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BI-ANNUAL ISSUE 15

NOELINE
BROWN
The Last Post
Interview

Lt Gen Angus
Campbell
Mike McClellan
Prof Gillian Triggs
Michael Leunig
Ian Chappell

THE LAST POST

KEEPING THE ANZAC SPIRIT ALIVE FOR AUSTRALIA'S
VETERANS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS

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the
power of
humanity

foreword



THE HON. DR BRENDAN NELSON AO, DIRECTOR, AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Standing silent sentinels over the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier are fifteen stained glass windows. Each is an image of an Australian of the Great War.

The most prominent facing directly down Anzac Parade is a woman – a nurse. The quality named beneath her informing character, is Devotion.

From the 3,000 Australian nurses of the First World War, revered for their courage and compassion, the role of women in defence of our nation, its interests and values has transformed.

In the Second World War more than 70,000 women enlisted in the 'Women's Services' and hundreds of thousands more took up jobs in industry and agriculture. Without the courage and endurance of these women an already long war would undoubtedly have lasted even longer and cost yet more lives.

And in the years since we have seen greater integration of women into our armed forces to the point where today women are eligible to serve in any capacity and increasingly are. In recognising this overdue equality it is vital to also recognise that the women who choose to serve and to risk their lives do so for the same reasons as the men – for the love of their country and their comrades – and they gain the same things as the men who serve.

As a nation we are proud of and grateful for the service of thousands of devoted women who have so ably ensured that we have remained, in the words of our National Anthem, '...young and free'. ■

EACH EDITION TLP WILL FEATURE A FOREWORD FROM A SPECIAL GUEST. THIS EDITION IT IS AMANDA RISHWORTH.



THE HON. AMANDA RISHWORTH MP, FEDERAL MEMBER FOR KINGSTON, SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL, SHADOW MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

It has been just over a year now that I have been the Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs and it has been great to meet so many passionate volunteers working on behalf of veterans. It has been a privilege to attend many State and National ex-service organisations conferences to discuss issues confronting our veterans including mental health and support for families. I have also been working in Parliament and with the Government to ensure the best legislative outcomes are achieved for our ADF serving and ex-service personal.

Our Defence personnel serve and make sacrifices for our nation, and, as a country, we need to ensure there is a strong message that their service and sacrifice, once they leave Defence, is still valued by our government, our parliament and our community. We must communicate this though providing our thanks and acknowledgment as well as world class care and support.

I would like to wholeheartedly thank each and every group and individual I've had the privilege to meet with. I appreciate your time; your dedication; and your feedback, especially about where we can do better.

Lastly, I would like to thank The Last Post for all the great work they do to provide information and support to the veterans' community and for providing me the opportunity to contribute to this edition.

I look forward to continuing my work with veterans and the ex-service community, with the government and with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, to ensure that we are continually striving for the best outcomes for our ex-service defence personnel and their families. ■

from the publisher GREG T ROSS

Domestic violence is a subject some are reluctant to speak about and it was against this backdrop that Chief of Army, Lt-Gen Angus Campbell made his historic and groundbreaking short movie, *Silence is the Accomplice*. In the film, four army personnel speak of their experiences with this social disease in an attempt to bring some light on the matter. It is only by speaking out on matters we know to be wrong that we can work to improve and educate. Angus Campbell sat down with me in front of a live audience at the conclusion of October's Veterans Film Festival in Canberra and spoke on the subject and his movie. Read the interview within or go to www.thelastpostmagazine.com/interviews for the audio podcast.

A story of great interest and sadness and importance is that of the suicide death of 32-year old Afghan veteran, Jesse Bird. Included is a comment on Jesse's death by Veterans Minister Tehan and we have a reply from Jesse's partner, Connie Boglis.

Prof Gillian Triggs spoke with me about why it is important to uphold the rights and values our veterans fought for in another outstanding chat that is also available here or on our website.

I also spoke with former Australian cricket captain Ian Chappell. Ian voices his concerns about the future of cricket and the "runaway train" analogy that many now associate with the administration of the game, globally. The text version is edited for space requirements. The full interview can be heard and downloaded on our website and will be available soon.

Legendary musician Mike McClellan and popular actor Noeline Brown also sat down with me as did artist Michael Leunig. All part of this amazing 15th edition.

With Your RSL at Work, DVA Updates, Travel, Health, Sport and Gardening, we here at The Last Post hope we have provided you with enough reading to get you through the long hot summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent 'G' and 'R'.

Greg T Ross
Editor and Publisher
www.thelastpostmagazine.com

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Currently coming out every three months, the
eNews is released as an adjunct to the Anzac Day
and Remembrance Day editions, and will include
the latest news for veterans and their supporters.

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Kirstie Wyatt from Wyatt Creative, since the very first issue 5 years ago.
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help you get the results you want in your business. No job is too big or small!

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Lieutenant General Angus Campbell

Lieutenant General Angus Campbell is Chief of Army and has attracted positive attention this year for his and the army's production of the short film, *Silence is the Accomplice*. The video features four soldiers and their experiences of domestic violence. 'Our aim in producing the video was to raise awareness of the impacts of family and domestic violence on individuals, their families and the Army as an organisation', he said. The video has been viewed more than 49,000 times on Facebook.

On October 22nd this year, The Last Post Editor Greg T Ross interviewed Angus Campbell in front of a live audience at the Australian Defence Force Academy at the conclusion of the Veterans Film Festival. A screening of *Silence is the Accomplice* was played before this interview.

The Last Post: Congratulations Angus on your role in that amazing film on a subject that is raw to the bone to people. As raw perhaps as the honesty of those four soldiers featured. And I know the audience appreciated that also. Your movie, *Silence is the Accomplice* has drawn widespread praise and attention for what we just saw, its focus on domestic violence. What led you down this track, to making this film and wanting to have some impact on the subject?

Lt-Gen Angus Campbell: Thank you Greg. It was really the leadership and example of Rosie Batty when she was Australian of the Year and the recognition that it's not a problem that will go away or improving in our national discourse if we admire Rosie Batty, we support her in her year and then, life drifts on and other issues come to pass. There's then another Australian of the Year, other issues come up and the normal flow of life continues. Change takes effort and takes time and you need to be reprising and re-engaging in different ways. I think it's a really important issue for the Australian army. It's an army that is respected around the world because of its disciplined use of violence, its lawful use of violence when directed by the government it serves. The ill-disciplined use of violence, whether it's on operation or at home, that's not what Australian soldiers are or should be. And I don't think you serve on operation in the heat of battle in what might be your worst day because you're living to a different set of values in that environment to the ones you live with at home and at training and in every day in the service. So for me, it's very pertinent to my own profession but it's also about engaging Australia in this story that can't just see about one person, Rosie Batty or about one year in her time of tenure as Australian of the Year but needs to be something that leaders and the community engage with.

TLP: So it's persistence that wins through in the end, I guess Angus and of not taking your mind off the issue and reminding people constantly that this is an important subject and maintain a presence in the community.

AC: That's right. When I was thinking about how do we progress this, how do we engage across the army with this? I spoke with colleagues and others on this and we decided first to use the ABC documentary, *Hitting Home* and that was screened all over the army in 2016 and it got a lot of people engaged and talking but an interesting comment that was offered routinely was, "It's not about us, it's about someone 'out there' in Australia somewhere". So,



with Troy's great effort and the support of those four participants who are the real-life experiences of domestic violence in their own circumstances, we put something together that was an expression that confronted you in the army that you cannot deny that is in the army, it is an experience of people that you know. It covers a variety of experiences and circumstance, it is deeply damaging to all the people involved and to those around them that the army might expect you to rely on as a team. This film had a profound impact all over the army because it is so confronting and anyone who would like to say, "That's not about me" or "It's not about the army" or "It's not about my circumstance", all of those excuses, they are not available. Many people have said and I personally find that first minute where you see the child drawing, actually the most powerful because it is a window into the damaging, long-term effect on the most innocent and most helpless.

TLP: Indeed. And the honesty of the children's drawings is perhaps something that adults can learn from? And you've taken the question I was about to ask about the impact of the movie on those that see the movie, such as its power, and for those lucky enough to be here today, will take with them an understanding that they may have already have had – that the army is an extension of the general community and what exists in one exists in the other, good and bad. And this will empower those in the army to hopefully do something about it.

AC: I very much hope so. The army is part of our community. It is our army. 30,000 of us are in the full-time component, 15,000 are in the part-time component. Another 15,000 are recently retired over the last five years who are in the stand by component. Another 20,000 are either school cadets, which is connected to the army, but not part of it, or instructors of the cadets. That is a community that then reaches out to families to and through their local networks. It is a large part of Australia. And so, connecting with the army, I hope is a way of connecting more broadly. But, seeing this film once and then moving on doesn't necessarily change anything. It needs to be a conversation. So, we are going to put together another movie that will be screened around March, April next year with a different perspective on the subject, keeping the story renewed, refreshed and engaging. Because, as you said, it's persistence over time that will create change.



“SEEING THIS FILM ONCE AND THEN MOVING ON DOESN'T NECESSARILY CHANGE ANYTHING. IT NEEDS TO BE A CONVERSATION.”

TLP: Yes, very well said and that then creates a presence and it's about timing too, so the issue is not forgotten. I guess, Angus that violence of any nature is abominable, no matter on what frontier but when used against your partner, male or female or any domestic example, it's quite revolting. It must affect the thinking process of those involved. It would be in the minds, in the front or back of the minds of those involved during their working day and that surely affect the standard of decisions that were being made in the army?

AC: I very much agree with you. The point made during the film by one of the speakers is that silence is the accomplice so that keeping this a secret is not only damaging, it allows the damage to continue and the person who comes to work distressed and is closed down and hiding something that is going on at home, whether through shame or a sense of disempowerment or a fear of rejection or lack of understanding by colleagues, that experience is not of someone who is functioning at their best. We need to break that silence to support the people in our community that are part of the Australian community. And when it's no longer silent, it's no longer powerful. The shame of the experience switches from the victim to the perpetrator. And in our community, teamwork is the most valued expression of who we are as a group of people that becomes a team by working together. We want of our people to give their best and be confident and competent to do so and to live in an environment where they can grow and reach their potential and any secrecy or shrouding doesn't allow that.

TLP: Yes and from that comes the need to educate through talking about it and the importance of self-respect. Those committing these acts would, it's a fair bet, be pretty low and they have no other way of expressing themselves, as sad as it sounds. What practical things can people do to help those in need?

AC: You're very right to bring up the question of practical things. It's got to start within the community with an awareness and a willingness to be around your workmates and friends and to be open to checking if they're okay. For the people involved we want them to be confident that when they speak on these matters they will be listened to and supported. We urge those involved not to be a bystander but to speak up and to speak out. Perpetrators will be confronted when people speak about this. It's about how you want to live your life and how you relate to others that's important. There are many small actions you can take that will start to make a difference.

TLP: Yes, to throw back the veil of concealment is important. Even the perpetrators may be waiting to be confronted and helped having not known how to ask for help. Thanks Angus, for putting this film together and let's keep things moving through The Last Post in editions to come.

AC: Yes, thank you Greg and, for all to speak and reveal is to empower. ■



In May this year, Australia Post rolled out free mail redirection for victims of domestic violence. This service allows customers to walk into any post office and access up to 12 months of mail redirection for them and their loved ones, knowing their information will be kept safe and secure.

ESAFETYWOMEN – EMPOWERING WOMEN TO TAKE CONTROL ONLINE

Ensuring safe access to technology is crucial for women affected by domestic violence – it's essential for them to find help and support, to keep connections to friends and family, and to help them stay in control of day-to-day 'ordinary' living.

However, in many cases women who are experiencing emotional and/or physical abuse from a current or former partner also experience technology being used against them, to abuse, control, humiliate and stalk.

To help women protect themselves and their families against all forms of technology-facilitated abuse, the Office of the eSafety Commissioner operates the eSafetyWomen website (www.esafety.gov.au/women).

eSafetyWomen consists of practical tools and information including:

- Tips and information—including checklists, information on collecting evidence and how to secure accounts and devices
- Multimedia—including more than 50 'how-to' videos as well as a series of seven real-life women's stories
- Technology Checkup—a self-test tool to help you assess just how in control you are of the technology you use.

A cornerstone of eSafetyWomen is its workshop program. Presented in partnership with WESNET (and with support from the Department of Social Services), the workshops target frontline, specialist and support staff in the domestic violence sector, and aim to equip them with the knowledge, skills and resources to empower women to better protect themselves against online abuse.

The two hour intensive workshop unpacks:

- What is technology-facilitated abuse, including online harassment, stalking and intimidation?
- How to be safe and secure online—the privacy and security settings on popular devices and platforms and how to use social media safely.
- What are the 'red flags' of tech-facilitated abuse?
- What help is available, both for the women affected by this type of abuse, and also for the frontline workers who are trying to assist them?

eSafetyWomen is aimed at all women because abuse can happen to any woman. eSafetyWomen supports women, frontline workers, police and all involved in ensuring women's safety. We're here to help.

For more information please visit www.esafety.gov.au/women.

Professor Gillian Triggs

Emeritus Professor Gillian Triggs was the President of the Australian Human Rights Commission from 2012-2017.

Gillian was Dean of the Faculty of Law and Challis Professor of International Law at the University of Sydney from 2007-12 and Director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law from 2005-7. Gillian is a former Barrister with Seven Wentworth Chambers and a Governor of the College of Law.

Gillian graduated in Law from the University of Melbourne in 1968 and gained a PhD in 1982. She has combined an academic career with international commercial legal practice and worked with governments and international organisations advising on including law including human rights law. She is focused on the implementation in Australian law of the human rights treaties to which Australia is a party, and on working with nations in the Asia Pacific region on practical approaches to human rights.

Gillian has been a consultant on International Law to King & Wood Mallesons, the Australian representative on the Council of Jurists for the Asia Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institutions, Chair of the Board of the Australian International Health Institute, a member of the Attorney General's International Legal Service Advisory Council and Chair of the Council of Australian Law Deans.

She is the author of many books and paper, including *International Law: Contemporary Principles and Practices* (Second Edition, 2011).

Gillian also served the Commission as Acting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner from 1 August 2016 to 9 February 2017.

Gillian is married to Alan Brown AM, a former Australian diplomat, and has two children and one grandchild.

Gillian Triggs: Hello. How are you?

The Last Post: Yes, good morning Gillian, how are you?

GT: I'm very well indeed.

TLP: That's good to hear. That's good to hear.

GT: Thank you for calling a little bit earlier. That makes things easy for me.

TLP: Fine, it's all about cooperation really, so that's alright. So welcome to The Last Post, Gillian, and thanks for sitting down with us for a brief chat. Gillian, you left the Human Rights Commission as President in July this year, 2017.

GT: Yes the end of July.

TLP: What are you doing now?

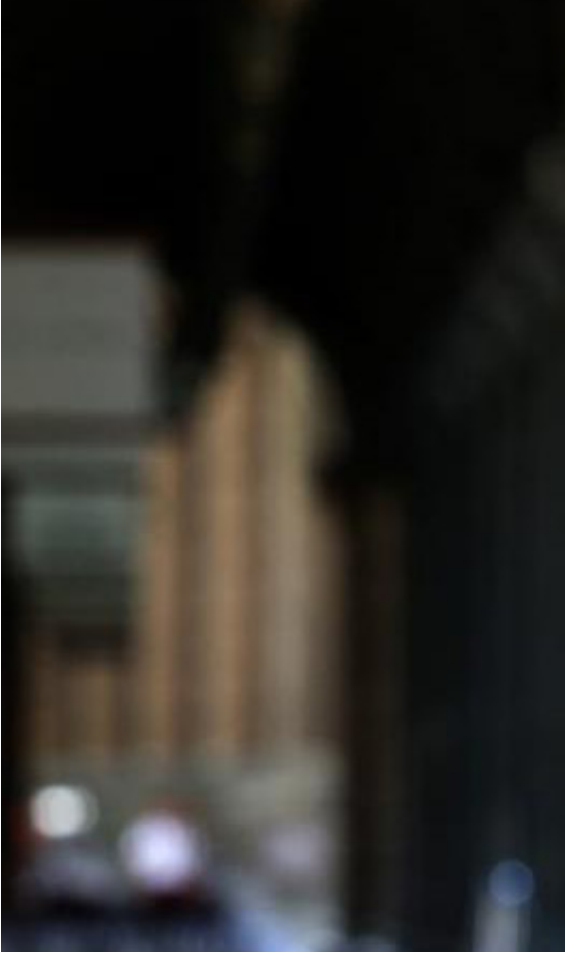
GT: Well I had a couple of weeks to see my grandchildren in Paris. And then I came back to Melbourne, my husband and I moved back to Melbourne, where some of my family is, and friends and so on. And the Vice Chancellor of the University of Melbourne offered me the position as the

Vice Chancellor's Fellow. One of three, in fact and I'm doing that part time for two years. I'll have time to write, and to think, and reflect, and be part of that sort of environment. And I'm also vice president of an international tribunal for the Asian Development bank. And I'm taking over as the chair of the board of Justice Connect, which puts lawyers with age-care facilities and homes. In brief, it's getting lawyers out of their offices and putting them where they're very particularly needed in community centres. So that's quite a bit. And I've got a book to write. That's probably a big thing.

TLP: Yeah, well we look forward to that. It's good to keep occupied, and particularly it sounds to me as though your community spirit is continuing there, with the work you've just described. Which brings me to the point: during your time as the president of the Human Rights Commission, it coincided with attacks on you personally and the way that you were doing your job. Effectively, politicians seems to have politicized human rights as an excuse to attack you. Was that a dangerous sign for you? The politicization of human rights from politicians?

GT: Well of course it is, but I think it's fair to say that every president through the 30-year history of the commission has been subject to a personal attack. Perhaps the one that's best known is Sir Ronald Wilson, who was the president, when he conducted what's called the Bringing Them Home report, but in fact The Stolen Generations report.

He was a very conservative high court judge, who, when he got closer to the facts, as presidents tend to, and I certainly have, he ultimately declared the stolen generation issue a matter of genocide. Now that was a very, very extreme position at the time, but he was prepared to take it. So I guess what I'm saying is that the position's always been subject to some resentment and criticism by politicians because they very often don't like the matters to which a president's going to call attention to, which of course is their statutory obligation. But I think it's probably fair to say, and this is really for others to judge, but it does seem to me, that the last five years of the commission have been particularly difficult. But it's been a combination of happenstance with an Abbott government coming in, and the numbers of boat people arriving, and the rise of terrorism, and continuing bad figures in relations to juvenile detention and so on. You've got a concatenation of circumstances, all sorts of things all happening at once. When the Human Rights Commission, and I in particular, called the inquiry into the detention of 1100 children, this touched a raw nerve



with the Abbott government. Really, it was on them. But perhaps the last thing I could say in relation to this is that, it wasn't really new, when I became president, if you can time anything in history, it's always hard to put a line. But if you could put in anywhere, it would be the year 2001. We had the Tampa crisis. We had the - in fact it turned out to be a lie, about refugees throwing their children overboard. Within a few weeks, we had the terrorist attacks, on the Twin Towers and Pentagon in the United States on 9/11. So in that one year, you had the Howard government effectively taking advantage of fear. A fear of unauthorized arrivals, fear of terrorism, and ultimately, using the word Muslim, and conflating them all. Mr Howard won an election partly as a consequence of the children overboard issue, and the Tampa. It really dates, in a way, from that period. When it became clear to politicians that, by attacking what were fundamental principles of international human rights law, and indeed fundamental values of Australia, were now up for re-thinking, because they didn't suit his political objectives. We've really seen it grow from there.

TLP: Indeed, Gillian. And the consequence of that may have been thought through, but of course it resulted in dividing the community, because, with the fear factor being introduced, you had those that would buy the fear factor, and those that would not buy the fear factor. Of course, a lot of it remains far removed from reality. So the fear factor was overblown, and some people still use that as a defence.

GT: They do, and I think we see this fear permitting the government, and parliament,



“WE’RE ONE OF THE VERY FEW DEMOCRACIES THAT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO REACH A DECISION ON MARRIAGE EQUALITY.”

to pass laws that are now disproportionate to the risk. I think we’ve seen today, even, in the news, the appointment of Mr Dezulo as the head of a new home security group that hasn’t even been created yet. No detail about it, but we have a Prime Minister now prepared to use fear to embark on extremely, billions and billions of dollars spent on this border security, completely turning on its head Australia’s approach to migration, and grossly disproportionate responses to a fear of terrorism, including for example, control orders for 14 year-olds. Even though control orders were specifically recommended for abolition, by the intelligence and security monitor. What we’ve got is a continued political use of fear, for political purposes. In a way, as I say this, why is one surprised? It’s an ancient phenomenon, there’s nothing new about this phenomenon, but it’s very distressing in a contemporary Australian society, to see it so opportunistically and cynically employed. Especially to the extent that it’s become a vehicle also for Islamophobia, for hatred and denigration of Muslims in Australia.

TLP: It may be a clarion call, too, for people to stand up and say “Look, enough’s enough. The majority of people are law-abiding citizens in regard to acts of terrorism. So let’s put a stop to this, and let’s have fair laws for everybody. Let’s not live by fear.”

GT: Well that’s right, and I think that we need more responsible people to say “Yes, Australia is a sovereign nation, we of course must defend our borders. We must ensure that we’ve done all that is reasonably possible for national security.” Not for a moment would I challenge that. But what I would challenge is the vast expense, and disproportionate reaction, that is not justified on the facts. When we look at other things, like domestic violence deaths of women, children and sometimes men. If those deaths were occurring, let’s say 80 last year, were occurring as a consequence of terrorism, then as a very domestic phenomenon, one could understand spending a lot of money dealing with it. But it’s not the case at all. We’ve lost one or two or three people in terrorist acts over the years, and we are not typically a target. That’s not to say we won’t be. Of course, we’ve got to have proper measures in place, but we’ve got to take a more proportional approach to it.

TLP: Is the new home security portfolio a concern to you?

GT: It concerns for the reason that we’ve been discussing, that it seems disproportionate, and very expensive response, that is not justified on the facts. It’s the sort of thing Prime Ministers love to do. The Prime Minister wants to go to England, and look at the home security in England, and emulate that at huge

expense in Australia. I’d suggest that this is done for predominantly political reasons. We already have very good security and intelligence agencies, in place, with a lot of experience, and there’s no real public debate about why we are now so significantly increasing the distortion of the public service, and the public budgets, to these issues.

TLP: If one looks back at the stated comments, from particular ministers who may be in charge of this, then it does have some concern for individuals, and freedom of movement, etcetera. So a bit of a concern there. But the national inquiry into children in detention, as you say, hit a raw nerve. What came out of that that was good, do you think?

GT: Oh I think a lot came out of it, and I find that people refer to it, quite often, because it was statistically accurate. The medical evidence was accurate, and the law was accurate. So anybody who’s got a serious interest in the question of the treatment of asylum seekers, and especially children, will refer to that report. But the other point, and it’s not an entirely easy point for me to make, is that when we called the inquiry, or when I called it as president, there were 1100 children, at that time, in indefinite detention, where they’d been detained for unprecedented periods of time. And our objective was to see what the mental and physical health effects were, on children being detained for these periods of time. By the time we’d finished the report, I think there were only about 200 children left in detention. I’m quite sure that the Minister Dutton would ferociously reject any suggestion that the children had been moved out of detention because of the work of the inquiry. But

I think the facts speak for themselves. There'd been no movement for about four or five months, by the government, in releasing these children, but the moment we began this inquiry, we started to see a bit of shift in that, and slowly at least the majority of the children were released.

TLP: Indeed. With your time, it was certainly newsworthy, your stay as President of the Australian Human Rights Commission.

GT: You could say that!

TLP: It provided those with an interest, certainly, enough reading material during your time. Were you glad to get out in the end?

GT: I think that I realized, particularly in the last six months or so that, given that the government were so adamantly opposed to me personally, that this was starting to have an impact on the commission as a whole. It really became important that I really say "Well look, I've done my job. It's now time for someone else to take over." So when my appointment came to an end, after five years, I felt it was definitely time for a new leader, and possibly a new approach. But also, the seriousness of the issue had shifted, from the children and families in detention, to now, 25,000, 30,000 people in the community whose futures remain uncertain. They haven't been assessed as refugees, they will never get residency in Australia. So we've really built in a long-term and agonizing problem, both for the people concerned, and for Australians who will have to deal with this. But also, the political issues, the human rights issues, were shifting to, particularly, Aboriginal incarceration. But also the very high rising rates in children in out-of-home care, both Anglo-Australians, if you like, but Australians from all cultures, but again with a very strong impact on Aboriginal children. Also other issues that were becoming of greater concern, as we moved along. Homelessness, rising problem, the highest-rising incidence of homeless, for example, is for women over 55. That is a fairly astonishing phenomenon. But it reflects, of course, the really utterly disgraceful phenomenon of the economic disempowerment of Australian women, that they're literally falling behind as every year goes by. That's showing up now, in the homelessness figures. So when I left, the spotlight was moving to other issues, and it was really time for someone else to take over.

TLP: Remember, I think the Prime Minister said, "We won't be renewing Gillian Triggs." But that was never the case, there was never going to be a renewal, was there it was a five-year term.

GT: No, it was deeply misleading for him to say that, and of course deliberately intended to be personally hurtful. There was no need for him to say it, because I'd already made it clear to the Attorney General, two years beforehand, and subsequently, that I had no intention whatever of serving longer than my five years. So it was a deliberately political and personal attack that was completely unnecessary.

TLP: And maybe more so, because coming from a man who was once believed to be, by some people, a stalwart on certain issues.

GT: Well I think everybody that I speak to in the wider community, on trams and in supermarkets, will all use the same word about Malcolm Turnbull, and that is he's extremely disappointing. They believed that he had a good faith commitment to what you might describe as broadly liberal values, that I think probably represent the views of a very high number of Australians, only to find that he was literally at the beck and call of an extreme right wing. And Australians feel very uncomfortable with that.

TLP: Yes. It perhaps gives more power to those who should have less power, based on numbers and percentages of those who would follow such dictum.

GT: That's really an interesting point, that democracy in Australia tends to produce basic middle-of-the-road respected people, with basic liberal values that reflect Australia's history and values. What we've done since we became a nation. I think when you find that a Prime Minister who was thought to reflect those values, is actually being driven by an extreme right wing that does not reflect those values, then you have to ask what happened to the democratic process? And how has he let down the Australian public?

TLP: Which then brings us to the contemporary discussion of the postal survey that's being organized. Which, to me, is a bit of an embarrassment as an Australian, because it's something that you'd make up for a comedy movie, or something.

GT: You can't really believe that we've declined to this level. Certainly from a human rights perspective, we said under my presidency, and I will continue to say, that the principle of equality before the law, that was so important to the United States Supreme Court, for example, in finding that marriage equality was legal in the United States, we don't have a court prepared to do that. We have a parliament that's been quite incapable of reaching an answer on it, and we have a party system that won't deliver leadership on the question. So we've gone all the way down the line, from referendas. We've never had referenda for core matters of human rights. You're entitled to equality before the law, not subject to a public vote on the question. But anyway, even that failed, they can't get legislation. They couldn't even get a legislative agreement on a proper plebiscite, so we've gone down the scale to now, not even a plebiscite.

TLP: A non-binding ...

GT: A non-binding, a voluntary survey, that is going to cost \$122 million, opposes a matter of law by the high court, on the basis that it presumably didn't need an appropriation of money. But I think the Australian public might very well question how a minister can suddenly find \$122 million to spend on something quite so fruitless as this, and something that, as a matter of law, is not really required. I

think we're all saying "What happened to the parliamentary process?" The parliamentarians are there to enact these laws. They've made changes to the Marriage Act quite frequently. Suddenly, they're not capable of doing it. So we're all going to have to do this, and all I can say now, given yesterday's decision, is "Well, it's a reality, we're going to have to do it." And my view is that we need to get the vote out, to vote yes, and I think in a way, shame the government into finally introducing appropriate legislation, for marriage equality, as a civil matter. And of course, properly protect religious freedoms.

TLP: One may say that Malcolm Turnbull is doing a disservice to the Australian community because, by his failure to stand up to the extreme elements in his own party, he is putting us through a process that will divide and hurt people. And at the same time, be non-binding, so it's like a bit of a circus act, and it is an embarrassment to be Australian in that regard, at the moment.

GT: Well, especially when I think where we're one of the very few democracies that has not been able to reach a decision on marriage equality. We saw the Americans do it quite easily, in the end. It went straight to the court, the court said "The principles of equality before the law are important," and that they must be recognized within that modern system. That certainly, those who might object to marrying somebody of the same sex would be excluded, if their views were bona fide, and based on religious beliefs. That's protected, and it's protected under Australian law, and will be. But I think also, it's been disgraceful that members of the No campaign have attempted to muddy the waters, to use the language I've seen around, that instead of this being simply a question about access to the civil law of marriage, they are now saying it's all about children, and it's all about religion. Both of which are deeply and deliberately misleading.

Speaker 2: It also reinforces the belief that some people would have, that the suffering that religion seems to want to impose on some people is par for the course of your life experience.

GT: You would have to wonder, especially when you have that remarkable phrase by Pope Francis, who, when asked about sexual orientation and gay couples, said "Who am I to judge?" Now, if the Pope can't judge from a religious perspective, I don't know who can. I think that was the most Christian and tolerant statement, and I think it's one that many of us can learn from. It is shameful, absolutely shameful, that so-called religious groups, and particularly the Christian right-wing, believe that they have a right to impose their views on other people. I think one might also say that certainly the catholic church is not exactly in good odor at the moment, in light of their own treatment of those people who've been sexually abused in their institutions. So I think that they have a declining credibility at the moment, it's sad for the catholic church. I



"I THINK AT THE MOMENT, AUSTRALIANS ARE EMBARRASSED, AND TUNING OUT, BECAUSE THEY SIMPLY CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WE'VE GOT SUCH POOR-QUALITY LEADERSHIP."

I was brought up in catholic convents myself, and I understand the wonderful work that they do, and the importance of Christian teaching. But to try to use the misinformation that they're putting out there, to try to prevent civil marriage, is really disgraceful.

TLP: There seems to be a personification of matters, there were examples used against you, where if people such as Australia's Chris Kenny, instead of supporting human rights, Chris as an example would come out with personal attacks on you. I think he accused you of "sanctimonious criticism of mainstream values." What's that mean?

GT: He's not really a journalist, he's a political commentator from a particular point of view, and I don't think there's any point responding to that kind of ideological commentary. It doesn't have any substance. But one thing that of course I think underpinned the personal attack on me was, to my knowledge, there was never any credible attack on the accuracy of the research, the medical evidence, and the law, that underpinned all of our reports. In other words, because they couldn't find anything to challenge, partly of course because we relied on the figures from the Department of Immigration itself, so that sort of put them in a bit of a quandary. As they couldn't challenge the accuracy of what we were saying, as a very credible report, they decided that the only solution was to attack me. And I think that's pretty much the way it went, and I think most Australians were not hoodwinked by that nonsense, and fortunately I don't think were convinced at all.

TLP: Very well said, that's right, and long may that be the case, where intelligence reigns over fear.

GT: I think so. In fact I think that the politicians, and some of the political commentators, simply underestimate Australians constantly. I've been fortunate

in my position, to be working at a really basic level. Whether it was on trams or supermarkets, or remote communities, rural communities, I met the most remarkable people, of very significant intelligence, who are not so easily misled. And they just simply don't believe the nonsense, and all their instincts are in fact to say "We're a humane society, in Australia, and we should within reason, and as appropriate, support those that need our protection."

TLP: I think that's a good point to leave it on, and certainly we, from my point of view, and I know a lot of the readership of the magazine, you were a unifying figure, not a divisive figure.

GT: I hope so, I really hope so. I would be very, very distressed were I to be seen as divisive, because my aim was always to bring people together, and I can honestly say, I've never been a member of a political party. I've not even been particularly interested in politics. I'm always much more interested in the outcomes, and frankly very proud of what Australia has achieved for human rights. It's certainly historical.

TLP: That's right. And of course, on top of that is the international law, and that stands above, or should stand above, politics. And you would be an example of that.

GT: Well that's all I've been in, international law, that is what I do. I've always been shocked by the willingness of our more recent politicians to ignore the treaty obligations that these marvellous Australians, Doc Evatt right through the people like Gareth Evans, and others, who really were engaged in the international environment. I just went to an oration for Malcolm Fraser, and he again had a remarkable reputation in the commonwealth, for his anti-apartheid work. So I think we've had wonderful leaders in Australia for human rights. And to be part

of the international movement to protect human rights. And I think it's enormously disappointing, and indeed a betrayal of the past, that our more recent politicians have been so ready to ignore these really wonderful principles of humanity that I think we need to support in Australia. Historically, we have done. I'm just really, in a very recent phenomenon, where we've had ill-informed politicians, who have not acted in good faith, and who act exclusively in their own personal political interests, and not in the national interest. And that's a matter of ongoing concern to me, and I will continue to work in this area.

TLP: Finally, I think a politician had said about you that you were "removed and disconnected from Australian society." Well I think it's the opposite, I think the politicians that say that are themselves removed. And I think that politicians would be surprised if a politician stood up for the unification, and for human rights et cetera in this country, they would be surprised at how quickly they were embraced by the community.

GT: Well, I completely agree with that. I think that politicians, at the federal level, in Canberra, are extraordinarily isolated from national concerns, and that were we to have a leader who stood up and said "These are the humanist values for which Australians have fought in the war, that we've stood up for all of these decades." I think that most Australians would say "We get that, and support it, and now show us the way." I think at the moment, Australians are embarrassed, and tuning out, because they simply can't believe that we've got such poor-quality leadership, and refusal to really understand what Australian society has been built on.

