, barefoot and starving. As a child, witnessing the death of a relative is something that stays with you for life. Even today, I remember the deadened face and the gaunt skeletal body of one of my nephews lying on a corn sack. I saw too much abuse and death among my friends during the war. I sustained physical abuse from my superiors because of my inability to follow orders and for demanding decent treatment. I was a child soldier and I was expected to kill or be killed.

In 1995, Adut's older half-brother, John Mac, smuggled Adut out of Sudan at night in a truck under sacks of corn. Adut spent 18 months in a refugee camp in Kenya. The United Nations granted both brothers refugee status and in 1998 when Adut was 14, Australia granted both boys a visa.

I was 15 when I arrived in Australia in 1998. I couldn't read and write and did not speak a word of English, but was ready to start a new life and felt safe. I thought it was marvellous, a beautiful country...I'd never seen any place like it before.

With hard work, I learned English, finished his HSC at TAFE, and in 2005 won a scholarship to Western Sydney University to study law.

Discrimination in Australia, eventually led to his brother's death. My brother was a university graduate with a double degree in anthropology and international development but couldn't find a job in his field in Australia due to discrimination. He went back to South Sudan where he was unfortunately killed in 2014.

We [migrants] have to be recognised as people who can contribute to the Australian culture and economy...but if we're denied the resources, we won't be able to contribute meaningfully to Australian society.

Settling as a refugee was not easy, even with the help he received from the government and some very generous people. "It's hard to adjust" especially for migrants who might have come from a traumatic background.

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 11 but also of the 20th 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.

Did you know this about Australia?

- 1 There are three times as many sheep than people living in Australia.
- 2 The emu can run as fast as 45kmh.
- 3 Koalas sleep for about 20 hours per day.
- 4 Australia is home to around 1500 types of spiders, 4000 types of ants and 350 types of termites.
- 5 Australia has a larger population of camels than Egypt.
- 6 Australia's first police force was made up of 12 convicts who were judged to be the best behaved.
- 7 The state of Tasmania has the world's cleanest air.
- 8 Australia's dingo fence is longer than the Great Wall of China.
- 9 Melbourne has the largest public tram system in the world.
- 10 17 of the world's most poisonous snakes can be found in Australia.



CENTRAL COAST VETERANS CENTRE Inc

ABN 90 141 703 076

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Les Jacobs JP

Secretary:

Cathy Every

Treasurer:

Graham Kerle JP



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Helping Veterans and Their Families

We are located at 203 Main Road, Toukley. We are available at Toukley on Tuesday morning from 08.00 till midday by appointment, and on Thursdays from 08.00 till midday for interviews and as a drop in coffee centre to meet others and relax.

We are available to assist serving and ex serving veterans and their families in their interaction with DVA as Advocates. We have available;

- Four Advocates to assist with claims advice and general advice on DVA requirements.
- Wellness officers to assist with,
 - Counselling
 - Mental health contacts
 - Seeking appointments with Medical Practitioners
 - Homelessness
 - Widow and widower rights and entitlements.

If you have worn the ADF uniform for more than one day, or are the family of such a person, you may have entitlements that you do not know about. Drop in and let us help you.

We look forward to meeting you.

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

Welfare Report May 2024



TOUKLEY RSL SUB-BRANCH

WELLBEING/VISITATION OFFICERS' MONTHLY REPORT FOR THE SUB-BRANCH GENERAL MAY 2024

OFFICER	NUMBER OF VETERANS/FAMILY VISITS	HOURS	KILOMETRES TRAVELLED	PHONE CALLS	TRAINING HOURS	FUNERALS Interments
Michael Humphries	4	12	15	0	0	1
Roy Norman	8	19	28	9	0	
Ian Collier						1
TOTALS	12	31	43	9	0	2

Sometimes you have to do it yourself if you want it done



Puzzle Corner Answers



1. Box Tops
2. The Beatles
3. Jack Ruby
4. John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon
5. Robert Kennedy
6. Pago Pago
7. Germany
8. 18
9. Big Toe
10. Fish
11. Laurel & Hardy
12. New York
13. The Phillipines
14. Adultery
15. American Civil War

TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH

Patron:	Karen McNamara
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