TLP: Thanks for being a part of this, Gillian, it's been absolutely amazing.

GT: Lovely to talk to you. ■

Mike McClellan

Australian singer-songwriter legend Mike McClellan spoke with TLP's Greg T Ross in August about his life, his music and his new album, *No Intermission*.

The Last Post: Thanks for joining us here Mike.

MIKE McCLELLAN: Good day, Greg. How are you?

TLP: Well, I'm not too bad, mate. Still, would have loved to be there last week on Friday night to see the launch. How did it go?

MM: Mate, it exceeded my expectations. The band played their ass off, quite frankly, and it was the first time that I've done many of the songs, because the songs that have been recorded for this last album are songs that I had not been doing in concert pretty much at all. And in addition to which, quite a number of them when we sat down to work our way through how we would do the album turned out to be very different in the way in which I had originally conceived them. So, as a consequence for me, it was a completely new experience doing completely new songs in a way in which I never anticipated I might actually play them with a band that I'd never worked with before in a concert. So, no I'm-

TLP: It sounds exciting.

MM: It was, mate. It was quite exhilarating, quite frankly, and I really enjoyed it and there were some songs in which I didn't even play. So it was, in a way, that feeling of not actually having to pick up a guitar and play, but having a band behind you is very liberating, which is great.

TLP: Yeah, that's excellent. Just briefly, are there any names in the band that people would know?

MM: Matt Phil, who is the producer and guitarist. Scotty Aeplyn, who is the musical director for *The Voice*. Glenn Hannah, who is also a very well known guitar player in Sydney. And in fact, Glenn did the photography and the artwork for the album. Steve Fearnley on drums was a long time member of *The Flood*. And Michael Carpenter, the bass player, is a very well known producer and obviously a fine musician in his own right.

TLP: There's a couple of well known names there for sure, Mike. With them ... We know on a personal level, I got into your music when I was about 17 back in the early 70s and bought an album of yours, Steven Foster was another bloke that I liked and sang some stuff with. But your stuff was just so original, so new. Is the new album, *No Intermission*, similar to what you're doing ... Obviously it reflects what's happening around the world today. Can you just go through some of the inspirations for the tracks that you've recorded on that album, Mike?

MM: Not Yet, which I can see of them was very obviously a statement of my (laughs) complete unwillingness to give it away at this point in my life. And it was written very tongue-in-cheek, Greg, because when I first wrote it, it was written as a bit of a throwaway and I thought, "Oh, now we probably won't record this." When I started to write it, it was full of almost every cliché I could think of, and at the end of the song I thought, hang on a minute, I've filled this thing up with so many clichés, maybe I should make the point, as I do, at the end of the song that it is actually a whole bunch of clichés. So, at the end of the last verse there's something like, I've used every cliché trying to say what I wanted to say. And in a way of course that was just simply me saying, very tongue-in-cheek, "I ain't giving up yet, mate."

TLP: Yeah, so beautiful.

MM: The second song is a song called, *Not The One*. And it can be interpreted on two different levels. And that was quite deliberate when I wrote the song. I've always been fascinated by the Randy Newman song called *God's Song*. Have you ever heard that song?

TLP: Well I think I have, I was a fan of Randy Newman in my twenties, haven't listened to his stuff for a while. But go on, mate, I'm listening in awe because he was very good.

MM: There's a song of his called *God's Song* where he says, you know, you've fouled the waters, you've destroyed the planet, you've fought wars in my name and the concluding line after all that is, "That's why I love mankind." And it seemed to me that when you look at what's going on around the world. In particular, when you look at what's happened in America, the best leaders have humility, have openness and honesty. The best leaders never conclude that they've got all the answers. They always conclude that to get all the answers they've got to get good people around them. And Trump in the complete antithesis of that.

TLP: Totally agree.

MM: Whilst on one level you can interpret the song as being a lover saying to his lover, "Look, I'm sorry but I'm not the one. Whatever you think I might be, I'm not the one for you." But, also, and this is the other level in which I wanted to try and indicate during the course of the song. But it could also be someone with more honesty and more openness than someone like Trump saying "I don't have all the answers. I'm not the perfect answer to all your problems. I'm not offering solutions, but I'm just telling you. If you think I have all the answers, sorry, but you've got the wrong person."

TLP: Yeah, yeah, brilliant stuff. Go on.

MM: And that's one of the songs that I didn't play on during the concert because I had written and sort of worked out an arrangement on my guitar that was entirely different to the one in which we ultimately recorded. It's got a totally different feel to the feel that I originally used and I love the fact that when Matt said to me, "Look mate, why don't we try doing this with it?" That it actually worked as well as it has.

TLP: That's exciting too, Mike, when that sort of thing happens.

MM: Oh, absolutely. And you know, one of the things I love about being in the studio, Greg, is hearing what they can bring to the way in which they interpret my songs. It definitely is a real joy.

TLP: It must be very touching to know that, what's '40, '50, '74 ... how long ago was that? Well you started in the late '60s but I mean, does the joy ever leave you to hear your material evolve and become real at the hands of great musicians?

MM: It certainly evolves, and it brings to the song an alternative way of interpreting it, which I might not have discovered when I first wrote it, or alternately it brings to my interpretation of the song, elements that I hadn't anticipated that open up the interpretation, which is lovely. When that happens, that's wonderful.

TLP: That is beautiful. Do you think part of your reason, I mean we know about your history in advertising, and you've been a number of things. A music tutor, a senior fellow. But as far as recording new material and performing new material on this great new album, what inspired you in part? From my observations as a fan, I would say it's such a welcome thing to see you back to bring some stability to what is a bit of a crazy world at the moment.

MM: This album, in many ways, Greg, was more expansive in its world view than the one before it, *Dancing in the Rain*, or in some ways,

in *If Only For a Moment*. But, the thing about all three of these last three albums is they have much more of an expansive view of the world than my earlier stuff. My earlier stuff probably was in some ways, more intensely personal. Whilst there's still a lot of very personal stuff in my writing because I write a tremendous bit pretty much all the time. There's also a really strong sense of dealing with issues that I find around me these days are becoming more and more uncomfortable and we need to speak more of. So, this album has songs about the environment, has a song about refugees, has a song about politics, has a song about the lack of faith and trust that we seem to have sometimes in each other. But certainly often in the political environment these days. So, it's got a more expansive vision in some ways. But that's simply also a reflection of what I've been through in the last sort of 20 to 25 years of my life running a business and dealing with big clients and very sophisticated businesses around Australia and in some

instances, around the globe. That was always going to impinge upon what I was writing in this last period of my writing life.

TLP: It's like good book that goes the way you would like the story to go, to have you back, because, and particularly to think the evolution of your songwriting and looking at, well you've probably always looked at world issues, but at least sharing them with the audience because it is, I agree, a very important time to speak up on matters that we may, in the past, have felt content in the past to be silent about. There is a lot of anguish and ugliness that is getting more attention than the opposite.

MM: Oh, I agree entirely. And I think that, you know, the stresses that we find in contemporary democracy under all around the world at the moment, is something that we all have to examine very carefully. And if we don't like where it's going we've got to find ways in which we can all agree upon how we change it to the better and how we make it more appropriate and more balanced in the way in which everybody can participate in the process. There is undoubtedly a gulf happening between those who feel like they have been abandoned in the political process and those who feel like they have got some control of it.

TLP: Well said, and perhaps your music is a reminder to people of the utmost ... The strength of beauty that can come about by taking a positive note. I mean, it's very easy to be negative and the ugliness that can come from that. But what you're doing here is showing people the benefit in reality of having a positive, unifying approach to music.

MM: Oh, I think you have to be positive, Greg. You know I think, too, the other thing that ... The arts can do, music can do perhaps almost better than any other form of artistic endeavour, is communicate with people in a very fundamental level. And open up doors they might not have considered. There are so many ways in which we all try and now communicate with each other. But, on a purely emotional level, music still functions in a way in which almost no other art form manages to do. So, if I can use that art form to illuminate some of the issues and not necessarily find solutions but certainly open up and ask the questions and invite people to explore and that for me, that's valuable.

TLP: Yeah, well said. Andrew Ford, I think it is, had *The Memory of Music*, a book which describes his life in relation to music and I went to go have a conversation about it at Poit's Point a couple of weeks ago. But, from a non-religious person, which is myself, in the technical sense, is music as close as one can hope to get to if there's a God or is it something that brings ... what you've just described with music having this power and like, perhaps no other medium is it, does it have the potential to bring people closer?

MM: I think without any doubt at all. If you look at cultures around the world, of the vast numbers of different cultures, almost every culture has music at the core of its emotional life. Almost every culture, in one way or another, finds a way to communicate through music and to sing about its myths and legends. Even the most primitive of as indeed were our Australian Aboriginal, the original owners of this land. They communicated through music as well. Through a quite primitive form, but nonetheless it was still very evident. And, if we can find a way to harness that music and enable people to understand what it means to each of us within our own culture, then we can find a way to break down some of those communication barriers.

There's a lovely song that Sting wrote a few years ago called *Even Russians Love Their Children Too*, which is a lovely song. In a way, his intent also, to make us all aware that there are so many things that we share in common with each other that are far greater than the things that we disagree about.

TLP: Spot on.

MM: And I think music is one of those ways in which those agreements can be amplified and can remind us all of what we share.

TLP: Very well said. I mean, I think that's its said that there's two emotions: love and fear. And if music can be used to express love and then far better obviously, once unburdened of fear it is easier to love and if music can do that, that's great thing.

MM: Absolutely, absolutely.

TLP: Mate, great album, *No Intermission*. What's the tour plans?

MM: At this stage we've got a limited tour plan at this point. I've got two gigs to play when I go back home. I'm playing again



in September and then the Powerhouse in Brisbane. We're putting together a rundown the north coast at the moment to take me back to Sydney and then down in to Melbourne. But to a large extent, what I've done and to say to the record company, and my management in the course of these next three months is about talking to as much of the media to generate as much interest in getting the album played, getting the music out there, and then really working hard in the latter part of this year and well into next year being out on the road and trying to take advantage of what PR we might have been able to generate. And also, in addition to that of course, trying to generate further interest in America. I've got a new publisher in Nashville and I've got them working hard on trying to push the songs and getting some exposure over there. So, you know, in general it's about doing what I'm doing now, talking to as many people as possible for the next two or three months and then we'll go back on the road, and I'll go back to Melbourne, I'll go back to Adelaide. We've got plans to go to Perth. I've played all those cities over the last three or four years. I'll go to Adelaide and play, probably do 20 sessions and then do a couple of other dates out in south Australia. Perth, we usually play Perth Octagon Theatre. I'll play [Margaret River, I'll play Albany. And probably one or two others. I'm doing the Woodford Festival this year in Queensland over the new year weekend and hopefully we'll get invitations to do four or five others, we'll juggle, so put in applications for. So basically, once this album is up and out and generating some interest because the official release of the album only happens this week. And it's really a question of just trying to generate as much interest as is possible and then touring off the back of that interest.

TLP: What I'll do, mike, is I'll put this ... Let them know about the interview on Facebook and then this will go on Friday I think we're doing it, put in onto the website so people can check it out. Yeah, no, that's cool. I'm just thinking, I'll have to get a copy of the album too. I'll need a copy of the album.

MM: Have you not got a copy yet?

TLP: No I haven't, mate, but I'll-

MM: Oh mate, I'll get my PR guy, Michael Matthews, to send you the link where you can download everything and then I will ... In fact, that surprises me that you haven't got it because I had asked that you be sent a copy, we had communicated last week that-

TLP: Look, maybe he did, I've had so many emails as you know what it's like. Maybe I will just go back and check the email for Michael but, I've got his email details so leave it to me, Mike, leave it to me, mate that-

MM: Make certain that if you do get the download that you also have copy sent of the package, because I'm absolutely over the moon with the way in which my guitar player, Glen Hannah, has designed this one and shot it. He did a brilliant job and it's really come out beautifully so I'm very happy. So I'll make certain that you get a copy of that, but also, send a note to Michael and ask him to make available if he hasn't so already, the link to all the tracks so you can have a listen.

TLP: I'm privileged ... It's 2017, I think I first heard your music back in '72, '73, so it's been a long wait, but well worth it. And hopefully catch you live soon. Where did you grow up?

MM: I was born in Melbourne, and spent the first 10 years of my life there. In fact, there's a song on the album called Martha's Beach, which is actually a reference to Mt. Martha, which is, if you know it at all is on Port Phillip Bay.

TLP: That's right, I lived in Melbourne for 27 years.

MM: Oh did you? Oh okay. Well you know Melbourne well. My grandparents had a house down right on the beach, and you know, I spent every holiday and at least summer. Long, Long Holidays with My grandparents and lived on the beach. You couldn't get us off it. And I loved it. That song, Martha's Beach, it's a reflection on how life's oddly enough, despite the fact that you might not be aware of it at first, to come full circle. Because Mary-Anne and I found ourselves living on the beach. She and I have been together for about four years but we've known each other for, oh golly, nearly 40 now. A long time.

TLP: Yep, it Often happens that way.

MM: Yeah, it's amazing how it happened, it really is extraordinary. Well, that was some of your story, wasn't it too?

TLP: Indeed, indeed.

MM: I've never been happier than I am now, quite frankly. It's also reflected in my writing because there's a couple of songs, or there's three songs at least on this new album that are largely been stimulated by having Mary-Anne in my life.

TLP: Isn't it beautiful?

MM: Which for me is lovely, yeah.

TLP: Women are amazing because they can encourage you to write some beautiful stuff. I write poetry as well as musically carefully, they can do that. And if you have a good woman in your life it's a beautiful thing, so good luck to you. It's wonderful. Hope to catch up in the very near future.

MM: Great, thanks Greg, keep an eye on the website. When I'm down in Adelaide, the date will go up in the next month or so I suspect because we'll be playing Adelaide early next year in some states. Probably around about the time of the Adelaide Festival. Come and say hi. ■

“WHILST THERE’S STILL A LOT OF VERY PERSONAL STUFF IN MY WRITING... THERE’S ALSO A REALLY STRONG SENSE OF DEALING WITH ISSUES THAT I FIND AROUND ME THESE DAYS.”



Years have passed but Oils

power and passion lives on

BY NATHAN DAVIES



ANYONE looking for the secret to eternal youth could do worse than examining Peter Garrett.

The 64-year-old Midnight Oil frontman and former Federal Member for Kingsford Smith brings a level of energy to a show that would wear out singers half his age.

The way he throws his lanky frame across the stage makes for compelling viewing, but it's not the only reason the Oils are still – more than four decades after they formed – one of the great live Australian acts.

The band itself – underpinned by the incredible drumming of Rob Hirst – is tight but versatile, able to swing between spiky post-punk stabs and delicate acoustic sounds without missing a beat.

And the message itself, such an integral part of the band's work, remains as relevant in 2017 as it was in 1987.

After great warm-up sets from Adelaide rockers Bad//Dreems and nineties legends Spiderbait, the 11,000-strong crowd at the Adelaide Oval's Village Green spent a few minutes in the dark listening to a track from desert heroes the Warrumpi Band and anticipating what was to come.

Opening with Redneck Wonderland, from the 1998 album of the same name, the Oils then launched into the classic Read About It. It was clear from the beginning that the Adelaide crowd was going to be treated to an excellent set.

I Don't Want To Be The One, from 1981's Place Without A Postcard, had the punters rocking out, but they didn't start singing until the first familiar chords of protest anthem US Forces rang out.

And they kept singing right through Short Memory and the cover of Blueberry Hill, thrown in as a tribute to Fats Domino.

"We're only here because we're standing on the shoulders of the people who stood on the shoulders of the people who started all this," Garrett said of the late rock 'n roll pioneer.

The last four songs of the main set took the energy to an even higher level – The Dead Heart (surely one of this country's most loved songs), Beds Are Burning, Blue Sky Mining and Forgotten Years.

There's an encore featuring Power and the Passion and Dream World, and a second encore of King of the Mountain and then they're done.

Those who had a ticket funnelled out into the night with thousand-watt smiles, and those on the roadside with a surprisingly good view jumped back into their cars and undoubtedly, chucked the Oils on the stereo. ■

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COLD CHISEL TO HEADLINE SPECIAL ONE-OFF “MADE IN SA” CONCERT AT THE 2018 ADELAIDE 500

Legendary Australian rock band, Cold Chisel, has announced a very special one-off show in Adelaide on Friday, 2 March 2018 to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Adelaide 500. It will be the first time the band has played their former hometown since the band's huge One Night Stand tour in 2015.

When approached for this milestone event, Cold Chisel were determined to make it a unique show - and went about personally hand-picking a bill of all South Australian-born artists. Under the banner of 'Made In SA', they have invited their friend Kasey Chambers, the critically-hailed rock outfit Bad//Dreems and two local Music SA openers to join them.

"Adelaide was and will always be ground zero for us, our home turf, our training ground. For better or worse it made us who we are," says frontman Jimmy Barnes. "We're excited to be going back to play this special 'Made In SA' show. Kasey is a legend and a good mate. I've sung with her many times and when Cold Chisel reunited in the studio 2010, Kasey's brother Nash produced our single, 'All For You', which was the last-ever session we did with our dear friend Steve Prestwich. Bad//Dreems are one of the best bands to come out of

Adelaide in the last decade and our mate Mark Opitz, who produced some of our best recordings, has made both of their albums so we've got a connection to them too."

"With so many international artists, and even some Australians, skipping South Australia on their 'national' tours, we wanted to put together a concert for the 20th Anniversary of this iconic rock & roll weekend that made the State proud."

Originally formed in Adelaide in 1973, Cold Chisel is one of Australia's most revered rock outfits with a history that spans forty years and a catalogue of songs and albums that have become part of the nation's psyche.

Renowned as one of the most dynamic Australian live acts ever, Cold Chisel will perform iconic hits such as Flame Trees, Khe Sanh, Cheap Wine, Choirgirl, My Baby, Rising Sun and Bow River as well as music from their recent studio albums, No Plans (2012) and The Perfect Crime (2015) - all of these and more are featured on the band's new live album/DVD The 'Last Stand' of the Sydney Entertainment Centre', Cold Chisel's biggest live release ever (out on November 10).

Tourism Minister Leon Bignell said it was great to have iconic South Australian band Cold Chisel helping to celebrate the 20 years of the Adelaide 500.

"The 20th anniversary of the Adelaide 500 is going to be a huge weekend in South Australia, made even better by having music legends like Cold Chisel and Robbie Williams performing each night," Minister Bignell said. "The State Government is committed to growing the Adelaide 500 by making the event bigger

and better each year, attracting big names both on the track and on the stage."

Multi ARIA, APRA, Americana Music Awards and Country Music Association of Australia awards winner Kasey Chambers, will join Cold Chisel and Bad//Dreems on stage for the 'Made in SA' concert. Kasey, born in Mount Gambier and a proud South Australian, has achieved 7 times platinum album sales for Barricades and Brickwalls and double platinum for the hit single Not Pretty Enough. Kasey's latest album Dragonfly debuted at # 1. "I couldn't be prouder to perform at this rocking Adelaide 500 event and be part of such a great line-up of musical legends, fellow South Australians and good friends," says Kasey. Chambers and her band will be performing on the Adelaide 500 stage for the first time and promise to deliver one amazing show.

Bad//Dreems hail from Adelaide, formed in 2012 and the band consists of Ben Marwe (Vocals/Guitar), Alex Cameron (Guitar), James Bartold (Bass), and Miles Wilson (Drums). The band released their debut EP titled Badlands in August 2013. They released their debut album Dogs at Bay in 2015 with legendary Australian producer Mark Opitz (INXS, Cold Chisel, the Angels). Rolling Stone gave their latest album Gutful four out of five stars. Bad//Dreems performed at the Adelaide 500 in 2014 with Music SA Bands on Track and are now back headlining with Cold Chisel and Kasey Chambers. ■

**Tickets are on-sale through
ticketmaster.com.au**

NEW SHOWS

Tuesday, 10 April 2018

Brisbane City Hall, Brisbane Qld
Tickets available from Ticketmaster
www.ticketmaster.com.au/136100

Wednesday, 2 May 2018

Centennial Hall, Sydney Town Hall, Sydney NSW
Tickets available from Ticketmaster
www.ticketmaster.com.au/136100

Wednesday, 6 June 2018

Civic Theatre, Newcastle NSW
Tickets available from Ticketek
www.ticketek.com.au/132849

Saturday, 9 June 2018

Palais Theatre, Melbourne Vic
Tickets available from Ticketmaster
www.ticketmaster.com.au/136100

Sunday, 10 June 2018

Thebarton Theatre, Adelaide, SA
Tickets available from Ticketmaster
www.ticketmaster.com.au/136100

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED SHOWS

Thursday, 15 March 2018

Anita's Theatre, Thirroul NSW
* SOLD OUT *

Friday, 16 March 2018

Anita's Theatre, Thirroul NSW
* SOLD OUT *

Saturday, 17 March 2018

Canberra Theatre, Canberra ACT
* SOLD OUT *

Wednesday, 21 March 2018

Devonport Entertainment Centre, Devonport TAS
Tickets available from the venue
www.decc.net.au/0364202900

Thursday, 22 March 2018

Country Club Showroom, Launceston
Tickets available from Ticketmaster
www.ticketmaster.com.au/136100

Friday, 23 March 2018

Country Club Showroom, Launceston TAS
Tickets available from Ticketmaster
www.ticketmaster.com.au/136100

Saturday, 24 March 2018

Wrestpoint Entertainment Centre, Hobart TAS
Tickets available from Ticketmaster
www.ticketmaster.com.au/136100

Thursday, 5 April 2018

Parklands Resort & Conference Centre, Mudgee NSW
Tickets available from the venue
www.parklandsresort.com.au/0263724500

Friday, 6 April 2018

Civic Theatre, Newcastle NSW
Newcastle Writer's Festival Opening Night
* SOLD OUT *

Saturday, 7 April 2018

Bathurst Entertainment Centre, Bathurst NSW
* SOLD OUT *

Thursday, 12 April 2018

Brisbane City Hall, Brisbane Qld
Tickets available from Ticketmaster
www.ticketmaster.com.au/136100

Friday, 13 April 2018

Empire Theatre, Toowoomba QLD
Tickets available from the venue
www.empiretheatre.com.au/0746989900

Saturday, 14 April 2018

The Star Theatre, Gold Coast QLD
Tickets available from Ticketek
www.ticketek.com.au/132849

Wednesday, 18 April 2018

Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre, Bunbury WA
Tickets available from the venue
www.bunburyentertainment.com/0897923111

Thursday, 19 April 2018

Perth Concert Hall, Perth WA
Tickets available from Ticketmaster
www.ticketmaster.com.au/136100

Saturday, 21 April 2018

Keith Mitchell Theatre, Port Pirie SA
Tickets available from the venue
www.countryarts.org.au/0886338500

Sunday, 22 April 2018

Thebarton Theatre, Adelaide SA
Tickets available from Ticketmaster
www.ticketmaster.com.au/136100

(See further dates online)

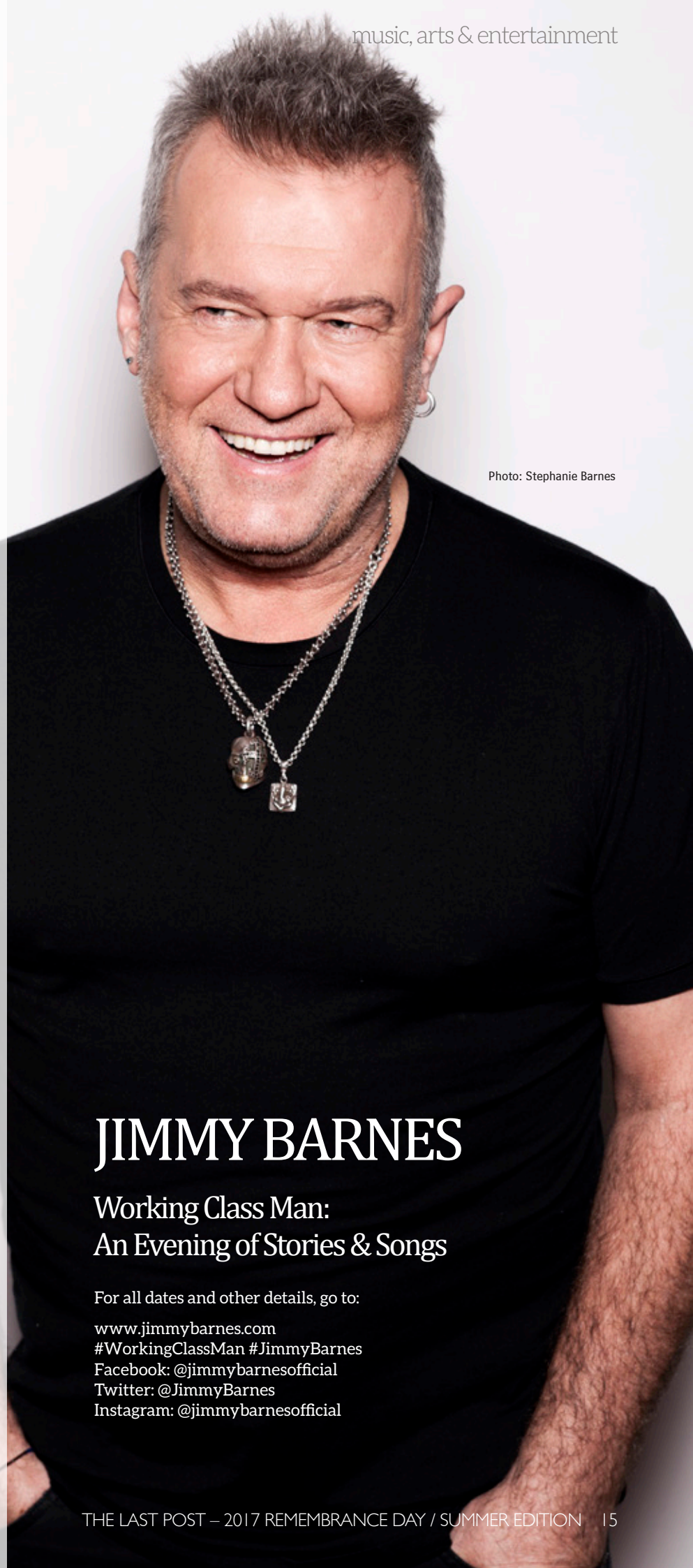


Photo: Stephanie Barnes

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Michael Leunig

a national treasure

Michael Leunig was born in East Melbourne in June 1945, a slaughterman's son and the second eldest of five children. He was educated at Footscray North Primary School and Maribyrnong High School, plus at various factory gates, street corners, kitchen tables, paddocks, rubbish tips, quarries, loopholes, puddles and abattoirs in Melbourne's industrial Western suburbs.



Enid Blyton, Arthur Mee, Phantom comics, The Book of Common Prayer, J.D. Salinger, Spike Milligan, Bruce Petty, Martin Sharp, Private Eye magazine and The Beatles were early creative influences and his political consciousness intensified radically upon reading his notice of military conscription sent to him from the Australian government in 1965.

He fled in disgrace from formal education and pursued a successful career as a factory labourer and meatworker where he nurtured his art and philosophy before beginning work as a political cartoonist for a daily newspaper in Melbourne in 1969. The Penguin Leunig, his first book of collected cartoons, was published in 1974 and since then has produced twenty-three more collections including books of newspaper columns, poetry and prayer.

His prints, paintings and drawings have been exhibited broadly and are held in various public and private collections. In 1999 he was declared a national living treasure by the National Trust and awarded honorary degrees from La Trobe and Griffith universities and the Australian Catholic University for his unique contribution to Australian culture.

He is a devout nature lover and spends his time between the solitude of the bush in Northern Victoria and a home in Melbourne where he enjoys talking to strangers in the street, walking in the local park, morning coffee in the café, chamber music in the concert hall and attending to work in his studio.

He is married and is the father of four children. He is an Australian treasure.

The Last Post: Hi Michael, how are things travelling with you at the moment?

Michael Leunig: Oh, in general, I'm a busy man, I'm not getting enough sleep. The normal things. I'm busy, and it's been a big year, what about you?

TLP: Yeah, ditto the sleep thing mate, that's for sure. Just getting the next edition of the magazine out. Yeah, it's a bit full on,

ML: Oh, good. Oh, well it's good to be busy sometimes, isn't it? Have something to do, have a bit purpose.

TLP: Your latest book Ducks For Dark Times, is a classic. Your 20th collection of cartoons I believe, but you've also, of course, written the poetry, and letters, and stuff. The craziness of the world, and the hypocrisy, the absurdity, my take on what you do is that you reflect that back at the world. Is that the intention?

ML: Yeah. Yeah, really it is, Greg, it's really the role, and it's really a traditional function of what I would call an editorial cartoonist, which goes along way back in Australian newspapers, or English newspapers too, particularly. I think it is about the absurdity and the hypocrisy, not just of politics but of our culture, and

the way we are as human beings, and our institutions. That's a bit of a sad reflection to make, but it's necessary, I think, and you have to go there. Sometimes people don't like that. That's the work, that's the job.

TLP: A lot of people don't like honesty, Michael.

ML: Oh, absolutely. As you would understand, Greg, the older you get the more you value that frankness and direct talk and honesty about life, and whatever it is we do, yeah.

TLP: Absolutely brilliant. I just remember, there was one, I don't know, maybe three or four years ago, when the then treasurer had been going on about the mums and dads understanding that the government's trying to ... You had a cartoon, I think, where you had a guy dressed in a groovy '60s looking tee shirt with a pipe and glasses and his wife. She's had the coffee and has got ... What's it say? What is it? Expert budget analysis, and they've both got cartoon holes there, they're thought bubbles that are empty.

ML: Yes, exactly. I think I recall this. Yes, I've been able to do rather a peculiar and

absurd thing. I started doing that a long time ago in my career, and at that time that wasn't so appreciated. It was more of an underground thing, it was more of an outsider alternative press idea. I think as the world has got madder and more peculiar, I think people can get it a bit more what I'm about, or what a lot of things mean now. Yeah. It's funny how your work is more understood after it was created.

TLP: Jeez, it's just beautiful, it's just beautiful. I think there was that one about the bushfires, the climate change, it's still up in my wall, my study wall. It won't go on with all of them, but it says, "As we know, and as the Prime Minister confirms, bushfires are simply a function of life in Australia."

ML: That's right. I don't know which Prime Minister said that. Yeah, because I said, Mike Leunig says, here's a bushfire. I'm still in the CFA, the Country and Fire Authority as a volunteer. But lately, because I had an injury about 18 months ago, I've been a bit out of action.

TLP: Yeah. How's the head now?

ML: Look, it's a real slow healing. It's so much better than say when it happened,

obviously, but even six months ago. I think they say it's about two years before you'll be as good as you'll ever be after a serious conic concussion injury. I'm feeling okay I really am, and I'm doing a lot of work and enjoying bits and pieces of life, mainly the small joys.

TLP: You were in your back shed or something in Country Victoria where your

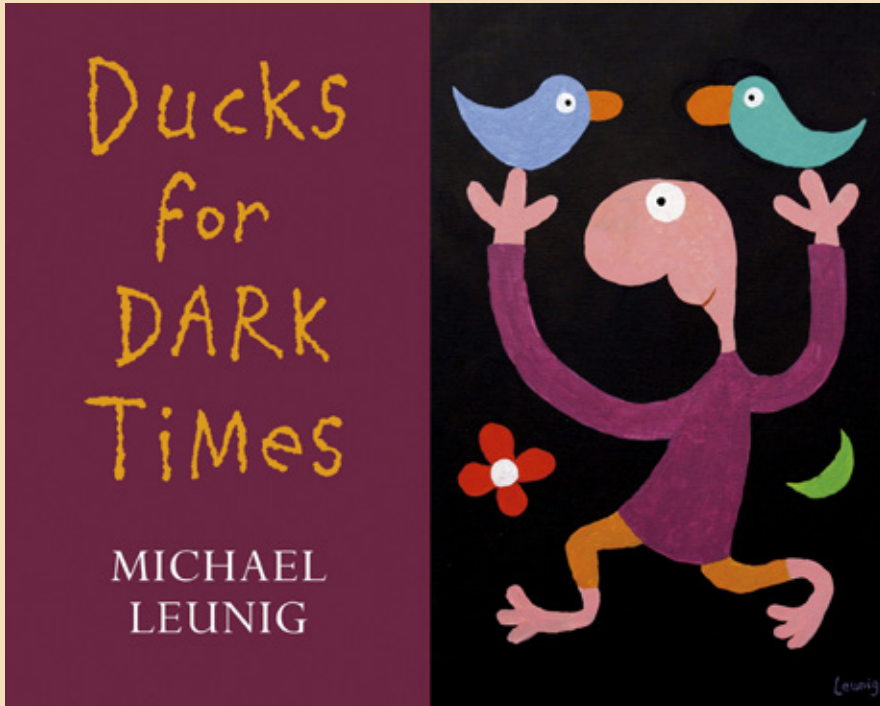
property is. Something of great weight fell on your head.

ML: Yeah. Well, a bushfire shelter actually, an underground bushfire shelter at that property. I climbed down the steel trapdoor on it. Through bad design and through my negligence, that's a terrible combination, when you get bad design and negligence coming together. It came down on my head, it came down on my

arm as well and gave me a very serious distracting injury. I didn't realize I had the concussion. You sometimes don't until after the event, and that lead to a seizure. Yeah.

TLP: Oh, gees. Lucky you had a nurse friend there, or something.

ML: I did, yeah. It was three weeks later and I just switched off, my voice switched



"...WITHIN THE DARKNESS, OR THE MESS WE MAKE OF OUR LIFE, THAT CAN HAPPEN IN OUR LIVES, OR THE SORROWS, OR THE LOSSES THAT THERE IS, COMES SOME REDEEMING."

off. I couldn't talk, I was just staring at her blankly.

TLP: Wow.

ML: Then I woke up in an ambulance, yeah. You know it happens. When it happens, it happens fast, and when all come to things, sooner or later I guess, but hopefully not too often.

TLP: Yeah, yeah. No, very well said. I think with that you just have to ... I meant to ask about Vasco Pyjama.

ML: Yeah.

TLP: Is he a beautiful person?

ML: I would think so. I think we all have a bit of Vasco Pyjama. You think back, Greg, to when you were a young boy, we can't remember exactly. But we kind of remember the sense of our loss of innocent self. We were wondering about life, and we were beautiful.

TLP: That kernel remains doesn't it?

ML: I think it absolutely does, Gregg. And I'm glad to hear you say that. I think we're capable of holding onto that kernel, as you put it, and that's well said. It's a kernel and you can call upon it and you can bring it to life and live according to it, as you get older. I think that's wisdom, myself. That is a big part of wisdom, and not being ashamed of it, and not repressing it, ignoring it, it's very important. It produces brilliant parts of us. It produces worthwhile things. It's very truthful, it's a truthful part of us.

TLP: Isn't that marvellous to hear that, because of course when you're in moments

of truth things become clearer. You can vocalize these feelings a lot easier, and indeed write them down as well.

ML: That is so, Greg, I think you write them down, they clarify, they simplify, and finally, sometimes all too late in life we become ... We have a pleasure and gratification about what we understand to be true. It's simpler than we thought. We have to unburden ourselves of all that other stuff, all that overreach you pick up in midlife. To come back to that, and I think it's ... Yeah, come back to it and also speak it. That's your role as a mature aged person. That's what is all too absent in the world of media. It's there in politics sort of but in a corrupted form. I reckon the ordinary wisdom of people, which is silently going on out there in the world, is wonderful, is marvellous. There's an honesty and a frankness in a lot of old people I find nowadays.

TLP: Yeah, very well said, Michael. I do know, and once again we can't exactly remember the moment that we thought this perhaps but, during childhood and growing up as a child in the '60s. Yes, things were a lot simpler, of course the devices we didn't have then that we have now, but life did seem simpler.

ML: It's true. We had our woes, everyone did, but it was more organic. I think we weren't as excessively materialistic and riddled with gadgets and complications. There was a lot more face-to-face connection with people, with relatives,

with neighbourhood, in the shops. I think people were generally friendlier, you might say. I'm not necessarily saying people were better people, but they were friendlier and more engaged with each other in a more relaxed way, I think. I think the modern world has made people a bit anxious and a little bit switched off from each other, and wary of each other. Too fast, I think we've sped up a lot too. There's something that I found myself saying, "Nothing much can be loved at speed. When you're moving too fast." I think the quality of life diminishes.

TLP: Very well said. Very well said.

ML: I think we're missing that as we've become a bit more loveless in some respects.

TLP: Very, very well said. Of course, with that it's human's, I guess ... What was I going to say there? You were talking about that, and I guess the ability to communicate. Oh yes, that's right. I was going to say, do you think that we'll invent that many devices, Michael, that one day we'll just explode?

ML: Yes, I think they'll eventually get to a critical mass where the whole thing will just overheat and explode. That's why, in today's world, I find our peace and solitude is not as easy to come by. It's so precious. Compared to the ... enjoy that sort of thing. Left alone or un-pestered or untroubled and the nor- ... I think the level of knowledge has risen enormously in our society. I reckon if we went back to

when we were children, we would be surprised how peaceful it seemed.

TLP: Very good point, because there are more cars for starters.

ML: Oh, it's a huge background noise, even if you're not hearing a particular noise. You think what a car is, it's these piston chambers where there's an explosion, a spark plug making an explosion, and there's millions and billions of the little minor explosions going on all the time around us. Look, I remember a time when to walk down the street on a spring afternoon like this, you would hear women whistling or singing as they hung out the clothing on the line. You could actually hear human voices drifting over the fences, and a bit of chatter coming from houses. Maybe a little radio softly playing, or something. You could hear all that human noise. These were noises of happiness and contentment, in a way. You don't hear people whistling in the street anymore or singing.

TLP: No, no. Some people say, "Whistling annoys me, you know ...". It's really strange. But actually, it reminds me, in my backyard there's sometimes the beautiful sound of blackbirds, and it takes me back to my childhood, because for some reason I remember blackbirds in my childhood.

ML: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I have exactly the same thing. The other thing I have in my childhood is doves.

TLP: Oh, yeah.

ML: If I hear the doves cooing I remember that as a kid, and the blackbirds. The blackbirds are amazing. They just take you right back, and it's so pure, and it's so eternal that sound. Who doesn't like it, everybody loves it, it's a beautiful sound.

TLP: Far preferable to cars.

ML: Oh, exactly. So we suffer from the loss of these things a little bit. We don't know it but we do. Of course, we weren't always stuck in front of television. I'm not now but a lot of people are. This pouring of stimulus all the time, over stimulated. I think there was more the capacity to enjoy, to get through the boredom thing and be self-amused, and have to make your own fun a bit more.

TLP: Yeah, definitely.

ML: I was like that, I was very inventive when I was a kid. I used to like mucking around with bits of wire. Going into the tip, the rubbish tip, and finding bits and pieces and building billy carts, and all that sort of thing.

TLP: Beautiful. When did you first realize that you wanted to express yourself in a way that perhaps that was new, or by writing and cartoons?

ML: Well that's interesting. I've yet to find when that happened but I was always inventive. I used to like mixing things together and trying to cook little things, like my mum was making. I'd invent some silly little thing. Always inventing and constructing bits and pieces. It's a tendency to be creative. Then eventually, I grew up looking at comics and cartoons in newspapers. Every kid loves to draw before they go to school. I think when they go to school they get too much scrutiny and judgment. It stops them drawing a bit. I don't know. I think it was probably in my late teens I started doing cartoons as I approached conscription. I was of the view I had with a friend at my school, had been studying the progress of the Vietnam war before Australia was involved in it. We were politically conscious, as young men can be. We were opposed to it, quite frankly. It was all that palmed at the yellow peril. It was comic. The RSL, god bless them, were speaking warnings about it all. We didn't go along with that, because we grew up in a working class area, which weren't so much establishment based. This is in our view at the time.

TLP: There was an atmosphere of awareness, Michael. For young kids that were aware, there was news, and you could see what was going on, on the television. It wasn't a good thing.

ML: Well, exactly. Exactly, Greg, and you'd see it on the telly, you'd hear it, and we got interested in certain documentaries that were made. It was that time when there was a consciousness about nuclear weapons, the atom bomb. We were very, like a lot of young people, they're very sensitive to those things. We were hypersensitive and we wanted to do something about it. That was our motivation. When it came, the time of conscription, I was in the first conscription ballot and my number came up. I was ready to go to jail. I was a young conscientious man.

TLP: Did you know Simon Townsend?



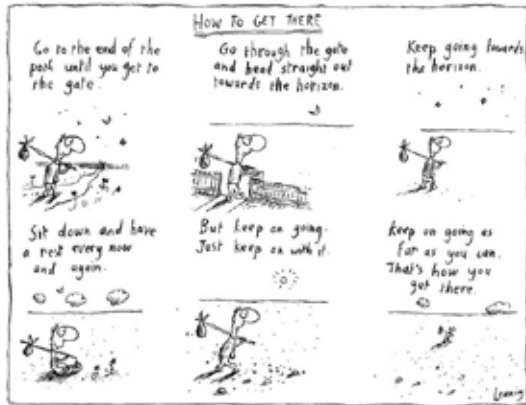
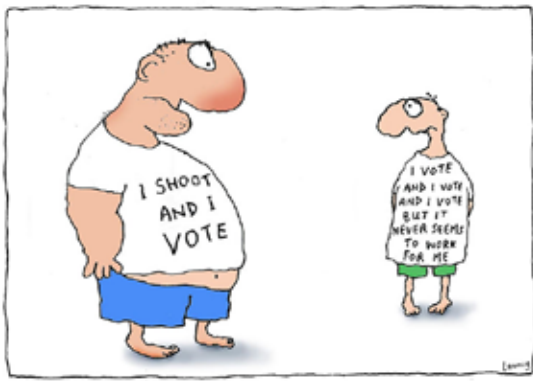
ML: No. Yes, I knew who you're talking about. I didn't have connection with him. I did have connection with quite a number of others, and we formed a group, which was opposed. We demonstrated outside the place in Swanston Street where they were drawing that first ballot. Oh, boy, did we get some reaction from the public, it was pretty bad. It was pretty bad.

TLP: I bet you did too. How did you get out of not going to jail?

ML: Well, the point was, I'd forgotten that I was born totally deaf in one ear.

TLP: Oh, lucky.

ML: I wasn't highly conscious of it, it was just my normality. I was called in for a medical, that's right, by the army. If I looked back, my position should have been, "Oh, no I'm not coming in." I went in, out of curiosity and everything. The doctor did a test on me, and he indicated I was totally deaf on one ear. I said, "Yeah, of course I am." And he said, "Oh, well, okay." I think that was it. My big fight was taken off me, I was ready with the big struggle with the government and the army and all that. I was worried. I was very anxious, because I think the jail was a military one, and it was known to be brutal. My uncle's-in-law had gone to the Second World War. I wasn't apposed. I have a cultural respect for what these fellas had been through. My first headmaster was a Gallipoli veteran, et cetera, I was very acquainted. These were ordinary men who'd suffered and struggled, and had their youth taken off them more or less. I had sympathy for anyone who's in that position. Quite a number of my mates ended up in Vietnam.



people on the planet. The xenophobic argument just loses it for starters.

ML: Totally, totally. It doesn't stand up for very long once you mix with the world. Yeah.

TLP: Why do we do that Michael? Why do we magnify do you think, when I say we, governments particularly, magnify the differences, which are minuscule, and not concentrate on the greater commonality?

ML: It's always bewildered me. That's one of the things always in my work. I think what is common to humanity? What is natural and common? We think of xenophobia, but we don't hear of this other thing called Xenophilia, which is love of the stranger. Which is biblical almost too, to welcome the stranger, and make them welcome. I think I have a natural impulse to ... And I remember all these kids who couldn't speak English. I gravitated towards them out of a kind of sympathy and sorrow for their position, and empathy. They turned out to be terrific, and as you say, they often had terrific stuff in their lunch bags.

TLP: Yeah, what's that? I haven't seen that before? That's not a Vegemite sandwich.

ML: Exactly, exactly. I found them very interesting. Some of the girls were pretty good looking too, I thought.

TLP: You're unreal and that's exactly right.

ML: When I was about eight I fell deeply in love with two Dutch girls. They were sisters and I couldn't decide which one was the most beautiful, because they seemed so exotic. I'm about eight, you know.

TLP: What a lovely dilemma.

ML: Yeah, exactly. I mean, they just disappeared out of my life, they probably shipped them ... I've never got over it, Greg, yeah.

TLP: Oh, that's right. Well how about this, I was eight too at Caulfield, and Barbara, she was eight too, and I had a crush on Barbara at eight. I remember walking ahead down Glen Huntly Road and she was on the opposite side of the road, and I remember thinking, "Should I cross over?" I don't know what I would have done, but I just would have said, "Hello."

ML: Yeah, but these are the big decisions, "Should I cross over? And when I get over I'll work out the next move." It's lovely that you can remember the names, so I can remember the names. But not those two girls because I never learned their names. They had obscure Dutch names, but all the other girls, little crushes, I can remember them all. It's so sweet.

TLP: Yeah.

ML: I couldn't dare talk to any off them.

TLP: No. But it's marvellous too. Of course the Dutch girls just became the Dutch girls.

ML: They became the Dutch girls.

TLP: I think, one of the most beautiful cartoons you've ever done, Michael, is at the top of the tallest building in the world sat the saddest man in the world. Then there was an angel inside the darkness...

ML: Yeah, yeah. That's something I have faith in, that possibility. That within the darkness, or the mess we make of our life, that can happen in our lives, or the sorrows, or the losses that there is, comes some redeeming. Maybe that's the mature innocence too, as you spoke of, the kernel.

TLP: Maybe so. I think, Michael, just briefly, is cartooning like music, in the sense that it says things that can't be verbalized in any other way?

ML: You're exactly right, Greg. It's interesting you should say that because sometimes I'm asked to describe the spirit of my work, and I'd like to think of it as essentially musical. There's a lyrical musicality because it doesn't quite make rational sense a lot of the time. I get asked, "What does that supposed to mean?" Whereas I envy the musicians because they play a tune and no one says, "What's that mean?" You just hear it. It just comes into you. You don't question, you're moved by it or you're not moved by it. I think how wonderful is that?

TLP: Yeah, most definitely, most definitely. Yeah, it's great.

ML: I think musicality is a lovely quality that can even be in the way we talk, and our language, and the way we think. There's a more lyrical flowing and melodic quality to our thoughts, perhaps. I mean, that might sound a bit weird, but I think that's a good state of mind.

TLP: Our job is to try and help veterans but it is ongoing in its difficulty because it's a terrible thing, war. It's a terrible thing.

ML: Oh, it's always terrible, it's always terrible. I grew up with so many sons and daughters of war refugees, basically, we lived near a migrant hostel in Marylebone. My school had a very high number of Germans, Russians, Poles, people from everywhere. They'd come in about 1950, and they were fresh in from terrible trauma, and their parents were frequently very traumatized.

I grew up with this very strong consciousness of war. It wasn't from the usual perspective, from just a patriotic perspective, it was from a human suffering perspective and the aftermath. I grew up with a consciousness that war doesn't just happen on so-called battlefields, it happens in family homes for generations to come. I got a strong sense of that as being the really complex tragedy that follows war, and all that sadness and loss and stuff. Yeah, I had a lot of bad unheard ... I was privileged to be in the homes of these Russians and stuff. Those parents talked about it, particularly in the Russian Easter celebrations and that. It was very sad and mournful things. I mean, it was great happiness too. I heard a lot of first-hand stories.

TLP: Well it was like, Michael, it was a time. We went to school in Melbourne, Caulfield Infant and then Primary. The number of Italians and Greeks, my twin brother and I became friends with these people because, first of all the food was better. I think that then you learn with this awareness that there are other



The Adoration of the Magi



TLP: I think that's a beautiful place to be, Michael. I think probably with your writings, you would write, and it would be rhythmic and it would be poetical. You know when it is and when it's not.

ML: Yeah, I'm very conscious of the rhythm and the flow of language, and the sound of words, they have sounds. Even when you're writing them, you hear them. I think it has to hear reasonably well, you have to be able to listen to it. It's no surprise to me that a lot of my work, my poems over the years have ended up being taken up by composers, a lot of classical composers. Coral Works have been made from my poems. I have tremendous connections into the music world as a consequence. In fact, in two weeks time we're doing a show at The Sydney Opera House with a singer named Katie Noonan.

TLP: Katie Noonan, yeah.

ML: Yeah, Katie's doing her show, and she's created a whole lot of songs based on my poems.

TLP: Oh, wonderful.

Michael Leunig: Yeah, and she will sing. She's just a marvellous singer, and this is Sydney Opera House. I'll be on stage, I'll recite that poem, I'll read it before she sings it. Then while she sings I'll create a big brush drawing on a canvas on the stage. Spontaneous, it'll be a live, just simple, just a simple thing, no tricks. Just straight forward, like a symbolic hieroglyphic kind of a thing. I'm quite at home amongst the musicians.

TLP: Yeah, yeah. It's the most moving thing, or course, the likeness between music and the drawings that you do. The last three minutes of Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet is just absolutely beautiful. It's there, and of course, that will inspire you to create. What do they say? Creativity will lead to more creativity.

Michael Leunig: It does, and I've often found, Greg, that the greatest compliment that is ever paid to my work ... I don't go seeking compliments or awards, I've never entered myself in an award thing in my life, but the greatest compliment is when another artist, composer, musician, picks up some part of what you've done and then carries it forward into something else. I remember all the artists that inspired me, the songs that have inspired me, the other painters who've inspired me to

want to create. It just gives you that joy of creativity, and you the desire to do it. If someone is inspired to create their thing after encountering my work, that is the true compliment, I think. Your part of a cycle of life and creativity. You're not there to stand out and shine, you're there to just be part of that eco system, you know?

TLP: Yes I do.

ML: It's truly gratifying, I find.

TLP: Yeah, wonderful. Wonderfully put. Before the interview started I got an email, an invitation, the state government's opened a new mental health facility. I went there and I toured the facility but I became depressed. I felt that humans are amazing, because this is probably that little angel you're talking about. There are nurses there, there are people dedicated to helping the lives of other people. I couldn't do it.

ML: Yeah, yeah, they are amazing the nurses, I think, that I've just come across in my life. That capacity to attend to such distress in people.

TLP: Yeah. What date are you on at The Opera House?

Michael Leunig: Well, it's in a couple of weeks....

TLP: Okay. All the best with that, that sounds absolutely fantastic. I'm up in Sydney on Saturday and then I'm in Canberra on Sunday, because I'm interviewing their Chief of Army who's produced a movie about domestic violence.

ML: Who's that?

TLP: It's Angus Campbell.

ML: Oh, yeah, yeah.

TLP: This Greek mate of mine, Tom Pappas, who's done the veterans film festival, invited me up to ask him these questions on stage, which I've never done. All interviews have been like this over the phone or face-to-face, but never in front of people. It's marvellous to be able to address such important issues in life. I think you do that with your work too, Michael. People think, and when people think, people are stimulated to either take action or at least have an opinion.

ML: Yeah, exactly. Well you do a good interview, Greg, I must say. I reckon if you'd be just the same as you are now it'll be terrific.

TLP: Thanks mate.

ML: I really am sincere when I say that, because you offer your little bit of a take on things, and you're not just asking a bland simple concise question, it's a bit more conversational. I think that's really great.

TLP: That's good.

ML: It allows people to enter into it.

TLP: Thanks Michael. It's like if we were having a beer or something, or whatever, coffee, doesn't really matter. It's all ... A lot of people, I think you're a living treasure by the Australian National Archives or something.

ML: Yes, The National Trust, as I think, yeah.

TLP: As you were saying about awards, it means little if you're not really touching people. I think in your case you have, so it's a wonderful thing, Michael.

ML: Oh, thank you Greg, appreciate those words, yeah.

TLP: It's been an absolute pleasure. Who would have known back in 1988, I think it was when we used to see you having coffee there in Hampton Street, that I would speak to you some, a lot of years later.

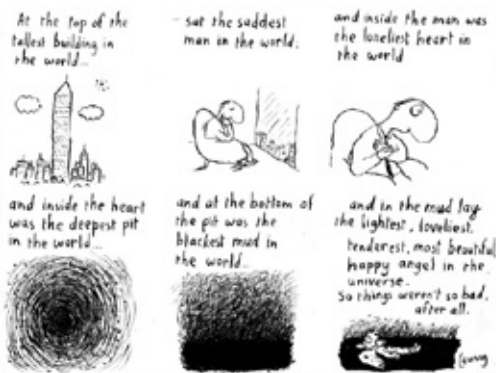
Michael Leunig: Yeah, that's amazing. Why you'd just be in the shop or something, or getting about?

TLP: Oh, having a coffee with my girlfriend maybe, or just walking past. I think Sarah said, "That's Michael Leunig." I said, "Just keep walking, keep walking."

ML: I had one of the most extraordinary experiences, talking with a stranger in Hampton, I can remember.

TLP: Right.

ML: I was in the supermarket. I used to see this fella, a tall dignified looking elderly man would be on the street, and he'd always give me a nod. I didn't know who he was, he might have known who I was, I don't know. One day I'm in the supermarket and he saw me there, he was very sort of stately and intelligent looking man. He came up and he said ... I said, "Hello." And he said, "Hello." We started talking, and he said, "What's on today?" I said, "I'm doing a bit of work." I said, "What about you?" He said, "I'm going to speak to some of my old mates today, we get together. We went through the war together." I said, "Oh." I said, "What were you doing there in the war?" He said, "Oh, I was in bomber command."



TLP: Oh, sheesh.

ML: Yeah, that's what I thought. I thought, "Oh dear." I said, "Oh, that's very serious." Because, a lot of those fellas had terrible consequences having dropped bombs on German cities. He said, "Yeah, yeah, we get together, it's okay." I said, "Alright, I'll see you later." We walked off and then suddenly ... and then later comes back and he finds me. He said, "Listen, I think I'd like to tell you something." He said, "I think you will understand." I thought, "Wow, what's this, what's coming?" And he said, "Look." And it was quite odd, it was a confession. He said, "I've been needing help lately with what happened in the war, and I've been talking to somebody." Obviously a psychiatrist or something, a therapist. I said, "Yeah, yeah." And he said, "I was talking about the dreams I've been having lately. I've been having recurrent dreams that I'm over Frankfurt and I'm being chased by a night fighter, a Messerschmidt, or something." He said, "I'm being chased, and I can't throw it off." And this is the dream. He said, "Now why can't ... I'm in a terrible state, I'm sweating." He said, "I'm just helping me talking or so about this." He said, "You might not believe this," he said, "But two weeks ago I'm talking about this dream again, about this night fighter. And the fella says to me, this psychiatrist says to me, he stops me and he says, 'Listen, I'm going to break with all my protocols here, my professional protocols, and they were crying. Even the Australian soldiers were recognizing that they felt sorry for the Japanese, because they were doing as directed by their government. Just as the Australians were, but of course, Australians had their lively-hood or their country to defend, or so they thought so. Quite amazing.'"

TLP: Yeah, that's right.

ML: There was one famous guy who'd been a U-boat captain, and he was a notable psychiatrist. I said, "Wow, this is extraordinary." And he said, "What did you do? What happened then?" And he said, "Well we looked at each other and we went silent, and then we just had a bit of a cry." He says. He said, "We had a bit of a cry together."

TLP: Oh, isn't that freakishly coincidental.

ML: Oh, to this day, I think, it's as if I dreamed that. No, it happened. And I

remember it was in that supermarket on the corner there of Hampton Street and Woolf Street. I remember him, and I never knew his name.

TLP: Wow, wow, wow. Isn't it amazing. That's totally amazing.

ML: And why did he tell me? Yeah.

TLP: Why did he tell you, that's right. This is the question that's asked. You talk about angels, Michael, but I think some people ... I mean, people approach me in certain ways too sometimes you wouldn't expect. I think sometimes there is a light there that's shining, people see that light, so it's probably one of those things.

ML: I think you're right. I think you're right.

TLP: Just quickly, Patrick Lindsey's produced about The Battle of Kokoda Trail. He sent me the DVD a few weeks ago, I just watched it the other night. It was the Diggers that had experienced the Kokoda and killing that were crying. I remember my father had perpetual sadness because that he'd killed.

ML: Oh, was he a Digger was he?

TLP: Yeah, with the 2nd/10th.

ML: Where was he? Where was he?

TLP: In Papua New Guinea, and Milne Bay, and Buna.

ML: Oh, my uncle Des, my favourite uncle was in Milne Bay and to the east.

TLP: Wow.

ML: And he had a hell of a time. Oh, yeah, but go on with what you were saying?

TLP: No, I was just saying, was the fact that the sadness and they were crying. Even the Australian soldiers were recognizing that they felt sorry for the Japanese, because they were doing as directed by their government. Just as the Australians were, but of course, Australians had their lively-hood or their country to defend, or so they thought so. Quite amazing.

ML: I read that book called Kokoda by ... Oh, it's a big thick book there.

TLP: Peter Brune, or ...

ML: Peter was the first name, I think. I can't quite think. It's a brutal, shocking, frightening thing. And the poor fellas, all young men. These were 19 year olds this time.

TLP: Well they've ruined their lives too of course, Michael. A lot of the time, even if it didn't kill them, when they came back they were just shells of what they'd been.

ML: They were shocking. They were so ill-equipped and ill-prepared and Blamey, I think, sent them hard in and was so ...

TLP: Oh, yeah. No, he was a bastard apparently. Just on a lighter note, apparently the soldiers, to get them to enscript to go to fight P & G, the army was telling them it was a tropical paradise. Some of the soldiers, the Australian soldiers were first to land in P & G, Michael, came with their tennis racquets.

ML: Yes, I've heard something similar. I guess that's how soldiers always get deluded though, don't they?

TLP: Oh, I think so.

ML: Often do. Then they find the brutal reality and then the suffering. Yes, but that book, I read that while I was immediately recovering from the operation I had to have on my head. It was a terrible gruelling thing to read but somehow I needed it. It was so sustained and painful and gruelling, and the pity you felt for these poor people of both sides actually.

TLP: You know, Michael, we'll leave it there. I feel there's so much more to talk about, but it's been absolutely wonderful. I'd just ask you to sign off with this thought, and let listeners know. Do you sometimes, when you're reading the paper and watching the news, if you do such things, is that where the wow factor came from? The kid says to his father, "Dad, you say wow a lot, what's that mean?" He goes, "Why oh, why."

ML: Yes, I'm glad you picked up on that card, and that's always funny. I yes, I think that question, "Why oh, why." Is always with us, isn't it? And who knows the answer.

TLP: That's right. We have to do another one called, "Here we go again."

ML: The Zen Buddhist one is, "What is this?" That's their question, you know. "What is this?" You know, like being, "What is this?"

TLP: Oh gees. And that's when we appreciate your articulateness so much with your work, Michael, so it's been an absolute pleasure, mate.

ML: Yeah, it's been a real pleasure, agreed, and it's interesting and makes it easy to talk and to answer what we're on about. Thank you. ■



Noeline Brown

The sixties was a decade of safari suits, shift dresses, capri pants and droopy moustaches. Of multi-purpose French onion soup, junket, tripe and Bloody Marys. Of success on the world's sporting stage and social and political stirrings at home, as Baby Boomers and their parents began to see the world differently.

Award-winning and much loved actor Noeline Brown cut a groovy figure in the sixties. She confesses to us early on in "Living the 1960s" that she: 'was a bit of a sno...I preferred to listen to jazz and performance poetry, to appreciate the lyrics of Bob Dylan and to watch foreign films. I wore a lot of black and dramatic eye makeup, and frequented windowless coffee lounges where people smoked heavily and played chess'.

When she caught sight of The Rolling Stones in Sydney's Hilton cocktail bar one night during their 1965 tour to Australia, she coolly noted their drink of choice, bartender Eddie Tirado's newly introduced Bourbon and Coke, before returning to sip her classic Martini, 'hoping to look cosmopolitan and sophisticated'.

Noeline also found time to be a committed weekend hippy, to entertain us on the ground-breaking satirical "The Mavis Bramston Show" and to frequent Vadim's restaurant till dawn, discussing the state of the world with artists, journalists and dissenters, under the watchful gaze of ASIO operatives.

With her trademark dry sense of humour and story-teller's gift, Noeline is our knowledgeable guide into the smoke-filled bars and cafes, the pastel lounge rooms and boardrooms of 1960s Australia. She explains the different social tribes: a hippy 'could live off the smell of an oily rag, and appeared to be wearing it as well'; a beatnik, according to DJ John Burls,

was someone who 'had a little beard, drank wine from a goatskin and called everybody man'. Young people identified as Sharpies, Mods, Rockers and Surfies, depending on the fashions they wore and the music they listened to.

She takes us along the supermarket shopping aisles, to the family dinner table:

'I found a recipe in a magazine for Greek moussaka, which featured minced lamb and potatoes, not an eggplant in sight. The list of ingredients included garlic, the use of which was 'optional'. The white sauce topping was made from yoghurt, flour and egg yolks. Many dishes called for stock cubes and even monosodium glutamate. A recipe for 'Neapolitan pizza' dough in The Australian Women's Weekly in 1968 included cophia and Deb Instant Potato Flakes.

But the nation was changing as young Australians woke up and switched on and our cities became more diverse. New smells of garlic and rosemary - and other herbs - wafted through suburban back lanes and people took to the streets to protest conscription and to let the government know that they were not all the way with LBJ.

Containing more than 160 images, and combining entertaining social history, fact boxes and lively anecdotes, "Living the 1960s" paints a picture of a decade that didn't just swing; it twisted, stomped and screamed. For Noeline, as for a

generation of Australians, it was the most important decade of her life.

The Last Post: Hello Noeline, thanks for joining us here at The Last Post.

Noeline Brown: Oh, not at all. My pleasure.

TLP: Wonderful. We're here to promote, or at least talk about and promote your marvellous book, Living in the '60s. What a book.

NB: You've got a ... Have you had a look at it?

TLP: Yes.

NB: It's a good looking book. I'm happy with it. It's because they have all those fabulous photos at the national library, of course. So it's a way of getting their collection out into the public eye by doing books such as this, so I was very happy to be involved.

TLP: Wonderful, and who better to do a story on the '60s than you?

NB: I was certainly there. And oddly enough, I remember it.

TLP: You were part of perhaps three of the more pivotal programs in Australian television history with Mavis Bramston, My Name's McGooley, and the Naked Vicar Show, too, I think.

NB: Yeah, the Naked Vicar was a bit later, that's in the '70s, but certainly the '60s to the '70s. I was very, very lucky to be in all those shows, and they ran for such a long time, you know? With the Mavis Bramston show we did something like forty weeks a year, and there's only fifty two weeks in

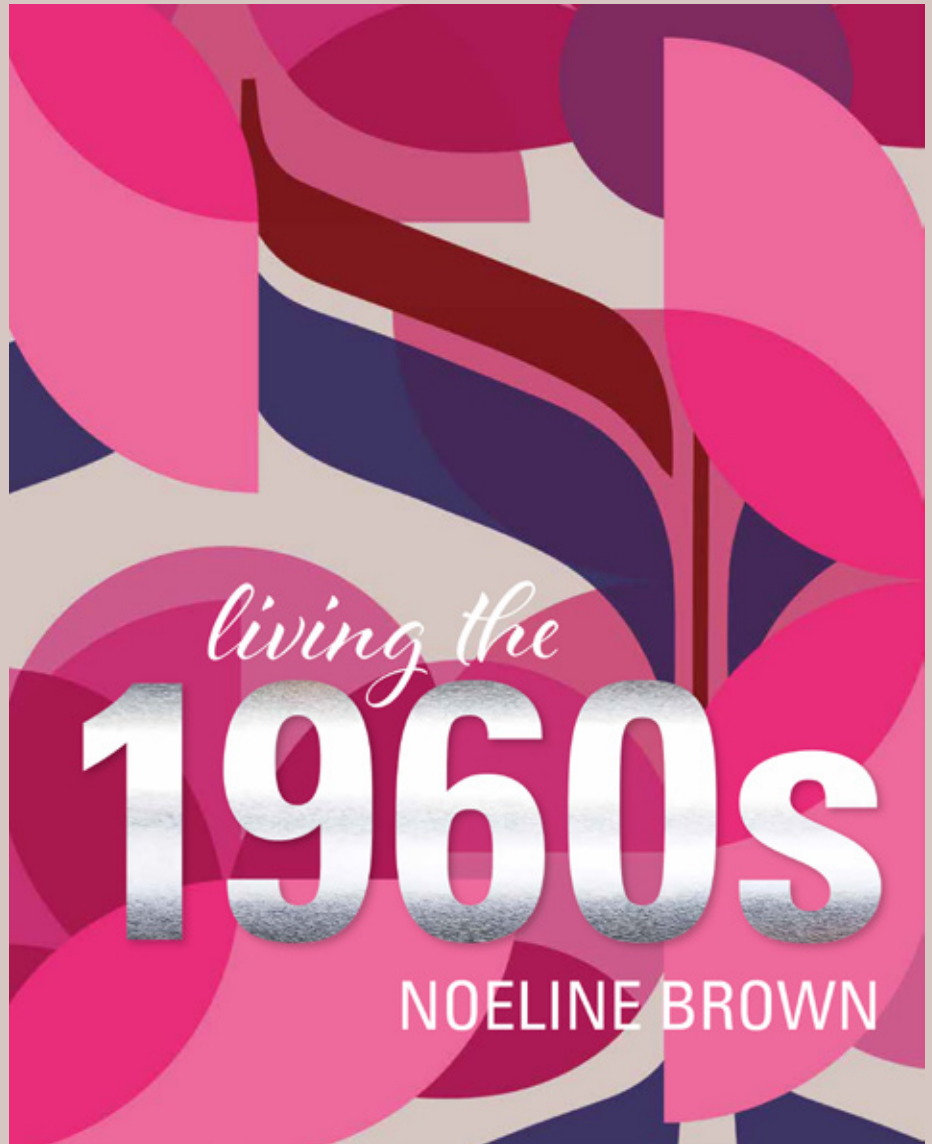
"IT WAS EXCITING I THOUGH, BECAUSE THE 50S WERE PRETTY BLOODY STODGY."

Living in the 1960s
Noeline Brown
 NLA Publishing
 RRP \$39.99
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The sixties was a decade of safari suits, shift dresses, capri pants and droopy moustaches. Of French onion soup, junket, tripe and Bloody Marys. Of success on the world's sporting stage and of social and political stirrings at home, as Baby Boomers and their parents began to see the world differently.

In the new book *Living the 1960s*, award-winning and much loved actor Noeline Brown provides a colourful social history on what life was really like in 1960s Australia. Told with her trademark dry sense of humour and storyteller's gift, Noeline explores the politics, sport, arts, social tribes, music, fashion, women and family, and city life that defined the era. Her personal stories complement the well-researched historical narrative.

Containing more than 160 images, and combining entertaining social history, fact boxes and lively anecdotes, *Living the 1960s* paints a picture of a decade that didn't just swing—it twisted, stomped and screamed. For Noeline, as for a generation of Australians, it was the most important decade of her life. *Living the 1960s* is a trip down memory lane for Australians who experienced the sixties and an entertaining social history for those who want to know what it was like to live it.



the year as you know. It was a lot of work, television every week for a few people. Learning new material. Before the days of auto-cue.

TLP: Yeah that's right, it was absolutely brilliant Noeline, how old was I? Eight or nine, we just loved it. I guess we watched it because our parents did.

NB: I guess so. I've met a lot of people who say I was too young to watch the Mavis Bramston show, we had to watch it from behind the closed door or something like that.

TLP: But how brilliant, and then My Name's McGooley, which was equally brilliant, so I believe you started off as a library assistant in Marrickville or something?

NB: I was, that was my first real job. I obviously worked the Christmas holidays at various things, but my first real job was at the Marrickville library. Yep.

TLP: You would have been an interesting library assistant.

NB: Well it was the days of pencil skirts and very high heels, I didn't wear glasses but I might have worn my hair in a bun occasionally.

TLP: Brilliant. Everything seemed so fashionable back in the 60s.

NB: We were very fashionable that's right. At the beginning of the 60s, then at the end of the 60s we threw it all away for the hippy look.

TLP: Yeah that's right, never has there been such a dynamic decade, and

certainly worth talking about. Did you have a feeling at the beginning of the 60s that things were about to change?

NB: Yes I suppose I did. I could tell that young people were ... there was suddenly a lot of young people, and they would have been the baby boomers coming out. People were actually designing clothes for younger people, so you didn't have to look like your mother when you went out. I could see that people had realized ... it was full employment in those early days of the 60s, and young people, even though they didn't get a lot of money, had money to spend. So for the first time I think they went, "Oh, there's money in these young kids, let's do something for them." So there were dances for kids and young people,

“PEOPLE WERE ACTUALLY DESIGNING CLOTHES FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE, SO YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO LOOK LIKE YOUR MOTHER WHEN YOU WENT OUT.”

the music change, everything was a bit more out there. It was exciting I thought, because the 50s were pretty bloody stodgy.

TLP: Actually, you've just taken away my next question. That was going to be, Noeline, was it exciting? And I guess with your answer there, yes. Did you latch onto anyone in particular who led you on the path of acting, or is it just something you thought, "I'm gonna try this."

NB: When we were kids we used to go to Grace Brothers on Broadway where they used to have musical events. It must've been for children during the Christmas holidays or school holidays or whatever. They had a proper stage and everything, I can just remember looking out at the acts and thinking, "So wonderful, hilarious." I like the funny ones. Even though some of them were pretty low comedy acts, but I just thought, "Oh what a wonderful thing that would be." To be able to entertain for a living, and yet I was a very shy kid.

TLP: Right.

NB: We would put on concerts in the back yard, and ban all the adults.

TLP: Good idea.

NB: So I'd organize who was going to do what, I'd produce the thing and maybe do something myself, get my brothers to collect the pennies.

TLP: That's the most important job.

NB: Yeah it was. I always had an interest in it, I think it's the thing you see, I wasn't a show off but I could make people laugh by sending up the teachers and doing caricatures of them, that's why I was always out in the hall. Bad behavior.

TLP: You would have been something to go to school with, there's no doubt about it. It's self expression which comes from an artistic bent, you must've had that in you from a young age.

NB: Yes and there was absolutely nobody else in the family who had that ability or interest. Although one of my brothers has been a mad student of drama, but just from an audience point of view. I don't know where it came from, luckily I worked in the library as I told you, where there was a small theatre not far away, called The Pocket Playhouse. My boss encouraged me to try out for that theatre, because she'd seen my interest. I joined a musical society and sang in the chorus which I found a bit boring. I did a couple of things at New Theatre, which was fascinating, in the Waterside Workers Federation Hall. Then I found my proper place, which was the Pocket Playhouse. They did shows for children on a Saturday, and shows for adults on Friday and Saturday, I think we might have played Sunday as well. So weekends were full of performing different characters during the daytime and the nighttime. So it was a pretty busy.

Greg: Have you looked back in the family tree to see if there's a great, great

grandmother or a great, great grandfather, Shamus or something that was involved in acting? Because it must've come from somewhere.

NB: I am the only one, I can promise you because I am a keen genealogist and as far as I know there's nobody in the family. They all used to gather around the piano and sing, but everybody did that. My father has the worst voice in the world, but he really wanted to sing. Nobody else.

TLP: I used to put on puppet shows behind the couch, but I don't know what that says about me.

NB: Did you keep your puppets?

TLP: Yeah, well, until I grew up. Although I do have a doll that my mother gave me when I was two years old, my brothers also got identical dolls, but they chewed theirs up, mine I still have, so yes, amazing.

NB: What sort of doll was this?

Noeline Brown: Well it's a plastic, rubber doll or something whose name became Billy, and Billy has had his fingers chewed off, we had to go to a toy doctor in Melbourne on Collins Street to replace his legs. In 1965. Anyhow, he's still alive, he'll probably outlive me.

NB: That's funny.

TLP: Politics was something in the 60s too, things began to change there just like the fashion.

NB: Well, when I was a young person, Menzies was such a fixture, I was quite keen to get rid of him, because he'd been there so long. So I did develop an interest in politics, in the late 50s when I was really interested. Because I could see that it was pretty boring and Australia was a comfortable place, but it wasn't really exciting.

TLP: Too comfortable.

NB: Very Anglo, but then shortly after that the suburb I lived in became a haven for refugees and immigrants. So it changed its nature completely.

TLP: What suburb was that?

NB: Stanmore. It used to five miles from the GPO, so it's quite close to the city.

TLP: So you came quite invigorated by this influx?

NB: Absolutely, everything changed. The smell of the food in the back yards, people were cooking their lamb and rosemary, fantastic. We communicated as well as we could, there wasn't a lot of English with these people in those days. They used to swap veggies with my mum and that sort of thing. I could see that this was better than going somewhere and having gray English food.

TLP: Potatoes, veggies and chops?

NB: Yeah, even worse. Steak and kidney, and it didn't have a pie, it had wet mashed potato, oh it was so bad. And the beans must've been cooked for an hour or two?

TLP: My grandmother must've cooked them.

NB: My mum was a great cook I'm glad to say, but we ate some terrible food when we went out. "Please don't send me there, I want to eat porridge."

TLP: My grandmother used to boil beans and vegetables until the colour was gone.

NB: They were gray, if they wanted them green, the used to put I don't know what it was, some sort of acid or something.

TLP: There's a reason it's good for you. It's incredible, we were similar because I know we were in Melbourne in the mid 60s, primary school or whatever, the influx of Italians and Greeks, the food, who would go back to the pre-days before that?

NB: That's right, I remember Graham Kennedy talking about an Italian getting into the family. He just married one of his aunts or something, and he said, "Suddenly food went from gray to red."

TLP: Magnificent, Kennedy was a big part of the 60s.

NB: Gosh yes, he was definitely the king.

TLP: So, for you the Mavis Bramston show was something that was something quite similar to something Kennedy ... Kennedy would've loved that I guess?

NB: We didn't see each other's shows, of course, because we were working and you didn't have video tape. There was no way you could see each other's show, we just knew of each other. And of course he was in Melbourne and we were in Sydney. So the only time I saw Graham was a various functions, I saw him at ... Don Lane had a function, like a cocktail in the afternoon in his house in Vaucluse, and Graham was there and I was there, and I was so keen to meet Graham as you could be, meet the king. But I could see that Graham would rather stick pins in his eye than be at this party. Because he hated large gatherings. So I sensed that, I think I probably just dropped a curtsy and moved on. We became very close during the making of Blankety Blanks.

TLP: Of course, I remember seeing that too. Again as an eighteen or nineteen year old, and then you worked so well together.

NB: We did work well together. And we were all auditioned in a strange motel in Artarmon, I was just there to temp for a show and I knew it was going to be a jokey quiz show, that's all I knew until we'd done a bit rehearsal with someone standing in for the host, and then in came in the real host and there was Graham. I was going, "I'm going to be working with Graham Kennedy! If I'm really good at it, and if he likes me". So for some reason we just clicked. It was something that came together and you may have subconsciously sensed something good was going to happen from that, and it did for sure.

TLP: You were talking about politics before which is included in the book, Living the 60s, as the 60s progressed there came more of a focus on self expression,

of course with the expression once the artistic side of Australia started expressing itself, there was no stopping it.

NB: That's right, I don't think it was ever really encouraged by employers that we should pay actors, I don't think they liked that at all. It was becoming clear that Australians were seeing their own stars. With their own accents on television, because before that everyone had to pretend to be British.

TLP: Yes that's right.

NB: Or mid-atlantic if they were working with a vaguely American accent, if they were on commercial television. You know now, things have changed so much, people really love their performers and they do go and see films with Australian actors in them, it's all change. It's been a slow process, but it all started to happen then. Because in the 60s we had to actually go overseas to be recognized as an important person or a real actor if you know what I mean. They must be a real actor, they worked in England.

TLP: Like the guy that came back to do homicide.

NB: Not Leonard Teale?

TLP: He was playing the boss in homicide, Charles Tingwell, Bud Tingwell.

NB: Yeah of course, Bud had been there for years.

TLP: I just think with acting too, you would have realized this perhaps, Noeline, you grew as a person through that.

NB: Yes I did in a way, I became an actor I suppose, but I also became very much an Australia person. Because I did the overseas experience and I thought, when I went over there, of course I'm going to stay in England and work. But I was so lonely and so sad, and would follow Australians just to hear them talking in the tube or something like that. I thought, no I want to go back home. Somebody said "You're an Avengard." And I thought "Oh that was an old car." I know what they were talking about, I wanted to be an actor in my own country.

TLP: Well done, and we're glad you did. My brothers and I always thought you had spunk because you were so Australian and you were so sharp, still are obviously, and we commend you for that. One of the great all time Australian actors. I guess family life was something in the 60s that also underwent a transformation with women working and gaining some sort of independence, which of course Gough Whitlam encouraged when he came along politically.

NB: Yes he did, I was very pleased to be part of that push to get Gough installed in parliament, because I was a great fan of his and he was a shy person like Graham, funny to believe that he was shy. I thought he was a chance for Australia to grow. And I think that's what happened. It ended tragically of course, in a way that was a growing thing as well. We never want that to happen again.

TLP: I think it was a bit of a shambolic end to the proceedings, but to his credit,

on the plus side, he did install many things that gave Australians a sense of belief in themselves.

NB: He certainly did, and all of the people in parliament benefited because they all got their free education. A funny old world in politics at the moment.

TLP: Isn't it, we need something, we need some spark of ... You were talking about Menzies, and Bob Hawke asked about the Menzies years, he said "Too long."

NB: Well that's how I felt, too bloody long.

TLP: So by the late 60s, we were speaking about this before, music had changed dramatically, family life was in the midst of a big upheaval, and of course I think the 1969 elections with Gorton had just won over Whitlam.

NB: He won, yes, it was very close. That's the story of Don's party of course, with the play and the movie, everyone's having a great party because they think they're in, they know they're going to be in. During the night, oh no. I don't know how many of those Don's parties I've been to, where you think "Oh it's all gonna happen tonight." My husband and I sat down recently to watch the American elections and we had glass of wine and we were waiting there to have a giggle to see Donald Trump kicked out, after a few minutes, "Oh damn, he's in." Couldn't believe it.

TLP: Finally I think, Noeline, fashion in the 60s was something quite elegant, I guess it was great growing up in the 60s because women wore such wonderful fashion.

NB: It went as I said from very lady like stuff, but very glamorous, that's what we're all about. A lot of makeup and a lot of hair pieces and everything. It went from that, from rather prim looking glamorous things, to anything goes. That's the bit I like, because everyone could throw away their underwear if they wished, and men and women could wear the same clothes. It went from, as I say, quite prim but glamorous, to this really relaxed. I think that was even more colourful and even more glamorous to me, and maybe that's because I believe that's maybe the time I felt more comfortable, long dresses were in and long hair and long everything. Long weekends.

TLP: Classic. Magnificent time. How old was I? Fifteen or sixteen when Germaine Greer came to prominence, and loved her.

NB: Yes, well, Germaine was ... I always think of her as the hippy side of the 60s, but I would've met her very early on in the 60s when she was a student, but she was a performer as well, and she was a glamorous chick. Much loved by many men in Australia.

TLP: Yeah she's absolutely fantastic, I had a brief crush on her when I was about fifteen. The thing was, I thought how good it was to hear women having the strength to speak up.

NB: Oh gosh yes, she went to the bank and they said, "Oh, we couldn't lend you money, because you haven't got a man to ... you're not married." Or whatever, and I thought that was preposterous. Anyway she sold some shares and she bought the house cash. The difference was, ten years

later in the 70s, I was able to get a loan as a single woman, not only as a single woman, and actor, and get a loan to buy a house.

TLP: You've done so much and it was a great achievement, I think as once again witnessing what went through when she was bringing us up, there was a lot of walls that were put up by the conservative side of life, which were coming down gradually, as I said, it was a breeding ground for knowing that women could and were possible of achieving anything so it was a good thing to do.

NB: Well we did have to pull a few barriers down, even with things like going into a public bar, all the men in the room would turn around and look at you. And you were asked to leave or whatever, there was a tiny little area for women to sit in, or your husband would bring you a beer out while you were sitting in the car. So it was really bad, people chained themselves to bars and all sorts of things to make a point.

TLP: It must've been difficult for you to go through that yourself. It must've been hard to see women being shackled by the expectations by people that weren't women.

NB: It always seemed to me extraordinary because I always believe that people were born equal and should have equal rights, even as a really young child. So just something that would've come from my parents I suppose, but we're all born equal and that used to astound me, when they'd said, "Oh no, women can't come in here wearing pants." So I took mine off. Not my underpants, I was wearing slacks with a jacket over the top, so I just removed the pants and walked in.

TLP: Classic, that reminds me of the time I was up in Queensland and the drinking age for Queensland pubs was twenty one, and I'd come from Melbourne where it was eighteen, so I was nineteen or something in the pub and this policeman comes in and he goes, "How old are you son?" I said "Nineteen." He said "The age here is twenty one, I don't know where you come from, put that beer down and get out." So I looked at him, you wonder where you get this from sometimes, I looked at him, took the beer and started drinking it and I said, "As soon as I finish this I'll be gone."

NB: That's gorgeous, he let you do it?

TLP: He let me do it.

NB: Good luck. They were stupid laws, do you remember you had to drive for a long way before you could get a beer on a Sunday? You had to be a bona fide traveller. And I went to this place with some friends and it was at Windsor or something, a long way out of town, you had to sign your name in the book and your address, and as I was signing my name I could see that everyone was called Donald Duck.

TLP: Phone call for Mr. Duck. Windsor, that's a long way to go for a beer.

NB: Well that's all you could do in those days.

TLP: Noeline, it's been an absolute pleasure.

NB: Lovely talking to you too. ■

ALEX AND BEC CROOK 21 Nights (EP)

RELEASED MARCH 18 SINGLE: SUITCASE

The moment Alex Crook stepped on stage he knew he'd found his calling. He was 16 and honing his craft as a harmonica and guitar player. The blooming musician didn't waste any time, and within a year was performing his original songs on the stages of Brisbane's live circuit.

Fast forward three years and Alex's sister, Bec, was thrown in the deep end and handed a bass guitar with which to accompany her younger brother on stage. Her next step was to contribute to the recording of Alex's debut EP, *Character Building*, in 2013. They have since maintained a fruitful partnership, spurned by a healthy dose of sibling rivalry.

"There is a competitive nature to being in the studio with your sister," Alex explains, "as we are always trying to out do each other and play as many instruments as we can and see who can do better, which makes it exciting."

Now Alex and Bec have released a follow-up EP, *21 Nights*. This time Bec's name is on the cover too. The brother and sister bunkered down in Byron Bay's Music Farm with producer Paul Pilsneniks.

"Isolating ourselves with Paul Pilsneniks, our producer and referee, definitely made it a peaceful experience and minimized the sibling rivalry," Alex says.

For Bec, *21 Nights* was a natural continuation of the musical partnership between her and Alex. "We have always been a very close family network so we have

always spent a lot of time together," Bec says, "so playing music with Alex doesn't really change that. If anything it brings us closer."

The rapid evolution of Alex's songwriting is reflective of his relatively young age, a time of steep transformation formed by the experiences of burgeoning adulthood. As such, the new release straddles youthful pop exuberance and mature, textured folk arrangements. The result is impossible to ignore, infectious in its melodies and impressive in its assuredness.

"I feel I have grown as a songwriter in so many ways since the release of my debut EP three years ago," Alex says. "The songs and meanings behind the songs on *21 Nights* are coming from a deep place and have found a maturity from having different experiences and relationships in my life."

21 Nights opens with single 'Suitcase', a bouncing, kinetic slice of folk pop that sets the spirited tone of this release. Bec's backing vocals prove a sweet counterpoint to Alex's dynamic voice. The five tracks are buoyed by wide-eyed energy, and the double-edged desire to escape, to take off

into the world and carve a destiny – while leaving something behind.

"The lyrics and themes of *21 Nights* are a compilation of stories and experiences I had throughout the year, so much changed in such a short period of time from studying at uni to being a full-time musician, going between home and cruise ships, Australia and the Pacific Islands. It was an amazing time of my life where everything was constantly changing and that reflects deeply in the lyrics, where I was continually leaving from one place to the other."

Another aim for Alex was cohesion, to write songs that belonged side by side. "After the release of *Character Building* and *Broken Time*, I felt like I wanted to put together a set of songs that related and blended nicely, instead of an EP with different styles mashed together," Alex says.

With a resume that already includes appearances at Caloundra Music Festival, Tamworth Country Music Festival, Urban Country Music Festival, Surfers Paradise Live and Little BIGSOUND, the Crooks' amazing journey looks set to continue. ■





SHOAL BAY 2017

So we are sensitive
 But we are also strong
 And we have spoken about the stars
 And a lot of things in between.
 So we have dined and
 Been serious and light-hearted
 And we have driven for hours
 And talked for hours
 And tired of nothing about each other.
 I bought you flowers and left them in the kitchen
 Before catching a taxi to the airport.
 On a scrap of paper I wrote the word *Amazing*
 And sent it as an SMS photo to you.

BY GREG T ROSS

EGGS BENEDICT

Driving back to The Sheraton
 after our first night
 you nearly
 took the
 wrong street and
 I said I could drive around with you
 for hours
 after
 The Corner Store
 and ice-creams
 and a solid
 talk
 and me telling you
 you could tell me anything
 And you saying let me say goodbye
 to you properly.
 I sent you photos of
 eggs Benedict from
 the airport the next morning and got
 a text
 returned with a X

BY GREG T ROSS



10 SONGS BY JACK P. KELLERMAN 'PLAY THE GAME', SHOUT OUT LOUDS

Formed in 2001, from Stockholm, Sweden, this 5-piece band has earned the respect of accredited indie pop followers since their first album for BMG back in 2003.

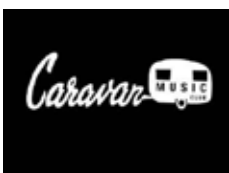
It was the group's second album, *Our Ill Wills*, that produced international attention with the single, *Tonight I Have To Leave It*.

Three years later, their third album, *Work* containing the singles, *Walls* and *Play Hard*, but it is the hauntingly constructed *Play The Game* that is the brilliant boil-over. Listen firstly to the studio take and then their masterful live

version. My take on the finishing chorus, "Who's at the door that you've opened it for" is as a reflection of the uncertainty felt at the beginning of a new relationship. But that's just me.

Shout Out Louds have toured Australia some time back and played the pub circuit with a memorable performance at Richmond's Corner Hotel.

We want them to come back. ■



WORTH
LISTENING TO...

Kind of Blue, Miles Davis

BY TAJ WORTHINGTON-JONES

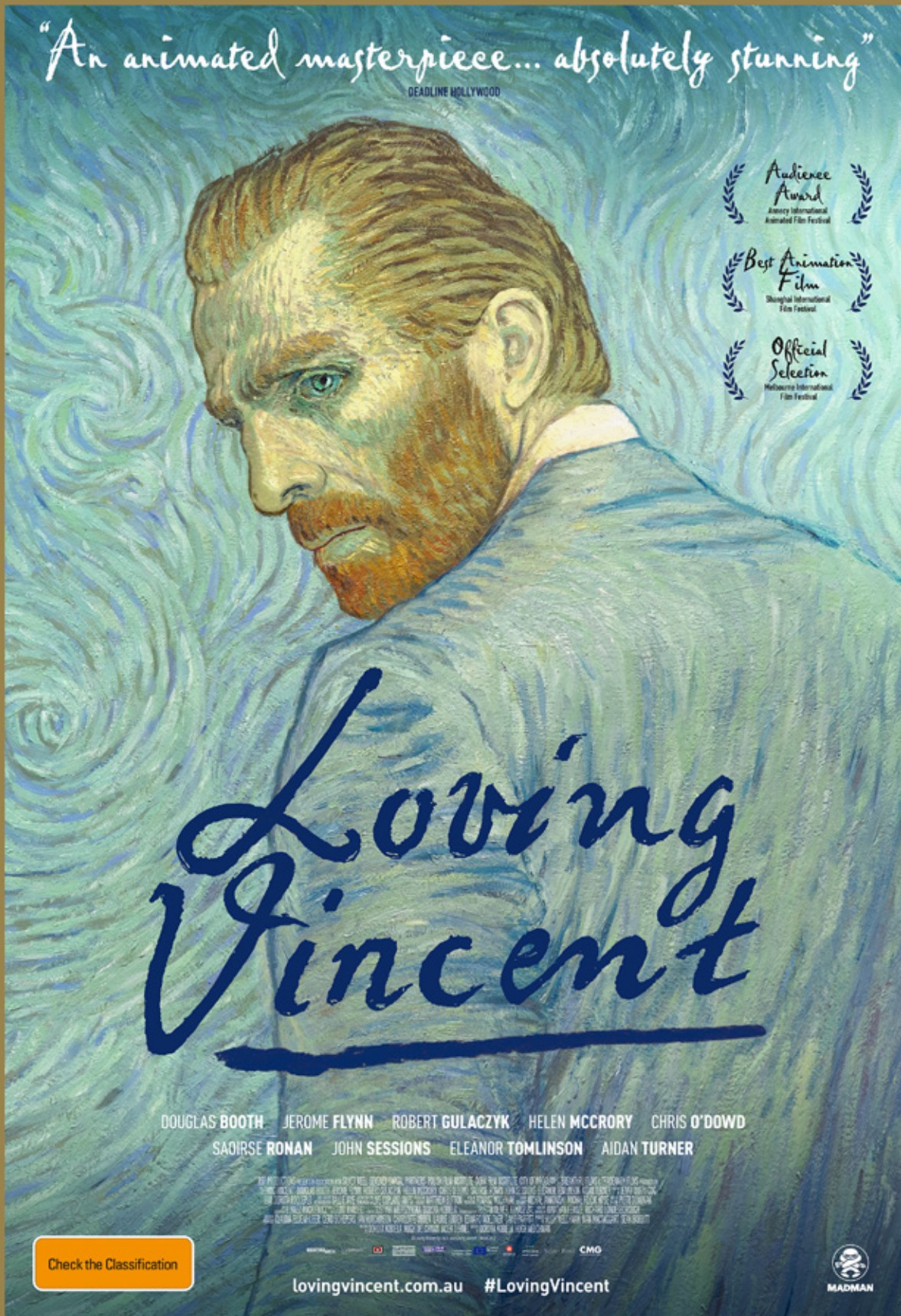


In 1959, Sir William Slim was our Governor-General and Menzies was PM. For those with an artistic bent, life was vanilla. But in New York City, a trumpeter was experimenting with a new sound and what emerged was smokin'.

We're going back to 1959 and the release of what is regarded by many as the greatest, most influential and best-selling jazz album of all time. While visiting evangelist Billy Graham was putting the fear of God into Australians and Gregory Peck was in Victoria filming *On The Beach*, Illinois-born Miles Davis, who had already at 18 made his debut with Charlie Parker's quintet and recorded *The Birth of the Cool*, was at Columbia's 30th Street Studio in New York. The band he had assembled could rightfully be considered an all-star list with Bill Evans and Wynton Kelly on piano, drummer Jimmy Cobb, bassist Paul Chambers and the mighty John Coltrane and Julian "Cannonball" Adderley playing sax.

Having previously played standards and be-bop originals by Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk, Dizzy Gillespie and Todd Dameron, the young composer refined a sound he had tinkered with on the title track of his previous album, *Milestones*, and went full-on into his new style, named modal. From a group of sessions based on modality, *Kind of Blue* was born.

Put it on around midnight. But put it on and listen to the greatness of cool. Do it with a Talisker single malt and if you smoke, have a cigarette at your own risk and remember... life is short but that some things are timeless. ■



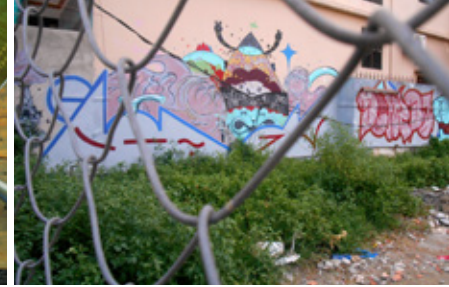
IN CINEMAS NOW

50 WAYS

into Vietnam

BY JEREMY ROBERTS

16. Final hang-out at Nola Café, communicating to Yen thru facial expressions, with Ella Fitzgerald as compatible pathway of sound, plans made to email with aid of Google Translate, gobbling sweet & sour pork, sipping lime & soda, staring at the flaky pink walls one more time. Surrounding a shelf of spirits, there is a rusty old tin picture of Elvis Presley, a Jim Beam logo, a reel-to-reel tape machine, a cartoon painting of a young couple in love – the girl is holding a lit piece of dynamite...
17. Early next morning, it's goodbye Hanoi - with a plastic bag containing water, a bread roll, a punnet of NZ butter, strawberry jam, & taxi to airport, & then back thru clouds & over mountains, heading for Hue – the old imperial city. I check in at 'Google Hotel' & immediately take much-needed massage from house-masseuse Ling with the long black hair. After, I relax with a coffee in the Crazy Buffalo Bar & contemplate a collage of a buffalo head mounted on Kandinsky / sixties style painting, half-expecting to see Hunter S. Thompson & Oscar Acosta in the corner – paranoid, dropping tabs, drinking beer, hiding out from Savage Henry.
18. Near dusk, I head outside to search for the Perfume River, walking a familiar street scene of perching tourists – all chewing, quaffing, gawking, like all damn tourists. Three local teenage girls pose on stools, spinning & turning backs to any camera – a little dance, just part of the evening's regalement, as neon lights begin to glow...I'm standing admiring cartoon graffiti through a chain link fence & young hustler approaches: "You want girl? Marijuana? I have nice massage for you with young pretty girl... body slim, you like! Tight pussy, nice boom-boom...you come hard!" After gracious declination, I escape to find the river by sunset, enjoying warm, liquid, floating thoughts of living in the houseboat tied up nearby. A river of shimmering pink & grey ripples, deep as time, it feels - flowing to wherever you want... could it be that river? The one that leads all the way to Colonel Kurtz? A good Western-man metaphor for shoving every bit of his own bullshit life down the shithole & disappearing forever - Splitting from the whole fucking programme...
19. Next morning, I lie on bed, crushed with a head cold, pondering the articulate expression of sweat expressed under hotel-room chopper-blade...suck Tylenol capsules bought from fake chemist, hear crack of pool cue, scream of parent, retort of toddler, slam of door, tap on my own door by cleaning staff... Thankfully pulled out of my room by great urge to see the Citadel – walled old city of Hue. I take a pleasant perambulation over Bowstring arch Truong Tien Bridge – click shutter on coolie hat-wearing shoulder-pole gentleman moving against faded cyan sky & also traditional double-ended fishing boat moving on the water below. More dreams of being on board, leaving everything behind – that Bret Easton Ellis line: Disappear Here. Vietnam feels like a seductive, open doorway...
20. Soon I'm inside one of the grand gates, staring at walls 30 feet high, 40 feet thick – walls of majesty & intrigue, beauty & death. Basic facts? Walled city built 1800 & the Imperial Palace within – court of Emperors 'til French control 1883; scene of the bloodiest battle during the Tet Offensive. I hire a ychlo driver to ride me around the streets & immediately spot bullet holes & bombing damage from '68 - thinking about the poor bastards on Viet Cong shit-list who were called out of these houses during Tet & taken away to be executed - given the shallow grave treatment. It's freaky, thrilling - to channel a war journalist recount of a mad, panic-stricken run through sniper-alley, the two men laughing apparently, in absolute terror. When the driver stops to rest for a moment & chat to a local man, I quickly poke my finger into one of the bullet holes & wiggle it about, fingering history, smiling at the thought. Further on, he stops pedalling & tells me earnestly "Many bombs fell here, many people died here", his arm sweeping in a big arc, as children play happily nearby – no surviving evidence at all on the landscape. It's indeed an afternoon of contrast: in torrential rain I peer at the forbidden palace like a spy, through a slit in the ychlo awning. In sunshine, I drink sugar-cane juice & lime. After hanging out at the front gate of the house that Ho Chi Minh grew up in - visualising him walking in & out of the front door, like a little Charlie Chaplin movie, I try to listen to a very young girl singing in concert, mixed with the loud babble of affluent Westerners refusing to pay approximately 75 cents for chilled, bottled water. Embarrassing idiots! - I think to myself. I'm forced to delay my venture inside the Forbidden City, due to more threatening black clouds & stride briskly back across the Perfume River, feeling cool rain drops in the air & pondering fiery 'napalm' – a shitload of which was used in 'Nam, in fact, about 388,000 tons. Kim Phuc – the little girl in the iconic photograph: "Napalm is the most terrible pain you can imagine." No wonder - it creates temperatures between 800 to 1200 degrees Celsius, can generate firestorms with winds up to 110 km/hr, bonds to human skin, & can flow easily into cavities – e.g. bunkers& foxholes. Nasty evil shit. Makes you wonder who is still profiting from this legacy: Behold! - The famous 'Military-Industrial-Complex' monster - dressed in stars & stripes, staggering across the landscape, spewing burning napalm...Watch the children run!
21. Next morning at the Google, I pour three cups of strong Vietnamese coffee down my throat & devour a plate of cut-up fruit - mango, watermelon, pineapple, banana - followed by regulation bread & omelette & some eavesdropping of sensual voices at the nearby table of French girls visiting the old French colony. Today is The DMZ – Bang a Gong /Viet Cong / Get It On - tour day! I know nothing of war – nothing of terror, death or even real bravery. I came to Vietnam to stare. So, b-r-r-room! goes the bus, away from Hue - with flashing houses, bikes, paddies, & luxurious, thick green foliage on the hills - into the countryside. I'm thrilled to know I'm heading towards legendary



locations from one of America's worst geo-political disasters. The prevailing consensus: the G.I.s died for nothing, the North Vietnamese died for everything. Yet, contrary to that - a conversation I heard expressed a different (South Vietnamese) POV: "We were glad that the Americans were here - we didn't want to be taken over by the pious North". First stop - a carefully arranged display of bomb casings, missiles & wartime ordnance. A sign says that we are safe - all detonators, fuses, & explosives have been removed, but thousands have been killed in the Quang Tri province by deadly leftovers since the war. The hunt goes on. Who designed these delightful little things, & no doubt makes a fortune in blood money. Way out in the countryside we stop to view the famous 'Rockpile' - a strategic little hill, which became so because there was just enough room on top for one Chinook helicopter. Of course, I want to scramble to the top - there's got to be a lost Hendrix or Doors cassette tape buried in the dirt, because the troops dug Jim & Jimi. 'Nam - the 'Rock 'n' Roll War': dope-smokin' hoochie coo in the tropical heat - including of course. The Animals' masterpiece - "We've Gotta Get Out Of This Place"! But of course, it's "No, sorry - you can't do that".

22. Repeating in my mind is a true account from Vietnam War journalist Michael Herr, of a young Marine who's been lying in a makeshift hospital with his legs blown off, after Tet. He is barely conscious & does not yet know what has happened, sees a priest visiting the 'ward' & asks 'Father, am I okay?' - Priest looks, pauses, & answers "Yes, my son. You are fine". Later on, the wised-up Marine sees the same priest & yells "You cocksucker! I hope you take your lying motherfucking ass to hell!" The American War, in all its lying glory.
23. I snap a portrait of four teens on Honda & Yamaha bikes on the bridge at the beginning of the Ho Chi Minh supply trail. They quickly pose like Diesel models - eyes wary, lips frozen, not smiling, with designer knock-off clothes - style immensely important, even in the countryside of central Vietnam. What connection do they have to the significance of this historical location? I have to head back to the waiting bus, so any attempt at verbal communication is impossible. What am I really? Just a nosy, camera-pointing tourist, a foreigner grasping only a thread of understanding, an image junkie, a fare-paying aesthete looking for a new thrill...
24. At 'Khe Sanh' - the legendary Marine base just south of the DMZ, not too far from the Laos border, that President Johnson said had to be 'held at all (expletive) cost', I wander the remains - now peaceful, grass-covered fields, trying to imagine living with the fear - the 'hell-on-Earth' / 'incoming' vibe: sprinting to the chopper, dashing down into the bunker, desperate to stay alive & give it straight back to "Charlie". What secrets sleep in the soil? 'Caution: Being a Marine at Khe Sanh may be hazardous to your health' - Newsweek '68. Peering out

through a sandbag window of a bunker, I clock the negative space of landscape & sky, a symbolic flower growing up through the centre of the image. I walk trenches, trying hard to sense any ghosts. The thing is - it's not '68, the airstrip is gone, most buildings & bunkers have vanished. Would the Vets easily recognise this place? Do any of them return here? Scattered about the enormous fields, sit abandoned / rusted / half blown-up tanks, 'copters, cannon, machinery. They look like dilapidated oversize die-cast children's toys that got left out in the rain. Huge shell casings stand proudly, arranged artistically. The art of war! Photos in the museum rooms are grainy action shots from just outside & of Johnson & aides plotting in the White House Situation room, Ho Chi Minh doing likewise in Hanoi. Of course, the world just accelerated onwards, with new wars & atrocities. Infamous Khe Sanh is now a tourist destination - a relic of the old Johnson / Nixon bombing days. But I didn't come all this way for nothing. I want to connect, be a sensate observer, draw something in of the old deadly reality. I look up into the sky, searching for 'incoming'. All that's left is to just breathe the warm, moist air, feel the sun on my skin, watch the shadows on the ground, 'scope the same green, misty hills that the soldiers did, learn the landscape's profiles against the sky. Those things are still the same, aren't they? Two hustlers with low-pitched, mumbling voices - hawking 'original' Khe Sahn artefacts, shadow me the whole way. "Boss...Boss, you want? This is medal given to VC for fighting US...Boss!" They wear white polo shirts with a 'Peace Trees Vietnam' logo & flags from Vietnam & the USA. Military 'decorations', bullets, coins, Zippo lighters lie on homemade trays - supposedly from the war, or since "made by VC military people" - e.g. a pendant carved from supposedly a real tiger tooth - obviously a cast fake, made out of some kind of resin. They do not give up & follow me everywhere. If you touch something on the tray, you've had it! Just before the bus has to leave, I finally agree to buy the 'tiger tooth' & manage to get the price down from 300,000 Dong to 50,000, happy enough to have a souvenir, peering around one more time, as rain clouds gather again above Khe Sahn. Some shit went down here. ■

Part 1 featured in Anzac Day / Winter TLP 2017 and Part 3 will be featured in Remembrance Day / Summer TLP 2017

Be careful what you wish for, Pauline

BY MARTIN FLANAGAN

Pauline Hanson praised Vladimir Putin recently, presenting him as someone who is to be admired, a strong man, a man of vision, someone who was prepared to fight for his country.

Pauline Hanson has long masqueraded as the ordinary Australian. She claims her identity and Australian identity are the same. Now we learn that Vladimir Putin is also part of her One Nation, notwithstanding that 38 Australians died when a plane was shot down over Ukraine by Russian separatists with a missile supplied by the Putin government and that Vladimir Putin and his political modus operandi have no place whatsoever in the Australian tradition.

Hanson claims she saw a poll where Putin has the support of 93 per cent of the Russian population. How ardent she is. Not even Putin claims 93 per cent of the people support him. He says it is 82 per cent and that much appears true.

Back in 1999, when he became prime minister of Russia, it was only 31 per cent. Shortly thereafter, there was a series of mysterious explosions around Moscow which Putin blamed on the Chechens which led to the second Chechen war at the end of which there were more than 100,000 people dead and Putin had an approval rating of 80 per cent.

The key statistic here is that Putin's government enjoys about half as much support as Putin himself does in the polls. Putin's shtick domestically is that his strongman style provides clear, effective government unlike the circus of Western democracy. And, in Donald Trump, he has the greatest circus act in American history.

Russia, the country which has the most obvious and immediate benefit of Putin's "vision", is in prolonged recession and has twice our unemployment rate. By Western standards, Putin has failed to deliver to his people but he has twice revived his standing in the polls by going to war – in August 2008 against Georgia (his favourability rating rose to 88 per cent

during hostilities) and in 2014 annexing the Crimea and expanding into Ukraine.

George Christensen, another who claims to hold the interests of the ordinary Australian closer to his heart than the rest of us do, tweeted last month that Russia has been "unfairly demonised. No threat to us or the West". Well, they're feeling threatened in Poland, the only place in Europe where the far right didn't welcome Trumps' election and his denigration of NATO. They fear Putin will invade them. Like they do in Latvia and Lithuania. And Finland. And Germany's talking about increasing military spending in a big way. What West are you talking about, George? The Wild West? The one in your imagination?

Pauline Hanson, in the course of praising Putin, said Australians are looking for a leader of vision. I'll give you a vision of Australia, Pauline, the one we've pretty much got – as a place where the Rule of Law basically holds, where corruption isn't of a scale that results in the country being labelled a mafia state, where the media isn't one giant mechanism for echoing the government, where journalists who do speak out don't regularly get murdered, where political opponents of the government don't die mysterious early deaths.

I'll go further than that, Pauline, and say there are Australians who have fought and died with some regard for that vision in conflicts over the past century. You're prepared to sell them, and us, out.

The most charitable explanation for Pauline Hanson's remarks is that she doesn't know what she's talking about, but it still shows how debased her brand of nationalism is. The last time someone like Vladimir Putin was running this country, the place was a penal colony. ■

www.theage.com.au

"I'LL GO FURTHER THAN THAT, PAULINE, AND SAY THERE ARE AUSTRALIANS WHO HAVE FOUGHT AND DIED WITH SOME REGARD FOR THAT VISION IN CONFLICTS OVER THE PAST CENTURY. YOU'RE PREPARED TO SELL THEM, AND US, OUT."



Australian Government

Royal Australian Mint



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'It felt like you were moving through a ghost town'

When Alison Creagh arrived in East Timor as a peacekeeper in 1999, the drive from the airport to Dili was eerily silent. There was no wildlife, and no people, but the signs of devastation were everywhere.

BY CLAIRE HUNTER, AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

"There was lots of smoke around and everything smelt burnt or like it was being burnt," Creagh said.

"It felt like you were moving through a ghost town with tumble weeds almost: no people; burnt out buildings everywhere; a lot of destruction; and mounds of dirt in many places along the roadside, which people told me were graves of people who had been killed ... The population had moved into the hills to get out of harm's way, so it was very, very haunting."

Creagh was a major in the Australian Regular Army when she was deployed to East Timor from 1999–2000, initially as second-in-command of the 1st Joint Support Unit and then commanding the 145th Signal Squadron as part of the International Force East Timor (INTERFET).

"We were warned the security situation was very dicey, very uncertain, and to expect to go into a conflict," Creagh said.

Her experiences with the locals left a lasting impression.

"We spent a bit of time with the orphanages and one of my stark memories from there was looking at a wall of paintings that the kids had drawn," she said. "The graphic depiction of machetes, blood and fire told their story, and that really brings home to you what it was all about and why you're there."

Creagh first experienced peacekeeping in Cambodia in 1993, when she was Quartermaster of the Force Communications Unit as part of the United Nations Transitional Authority Cambodia (UNTAC).

"I remember quite starkly being briefed about the people and the terrible Pol Pot regime and everything the Khmer Rouge had done and I recognised how important our role was in trying to set up the conditions to try and provide free and fair elections so the Cambodians would actually have a chance of some degree of peace," Creagh said.

She will never forget the sight of mine victims, many of whom were children, begging on the streets. "I remember walking through the markets and we saw a fellow who was playing music with no face,

no legs and some fingers, so clearly a mine victim, but he was making money for his family," she said. "That's quite confronting, and I guess it's a flavour of peacekeeping, where you actually see the highs and the lows, and the good and the bad."

Creagh was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in 1994 for her work in Cambodia and is passionate about remembering those who have served as peacekeepers. She was instrumental in establishing the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra, which has been a focal point for commemorations of the 70th anniversary of Australian involvement in peacekeeping.

"It started a thought bubble that Australia should have its own peacekeeping memorial that remembers Australians, past, present and future, who have served on peacekeeping missions," Creagh said.

"For me the dedication of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial and the anniversary of 70 years of Australian peacekeeping is pretty important to recognise because it means a lot to so many people. Australian peacekeepers have touched the hearts and souls of people around the world, and they've made a difference around the world, and while every mission has not been a success, a number have, and it's important to remember."

Creagh retired from the army in 2015 as a brigadier, but will always remember her time peacekeeping and the sacrifices that Australian peacekeepers have made to help change people's lives. For Creagh, one moment in East Timor stands out in particular.

"Early in the New Year there was a massive rainstorm and I remember suddenly hearing birds," she said. "Up until that point, I'd not seen any birdlife. And then you see the population grow and emerge and you realise that the security situation is starting to improve. In both peacekeeping deployments our physical presence brought a feeling of security and safety to the local population, sufficient that over time they started to resume a new normal life. And that's an amazing feeling." ■



ABOVE, FROM TOP:
Alison Creagh (left), in East Timor: "We were warned the security situation was very dicey."
Alison Creagh in Cambodia: "I remember quite starkly being briefed about the... terrible Pol Pot regime."
Alison Creagh (right) served as a peacekeeper in Cambodia and East Timor; this photo was taken in Cambodia.
Australian peacekeepers at an orphanage in East Timor: "That really brings home to you... why you're there."
Alison Creagh in Cambodia: "You see the highs and the lows, and the good and the bad."
Alison Creagh (centre) with her squad.

FROM THE SHADOWS

AUSTRALIA'S SPECIAL FORCES



Exhibition on now at the Australian War Memorial

Their activities are secret.
Their missions are classified.
Their identities are protected.

They operate in secrecy to protect Australia's people and national interests, and to support its allies. Australia's Special Operations Forces are highly trained, motivated and experienced. With little notice they can be inserted undetected by land, sea, or air into any environment to conduct sensitive operations. They won honours in Afghanistan, fought in Iraq, helped establish security in East Timor, performed counter-terrorist roles in Australia, and supported domestic security agencies. Developed in partnership with Special Operations Command, this exhibition casts a rare light on those men and women who operate in the shadows. It will display more than 600 objects, most of which have never been seen before by the Australian public.

Australian War Memorial,
Special exhibitions gallery
Open 10 am – 5 pm daily
awm.gov.au



OPENING OF THE JAMIE LARCOMBE CENTRE

On Thursday 5 October 2017 The Jamie Larcombe Centre was officially opened by Jamie's family, Steve, Tricia, Annmarie, April and Emily in front of a crowd of more than 300 guests. The opening was attended by the Minister for Health and Mental Health, Peter Malinauskas MLC, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Martin Hamilton-Smith MP, federal and state politicians and a large contingent of serving and ex-serving personnel and their families including former Chief of Defence Force Sir Angus Houston and Commander Forces Command Major General Gus McLachlan.

Also in attendance were staff from Ward 17, representative of the 69 staff who will soon transfer from Daw Park to the new facility to continue the marvellous work they have been doing at the Repat Hospital since 1963.

Reflecting on the Centre Steve and Tricia Larcombe said "The Centre's design is both sophisticated and sensitive. The light and warmth throughout reflects the compassion and care that those who come here seeking assistance deserve. The design and construction teams have delivered a Centre that would make Jamie proud."

Minister Malinauskas said "Veterans deserve health care that not only meets their needs but truly honours the sacrifices they and their families have made in serving our nation.

I am proud that the South Australian Government is committed to the health and wellbeing of serving and ex-serving members of our community. It is fitting that the loss of one of our bravest, Sapper Jamie Larcombe, should inspire the future care of those who serve".

Minister Hamilton-Smith added that "It has been my aim to ensure veterans and their families have access to the best healthcare available. The Jamie Larcombe Centre is a key step in that direction".

Reproduced below is an article authored by Clinical Head, Dr Taryn Cowain, that was written for inclusion in the opening booklet produced for the day.

Caring for our Veterans

Opened in 1963, 22 years after the formal opening of the Repatriation General Hospital (RGH), Ward 17 was renamed as Long Tan Ward in 1966. Since then it has been the home for mental health care for returned service personnel in South Australia.

Over 53 years this unit has increasingly occupied a unique position as one which understands the concept of "trauma informed care," even before the term was coined. Experience with many people of military background assisted staff to understand the unique nature of military service and the demands that high exposure to trauma places on service personnel and their carers. Staff, many of them with decades of experience, understand the need for non-judgemental, high standard mental health care.

Along with the 24 inpatient beds catering for a broad range of mental illness and associated comorbidities, there has been a small, hardworking clinical team providing one to one and group contact with those requiring ongoing outpatient care.

In 1996, acknowledging the specific needs of people with post-traumatic stress disorder, a unit was formed to provide intensive courses around this condition. After 21 years the unit has conducted nearly 110 courses for patients and their carers. Increased Australian Defence Force (ADF) operational tempo, combined with a significant expansion of ADF units in South



Above: Steve, Tricia, Annmarie, April and Emily Larcombe open The Jamie Larcombe Centre, flanked by Minister for Health and Mental Health, Peter Malinauskas MLC, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Martin Hamilton-Smith MP, and Leesa Vlahos MP.

Australia, has seen a rise in the demand for all components of the service.

In 2017 the Ward provides contemporary mental health care in a recovery model framework. A wide range of biological and psychological treatments are available along with more recent practices of mindfulness, tai chi, sensory modulation and yoga. The unit offers teaching placements for undergraduate medical, nursing and allied health students and postgraduate training for junior doctors, registrars and nursing graduates. There are ongoing and increasing links with ADF teams and with the Commonwealth Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS). Research is integral to the unit with both current staff and in-reaching clinicians investigating a broad range of topics.

Both the inpatient and ambulatory care services will transition to The Jamie Larcombe Centre in November 2017. While the move has led to strong feelings amongst both staff and patients, and the wonderful working relationships at the RGH will be sadly missed, it is testament to the dedication of all involved that the response to change has been positive and practical. Staff remain committed to the care of those accessing our services and have given their time freely to provide input into how a new unit should look and function. After extensive reviews of the best way to build a unit sensitive to the needs of veterans, from those more senior in years to serving members and contemporary veterans, women and men, those with children and those with service dogs, those with trauma related conditions and those with other mental illness – there was overall agreement with the final design of this new Centre.

Someone once said that a soldier should always be able to see a garden. The Jamie Larcombe Centre acknowledges this truism along with many other needs that those seeking sanctuary require. Recovery from the often devastating effects of mental illness requires space, peace, understanding, kindness and supporters prepared to also travel the journey. It requires high standards of evidence-based and individual chosen care, alongside carer involvement, education and tailored programs which include attention to physical, social and spiritual needs.

The Ward 17 staff, who are all transferring to The Jamie Larcombe Centre, will be seeking to recreate the healing milieu of the past in impressive new surroundings. We are looking forward to getting on with the day to day business of health and wellness and to further providing needed services for our patients and consumers into the future. ■

A Message from Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs



Dr Taryn Cowain, Clinical Unit Head and Senior Psychiatrist at the Jamie Larcombe Centre.

I attend many commemorative services as part of my role as Minister for Veterans' Affairs and during the Centenary of Anzac period we have all been encouraged to reflect upon and learn more about our military history. We pause to remember the courageous men and women from South Australia, and across our nation, whose service and sacrifice in all wars, conflicts and peace operations has ensured the preservation of the way of life we enjoy today.

All who have served our nation rightly take their place in the Anzac tradition. A tradition born in conflict characterised by bravery, compassion, courage, determination, endurance, loyalty, honour, honesty, initiative, teamwork, respect, excellence, agility, dedication, mateship and tenacity. These characteristics were seen at Gallipoli in 1915 and throughout World War I and World War II and in many other conflicts and operations – on land, sea and in the air.

These were the characteristics and values of Sapper Jamie Larcombe. On Thursday 5 October I was delighted to join many of you at the opening of the new veterans' mental health care facility named after Jamie.

Jamie lost his life while serving our country and we can never repay the debt that we owe to him and his family.

But we can, and must, continue to look forward and I can think of no better way than to align Jamie's courage and sacrifice with the courage and sacrifice that our veterans suffering post-traumatic stress exhibit every day.

Jamie is one of 41 Australian Defence Force personnel to have paid the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan since the Australian Defence Force commenced Operation Slipper in 2002.

Their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. This Centre will help ensure they are never forgotten.

Jamie's legacy will be rich and last as long as our Nation endures. Over the next fifty years, many thousands of veterans, their families, friends, advocates and those who provide them with vital services

will be inspired by Jamie's story as they enter this centre. Like all of us, they will feel great sorrow at his loss, but also tremendous pride and inspiration at what his sacrifice represents and says about us as a Nation.

I've learned a lot about veterans' needs from 23 years of service with the Army including the Special Air Services Regiment. During this time I developed a first-hand understanding of the lasting impacts of war on those involved. I've also learned a great deal from my engagement with the veteran community in South Australia.

Each generation is confronted by unique challenges and responds differently to support services. It is pleasing that the Australian Defence Force now proactively implements plans to care for the broader defence community as part of its operational commitments.

New priorities have emerged in veterans' health resulting from the complexity and diversity of the operational environments into which our Australian Defence Forces are deployed. Over 70,000 Australian Defence Force servicemen and women have been deployed on operations since 1999, many of them on multiple occasions. They wear their uniforms in our name and put their lives on the line, in a very real way, every day.

We know that this will result in increasing numbers of deployed service people requiring treatment for mental health conditions including post-traumatic stress in the years ahead.

Issues affecting men and women who return from warlike service can be quite different to those affecting defence

personnel who are deployed to non-warlike operations in peacekeeping, border patrol or natural disaster response roles. We must also bear in mind our responsibility to support defence families.

The health and wellbeing of our veteran community is an issue the South Australian Government takes seriously. For this my parliamentary colleagues the Hon Jack Snelling MP, the former Minister for Health and the Hon Leesa Vlahos MP, the former Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse need to be congratulated. It was Jack, a former Minister for Veterans' Affairs and son of a Vietnam Veteran, with support from Leesa, a long time passionate advocate for veterans that made the \$15 million dollars in funding required to build this centre a reality.

The Jamie Larcombe Centre will provide veterans and their families with state of the art treatment and services when they need it. The model of care builds on the existing model for Ward 17 at the Repatriation General Hospital, taking into consideration the wide range of services to be delivered at the precinct, and is based on evidence-based practice to ensure it will meet the needs of current and future veterans.

Naming this centre after Jamie Larcombe will resonate with our newest generation of veterans. I and many others across all sides of politics are determined our community will provide veterans of recent conflicts with the support they require in making the physical and emotional transition to life after service. This Centre is an important part of that process. It's about investing the resources necessary to give them the support they need when they need it.

Our veterans deserve nothing less. ■

Japanese governments role in the Reconciliation programme.

After the WWII, there remained strong anti-Japanese sentiment among those associated with the Australian military as a result of the harsh experiences of these prisoners of war. Japanese Government strongly recognized the need to promote reconciliation by inviting former Australian prisoners of war and their family members to Japan in order to encourage frank exchanges of views for deepening mutual understanding and friendship between both nations.

The Japan-Australia Grassroots Exchange Program, which began in 1997, invited 120 former Australian prisoners of war to Japan, who chose to visit Japan despite their misgivings stemming from the cruel experience they had in the POW camps, their families and associates, where they were able to deepen their understanding of the effort, society, and culture that emerged in the free, democratic and peaceful nation of Japan after the war.

In addition, visits were made to various regional cities that housed former POW camps, as well as to the Commonwealth War Cemetery.

The Japanese Government aimed at promoting a substantial contribution to both the reconciliation process between Japan and Australia, and to the formation of a new favorable impression of Japan among the former POWs and their associates through this Japan –Australia Grassroots Exchange Program with the RSL for expending every effort to realize this program.

Through 20 years' experiences, we fully recognise that this programme did indeed enhance an "exchange of minds" with an eye to our future and successfully achieve its original purpose. We also

firmly believe that this programme made valuable contribution for promoting reconciliation between the two countries.

Japan and Australia has deepened their co-operative relationship across many fields based upon the spirit of post-war reconciliation, and has also built the "special strategic partnership" that we enjoy today. Based on such recognition, the Japanese Government will make further effort to promote people-to-people exchanges with its focus on younger generation in both countries based on the intent and purpose of this successful Grassroots Program.

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE (The Japan-Australia Grassroots Exchange Programme)

Dear friends,

On the 20th and 21st of September, I attended final events in Canberra for Japan-Australia Grassroots Exchange Programme. This programme invited Australians who were imprisoned as prisoners of war by the Japanese imperial army during World War II and their family members to Japan, and I would like to introduce this programme to you.

Around 22,000 Australians were taken as prisoners of war by the imperial army and the navy of Japan in the Pacific War. The strong anti-Japanese sentiment that remained among sections of those associated with the Australian military as a result of the harsh experiences of these prisoners of war led to a realisation of the need to invite former Australian prisoners of war and their family members to Japan in order to encourage reconciliation and exchange, as well as mutual understanding and friendship between both nations.

The Japan-Australia Grassroots Exchange Programme was a product of that realisation. This programme, which began in 1997, invited 120 former Australian prisoners of war and their families to Japan, where they were able to deepen their understanding of the effort, society, and culture that emerged in the free, democratic and peaceful nation of Japan after the war. In addition, visits were made to various regional cities that housed former POW camps, as well as to the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Yokohama.

On the other hand, as the number of former prisoners of war who were able to visit Japan steadily diminished, a decision was made following consultation with the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL) to bring the programme to a close.

Hence this year, while looking back on the achievements of the Grassroots Programme, a seminar of the programme and an anniversary reception marking the conclusion of the program occurred along with the creation of a report on the programme's outcomes. These events were attended by the Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr Simon Lewis PSM, Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC, Chief of the Australian

Defence Force, and Mr Robert Dick, RSL National President and distinguished guests.

Through interactions with members of the RSL, I am confident that as a result of this program former POWs have formed a new view of Japan, and this program has greatly contributed to the promotion of post-war reconciliation between Japan and Australia.

In my speech at the seminar of this program I have stated that, in order to build upon this spirit of reconciliation, I would like to express my sincerest, most heartfelt gratitude to those former POWs who chose to visit Japan despite their misgivings stemming from the cruel experience they had in the POW camps, to their families and associates.

I do feel that after listening to those who participated in the visits to Japan, and hearing of their past experience and their desire for stronger relations between Japan and Australia, that this program did indeed encourage an "exchange of minds" between Japan and Australia with an eye to our future.

Upon the conclusion of these events, I reiterated my appreciation as the Ambassador of Japan to the members of the RSL together with those who have been involved in the creation and running of this program. It is my every intent to continue working earnestly towards a peaceful future in Japan and Australia's relationship.

It is in recognition of how Japan and Australia deepened their co-operative relationship across many fields based upon the spirit of post-war reconciliation, and how this built the "special strategic partnership" we share today, that I endeavour to further promote exchange between younger generations of Japanese and Australians through initiatives, such as the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme and the JENESYS Programme. As I am once again made aware of the necessity to commit to exchange between our younger generations, I renew my pledge to continue to work with my colleagues and Australian counterparts to achieve this.

Yours sincerely,

Sumio Kusaka

Ambassador of Japan to Australia



Human Resources and Industrial Relations Support

Service Industry Advisory Group (SIAG) is proud to have a successful and longstanding partnership with the RSL Victoria.

SIAG provides RSL Victoria Sub-Branched with human resources, industrial relations and employment law advice, including online resources and access to our national advisory telephone service.

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Veterans in Australia are indeed fortunate to have in the Department of Veteran Affairs arguably the best government provided veteran support organisation in the world. However, as is the case of all government departments, DVA can only act in accordance with the parliamentary acts and regulations of the day which means it cannot act as proactively as is sometimes necessary nor can it deliver everything that is needed and wanted.

It is in this space, alongside DVA, that ex-service organisations operate and in which RSLWA must strive to provide veterans and their families with the services they require or to enhance and supplement services currently delivered by DVA.

At the beginning of October 2017 the Board of Directors of RSL Western Australia conducted a strategic review to define and articulate what and how we progress, over the next few years, our primary role of anticipating and meeting the needs of our veterans of past and current conflicts. We believe RSLWA now has a strong blueprint for how we go about our core business of looking after veterans and their families.

Out of the strategic review were a number of key commitments. Our vision toward year 2020, is for the RSLWA to enjoy the full confidence of government, the community and Veterans through professional, innovative and collaborative service delivery to Veterans and their families.

We firmly believe that what we are doing here in Western Australia is a game-changer. We have a real opportunity to forge ahead in WA by doing what's right and what's important to Veterans – and doing it with good governance, sound financial management and delivering what's needed.

Our Key Strategic Objectives include refining service offerings and develop new and innovative services for Members and Veterans generally, increasing membership retention and growth, and developing strong partnerships and collaboration opportunities with like-minded organisations. ■

RSL Active is a new program from RSL Victoria, offering a range of events and activities, aimed to create and develop social networks, enhance support circles, and improve mental and physical health outcomes. RSL Active is about creating a sense of belonging, inclusion, comradeship, health and fun.

Dean's first contact with the RSL was reflective of many of his peers. He was in need of support as he transitioned away from an 8 year career with the Navy, to a civilian life.

"I served on OP Resolute and other maritime operations during that period. During these operations, my primary role was boarding party member and boat Coxswain" shares Dean, "It's a role that is hard to explain to people outside of the ADF".

Following his departure from the Navy, the importance of spending time with his ADF family is a priority for Dean; "I keep in contact with most of the guys I served with. You become like a family, we are all brothers and sisters and have been through so much together. We talk openly and understand each other, sometimes more so than with our families or partners, and it doesn't matter how long it has been, it always feels like it was all only yesterday."

Programs like RSL Active are working to provide opportunities for Dean, and his ADF family, to rebuild the same bonds that united the founding members of the RSL.

Dean sits happily in the driver's seat of his new work vehicle. He has found a job that he hopes will help him progress to working for the Victorian Police. In his spare time he is involving himself with his local RSL Sub-Branch, Flemington Kensington. They are a small, hardworking team and Dean has found a place where he can pitch in to help grown the Sub-Branch.

His involvement in the Young Veterans group from Dandenong RSL has seen his passion for 4-Wheel Driving develop, and he plans for weekend away with the group, testing out his driving skills.

RSL Active has seen Dean participate in a training session with the Melbourne Rebels, and compete in a Wheelchair AFL competition. Dean is back in a team, working with his new ADF brothers and sisters, this time united by sport, but once again working towards a common goal. ■





Townsville RSL
139 Charters Towers Road,
Hermit Park, Qld 4812
07 4759 9500
www.townsvillersl.com.au
www.facebook.com/townsvillersl

At the heart of Townsville's proud tradition of supporting the Defence Force lies one of Australia's oldest RSL sub-branches.

Since the First World War, Townsville RSL has been there for the city's returned servicemen and that core purpose remains the same today.

The Townsville sub-branch was officially recognised by the RSL in 1919, just three years after the organisation was established 1916 under its original name, the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA.)

Historians believe the city's RSL sub-branch was really born at a special meeting in 1917. In their book, A History of the Returned Services League Townsville Sub-Branch 1917-2000, historians Dorothy and Bruce Gibson-Wilde explain veterans were already coming together informally as early as 1916.

The efforts of those early founders laid out the core values that still guide the organisation today.

The sub-branch took possession of its first true home in June 1933 - a new Memorial Hall on Sturt St.

1966 ushered in an historic milestone, the sub-branch moved into a new home on the current site on Charters Towers Rd in Hermit Park. The old Memorial Hall had been badly damaged by fire in 1963 and was past its use-by-date in any case.

1991 brought another lasting change. The organisation changed its name to the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL).

General manager Karla Malouf said while the sub-branch was unrecognisable from its modest beginnings during the First World War, its core purpose had never changed. Preserving the memory of the fallen and supporting those who return is the first duty of the RSL.

Most people visit the clubhouse today to enjoy a great meal, a business conference or a night out, but Ms Malouf said visitors still understood the importance of the venue.

"The RSL has to be part of the wider community. We like to think of ourselves as a one-stop-shop. Yes, you have functions here and you can get meals here, but also here you've got the library, you've got the welfare advocates, you've got Legacy, so it's all here in the one venue."

Today the Townsville RSL sub-branch is one of the city's proudest institutions. The clubhouse on Charters Towers Rd includes:

- Lavaracks, an award winning a la carte restaurant
- Garrisons, a casual dining area open 7 days a week
- Spectarors Sports Bar with the biggest TV in a pub or club in Queensland (4.5 meters x 2.5 meters), full Keno & Ubet (TAB) facilities, directional sound ceiling for punters & over 30 TVs to catch all the punting action
- A contemporary gaming lounge with 280 machines
- Anzac Bar with memorabilia from various campaigns our Defence forces have been involved in.
- Supervised kids club with gold coin donations going to Mates4Mates
- Modern & stylish function facilities for upto 400 guest for weddings, parties and corporate events.
- One particularly special facility is the members' library filled with books & DVD's and plenty of information about past conflicts Australia has been involved in.

Everyone is welcome at GEEELONG RSL

Geelong RSL

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That's our point of difference!

That's what makes our cause noble; and that's what makes us an RSL where all are welcome!



PROVIDERS SOUGHT FOR PTSD ASSISTANCE DOGS TRIAL

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has made an approach to market to identify service providers to conduct a trial of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) assistance dogs.

The Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) from service providers will assess the clinical utility of specifically-trained assistance dogs for veterans with PTSD.

Unlike companion animals, PTSD assistance dogs are specially trained to perform tasks that contribute to the clinical management of a person's PTSD, such as detecting signs of distress in their owners and performing specific tasks to help alleviate those symptoms.

Dogs are already used to support those with physical disabilities and there

is an increasing interest in using these animals to assist veterans managing mental health issues.

The trial will help inform future policy directions to meet the mental health needs of Australia's veteran community.

The Government is seeking service providers with the specialist capabilities and capacity to inform and deliver the trial, which is expected to commence no later than mid-2018. ■

The REOI is open until 11 December and can be found on the AusTender website

DIGGING DEEP: LEST WE FORGET DOCUMENTARY

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan today announced the Australian Government would honour the memory of Indigenous diggers at the Battle of Beersheba 100 years ago through a new documentary.

The descendants of 11 Indigenous Light Horsemen, including those who took part in the famous charge at Beersheba, will visit Israel for the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba on 31 October this year as part of the project.

Mr Tehan said a documentary about the project had been developed in partnership with NITV, the Rona Tranby Trust and Screen Australia. The documentary will go to air on Anzac Day, 2018.

"As a nation we must preserve our military history to honour the memory of the men and women who serve in defence of our nation as well as to learn the lessons of the past," Mr Tehan said.

"It is estimated that more than 1,000 Indigenous Australians volunteered to enlist in the First World War despite difficulty because they were not 'from European descent'.

"This project will interweave archival material, interviews and observational footage to bring to life the stories of the Indigenous soldiers at the Battle of Beersheba.

"This ground-breaking documentary will provide a fresh perspective on the service of Indigenous soldiers at Beersheba."

NITV Channel Manager Tanya Orman said NITV was committed to sharing the remarkable stories of Indigenous diggers, who served our country at a time when they weren't recognised as Australian citizens.

"This documentary is honouring their legacy, and through Digging Deep we recognise the sacrifice and commitment our Indigenous servicemen made to this country," Ms Orman said.

Trustee of the Rona Tranby Trust, Roland Gridiger said "the documentary will help to encourage all indigenous descendants to research the stories of their ancestors."

Screen Australia Senior Manager of Documentary Liz Stevens said the documentary would reveal new insights into this important piece of Australian history.

"Award-winning director Erica Glynn helms an experienced Indigenous filmmaking team to tell the story of the Indigenous soldiers who were part of the celebrated Light Horse Brigade and create an enduring legacy for future generations of Australians," Ms Stevens said. ■

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2017

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan said Remembrance Day was an opportunity for every Australian to reflect on the lives lost to war and the service and sacrifice of our defence personnel.

Mr Tehan will honour Australia's service men and women at the Remembrance Day National Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial today.

"Remembrance Day marks the anniversary of the First World War Armistice in 1918 and is an important part of Australia's history," Mr Tehan said.

"At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the nation observes a minute's silence for those who have died serving our country in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

"More than 1.5 million Australians have served in defence of our nation and our values and more than 102,000 have died. Today we honour all of them.

"I encourage everyone in the community to observe a minute's silence today and to wear a red poppy to honour those who have fought and died for our nation."

Mr Tehan will also attend a commemorative service at the French Embassy with French Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Christophe Penot.

"Australia and France share an enduring relationship forged over a century of military service," Mr Tehan said.

"The bonds formed on the First World War battlefields have strengthened over time and will ensure our continued cooperation in honouring our fallen service men and women."

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the First World War Armistice with a service held in Villers-Bretonneux, France as part of the international commemorative program. ■



- The Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) acknowledges the central role of the Navy protecting our vital sea lanes and borders, in both peacetime and times of conflict
- The MUA also acknowledges and salutes the role of the merchant fleet in supporting the Navy and pays tribute to the many civilian seafarers who have lost their lives in supporting the defence effort
- The Navy and the domestic civilian fleet remain as active partners in supporting and facilitating Australia's shipping dependency as an island nation
- The MUA looks forward to continuing to work closely with Navy on the many synergies that exist in Navy operations and commercial shipping operations

For more information go to www.mua.org.au



A Special Appreciation of Beersheba

One of Australia's leading authorities on the Australian Light Horse believes horse riders will have a special appreciation of the endurance and skills displayed by the Australian light Horse 4th Brigade at the charge of Beersheba.

National President of the Australian Light Horse Association and horsemen, Phil Chalker, said horse riders will understand the amazing physical endurance required of the men of the Australian Light Horse and their mounts during the famous charge at Beersheba 100 years ago on 31 October.

As Australia commemorated the 100th anniversary of the 4th Light Horse Brigade charge, which captured the town and broke the Turkish Gaza line, Mr Chalker believes few would have understood the demands on rider and horse in such a feat.

"Forgetting for a moment that they were riding headlong into Turkish gunners and riflemen, it is noteworthy to remember that neither man nor his mount had adequate water for more than 60 hours," he said. "The charge was over about five miles and at least two miles at full gallop. And then horses had to jump sandbags and trenches, while riders had to leap from the saddle and fight for their lives with fists, bayonets and rifle."

"The physical and mental strength of our Light Horsemen and their remounts is the Legend. Beersheba is simply its evidence."

While only riders may appreciate the sensations of the ride – the smell of sweat and leather; the rushing heart and wind, the creak and clack of bit and saddle, and the powerful surging rhythm of the horse – all Australians will appreciate that the charge was an amazing display of Australian resilience and courage.

To celebrate the memory of the Australian Light Horse, and to mark the centenary of the charge at Beersheba, a new collection of detailed Light Horse figurines has been released to share more of the story and legend.

The special Light Horse collection features three key elements to portray the light horse. The charging trooper that remembers Beersheba and the mobility horses provided to the mounted infantry; the standing trooper who would in most cases fight on the ground as an infantryman; and the incredible bond these horsemen had with their remounts.

Mr Chalker advised the sculptors on the details to be captured to ensure each piece truly represented history.

"I have only a historic interest in this collection and I was pleased to provide my views on the accuracy of uniforms and equipment," he said. "I am very pleased with the resulting pieces and know that those of us who love both history and horses will appreciate the moment captured and the detail". ■

Each figurine or medallion created for the collection is a limited edition and is provided with a certificate of authenticity. The Light Horse Collection can be viewed online at www.militaryshop.com.au/beersheba.

A UNIQUE COLLECTION TO REMEMBER

Australian Light Horse Figurines

This landmark collection of limited edition figurines celebrates the Australian Light Horse – the men; their trusted Waler re-mounts, and the charge that changed history.



The Charge at Beersheba

Stand to Fight

The Waler's Mate

www.australiagreatwar.com.au/beersheba



Remembrance Day

10am Saturday 11 November 2017
Australian Imperial Forces Section, West Terrace Cemetery

To find out more visit

www.aca.sa.gov.au

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CEMETERY



Government
of South Australia

Animals IN WAR

Honouring our four-legged war heroes

“IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OVER 9 MILLION SERVING ANIMALS PERISHED OR WERE WOUNDED IN THE GREAT WAR. WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THAT NOT ONLY TWO LEGGED BUT FOUR LEGGED DIGGERS SERVED THIS NATION AND STILL CONTINUE TO DO SO TODAY.”

Horrie the hero war dog and the man who cared

BY TONY WRIGHT

Riders in the uniforms of Light Horsemen trotted the streets on fine mounts, a donkey with a Red Cross bandage around its head plodded along, pigeons came in a cage, and dogs joined the parade.

Anzac Day at Portland in south-west Victoria was dedicated this week not simply to the memory of men and women who served and died in wars, but also to the animals who suffered alongside them.

The crowd was silenced as the story of Horrie the wartime terrier was told by guest speaker Anthony Hill, one of four authors who have written books that have granted legendary status to the little dog.

Less has been told about what happened to the young Australian soldier who rescued Horrie and brought him home from a war.

That's a pity, for the stories of both Horrie and his soldier redeemer are revealing about good hearts, cold-eyed officialdom and what can break when war is done.

The first book about Horrie – Horrie the Wog Dog, it was called – was written in 1945 by the great Ion Idriess.

Idriess worked on the tale with Jim Moody, who spent a slice of World War II smuggling the little dog in his rucksack around the battlefields of the Middle East, Greece and Crete.

Private Moody and a mate from an Australian machine-gun battalion had found the puppy starving in the North African desert, frantically searching under stones for lizards, and they carried him by motorcycle back to camp.

They battled through the war together after that. Horrie's acute hearing warned Moody and his mates of approaching enemy aircraft, and the pup was "promoted" to Corporal. Horrie and his protectors were shipwrecked when escaping Greece, but survived. The little dog was wounded by a bomb on Crete, but was nursed back to health. The men cut up a uniform to give Horrie his own and keep him warm.

When Moody, a Melbourne boy, was to be shipped home to Australia, he couldn't bear to be separated from Corporal Horrie.

Moody and his mates – larrikins known as the Rebels for their disdain for military discipline – fashioned a canvas carrying bag for Horrie and swore their shipmates to secrecy.

Three years later, after Moody had fought in New Guinea while Horrie was kept in the care of Moody's father in Melbourne, Australia's quarantine authorities got wind of the unauthorised immigrant dog.

Moody was ordered to present himself and Horrie to the authorities in Sydney.

Horrie was to be destroyed.

The Australian public was aghast. Furious letters to the editor appeared everywhere, demanding mercy.

No mercy came.

Australia's Director of Veterinary Hygiene, R.N. Wardle, was unmoved when the publishers Angus and Robertson sent the proofs of Idriess's book about Horrie's amazing career.

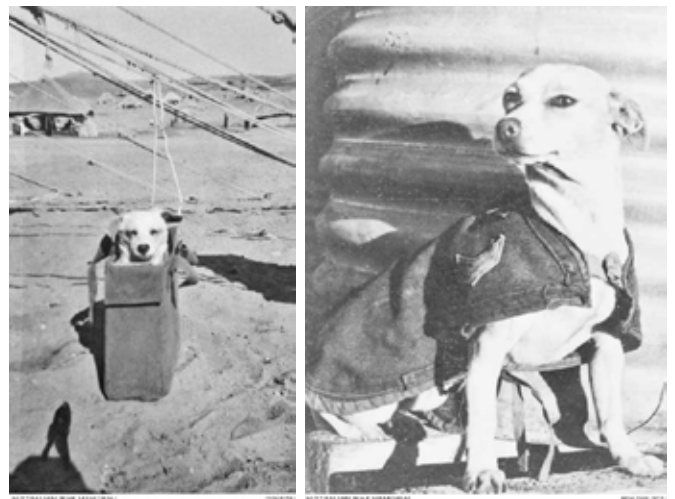
"I am afraid I fail to appreciate the story and surprise is expressed that your firm would countenance a publication which records a deliberate breach of the law," thundered Wardle.

"The dog has been formally taken over by our officers and, by my direction, it has been destroyed".

The Idriess book, written in Moody's own words, ended with this: "Well, Horrie, little fellow, your reward was death. You who deserved a nation's plaudits, sleep in peace. Among Australia's war heroes, we shall remember you. Under Quarantine Regulations, Horrie was destroyed on 12 March 1945."

But had Wardle's grim desire to enforce the law really been satisfied?

In his book *Animal Heroes*, Anthony Hill recounts being told by a Canberra journalist, Norma Allen, that Moody had told her in 1945 that Wardle hadn't got his way at all.



Moody had searched the pounds of Sydney, found a little dog that looked similar to Horrie, paid five shillings and took the unfortunate ring-in to the quarantine officers.

The real Horrie was spirited to a property in Victoria's Upper Murray, there to happily sire a brood of pups.

Parts of Moody's family are convinced this is what happened, although a group of Idriess supporters and researchers dispute it on their website (www.idriess.com.au).

I've known Allen for decades. She's 90 now and her memory is so sharp that, when I phoned this week, she recalled the make and colour of a sports car I drove 20 years ago.

She said she was a teenage first-year journalism cadet when she met Moody in 1945. He was a heart-sick young man living in a caravan at Stuart Park, Wollongong. She spoke to him because he was sitting alone, weeping.

"We didn't know what PTSD [post traumatic stress disorder] was in those days," she said. "The war had left him a wreck. I worked out who he was, because the papers were full of stories about his little dog being destroyed."

When she told her editor she had met Moody, she was sent back to get his story.

"That's when he told me how he'd made sure Horrie wasn't killed, and how there'd been a switch. But he told me he'd deny everything if I told anyone and I went back and told the editor 'no story'."

Allen kept Moody's secret until 2002 when she met Hill at a book launch.

Perhaps no one now can know precisely what happened to Corporal Horrie.

What is indisputable is that Horrie, like Private Jim Moody, is worth commemorating.

Like a lot of unauthorised immigrants since, Horrie got no compassion from Australian officialdom, and Moody, like a lot of returned soldiers, was left to suffer his demons alone. ■

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The Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation



The Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) is a not for profit charity that raises awareness of the deeds and sacrifices that animals have made in warfare.

On the 21st July 2017 AWAMO in cooperation with the people of Pozieres, AWAMO proudly opened the first war animal memorial on the Western Front. This memorial recognised all animals from all Nations that were involved in the Great War.

Pozieres was the scene of some of the most bitter and costly fighting for Australian troops in WWI. The battle was also the place of untold losses in animal life. It is estimated that over 9 million serving animals perished or were wounded in the Great War. We should never forget that not only two legged but four legged diggers served this nation and still continue to do so today. These animals have demonstrated true valour and an enduring partnership with humans and they will now be honoured with a beautiful new memorial and rose (see below).

Several hundred people attended including VIPs, locals and Australian tourists that were lucky enough to encounter the opening whilst on a tour of the Somme battlefields.

The ceremony commenced at 1000 hrs on a beautiful clear day with a Bagpiper playing several melodies as people took their seats. The MC for the event, who did an outstanding job, commenced with an opening address and welcome followed by the Mayor of Pozieres welcome in French. VIP speakers Dr Brendan Nelson and Dr Harry Cooper told touching stories of war victims both human and animal which brought many a tear

CHARLES DE GAULLE ROSE SUPPORTING WAR ANIMALS

Treloar Roses, Australia's largest rose supplier formed a partnership with The Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) in 2017 to help raise money for the establishment of recently opened war animal memorial in Pozieres, France.

The beautiful Charles De Gaulle rose was given special permission by its French breeder, Meiland Roses to be named as the 'Official Australian War Animal Rose' and has been planted throughout the memorial in France.

AWAMO president Nigel Allsopp is excited to announce that Treloar Roses has decided to continue their support and are extending the donation period into 2018 to help provide further financial help for future AWAMO projects.

Potted Charles de Gaulle rose plants are available by mail order from November to March.

To order visit www.treloarroses.com.au or phone 03 5529 2367.

BY NIGEL ALLSOPP, PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN WAR ANIMAL MEMORIAL ORGANISATION (AWAMO)

to the crowd's eyes. The ADF Veterinarian Major Kendall Crocker talked of the people who cared and looked after the war animals- the various Veterinary Corps who saved many thousands of lives, especially horses'. Then came my turn to talk, thanking all those that made history and remembering the war animals via this monument for generations to come.

National Anthems were sung then all four memorials were unveiled separately, then blessed by the Padres. This was followed by the reading of the war animal poem. Wreaths were then formally laid by VIPs from Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, India, the United States and Canada. Remaining wreaths were then laid; these came from dozens of societies that support AWAMO such as the Qld and National Donkey, Percheron, Clydesdale, RAAF MWDs, Light Horse and pigeon associations. So numerous were the local and Australian schools that made wreaths and sent them that it is not possible to list them all, but I thank each and everyone. These wreaths were all spectacular and filmed around the world by TV crews present. Then finally the Ode was read out for war animals followed by the trumpet sound of the last post with a minute's silence. Again the British Army supplied the trumpeter.

A war animal memorial could not have been opened without animals being present. I would like to thank the Royal Army Veterinary Corps (RAVC) who supplied 20 Military Working Dog (MWD) handlers to the event. They also loaned Cpl Young, the ADF dog handler present, an MWD for the day. Ian Grey, Vice President of Redland RSL had made several contacts which resulted in local horses and donkeys being on parade. And, of course, many re-enactors and visitors brought their pets along.

There are many people that make such an event possible. I humbly thank you all for your time, passion and commitment. Together we have made a lasting memorial to honour the winged and four legged soldiers of WWI. ■

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Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation

A volunteer non-profit organisation made up of likeminded people, working to establish war animal memorials across Australia and overseas. For further information visit www.awamo.org.au.



Remembering Digger

Digger, a dark brown and white bulldog. Digger accompanied his owner, Sergeant James Harold Martin, during his service overseas and is said to have served three and a half years with the AIF.

Martin, an electrician from Hindmarsh in South Australia enlisted on 18 September 1914, at the age of 22. Digger seems to have been a stray dog that attached himself to soldiers training at Broadmeadows and followed them down to the troopships. Martin adopted him as a mascot and he and Digger sailed from Melbourne on 20 October 1914. Martin served initially with 1 Division Signal Company on Gallipoli, but transferred to 2 Division Signal Company in July 1915. He remained with the company, attached to the Engineers, during his service on the Western Front in France and Belgium. Digger's remarkable service is described - how Digger 'went over the top' 16 times and had been through some of the worst battles on Gallipoli and the Western Front. He had been wounded and gassed at Pozieres in 1916 and shot through the jaw, lost three teeth, and was blinded in the right eye and deafened in the left ear. At the

sound of a gas alarm, it was reported that Digger would rush to his nearest human companion to have his gas mask fitted. There are also accounts of how Digger would take food to wounded men stranded in no man's land, sometimes bringing back written messages.

Martin returned to Australia on 12 May 1918 and was discharged medically unfit. Digger accompanied him as strict quarantine regulations relating to the arrival of dogs in Australia from overseas did not come into force until June 1918. He and Digger settled in Sydney. Upon their return to Australia, Sergeant Martin and Digger continued to do their bit for the war effort by attending ceremonies and marches in support of recruitment, fundraising and returning men.

Digger had been wounded and gassed at Pozieres in 1916 and needed cod liver oil for his burns. This was expensive so a



picture postcard of Digger, wearing the inscribed silver collar made for him on his return to Australia, with patriotic red, white and blue ribbons attached to it, was produced and the money realized from its sale used to buy the oil. It is said that the dog was also presented with a free tram and rail pass so that he could accompany Martin. Digger died, as an old dog, on Empire Day (24 May - year not known) when he was frightened by the celebratory fireworks. Thinking he was under fire again he attempted to jump the fence but failed and fell back with a burst blood vessel. Digger managed to crawl back into the house and died on Martin's bed. Martin was in the Prince of Wales Hospital at Randwick at the time, but he arranged through Mrs J A Little, a volunteer who visited the hospital twice a day to help the soldiers there, to have Digger's hide tanned. This is at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. ■

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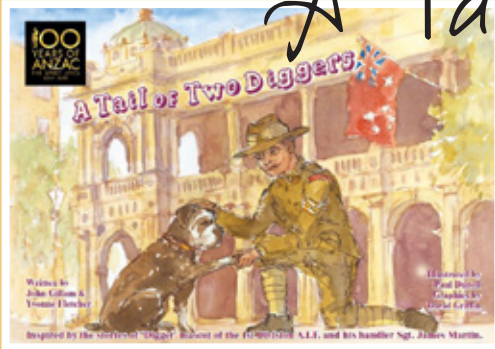
Edmund Bernard Worssell established the company in 1943. His son Edmund Ian Worssell joined the company with his father, his wife Shirley Victoria Worssell joined later, and they were directors for many years. The company is now owned by Evan Karl Worssell and his wife Michele Betty Worssell.

Evan has been with Worssell & Company since 1980 and Michele joined the company a few years later. The company is still very much a family concern with Evan and Michele's son Karl Thomas Worssell joining the company in 2006 and their daughter Jade Maree Worssell (now Jonsson) in 2015.

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We are proud to be manufacturing the plaques for the Australian War Animals Memorials. ■

A Tail of Two Diggers



During the four years of fighting in World War One, Australia lost 60,000 men killed in action. In the ten years following World War One it is estimated that another 60 000 returned veterans died as a result of their wounds, cleaning their weapons, misadventure, alcoholism or other high risk behaviours.

Sadly, Australia today still suffers this terrible loss of veterans. But now the demon that causes this loss has a name. This book is for all those who left the conflict, but who remain conflicted.

"A Tail of Two Diggers" is inspired by stories of 'Digger', a bulldog from Broadmeadows Vic, who runs away from home to become the mascot of the 1st Division, A.I.F.

Digger is analogous to any of the AIF enlistees. Young, excited and looking for adventure he runs away to serve with his new mates. By way of a uniform he is provided a studded collar with his name engraved that he wears for his entire time in service. He travels and trains in Egypt. For the first time he suffers the loss of good mates at Gallipoli and the frustration of not being able to help them. On the Western Front he helps local farmers as do so many of his AIF mates. After being gassed at Pozieres he quickly learns to warn his mates to don gas masks when gas shells are incoming. To continue to help he learns to carry water bottles to the wounded and bring their messages back. He serves on until being wounded again at Ypres. Saved by battlefield surgeons he is befriended by Sgt James Martin of Hindmarsh S.A. The two became inseparable, sharing their experiences of war and the sense of loss it brought them. Both were wounded and repatriated to England prior to their return to Australia in June 1918.

A Quarantine official in Australia wanted Digger returned to France. A confrontation with a group of Digger's veteran mates quickly changed his mind. Digger and Martin continued their service while recuperating. Lauded as heroes, Digger is given a solid silver collar to lead recruiting and fund raising marches. However, as well as their external wounds both carry invisible wounds from their service. While still recovering in the Randwick Rehabilitation Hospital, celebratory fireworks caused Digger to think he was under fire again. He attempted to jump the fence but failed and fell back with a burst blood vessel causing his death.

His memory was never forgotten by either James Martin, who recovered and returned to Hindmarsh to marry and begin a new life, or their carer Mrs J Little. Martin left Diggers mementoes with her when he left Randwick Hospital. Mrs Little's family donated the artefacts to the Australian War Memorial after her death.

Sensitively and evocatively written by John Gillam and Yvonne Fletcher, lavishly illustrated by artist Paul Durell, this book, through the service and sacrifice of Digger and Sgt Martin, leads the reader to understand the indicators and impact of PTSD. The water colour drawings engage younger readers to convey the storyline to them. The narrative text is intended to engage the empathy of older readers by drawing on their experiences of grieving. This book has permission to use the Centenary of ANZAC logo. The foreword has been written by His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales. The authors have been recognised with a Community Recognition Statement read to the NSW Parliament by MP Jenny Aitchison and Australia Day Achievement Awards for their generous support of RSL DefenceCare: In this book the authors have sought to:

- Provide a tribute to Digger, Sgt Martin and those who suffer from PTSD
- Provide PTSD affected families, a third person account to highlight the symptoms and start a conversation about the impact of "invisible wounds"
- Raise funds to support veteran support organisations such as the RSL and Legacy
- Align the content with the Australian Curriculum

Supported by teacher notes and activities, the book is an invaluable educational tool covering the Australian Curriculum areas of English and History. In this way a story from a dark past will create a brighter future for PTSD sufferers by educating children and families. One hundred years after Digger and Martin endured their experiences of war, our service personnel and their families should not continue to suffer alone.

Nigel Allsopp the president of the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) organised a fitting monument which was unveiled at the West Croydon Kilkenny RSL in South Australia in October 2017.

To help fund this memorial, Silver Bullion Australia (SBA) have completed the minting of a limited edition 999 fine silver coin to commemorate the story of Digger and Sgt James Martin. Each numbered coin comes in a sleeved, wooden presentation case complete with a certificate of authenticity. SBA will be making a donation from the sale of each coin to the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO). ■



Silver Bullion Australia (SBA) have completed the minting of a limited edition coin to commemorate the story of Digger and Sgt James Martin. Each numbered coin comes in a sleeved, wooden presentation case complete with a certificate of authenticity. Part proceeds go towards Diggers monument.



Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) monument in honour of Digger.

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Australia Post commemorates Australian women in war for Remembrance Day

In the lead-up to Remembrance Day, Australia Post pays tribute to Australian women, past and present, and their contribution during times of war with the release of a new stamp issue.

Australia Post Philatelic Manager, Michael Zsolt said: "This stamp issue, the fourth in a series commemorating a century since World War I, acknowledges the important roles women have played in war and conflict."

Prior to and including World War I, the involvement of women in conflict zones was almost entirely limited to nursing. In World War II, women served in the nursing corps of the Navy, Army and Air Force, with other roles also open to women, including the Women's Land Army and the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force. Today all roles in the ADF are open to women.

- World War I (1914–18) saw more than 3,000 nurses join the war effort, most serving abroad with the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) while others served with organisations like the Red Cross. Women on the home front also made an immense contribution.
- World War II (1939–45) saw women serving in the nursing corps of the ADF with other roles opening up for women. During World War II, 3,477 AANS nurses served, with more women joining the auxiliary services and volunteer organisations.
- Korean War (1950–53) and Vietnam War (1962–73) saw Australian servicewomen involved in both conflicts. During the Vietnam War, Australian women civilians participated in a number of roles: from members of civilian medical teams, Red Cross support, and entertainers, to Embassy staff and journalists.
- Afghanistan War (2001–present) and Iraq War (2003–11) involved women serving on active duty in the Middle East, including the Gulf War (1990–91), in critical operations as pilots, medics, combat engineers and other roles.
- Peacekeeping has involved Australian servicewomen active in peacekeeping forces in many countries including East Timor, Indonesia, Korea, Zimbabwe, Namibia and the Solomon Islands.

The five domestic base rate (\$1) stamps are designed by Melbourne-based, Stacey Zass of Page 12 Design.

The products associated with this stamp issue are a minisheet, first day cover, stamp pack, medallion cover boxed set, postal and numismatic cover, prestige cover, booklet of 10 x \$1 self-adhesive stamps, five gutter strips of 10 x \$1 stamps with design and a set of five maxicards.

The A Century of Service: Women in War stamp issue is available at participating Post Offices, via mail order on 1800 331 794 and online at auspost.com.au/stamps while stocks last.





HISTORY AND HERITAGE BRANCH – AIR FORCE

In 2015, following consideration of the Air Force History and Heritage Program and its establishment as an Air Force capability as part of the greater Air Force 2021 plan – the Air Force’s 100th Anniversary, former Chief of Air Force (CAF), Air Marshal Geoff Brown, AO, laid out his mission for the History and Heritage Program. CAF’s vision and intent was endorsed by the RAAF Heritage Advisory Council on 30 October 2015.

A key outcome for the History and Heritage Program was the establishment of the Air Force History and Heritage Branch and the appointment of a Director-General History and Heritage – Air Force (DGHH-AF). In February 2016, following an Air Force History and Heritage Review carried out by retired Air Commodore’s Rob Lawson and Al Wright, the current Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Leo Davis, AO, CSC, approved the formation of the Air Force History and Heritage Branch which is staffed by Air Force Reserve personnel.

Air Commodore John Meier was appointed the inaugural DGHH-AF; he has a strong personal and professional interest in the RAAF’s history and heritage.

Since being appointed on 07 March 2016, Air Commodore Meier has spent much of his time implementing the Air Force History and Heritage Review recommendations, meeting appropriate stakeholders both within and outside the Air Force and developing the plans to have the RAAF’s history and heritage ready for Air Force 2021. The work of the Branch is to collect, study, preserve and manage records, artefacts and estate from the Australian Flying Corps to today’s Air Force, to enhance capability and reputation, while meeting Government and community expectations. Readers may see the products of the Branch’s efforts in the static aircraft displays around the bases and Aviation Heritage Centres, or in the many publications on the RAAF’s proud history books. The authority for the Branch’s establishment and operation is covered in the Air Force History and Heritage Manual, signed by Chief of Air Force on 16 December 2016.

The Director-General has direct responsibility of four inter-related elements of Air Force History and Heritage comprising:

- the Directorate of History - Air Force and the RAAF Historian,
- the Directorate of Air Force Heritage,
- the Directorate of Air Force Heritage Estate and Centres, and
- the Directorate of Aircraft Wrecks, and Missing-in-Action (MIA) Investigations.

The RAAF Museum at Point Cook remains under the command of Commander Air Force Training Group, however, DGHH-AF has general oversight of the Museum through the auspices of the RAAF’s Heritage Advisory Council.

The Directorate of History - Air Force and the RAAF Historian, is responsible for providing authoritative advice in support of history matters, including honours and awards; the RAAF Historian is also the subject matter expert on Australian and international air power history. In broad terms, the Directorate of History – Air Force (DH-AF) is engaged in first identifying and collecting appropriate records which detail the Air Force experience relating to personnel, technical capability and operations. It then maintains these records as part of the RAAF Historical Collection, ensuring that regardless of record type, the information therein remains permanently discoverable and accessible.

A further element of the DH-AF is the Oral History Program. This program supplements the records element of the historical

collection with the thoughts and experiences of Air Force members both past and present. With interviews detailing the experiences of RAAF members serving in 1935 through to current operations, the ongoing Oral History program is an important mechanism to capturing the full history of the Air Force. So far, over 1000 interviews have been conducted.

DH-AF is also responsible for the production of material in support of Air Force capability. This output covers a very broad range of material from Official Histories to support to air power doctrine development, education and Ministerial enquiries. The DH-AF is also regularly involved in research activities supporting Honours and Awards, DVA applications and requests from Royal Commissions and similar high level enquiries.

The Directorate of Air Force Heritage (DAFH) is responsible for a program of centralised management and refurbishment of the Static Display Aircraft and Equipment fleet and formal Heritage Assessments ahead of Air Force fleet disposals.

The RAAF Heritage Advisory Council was formed in 2005 to provide advice to the Chief of Air Force on all aspects of Air Force heritage. In recent years the Council initiated a program of heritage projects which include:

- The conduct of Heritage Assessments to better inform decisions on preservation of some airframes from retiring fleets such as F-111 and Caribou aircraft.
- The management of a number of retired F-111C aircraft on long-term loan to some Australian aviation museums.
- A program to improve the appearance of the ‘gate guard’ fleet now referred to as Static Display Aircraft or SDA, with work undertaken by the SDA Support Section (SDASS).

The SDASS Reserve personnel have technical and logistics skills and knowledge to greatly enhance the appearance of static aircraft on public display at the entrance to RAAF bases. The SDA fleet comprises all complete aircraft on static display at RAAF bases, excluding those used as training aids or preserved in the RAAF Museum as part of the ‘RAAF Heritage Collection’.

Directorate of Aircraft Wrecks and Missing-in-Action (MIA) Investigations is responsible for the coordination and management of any known and reported aircraft wreck sites; identification management and recovery of any crew remains and/or personal effects; investigation of RAAF MIA cases, notably from World War II and Korea; and the recovery and storage of any wreckage. There are 3,124 World War II RAAF personnel listed as missing; and 18 RAAF personnel from the Korean campaign.

The Directorate of Air Force Heritage Estate and Centres acts on CAF’s behalf to ensure that the Air Force’s built heritage is identified and preserved into the future. It also provides oversight of the RAAF Aviation Heritage Centres located at RAAF Bases Amberley, Townsville, Wagga and Williamstown.

Directorate personnel work closely with the Defence Estate Heritage Planning Division and the Directorate of Strategic Infrastructure Planning – Air Force on production of Heritage Management Plans for bases which focus on retention and remediation of built heritage. Current projects include the development of infrastructure plans for the refurbishment of heritage assets at Point Cook, including the Chapel and Parade Ground, as well as developing plans for the revamp of the RAAF Aviation Heritage Centres. ■



AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRES

Most military aviation enthusiasts would know the RAAF Museum at Point Cook Victoria as the iconic place to learn about RAAF aviation history. Air Force also has a number of regional Aviation Heritage Centres (AHCs) located at air bases in NSW and QLD. AHCs were established to reflect the Air Force's historical relationships in local and regional areas. Therefore, the AHCs provide Air Force with a medium to educate Air Force personnel and visitors of the importance and roles that the respective RAAF Base has provided to the community and in the defence of the nation.

RAAF TOWNSVILLE

In 1939, Townsville City Council transferred the city airport to the RAAF with RAAF Base Townsville being formed on 15 October 1940. The principal function of the base at that time was to provide fighter defence of Townsville. By 1942 it had become a significant operational base for both the RAAF and United States Army Air Force (USAAF) in operations against the Japanese in the South West Pacific Area. Today, RAAF Townsville is one of northern Australia's primary Defence installations used for training and exercises as well as a mounting base/forward operating base for military, humanitarian, and peacekeeping activities through the region. The Base has a long and proud association with the people of North Queensland.

Major themes for the collection are:

- RAAF (and the USAAF) in the SW Pacific 1939 - 1946
- Contemporary operations
- Units and people of RAAF Townsville and the Townsville area

Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am to 4pm, other times by appointment.

RAAF AMBERLEY

In 1938, 880 acres were purchased and developed to become RAAF Base Amberley on 17 June 1940. Throughout World War II it supported flying training, aircraft assembly, salvage and repair, and squadron staging post. By 1948, RAAF Base Amberley became the RAAF's major base for bomber aircraft operations and aircraft maintenance. From 1960 to 1968, Army's light aviation squadron was formed and operated from RAAF Base Amberley. Today, RAAF Amberley is Air Force's largest operating base and home to heavy lift and fighter aircraft, as well as major aircraft maintenance and overhaul facilities and Air Force Security Force training.

Major themes for the collection are:

- Vietnam War era aircraft
- Amberley based aircraft
- Ground Defence and Security Forces
- Ground support equipment
- Simulators

Open on the third Sunday of the month Feb-Nov 9am to 3pm, or Tuesdays and Thursdays via pre-arranged bookings.

RAAF WAGGA

In 1939 "Allonville", a 300 acre farm was purchased and developed to become RAAF Base Forest Hill on 29 July 1940. Throughout World War II it supported flying training as part of the Empire Air Training Scheme. In 1946 RAAF Base Forest Hill became the home for all ground training and in 1952 changed its name to RAAF Base Wagga to identify with the broader community. Today, RAAF Wagga delivers technical and non-technical initial employment and postgraduate training that is fundamental to the delivery of military air and space power in support of national objectives.

Major themes for the collection are:

- The Empire Air Training Scheme
- Trade Training in the RAAF (especially Technical Training)
- Units and people of RAAF Wagga and the Riverina

Open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 10am to 4pm.

RAAF WILLIAMTOWN

RAAF Williamtown was established on 15 February 1941 to provide protection for the strategic port and steel manufacturing facilities of the Hunter Region. During World War II a number of Empire Air Training Scheme squadrons were formed at Williamtown before proceeding overseas. Following World War II, Williamtown was retained as the RAAF's main fighter base.

Major themes for the collection are:

- RAAF Fighter Aircraft
- Air Defence
- Forward Air Control
- Units and people of RAAF Williamtown

Open every day (except Christmas Day).



Brain Trauma in Military

During World War I, a syndrome of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) was described as “shell shock”. At the time, and without any pathological studies, it was declared to have psychiatric origins related to the stresses of combat and they are great.

It is now known that mild (mTBI) results from exposure to explosive blasts. Despite the very large numbers of service personnel affected, the acute and long-term effects have only recently been the subject of research.

Increasing evidence suggests that even a single incident of mTBI can produce long term debilitating effects and precipitate, or accelerate age-related neurodegeneration in some of those affected and increase the risk of developing Dementia, Parkinson’s and other brain diseases. These outcomes are predicted to magnify with repeated exposures to blasts more so if they occur frequently without sufficient natural recovery time.

TBIs do not present any external signs although headaches may be experienced by some and that would lead to neuro-pathological tests that could lead to a diagnosis or behavioural changes may start later. However, there are no biomarkers to show any damage exists although the Brain Foundation has funded a project to identify a biomarker for younger-onset dementia that is currently progressing. Even so, there is not yet a treatment to stabilise or reverse the condition and in some cases mTBI may overlap Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. At the moment, rehabilitative strategies can only focus upon mechanisms that promote innate neuroplasticity and neurogenesis, such as graded exercise, restorative sleep and nutritional support. Much more research is needed not only for veterans but many who suffer repeated concussions in sport and accidents and are liable to the same outcomes.

(This summary was drawn from an open access article by Ann C, McKee and Meghan E. Robinson supported by the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. The writer, Gerald Edmunds, CEO of the Brain Foundation, is not medically qualified.) ■



Brain and Spinal disorders, diseases and injuries account for over two thirds of death and disability in Australia,

The Brain Foundation, founded in 1970 by Neurosurgeons and Neurologists, is the largest independent funder of brain and spinal research in the nation. That independence gives the opportunity to fund research that has great potential but that other sources think are ‘too risky’.

The Foundation also seeks applications from every category. That means those who are kind enough to donate or honour us with a bequest can specify a specific neurological condition that they would like to support knowing that their funds will only be deployed when there is a project of great merit.

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Niels Birbaumer

SCRIBE

New Book from Award-winning Professor Niels Birbaumer



Niels Birbaumer is a psychologist and neurobiologist. He is a leading figure in the development of brain-computer interfaces, a field he has researched for 40 years, with a focus on treating brain disturbances. He has been awarded numerous international honours and prizes, including the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize and the Albert Einstein World Award of Science. Professor Birbaumer is co-director of the Institute of Behavioural Neurobiology at the University of Tübingen in Germany, and senior researcher at the Wyss Centre for Bio- and Neuro-engineering in Switzerland.



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Leaving a charitable gift in your Will is a part of your legacy.

With a few simple steps, you can choose to be remembered for making a lasting difference for generations to come.

The Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF) is inspired by a simple mantra; Remembrance through Research. We seek to honour the legacy of our Diggers' by enhancing the health of our current and ex service personnel and the wider Australian community. We believe this work is a part of the debt of gratitude we owe to the brave men and women who have served this country.

By supporting GMRF you can be part of innovative medical research into serious health issues such as posttraumatic stress disorder, the reintegration process from soldier to civilian, and physical illnesses such as liver disease and cancer.

A gift in your Will to the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation is a tribute to our veterans and all those lost too soon to cancer and other serious illnesses. Our administration costs are covered by the generous in-kind support of Greenslopes Private Hospital and the income from our Clinical Trials Unit, which means every cent of what you choose to donate or leave as a gift in your Will to GMRF goes directly towards life-saving medical research. ■

“My husband was a prisoner of war during World War II. I am leaving a gift in my Will to GMRF to honour his memory through desperately needed research.”

– GMRF Donor

Our Bequest Officer can answer any Gift in Will questions you might have as well as further explain the impact you can make to medical research. Call us for a confidential and obligation-free chat on 07 3394 7284 or email at enquiries.gmrf@ramsayhealth.com.au.

Bolton Clarke recognises the service and sacrifice of our current and past service men and women and their families as we mark Remembrance Day.

Our organisation has its origins in serving the Veteran community. Supporting the specific needs of that community remains a core value as we continue to grow our legacy through our services, our research and our community relationships.

RSL Care, which grew from the Queensland War Veterans Home Trust, merged with RDNS in 2015, and our new name, Bolton Clarke, recognises our combined tradition of more than two centuries of care and respect with the ex-service and broader community.

Lieutenant Colonel William Kinsey Bolton, (1860-1941) was a returned serviceman and Gallipoli veteran who became the first president of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League (forerunner of the RSL) in 1916.

Lady Janet Clarke, (1851-1909), a well-known philanthropist, became president of the Melbourne District Nursing Society (later to become RDNS) in 1889 and remained a driving force for more than 20 years of dedicated service. The Society played an integral role in supporting sick soldiers and their families on behalf of the War Council.

Today Bolton Clarke is proud to be Australia's biggest provider of services for Veterans, supporting more than 35,000 Veteran clients each year.

We are one of Australia's most experienced not-for-profit independent living providers, working with more than 112,000 clients at home and more than 4,500 residents in retirement living and residential aged care communities across Australia and internationally.

Our ongoing work to support greater access to services for Veterans and their families is supported by our Bolton Clarke Research Institute's close consultation with the ex-services community, by our involvement as founding members of the Australasian Services Care Network and by practical initiatives like our dedicated Veterans and Legacy Navigator call support services.

On November 11, we are proud to honour the experience of our Veteran residents and clients around Australia living in their own homes and in our retirement and residential communities, and to remember the journey we have taken with the returned service men and women of Australia.

Honouring our servicemen and women

We're proud of our shared heritage in providing quality services and support for Veterans and their families.

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BY THE AGE OF 85 ONE IN TWO AUSTRALIANS WILL HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER – AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (AIHW)

It's a sobering statistic, and one which means that in our lifetime we will all be touched by cancer. Whether personally, or through loved ones – no one is immune.

Malcolm Edwards is well aware of his statistic. He was diagnosed with two carcinoid tumours in 2007. Following treatment that included successful removal of one of the tumours and reducing the other, Malcolm's doctor told him, "he can't cure me, but he can control it, and that's the best news you can ever have".

When Malcolm updated his will to include a gift to Cancer Council NSW many years ago, he did so thinking of his children and grandchildren.

"We joke about the small portion of inheritance they're losing, but it's really a gift to them. I'm not a wealthy man by any means, but I know every little bit helps to take us a step closer to a cancer free world and that's something powerful to leave behind for your kids," Malcolm said.

Now, Malcolm's gift means so much more to him following his own cancer diagnosis of two carcinoid tumours in 2007.

Most recently Malcolm's wife of 50 years, Robin, has also faced her own battle with cancer when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2012.

Malcolm hopes that by leaving a gift to Cancer Council NSW in his will, his children and grandchildren will be protected for the future.

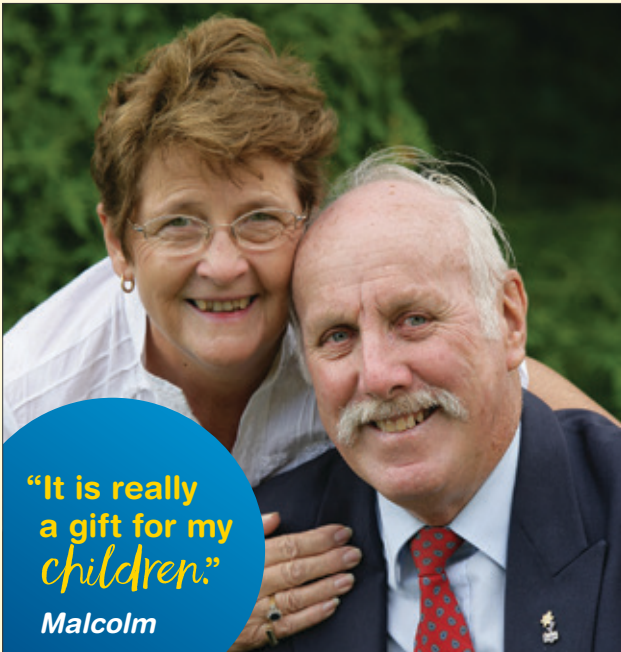
Cancer Council NSW believe that we can and will beat cancer. There are things that we can all do every day to help make this happen.

Malcolm's gift will help fund vital research, support and prevention programs that make a real difference in reducing cancer and improving outcomes for patients facing the disease.

"I am leaving money to Cancer Council NSW when I die. Cancer does terrible things to people. I'm no scientist, but this is something I can contribute," Malcolm said. ■



Leaving a bequest can mean a world of difference to researchers working towards a future free from cancer. If you would like to leave a gift in your will or find out more, please email the Bequests Team at bequests@nswcc.org.au or contact us on (02) 9334 1479.



"It is really a gift for my children."
Malcolm



Leave hope for a cancer-free future

When Malcolm updated his will to include a gift to Cancer Council NSW he was thinking of his children and grandchildren. He sees it as a gift that protects the people he loves the most.

Help create a cancer-free future to protect those you love.



- Yes I'd like to receive a copy of **"Your guide to including a gift in your will"**
- Please send me a FREE will planning kit for creating or updating my will.

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Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____ State _____ Postcode _____

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VIETNAM VETERANS STUDY

Vietnam veterans have joined a study of ageing brains to help scientists understand the long-term impact of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The 127 vets underwent brain scans (PET and MRI), memory and thinking tests, and filled-in surveys reporting on their sleep patterns, mental and physical health. They also completed blood tests and genetic analysis for the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health and Austin Health study.

Florey PhD candidate, Tia Cummins, has been crunching the data which concentrates on veterans who are living with health issues many decades after their service.

The data has revealed that those with TBI are more likely to have thinking and memory problems later in life. "Even one moderate to severe head injury can lead to cognitive issues 30-50 years later, affecting memory and attention," Ms Cummins says. "These veterans are, however, living normal lives, as their brains have adapted to the damage caused by the injury."

Both those with TBI and PTSD tend to have higher levels of mental health issues, including anxiety and depression, when compared with healthy older veterans. Both groups also suffer increased levels of sleep apnoea, sleep disturbance and a higher body mass index than the control group.

Previous research has suggested that veterans who have had a head injury have a four times greater risk of dementia than their uninjured counterparts, and those with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder are at double the risk, however more work is required to investigate this link further.

The good news is that treatment for mental health issues such as anxiety, depression and sleep issues is readily available. The challenge, according to Ms Cummins, who is ex-British Army, is to help veterans realise that they don't have to put up with these problems. "So many of them have suffered, stoically, for such a long time with the likes of depression and anxiety that they think

it's normal. It's never too late to get help. If we can address some of the mental health issues, we can help veterans live well, with a good quality of life into old age."

Vietnam veteran Michael Ingram, 70, has experienced both PTSD and head trauma. He still has shrapnel in his skull from the rocket grenade that hit the tanker he was driving at age 21.

Mr Ingram hopes the study will result in better follow-up for young veterans like his late son Paul, who served in Somalia and experienced PTSD.

"It plays out differently in different people, but there must be something that starts it all off that they can isolate to work out who is at risk," Mr Ingram said.

Ms Cummins hopes this research, which is funded by the US Department of Defense, will improve treatment options for veterans – for both those who are in their sixties and seventies and for those who have recently returned. ■

The study is now closed but for more information, contact info@florey.edu.au
If you, or anyone you know needs support, contact Lifeline on 13 11 14



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EUTHANASIA – RIGHT TO DIE OR DUTY TO DIE?

BY MAJOR GENERAL PETER PHILLIPS

I read with interest the articles in your last issue on end-of-life care. The article on your late wife, Wendy, and her struggle with pancreatic cancer touched me as it would have for many other readers. Your practical response in organising a fundraising concert for pancreatic cancer research is a great memorial to Wendy and I would like to donate to the appeal. Then came your interview with Andrew Denton, a prominent advocate who uses all his media skills to promote the legalisation of euthanasia. I am sure that you and he are driven by personal experience and deep compassion for those suffering with terminal illnesses. I worry, however, that you have not presented the other side of the coin and suggest that you owe it to your readers, especially those in the ex-service community who, more than most, might be led to feel that they have not only a right to die but also a duty to die. You offered to print something from me. To that end, I am sending you a copy of a letter that I sent to an anonymous old comrade who has since passed on.

Dear "Snow",

It was good to see you and I enjoyed our chat. I am sorry that you have had such a rough time and that your prognosis is so poor. I am not surprised that your thoughts are turning to your final hours. You asked what I thought about you signing up for assisted dying or euthanasia. That's a tough one but, as promised, I am giving you my views in this letter as honestly as I can.

I came to the position a long time ago that society should not go down the path of legalising euthanasia. My view arose out of the debates about the repeal of the Northern Territory laws back in the 1990s and particular concern for veterans and war widows. The RSL National Executive spent much time on the matter and decided to support the Australian Medical Association which was firmly opposed to legalising euthanasia. Our National President at the time was the late Major General Digger James. You will remember that he was a respected soldier who had lost a leg in Korea and went on to become a doctor. He was steadfast on this issue and carried the day.

Back then the feedback was that a majority of the League's membership (then about 240,000) was in favour of laws permitting euthanasia. In group discussions, however, it was apparent that only a minority was in favour of active, as opposed to passive, euthanasia. The real issue was provision of proper palliative care and pain relief, even though that might hasten death.

It was also apparent that many ex-servicemen felt that taking one's life rather than becoming a burden to their families was the "proper thing to do". This is not surprising given our training in the Services to be prepared to sacrifice our lives if necessary for our comrades and for the nation. We often heard of this wish not to be a burden to others.

In 1998, the Government had me set up a National Ex-Service Round Table on Aged Care. During my 10 years as chairman, the forum kept under review improved palliative care for veterans and war widows. That was widely welcomed and I recall no instance where we were ever asked to promote or even consider euthanasia as an alternative.

We were particularly impressed by the efforts of Dr Sylvester of the Austin Repat Hospital in Melbourne, in establishing the "Respecting Patient Choices" program. We saw that promotion of advanced care planning, combined with good quality palliative care, was well accepted, provided a greater sense of autonomy to individuals planning for their demise, and that it was an arrangement that was ethical and capable of resolution between the doctor and patient. I am pleased that advanced care directives are now widely accepted and you have been wise to talk through this with your family. Please make sure you get it down in writing and sign up before your faculties fail. DVA has a useful document, Planning Ahead, on its website which might help.

Of course, many are moved by compassion for the few difficult cases of people in extreme suffering. My experience, however, is that "hard cases make bad law" and that is reflected in what is going on in places like the Netherlands Belgium, Canada, Oregon in the US and other places that have euthanasia legislation.

I am not emotionally distant from this issue. My granddaughter lived in an irreversible coma in a Brisbane hospital and nursing home for four years in the 1990s before her death at the age of seven. While we might have wished to see her die, we were greatly moved by the care given to her by strangers and the impact that the "termination" of

even one child would have on the well being of her family and society as a whole.

To end your life through euthanasia would also have impacts on your family and the wider society that you ought to consider. You may think that you have had enough and should shuffle off this mortal coil but I am sure that your family will see your last moments as precious. I particularly remember an uncle of mine, ex-WWII Air Force, who suffered with cancer for 13 years until his death. I offered him commiserations but he said, "Thanks, Peter, but I wouldn't have missed these years for quids. Why? Simply because, since I became ill, the family has given me so much love - undreamed of!"

Remember also that euthanasia, assisted dying or whatever you call it, is suicide. Would you want to be remembered for that?... And what of the example for future generations? Youth suicide figures are bad enough now without it being seen to be condoned by us oldies.

I am concerned also about letting doctors be involved in "physician assisted suicide" and I don't think that is compatible with palliative care. Would you want to be cared for by a doctor who deliberately promoted and assisted in ending the life of the terminally ill? Let me tell you about a German medical officer in the Afrika Corps who was captured by the SAS in the Western Desert in 1942. While held captive by a patrol, he assisted by working with the British MO in the patrol. Eventually he escaped and returned to the German lines. After the War, he admitted that he had taken the life of one of his terribly wounded patients by giving him an overdose. He went on, however to devote his life to making amends through providing palliative care and was a founder of the hospice movement. You can read about him in Ben McIntyre's book, SAS Rogue Heroes, Penguin, 2016

I note that 2018 will see the 50th anniversary of the battles at Coral-Balmoral in South Vietnam. You will remember at Balmoral that after one of the attacks on 3RAR some 50 North Vietnamese soldiers lay dead near our Company's forward defences. Later we found that many more wounded had been dragged away. In fact, several were found in a terrible state by our patrols. It would have been too easy to simply despatch them on the spot with a well aimed shot rather than treat them or organize to get them to a prisoner of war compound or hospital. Had we come from a country that looked kindly or blindly on "mercy killing" perhaps we would have done so. Yet my abiding memory is of our soldiers picking maggots from and binding the wounds of these young enemy soldiers.

In more recent years, I did some work for the Centre for Ageing and Pastoral Studies at Charles Sturt University. I searched for but found no tenable moral argument in favour of active euthanasia. If it was brought into law, I think the few cases would become many as more and more vulnerable people who are aged, suffering or depressed would come to consent, under real or imagined pressure, to be "euthanazed" rather than seek proper care. Even now, we see calls in overseas countries for euthanasia to be available to mentally incompetent aged persons and seriously disabled children. I am especially concerned now that, as the number of aged persons with dementia grows exponentially, mercy killing will be seen as a solution. Next it could even be seen as a panacea for health budgets!

I hope that you continue to get good care and, even if the "hospital food is no better than those b----- Army Field Rations", hang in there!

Yours aye, Pete. ■

Major General Peter Phillips AO MC (Retd) has been a member of the RSL and Legacy for 46 years. He has served as President of Canberra Legacy; Chairman of the RSL's National Veterans' Affairs Committee and was National President of the League from 1997 to 2003.



The Story Behind Emergency ID Australia

Nicole Graham is the founder and owner of Emergency ID Australia and commenced this business 12 years ago after seeing firsthand a real need for vital information to be immediately accessible.

Nicole spent 13 years in the NSW Police Force, and attended many accidents and incidents where she saw how Emergency ID could greatly benefit both the patients and emergency services. Nicole left the Police suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Nicole also had an intellectually disabled Uncle, who she grew up very closely with, who was hit and killed as a pedestrian by a drink driver. Unfortunately, he lay all night in the morgue as an unidentified person, as he carried no identification to advise who he was, where he lived and who needed to be notified.

Then at the age of 34, and the Mum of 2 young children, Nicole personally experienced a serious heart condition causing her to require open heart surgery, spending time on life support and Intensive Care.

The doctor advised her to wear medical jewellery, yet the options were very limited, especially for a young person.

So, seeing a real need through various experiences, and being a very self-motivated and determined person, she saw a real need for quality, stylish products at affordable prices.

Nicole started Emergency ID 12 years ago (in May 2005), with a lap top on her dining room table and just 5 terrible products.

Emergency ID Australia now has hundreds of quality products, and has been independently judged, winning numerous business awards, including Business Woman of The Year, Excellence In Innovation and many more. Emergency ID is the world leader in this field, with the most diverse range available ANYWHERE and continually advancing to cater to a WORLDWIDE need.

Nicole and her family recently moved to Tasmania and a year later also relocated the business. After arriving in Tasmania in December 2014 Nicole was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. She is receiving treatment for this and is now recovering well and still very passionate about Emergency ID and its benefits to all.

She definitely understands Emergency ID customers and their needs personally, as well as from the Emergency Services point of view.

Nicole is a wife, mother of 3 and Speaker for beyondblue as she is passionate about improving mental health awareness in Australia. ■

Note: Emergency ID is generally paid for by DVA for DVA Card Holders

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As all Australians know, one suicide is one too many.

Tragically, suicide affects all areas of our community – around seven Australians a day will tragically take their own life and it remains the greatest cause of death for men between the ages of 14 and 44.

BY HON. DAN TEHAN, MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Veterans and members of our Australian Defence Force (ADF) are sadly not immune. In the latest official figures available from the Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing (AIHW), which I have detailed to the Parliament, between 2001 and 2015, 325 veterans took their own lives. Sadly, it appears the number has increased over time. In 2014, the figure was 31. In 2015, this rose to 33. The Government is committed to addressing suicide in our community. We must understand that everyone including the Government has a role to play if we are to address the incidence of suicide in Australia. The Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee's report on the Inquiry into suicide by veterans and ex-service personnel, *The Constant Battle: Suicide by Veterans*, was tabled in Parliament on 15 August 2017. The work of the Committee in preparing this report has been significant and the Government has carefully considered all recommendations that it made.

The Committee's report states: 'The aspirational target rate for suicide by veterans and ex-service personnel should be zero. However, it would be misleading to represent that the recommendations in this report will achieve that goal. Any effective measures to decrease the rate of suicide by veterans and ex-service personnel will require a long-term multifaceted approach involving government, business, non-government and ex-service organisations and the wider Australian community. Change is likely to take a substantial period of time.' Today, I table the Government's response and outline the measures that we will put in place to reduce suicide and self-harm in the veteran community. The Government has agreed to all of the recommendations made by the Committee. Today I announce a package of \$31.0 million and provide new programs that will deliver better support for veterans and their families. Jesse Bird – Review Through its work in its Inquiry, the Senate Committee has drawn on many individual stories. As the Committee notes in the Report, 'bereaved widows, partners, parents, friends and advocates have shared stories which have often ended in tragic loss.' Sadly, the Government has seen examples where the current support services were not good enough.

One such veteran was Jesse Bird. With the approval of his family, today I will show how Jesse's case highlights the need for us to continue to improve the current system. Jesse Bird took his own life on 27 June this year, at the age of 32. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge his parents Karen and John Bird, his siblings Brendan, Kate and David and their partners, who I have gotten to know since Jesse's regrettable death. I would also like to acknowledge his extended family and extensive network of friends, many of which he served with in the ADF. I would like to reiterate my commitment to them that this Government will continue to drive the reforms necessary to improve the support and care available to veterans and reduce the risk of suicide in the veteran community.

Jesse joined the Australian Army as a Rifleman in 2007. His family remembers him as "an elite level athlete, booming with charisma and self-confidence and proud to be a member of the ADF." In 2009, Jesse deployed on Operation SLIPPER to Afghanistan. There he faced the challenging and dangerous nature of service. On 18 July 2009, a close friend of Jesse's was killed in an improvised explosive incident. Jesse returned to Australia in 2010 and in 2012 he voluntarily discharged from the Army. Following Jesse's discharge, he faced the challenge of transition back into civilian life. Due to physical injuries and the deterioration of Jesse's mental health with the impact of PTSD during his time in the Army, Jesse found it increasingly difficult to find meaningful work that gave him the sense of purpose he had during his time serving in the ADF. Departmental processes failed or simply did not exist to offer services to help Jesse. While struggling with all this, Jesse decided to end his life.

Jesse's case highlights the complexity and breadth of the challenge the Department of Veterans' Affairs faces to support our veterans, particularly those with mental health conditions as a result of their service. These Australians have risked themselves in the service of our country. If these people are not receiving the support they need, then we must continue to drive change. Following Jesse Bird's death, I asked the Departments of Veterans' Affairs and Defence and the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service to thoroughly examine his case. They have conducted a review which looked at his experience with Defence and Veterans' Affairs. This occurred in consultation with his family. I delivered a report on this investigation to Jesse's family on 15 September. Amongst other findings, the report into the management of Jesse Bird's case shows that while some aspects of process and management were within expectations, others were contrary to the Department of Veterans' Affairs policy and practice. The Department of Veterans' Affairs either did not or could not provide the support or proactive engagement Jesse needed. In particular, the report highlighted the issue of providing timely compensation and financial assistance to support those veterans suffering mental health conditions. The requirement for mental health conditions to be stable before being considered for compensation needs to be addressed. In addition, the provision of financial assistance when veterans are at their most vulnerable is needed.

These issues let Jesse down as he was unable to get financial assistance when he needed it. The report identified 19 recommendations, which I have accepted on behalf of the Government and will table today. Many of these align with recommendations put forward by the Senate Committee. These recommendations include priority actions to improve current processes and practices in DVA and progressing initiatives already being considered as part of the Veteran Centric Reform program. The implementation of the recommendations will be independently reviewed after 12 months. It is the Government's commitment to address the shortfalls identified by this investigation and to put in place urgent changes in the provision of support to our veterans, especially those who are vulnerable or at risk. These veterans must have their claims assessed quickly and have case managers to assist them during what can be a difficult process.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has apologised to the Bird family for the way in which its processes failed their son and brother. Today I put that apology on the public record. The Department of Veterans' Affairs apologises to the Bird family and to Jesse's extended family and friends. In examining what happened to Jesse Bird, we have developed plans together that will change Defence and Veterans' Affairs. The lessons from Jesse's case have helped inform the Government's response to the Senate Committee's report. I want to assure Mr and Mrs Bird and Jesse's family and friends that the Government is committed to making change happen. The Senate Report The Senate Committee made 24 recommendations in its Report. These recommendations asked that the Government undertake a number of different reviews and policy changes to address veterans and defence personnel mental health and suicide prevention.

Firstly, the Committee has recommended that the Government undertake wide-ranging reviews of its processes in Defence and Veterans' Affairs. Amongst others, the Committee recommended that the Productivity Commission should review the legislative framework of compensation and rehabilitation and review other arrangements in the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Government has accepted the recommendations and will ask the Productivity Commission to undertake this review. The Treasurer and I will develop the terms of reference for this review, which will be open to submissions from all Australians.



I thank Mr Tehan for acknowledging the mishandling of Jesse's case and welcome his apology. But if it happened to Jesse, it happened to everyone at one point in their transition, claiming, mental health pursuits and physical injuries.

I welcome the white card and case managers on the ground that we so desperately needed. This is a basic need every veteran should not have to justify and should be available across Australia to everyone.

Unfortunately the veteran community do not trust this government. The veteran community deserves a National Apology and Jesse wouldn't have it any other way. I ask the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Minister of Veteran's Affairs Dan Tehan to write the wrong and start at the beginning. If we are making changes together you need us on board or all your money is useless. Kneel down to your fellow man and acknowledge you got it wrong.

Veterans should not be a statistic, Veteran suicide should be Zero!

Connie Boglis, partner of Jesse Bird.

An official inquiry into the treatment of army veteran Jesse Bird has found there were significant failures by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) that increased his risk factors and that urgent changes are needed to protect other vulnerable veterans.

Mr Bird died by suicide in June, just weeks after losing a claim for permanent impairment he had been pursuing for almost two years.

The decision came despite the Department accepting initial liability, in August 2016, for Mr Bird's post-traumatic stress disorder, major depressive disorder and alcohol abuse.

The 32-year-old Afghan war veteran had warned DVA he was suicidal and under severe financial pressure at the time of his death.

IF YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW NEEDS HELP:

- Lifeline on 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800
- MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978
- Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467
- Beyond Blue on 1300 22 46 36
- Headspace on 1800 650 890

The Government also accepts the Committee's recommendation that the Australian National Audit Office conduct a review into the efficiency of veterans' service delivery by DVA and will write to the Auditor-General to request to include this review in the 2017-18 programme of work. In its report, the Committee identified a number of measures that the Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs should implement without the need for review. They included recommendations that:

- The Departments align the provision of mental health care;
- The Career Transition Assistance Scheme include an option for external work experience for veterans;
- ADF members are provided DVA White Cards on discharge; and
- A two-track program be developed for ADF members leaving Defence. The Government welcomes these recommendations and agrees to implement them. Many are already being implemented. Throughout the inquiry, the Committee covered a number of issues relating to the current functions of DVA. To address this, the Committee has provided a number of recommendations. Firstly, the Committee has recommended a continuation of the Veteran Centric Reform program in DVA, while also providing resources to alleviate claims times and resolve complex cases. This is consistent with the Government's commitment in this year's Budget, which provided over \$160 million to Veteran Centric Reform. It represents the largest investment in the Department in over a decade.

The Committee has also recommended that the Government establish a formal Bureau of Veterans' Advocates with the capacity to commission legal representation and training for veteran advocates. There is an opportunity to improve the regulation of veterans' advocacy to increase quality and consistency of services to veterans. The Government agrees with the Committee in principle that the current advocacy system needs to change. We will consider the Committee's recommendation for a Bureau of Veterans' Advocates alongside other advocacy models and will consult the veteran community about future directions in veteran advocacy. Most importantly, the Committee has identified measures that can help us provide support to those who need it today. The Government knows that mental health treatments work best when intervention is early. This is why we have put in place a system that provides free and immediate treatment for all mental health conditions for anyone with one day's full time service in the military.

As the Committee noted, 'there was almost universal praise from stakeholders regarding the extension of non-liability health care for all mental health conditions.' This reform over the past 18 months has been revolutionary. It has meant treatment for veterans

without the need to prove it was linked to service, cutting the administration and processing burden. However, the Committee has recommended the expansion of a number of services and systems to support this: 1. The development of specific suicide prevention programs targeted towards at-risk groups and a pilot of a case management service for at risk veterans; 2. The expansion of online engagement with younger veterans; and 3. The funding of a trial program to provide assistance animals for veterans with PTSD. I am pleased to say that work on these recommendations has begun or is about to begin. Finally, the Committee recommended that the Government should maintain a National Veteran Suicide Register. The Government commissioned the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to provide the first accurate, robust data ever produced on suicide among the serving and ex-serving populations. This data was published last year. The Government has asked the AIHW to continue to independently track this data. To achieve all of the Committee's recommendations, the Government will put forward a package of \$31.0 million. This package will include:

- A new Veteran Payment;
- Extended Support for Veterans' Families;
- GP Health Assessments for the First Five Years Post Discharge;
- A Case Management Pilot; and
- A Scoping Study to Professionalise Veterans' Advocacy.

This package is part of around \$550 million of new programs and money this Government has provided over the last 18 months to veterans and their families. Conclusion In closing, I want to reiterate to the entire Australian Defence Force and ex-service community that this Government will continue to prioritise mental health support for our veterans.

Please remember, help is available. Help can make a difference. If you, your family, or friends are worried about how you are coping or feeling, please reach out. The Defence All-hours support line, VVCS and Lifeline are there for you at any time of the day or night. The Government would like to thank the Senators who participated in this inquiry and the Secretariat. In particular it would like to thank the work of the Chair Senator Alex Gallacher, and the Deputy Chairs Dr Chris Back and Senator Bridget McKenzie. The Government would like to thank the individuals and organisations who made a submission to the inquiry or gave evidence at the public hearings for their contribution to this important issue. Their evidence helped shape this report and will add further to the Government's understanding of how to serve veterans and their families. As the Prime Minister has said, in this Centenary of Anzac period, we best honour the diggers of over a century ago by caring for the current and former service men and women of today. ■

UNDERSTANDING EPILEPSY

Lack of knowledge about epilepsy can stop some older people socialising

People over 60 are at greatest risk of epilepsy, with experts warning of an "urgent need" to improve the understanding about the condition.

A new set of resources to help seniors and their families understand epilepsy has been produced in a joint project by the Epilepsy Foundation, the Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria, the Brotherhood of St Laurence and the National Ageing Research Institute.

Epilepsy is a neurological condition that occurs at any age. Although most people consider epilepsy to be mostly a childhood disorder, according to the Epilepsy Foundation the biggest group affected are those in their later years.

Foundation research manager Loretta Piccenna said there was a greater incidence particularly after the age of 60 "due to changes that occur in the body and brain, for example high blood pressure, diabetes, dementia or even a stroke".

Epilepsy specialist and neurologist Patrick Kwan said it can be very difficult to diagnose epilepsy in older people.

"There are many different types of seizures that occur in epilepsy," he said.

"For people in their later years, the most common type presents with subtle signs such as a blank stare or a 'funny turn', meaning that they can often go undiagnosed."

He said it was important for family members or friends to keep an eye out for any of these signs or changes in behaviour. Any signs should be recorded in a diary or even filmed using a smartphone and provided at the next doctor's appointment.

As part of the project, a questionnaire was sent to members of the public to find out what they knew about epilepsy in older people. It found that most seniors had a very poor knowledge and understanding of the condition.



"Poor knowledge can cause significant consequences and impacts on the quality of life of people who have epilepsy, including avoiding going out to socialise or forgetting to take medication which is needed to control the condition," Dr Piccenna said.

"It is therefore essential to have the right information about epilepsy so that it can be managed appropriately and that people with the condition can be supported to live well."

The free resources include a booklet, a 10 things you should know about epilepsy in people in later years information sheet, and guides on key questions to ask, checklists for referrals, seizure first aid and epilepsy management plan templates. ■

They can be downloaded at www.epilepsyfoundation.org.au/resources or phone 1300-761-487

A life-changing gift

*Your bequest will help change the lives of people with epilepsy.
Help us break down the barriers of ignorance and discrimination.*

By including a bequest to the Epilepsy Foundation in your Will, you will be investing in and helping transform the lives of people living with epilepsy for future generations to come. No matter how big or small, your help will make a big difference in making ignorance and discrimination of epilepsy a thing of the past.

For more information and a free booklet on leaving a bequest in your Will contact our Bequest Manager on 03 8809 0664 or visit us online.

epilepsyfoundation.org.au



I would like to support people living with epilepsy

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The Epilepsy Foundation protects your privacy in accordance with the Information Privacy Principles of the Information Privacy Act 2000. Our privacy policy is available on our website at epilepsyfoundation.org.au | ABN 75 967 571 784



“ONE DAY WE’LL SEE A WORLD WHERE BREAST CANCER NO LONGER TAKES THE WOMEN WE LOVE...

EXACTLY WHEN THAT DAY COMES, DEPENDS ON WHAT WE DO NOW.”

CREATE A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS THROUGH BREAST CANCER RESEARCH



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Exactly when that day comes, depends on what we do now.

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For information contact Matthew Gibson on matthew.gibson@nbcf.org.au or call (02) 8098 4848

We will do more than remember

Legacy commenced in the 1920's in the wake of World War I. Some 60,000 Australian service personnel were killed during the war and over 150,000 were wounded, many dying in the years immediately after the war.

The returning servicemen established Legacy Clubs throughout Australia to provide care to the families of those killed or who died as a result of their service. Their aim was to ensure the families were not financially or socially disadvantaged and that the children received the same upbringing as if their veteran parent was still alive. Today, Legacy's caring and compassionate services assist over 65,000 widows and 1,800 children and dependants with a disability.

Legacy continues to be supported by veterans, servicemen and women, and volunteers drawn from all walks of life. Our support and services now extend to include the dependants of members of today's Australian Defence Force who lose their lives as a result of their military service.

- Legacy is dedicated to enhancing the lives and opportunities of our families through innovative and practical programs aimed at the protection of individuals and families basic needs;
- Advocating for their entitlements, rights and benefits;
- Assisting families through bereavement; and
- Helping people thrive, despite their adversity and loss.

There are over 4,900 volunteers around Australia who act as mentors to widows and their families and who ensure Legacy's promise to care for the families of deceased veterans is kept.

Elizabeth Cowell is just one of the beneficiaries who understands the importance of Legacy and the role played throughout the community. Elizabeth and her family have had Legacy's support for more than four decades.

Elizabeth was just 36 when her husband of 16 years, a Vietnam veteran still serving in the Army, suddenly died of a massive heart attack. "He was at home sitting watching the Saturday afternoon sport. He collapsed on the floor and never regained consciousness."

Suddenly Elizabeth found herself a single mother looking after their four children – the youngest of which, was only 3

years old. Shortly after the passing of her husband, Elizabeth received further bad news, that her father, who was a proud Rat of Tobruk, also passed away leaving her mother a widow too. "It was a very bad time for my mum. So I helped her. And she helped me."

Elizabeth moved in with her mother and along with the mutual support they gave each other, Legacy also became part of the family. "Legacy got in touch with me when my husband died. They visited me and said 'we'll look after you.' That was a great relief."

Legacy played a big role within their family for many years; her children were invited to picnics and Christmas parties, Elizabeth received help to get a pension for war widows. Both Elizabeth and her mother joined a Legacy widow's club, which gave them both a chance to make supportive friends and have some fun through Legacy Club activities.

Elizabeth is now 79 and Legacy still plays a big part in her life. "They are like extended family. We can sit there and talk about the past – do you remember this or that? Maintaining my friendships through Legacy House gives me a reason to get up in the morning."

Legacy assisted Elizabeth to fill in papers to get the Gold Card and War Widows pension which have "changed everything" financially. Now with 14 grandchildren of her own, Elizabeth now has the means to be able to afford little presents without fearing she won't be able to make ends meet.

Legacy's support extends past that provided to the widows to include the children who have been left without a parent. Legacy provides activities such as youth camps and holidays for the children to be involved in. There is also the option of educational grants throughout their schooling and university studies to help ease financial burdens.

The care provided to all beneficiaries of Legacy is developed uniquely for their specific needs. Legacy provides access to support networks and services that will assist the family throughout their difficult time. ■



For each serving Australian
who risks everything,
a family does the same.



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17/02/82 - 29/10/11



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LEGACY 
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Toilet seat solves problems for arthritis sufferers

The Bidet Shop® customer Mabel suffers with arthritis and a painful back condition but has found a bidet has made the everyday task a much simpler.

"It's marvelous! I've always wanted a 'paperless' bidet in my bathroom and I wish I found it years ago!" Mabel said. "The bidet simply replaced the existing toilet seat and automatically cleaned without toilet paper. The friendly staff explained that the bidet toilet seat has many health benefits as well as the comfort factors of a heated seat and other features" she said.

The bidet can be used in 2 simple steps. Press the bottom/feminine wash button and the bidet provides a stream of warm water to clean thoroughly. Then with just the push of another button, warm air gently dries without the need for toilet paper.

"It is the best investment I have made in my personal health and hygiene in years and no longer finds going to the toilet an issue".

"Give it a go!" She says. "I did and I couldn't be happier".

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"Usually for my Christmas, my children buy me towels or pillows. Last year, after a wonderful lunch in the park, we came home and I found that for a Xmas gift my daughter had organised the replacement of my old toilet seat with an electronic Bidet toilet seat."

After two weeks of having my new Bidet, I wondered how I had ever survived previously without it. All I have to do is sit down on my nice warm seat and go to the loo. Once I am finished I simply press a button and I get a warm water wash and a stream of warm air dry.



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The Last Post April 2007

HERO'S WISH: HONOURING VETERANS AND WAR WIDOWS

Vasey RSL Care arranged a trip to the Centenary of ANZAC Dawn Service in Canberra for six veterans in 2015.

"We discovered that a number of veterans living at Vasey RSL Care Frankston South (RSL Park) wished to make the trip to honour their fallen comrades," says Janna Voloshin, CEO. "It seemed like a complex task, but the Residential Manager and staff were determined to fulfill their wishes."

Each veteran was allocated their own personal staff member and they worked hard to maximise their fitness for more than six months prior to the trip.

With financial support from the Vietnam Veterans Association and donations in kind from a number of organisations, these six men experienced the very important 100th Anniversary of ANZAC.

"As CEO, I was lucky enough to go with them, and experience this event myself, standing in silence with over 100,000 people as dawn broke and the Last Post was played," says Janna. "We were all very moved."

There are around 350 veterans and war widows living in the Vasey RSL Care residential homes and over 300 more living in their independent living villages. Keen to find a way to continue to honour their wishes, Janna came up with an idea.

"Hero's Wish' began to form in my mind as a way to give back – even just a little – to these brave people who have done so much for us."

Hero's Wish is now up and running and wishes have been coming in. A wish committee will determine how to proceed with each wish and the intent is to fulfill as many as possible, liaising with the individual and if appropriate, their family and friends, and determining a timetable. To fulfill the wishes, the organisation will partner with wish sponsors, companies and organisations who can provide support in kind or donations, and will raise funds from the ex-service community, staff, family and friends.

"There is a lot of good will in Australia towards our 'diggers', a great love of the larrikin spirit and admiration of the hard working ethic of our older generations," says Janna. "As Australians – new and old – we pride ourselves on the values that make this country great."

"Through Hero's Wish, we can all do something practical to honour our war widows and veterans."



Clockwise from top:

The six veterans are pictured at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, with their individual support staff members and CEO Janna Voloshin (rear, fourth from right).

Janna with war widow/veteran:

Granting wishes demonstrates that we understand the lifelong impact that service has on the lives of veterans and war widows. We honour the sacrifices they have made, said Janna Voloshin, CEO, Vasey RSL Care, pictured left with a war widow and veteran from their Frankston South home.

A Hero's Wish for Warren:

Kangaroos bounded across the golf course as Warren and his wife Maree cruised around in their golf buggies. It was a long-time dream for Warren to spend a day on the golf course and through Hero's Wish, he was able to live his dream.

The thrill of giving Warren the opportunity to fulfill a dream really made a difference to his wellbeing. It was a day of love and laughter, in the midst of beautiful scenery, that we will always remember" said Maree.

Find out more: www.vaseyrslcare.org.au/heros-wish



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Did you know that there is free and confidential legal advice and advocacy available to all seniors including war veterans?

Seniors Rights Service provides free, confidential advocacy, advice, education and legal services to older people in New South Wales.

Our advocates assist recipients of all Commonwealth funded aged-care services, their carers or family members to understand their rights under the Aged Care Act 1997. We help them to advocate for themselves to resolve issues and complaints to ensure people can improve their aged care services.

Our legal service provides advice, assistance and education to older people in NSW. Issues include: consumer issues (debt management, unfair contracts), human rights (elder abuse including financial, discrimination), Planning Ahead (wills, Power of Attorney, Guardianship), accommodation issues (granny flats) and other issues.

Seniors Rights Service assists many war veterans and their partners particularly if they are living alone and need our support and assistance. Our service provides telephone advice, minor assistance such as writing a legal letter on their behalf and in some cases we have represented Vets at court or tribunal.

Solicitors also provide advice to the residents of retirement villages (self-care units and serviced apartments) about issues arising from disputes with management or interpretation of contract under the Retirement Villages Act (NSW) 1999. We also provide legal advice to older people who are owners of an existing freehold strata scheme only in relation to collective sales and renewal matters.

We have assisted veterans in retirement villages where repairs and maintenance have not been attended to by village operators pursuant to the NSW retirement village laws, such as air conditioning units and kitchen ovens. Seniors Rights Service has advised residents in relation to their contractual right to services and facilities such as the village bus, a must for those veterans with lots of meetings to attend in retirement.

We also provide education to aged care facilities and a broad range of service providers and community groups such as Probus, bowling clubs, RSL and similar community organisations. ■

**For more information please contact
Seniors Rights Service on 1800 424 079
or info@seniorsrightsservice.org.au.
Our web address is www.seniorsrightsservice.org.au.**



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Seniors Rights Service

The Aged-care Rights Service Inc trading as Seniors Rights Service

SX2917 Lieutenant Colonel Sir Arthur James Lee (Mert) CBE MC & BAR.

BY KEN HORSNELL



To write about Mert Lee, one must look at his background. Mert Lee was educated at St. Peter's College, along with his brothers, Bob and Jack; he entered into business enterprises with them on leaving school. So successful were the brothers in their business pursuits that they were dubbed "The Lucky Lees". Their businesses were Hotels and Racing.

Lucky no doubt they were, but astute handling of any situation contributed greatly to their good fortune. For instance: in racing they purchased Comic Court and invited Jim Cummings to train the horse. Comic Court was to prove arguably the most versatile galloper of his time, winning sprints of 6 furlongs, and distance races (2 miles) and almost anything in between.

Jim Cummings trained Comic Court in its record winning 1950 Melbourne Cup. His son J.B. (Bart) was the strapper. What a dynasty that created. Bart Cummings became known as the 'Cup King' training 12 Melbourne Cup winners. His skill as a trainer was perhaps only matched by his quick wit. I will give you one example.

The Cummings stables were at North Glenelg in what during the 1950's was becoming a very popular residential area. Accordingly stables were not ideal in this environment.

Complaints began to be made to the local Council by residents. The Health Inspector duly knocked on Cummings door.

"What's the problem?" asked Bart... "Too many flies" replied the Inspector.

"How many am I allowed to have?" enquired Bart. Answer that and play fair!

As Hoteliers the Lees were innovative and market leaders, both in dependability and style taking their responsibilities seriously and advancing the status of hotels in conservative South Australia to new levels of excellence. This was achieved moreover by appointing excellent management in their cluster of hotels. That's how to get lucky!

Mert Lee and I both belonged to the Adelaide Oval Bowling Club, an annex to the members of the South Australian Cricket Association which was a haven for Politicians, Judges and Business executives. The Club when I was invited to join had 7 Knights of the Realm as members.

A few years on at a function in Hardy's Wine Cellars for inductees of the OBE (Order of the British Empire) a previous recipient a Mrs. Mary Horton-Evins – English by birth was the hostess and Ken Horsnell (self) was the MC. As each person came through

the entrance I would call their name and introduce them to the hostess.

When the good Colonel arrived I said "Good evening Mert". At that the hostess, tiny person that she was, with blue eyes flashing with indignation at this terrible dereliction of protocol grabbed my arm rather roughly, hissing in my ears "Sir Arthur, Sir Arthur".

At that Sir Arthur quickly diffused the situation. Touching the hostess gently on the shoulder he said "Mary, Ken and I have been friends for many years and I much prefer to be called Mert". Mary hadn't grasped the fact that Sport transcends many taboos and 'breaks down' perceived barriers. She and I became good friends over the ensuing years meeting at many social events around South Australia. Very often chuckling to herself over our first meeting, and sharing it with me.

Some years later, I was made Senior Vice President of the Bowling Club. The appointment was made by Past President and retired wealthy landowner from the South East of S.A. and Victoria. Now, I wouldn't refuse the honour, but I needed the added responsibility like the proverbial 'hole in the head', added to what I had on my plate.

One day after a game of Bowls over a glass or two, Mert asked me "how can I get to be President of Club". I said "I reckon I can fix it". "Good Oh, tell me the result as soon as you know". I went to my proposer, telling my dilemma from a time point of view, but that I had spoken to Mert Lee about the position. "Do you reckon you can get him" he asked, the rest, as they say, is history.

My reward for stepping down in his favour was on going. As President of the Bowling Club, as well as the Past President of the National Returned Servicemen's League, he was invited to many so called "Digger Days" held by various Bowling Clubs throughout the State.

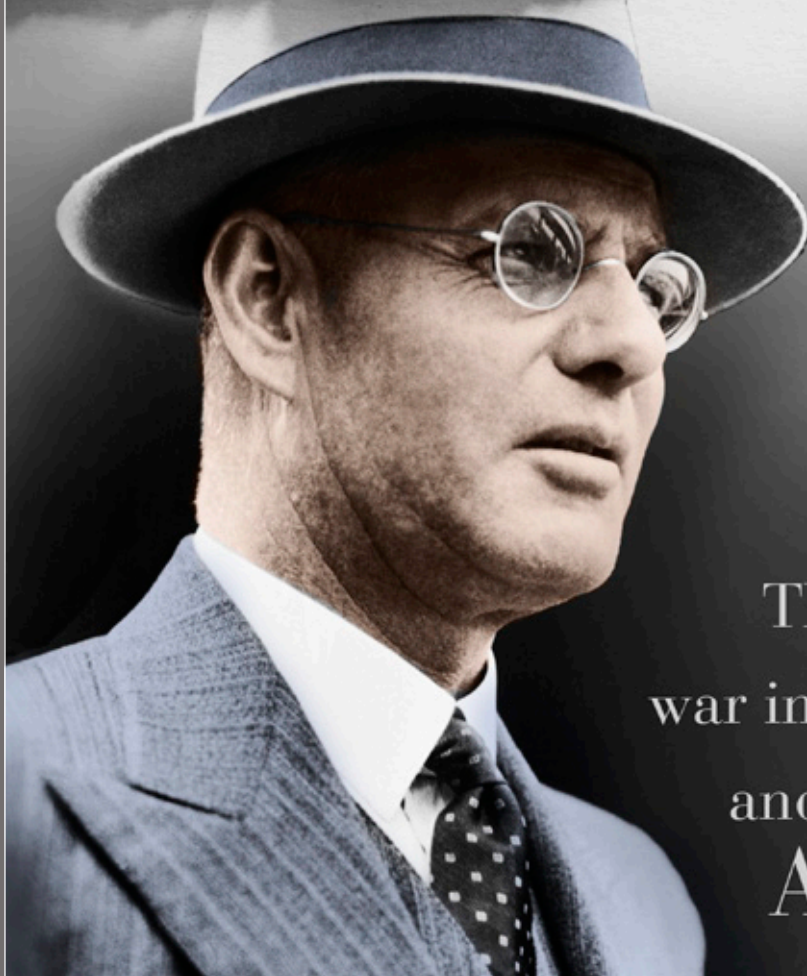
Without fail, he invited me to represent the NAVY while he included personnel from the RAAF and ARMY.

What a great bloke, and my fondest memories remain of the times we spent together. ■

volume I

JOHN CURTIN'S WAR

JOHN
EDWARDS

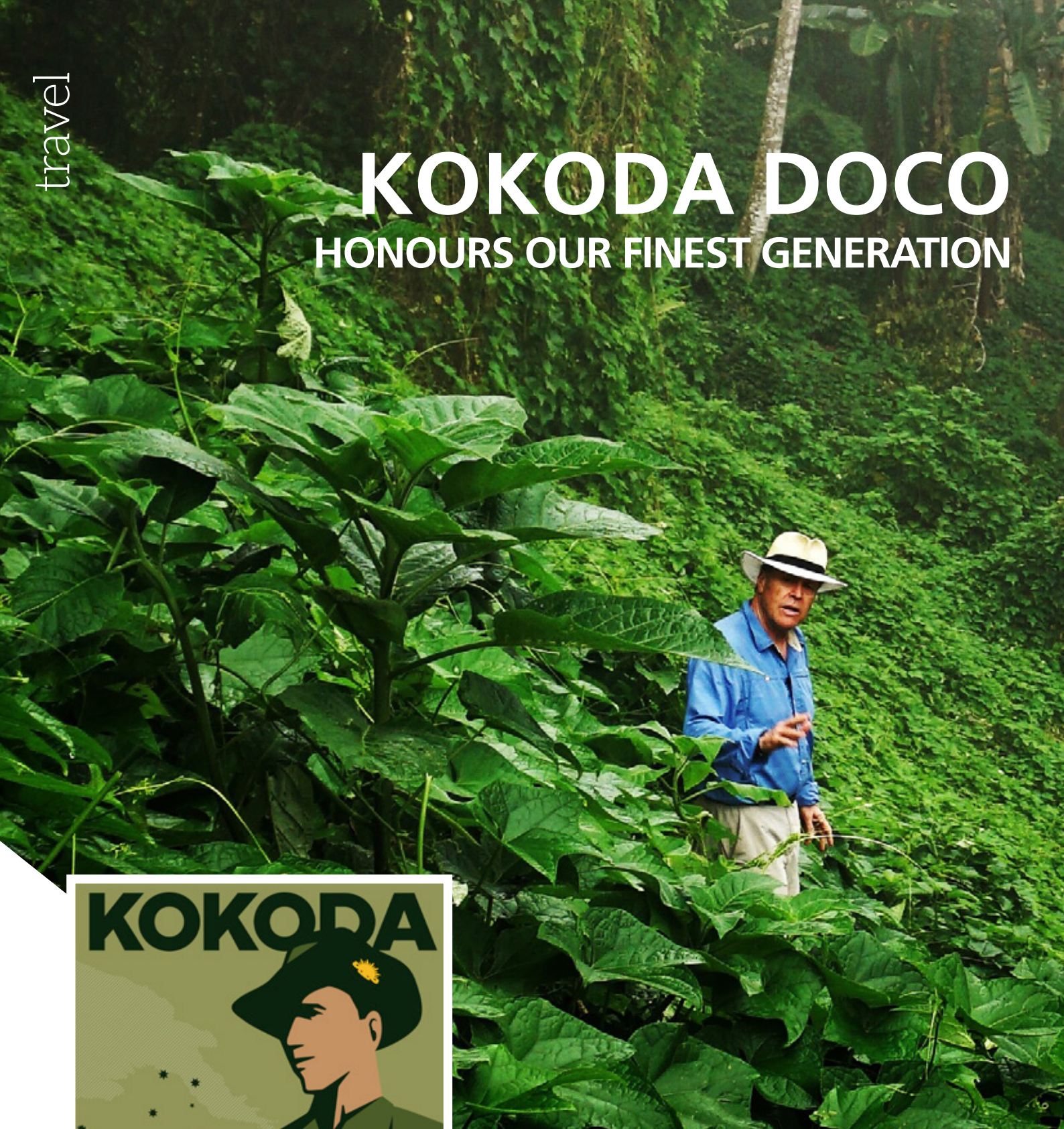


The coming of
war in the Pacific,
and reinventing
Australia

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KOKODA DOCO

HONOURS OUR FINEST GENERATION



"I BELIEVE THE KOKODA CAMPAIGN SHOULD STAND WITH GALLIPOLI AS PART OF OUR MODERN DREAMTIME," SAID LINDSAY. "OUR FILM'S AIM IS TO HONOUR THE KOKODA DIGGERS AND PORTRAY THEIR STORY WITH THE RESPECT AND ACCURACY THEY DESERVE."



A new feature documentary to be broadcast next year commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign of WWII, the battles that preserved Australia's freedom.

The film's producer and director, author and broadcaster Patrick Lindsay, hopes that *Kokoda ... the spirit lives* will help to elevate the campaign to what he sees as its rightful place alongside Gallipoli in our nation's history.

"I believe the Kokoda campaign should stand with Gallipoli as part of our modern Dreamtime," said Lindsay. "Our film's aim is to honour the Kokoda Diggers and portray their story with the respect and accuracy they deserve."

"I see them as representatives of our finest generation: they answered their country's call without hesitation and they sacrificed without counting the cost to fight to repel a hitherto unchecked invader. The surviving Kokoda Diggers are now all in their 90s and they're fading. We must honour them before they leave us."

Lindsay's film takes viewers on a journey in the footsteps of the Diggers who fought along the unforgiving Kokoda Track. It breaks new ground in illustrating the campaign with stunning drone footage intercut with rare archival film, as Kokoda veterans, from both sides, bring the story alive in their own words.

"We've always had difficulty in depicting the extraordinary terrain of PNG's Owen Stanley mountains and the Track, which played a major role in the campaign. With the help of drone vision we've been able to capture Kokoda's ruggedness and majestic beauty for the first time," Lindsay said.

Lindsay points out that former Prime Minister Paul Keating famously challenged the Gallipoli narrative and the position it holds in our national psyche. Keating said that "for Australians the battles in Papua New Guinea were the most important ever fought". He kissed the ground at Kokoda in 1992.

Lindsay agrees with Keating's sentiment but doesn't believe it needs to come down to a choice between the two. "Rather, we need to raise the Kokoda story to its rightful place in Australian legend. Every Australian should know that the freedom they enjoy today was built on the bravery, sacrifice, endurance and ultimate victory of our Diggers 75 years ago on the Kokoda Track. And we must pass on the story to future generations.

"All the campaign's participants I've interviewed over the years - Japanese, Papuan and Australian - believed Kokoda was a battle for Australia's freedom. The Diggers were outnumbered, outgunned and facing seasoned Japanese troops. Yet, on the Track, along with the concurrent Milne Bay battle, they handed the hitherto-unbeaten Japanese army its first defeat in the Pacific War," Lindsay said.

"We honour that achievement and we explore the enduring spirit that sustained the Diggers and which still inspires so many Australians today." ■

The documentary 'Kokoda ... the spirit lives' will air around Anzac Day 2018 and the DVD version, with bonus DVD 'Kokoda the Last Parade', will be available through the Australian War Memorial: www.awm.gov.au

Main image: Presenter Patrick Lindsay in the jungle at Isurava during filming for feature documentary 'Kokoda ... the spirit lives'.

Small image, left page: 'Kokoda ... the spirit lives' DVD cover.

Small images, this page, clockwise from top left: Legendary cinematographer, Damien Parer's image of the young Diggers of 39th Battalion slogging through the mud on the Kokoda Track after the Battle for Isurava. The only surviving Diggers in this image, George Palmer (in the tin hat), and Arnold Forrester (two to the left from George), both tell their stories in the documentary, 'Kokoda ... the spirit lives'.

Cinematographer Paul Croll filming presenter Patrick Lindsay at Rabaul for 'Kokoda ... the spirit lives' feature documentary. The documentary's Editor, Jimmy Hamilton, and Cinematographer, Paul Croll, using a Ronin Gimbal stabilizer while filming on the Kokoda Track. Presenter Patrick Lindsay filming 'Kokoda ... the spirit lives' near Isurava on the Kokoda Track. Producer and Director of the feature documentary, 'Kokoda ... the spirit lives', during filming in Rabaul.



Discover Murray River War Trail

Australia's unique Murray River War Trail pays tribute to the regions – and people – who have played a significant role in the nation's war efforts during the past 100 years.

The River of Honour stretches from the Australian War Memorial in Canberra to centres the length of the Murray River, through NSW, Victoria and South Australia. "The Murray River regions played important roles in our war efforts," Shane Strudwick from Discover Murray River told the Last Post. "This ranged from food production, air force bases, internment camps, immigration and soldier settlements, including Robinvale, a sister town to Villers-Bretonneux in France.

"Having a sister town equivalent to Gallipoli on the Murray River ensures we have a spiritual connection to Australia's war heritage on the Western Front."

These regions became an important resource for food production and processing during the war effort. Former training bases, prison camps and internment compounds were established along the river regions, including Loveday in the Riverland of South Australia.

"In the wake of World War Two, irrigation regions were established by soldier settlements – Loxton and Cooltong in SA, Robinvale and Cobram in Victoria," Shane said. "These settlers or 'blockies' as they came to be known, carved out a new life with ingenuity, and adapted to the harsh reality of farming in the river regions.

The Discover Murray River War Trail aimed to assist and educate people travelling the great Murray River region to connect with the stories of communities and our war heritage. ■

More information is available by Googling 'Murray River War Trail' or by contacting Shane directly on 0409 678 654 for more information

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A DAY DOWN BENDIGO MINE

BY RICHARD HOLDSWORTH

The steel mesh doors slam shut, the winding gear whirrs and the cage drops like a stone. This is Central Deborah gold mine in Bendigo, Australia, and it is not the place to be if you don't have the stomach for traumas of the past.

Or a ghost or two.

If ghosts are the manifestation of untimely death then the mines of the Gold Rush era in Australia have hit the jackpot. Many died in rock falls, caught in un-guarded machinery or succumbed to the dust as they hacked away at the rock seeking their fortune.

Heather, my Aussie wife and I have joined a small group with George our guide for the day, a man who knows, a miner in the days before it closed as a working mine in 1954. "Stay close" he tells us. "There are 12 miles of tunnels, I don't want to lose any of my charges today."

Earlier we had boarded the vintage tram to the heritage mine, been issued with tickets by an informed young lady and received the fundamentals for the day ahead. "Gold was first discovered in the 1850's. In quartz rock beneath Bendigo. But it wasn't all roses."

We all nod in unison, a man in a red Bomber jacket, two students, and a couple of families on a day out. And a Chinese tourist. "My people dig for gold here many years ago."

"Yes," said the young lady. "The Bendigo area was on everyone's lips world-wide. Melbourne was a small township in 1850 but within ten years it had grown to half a million. It included ex-convicts as well as opportunists and mines popped up everywhere. It was a free for all."

The police, backed by the Army, were brought in as a blunt instrument to impose new laws and a licence fee few could afford. "Temper flared, the Eureka hotel in nearby Ballarat was burnt down and miners took refuge in a hastily built stockade. As the sun rose on Sunday, December 3, 1854, the troops opened fire; by the end of the day 34 miners lay dead and a further 114 taken prisoner."

With history ringing in our ears we're pointed to the pit head. "Enjoy your day."

The cage has hit rock bottom and George takes control. "Wear your hard hats at all times. And the miner's light, keep that on. Here, I'll show you." He's flicking a switch on the front of our helmets and a dozen beams of light pierce the darkness ahead.

Now we're going gold mining. We make out our name tags and sign in. "You've got a job to do. No slacking in my party." It's reassuring he's still smiling.

We're invited to get involved. The youngsters get ready to roll up their sleeves. "It was pick and shovel in the old days. And drilling by hand, setting the gelignite, lighting the fuse. If it was for real - I'd be shouting 'run for your life...'"

We're searching for the seams of quartz. "But men were fooled with promises of riches only to find Fools Gold." There's a twinkle in George's eye. Years of experience and he knows the difference.

Round the next corner and another tunnel. There is more room, a tad more, and machines to make life easier for the men working below ground. "Air driven drills and machines loaded the rock onto the railway wagons. Here, try pushing one of these loaded to the brim."

Bomber jacket steps forward, gives it a heave and it clanks along the tracking for a few feet. "See what I mean," says George. "Then there were instances where roofs caved in, men buried alive." He's pointing to cracks, fissures, faults in the rock above our heads. "There was a fall here, at this very point. I know."

There's an uncomfortable silence while we all stare at the roof inches above our heads. Will the wooden staging hold up? The diminutive Chinese man puts his hand to his hard hat. George smiles again. "There's no risk in the year 2016. The roof is stabilised with pit props and rods of steel driven in with powerful jack-hammers, see here and here."

Our gold mine experience is all but over. We've been enthralled for more than two hours - but we're pleased George is leading us back to the cage and it moves swiftly to the surface. Sunlight, bright sunlight greets us. And bird song. It is nice to be back in the land of the living.

"Well, did you enjoy your tour?" enquires the young lady.

"Yes," says Bomber jacket, "and George Dance was a great guide."

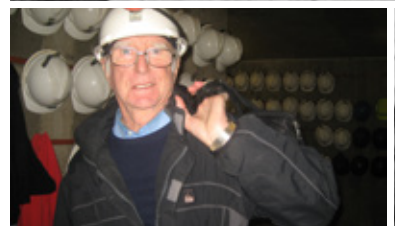
"George" she asks. "The only George Dance was killed in a rock fall 100 years ago to this very day."

We all look round. No smiles now.

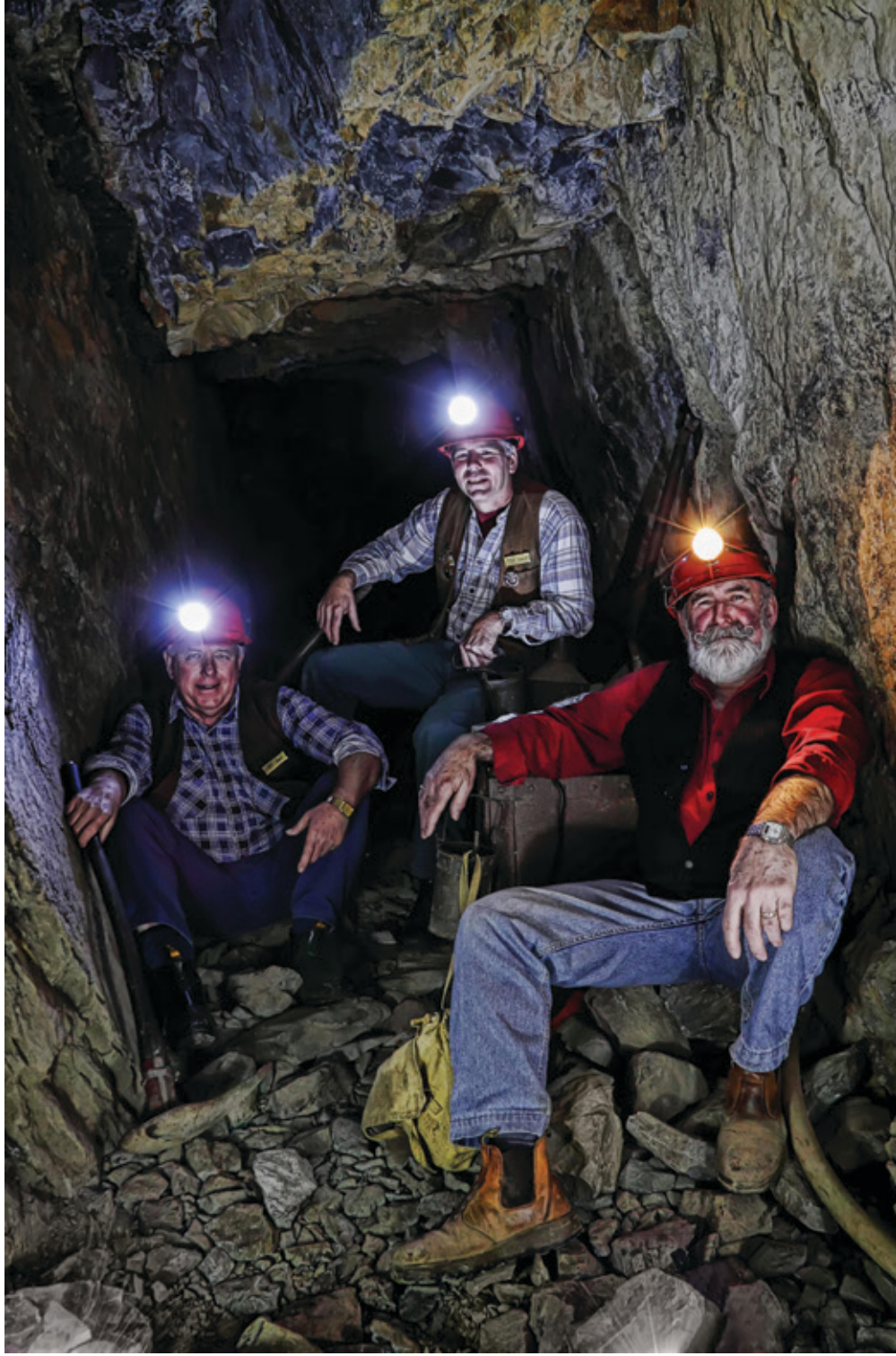
"I am only joking," she says. "George is very much alive as you saw today. One of our best guides."

Somehow we don't mind the trick that has been played on us.

Somehow it has added to the day. ■



It is impossible to ignore the Gold Rush era within Australian history and a visit to the Central Deborah mine in Bendigo is a great way to live those days. Entrance to the museum, mine buildings, gold panning and machine rooms, \$6.50. The Mine Experience, hour-and-a-half below ground, \$30; Underground Adventure, two-and-a-half hours \$85; Nine Levels of Darkness, three-and-a-half hours \$199. Full details: www.central-deborah.com.



The Essence of Australia's Spirit

BY WAYNE WETHERALL

Australia is young and culturally diverse. So how do we define our national identity? Freedom, democracy, honour, mateship, larrikinism, sporting obsession, outdoorsy.. are a few terms that come to mind. How has our identity been shaped? We definitely feel a strong sense of connection with each other, and when you meet an Australian, you can recognise it. It's about their spirit.

The Australian spirit was clearly shaped by our Diggers and our characteristics were identifiable in their mateship, endurance, ingenuity, teamwork, courage, and resilience. Such characteristics were honed by the challenges our forebears' faced in surviving in our remarkable country, with its vast distances, harsh terrain and extreme climate.

Australians overcame obstacles to build our nation with a practical pragmatic approach, developed over long periods of hardship. The spirit required to survive and grow constantly tested, producing generations of Australians capable of heroic struggles in their daily lives.

The Anzac legend, born on 25th April 1915, is many things to many people. To me it is the birth of the Australian spirit, and

102 years later not only is it still relevant but embedded in our DNA, and it is who we are as a nation.

During the Gallipoli campaign the Anzac legend took hold and became a badge of honour, and unwritten guide of Digger qualities and expectations.

Fast forward 27 years after Gallipoli to the Kokoda Campaign, and the Australian spirit became of age. All the Aussie characteristics came into play when young men stood up and took on the might of a voracious enemy hell bent on stealing our land.

General Cosgrove sums it up well. "We are real people. Australians automatically form teams. We can't see another Australian without feeling an immediate and strong sense of identity. You've

automatically got a team. We instinctively trust each other until something happens to say that trust was misplaced. And that's why Australians are, almost as a fundamental premise, so good when they put a military uniform on."

The ANZAC spirit, daughter and son of the Australian spirit, who we are as a nation, can be seen every day in, everyday Australians, suburban neighbourhoods, sporting fields, places of Academia and Science, because the men and women of the Anzac legend have done much with their lives. For their service & sacrifice we are forever grateful, and while we continue to talk about them and remember their deeds their spirit will live forever, inside you and me.

Lest We Forget. ■

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IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE DIGGERS

BY DAVID HOWELL

If you think walking the Kokoda Track is tough in regular trekking gear, try walking it in the boots— quite literally – of the Australian soldiers who fought there 75 years ago.

Yes, in July this year, to mark the 75th anniversary of the famous WWII Kokoda campaign, 14 Australians – myself included – decided to retrace the march of the original Diggers carrying what they carried, eating what they ate and wearing what they wore back in 1942, from the khaki drill uniforms, the rifles and the iconic slouch hats right down to the replica army-issue hard-leather hobnail boots.

In doing so we couldn't help but gain a greater understanding of what those men went through, and at the same time honoured their memory in a special and unique way.

Let me set the scene: It was early July, 1942, when B Company of the 39th Australian Infantry Battalion set off over the Kokoda Track. Thrown together in a hurry, the men were ordered to make their way via the Owen Stanley Range and secure the vital airstrip at the village of Kokoda. The Japanese were yet to start their invasion. B Company's move was a preliminary one to support United States General Douglas MacArthur's plan to build forward airbases on the north coast of Papua. For many of the men, the chance to see a different part of the country was an opportunity not to miss.

For the previous six months, since arriving in Papua New Guinea, the men of the 39th had been unloading ships, manning static defences and patrolling the low coastal areas. The hot and often dusty environment of Port Moresby was a stark contrast to what they would endure in the mountains. In fact many of the original men of the battalion had been culled, sent home not fit for tropical service. B Company had to round up men from other sub-units.

Kokoda veteran Cec Driscoll, now 97 and living in retirement in country Victoria, was an original C Company man who volunteered to move to B Company for the campaign. One of only two surviving B Company vets who made that original march, he recalls facing the challenge with both trepidation and a sense of adventure. "I was sick of hanging around, running out signal wire and waiting to be bombed

by the Japs," he told me. "The move to B Company seemed like a good one at the time." Private Driscoll was a Mildura country boy and only 21, but the 39th was made up of many young lads with a similar story. They were being led by a handful of old soldiers, some of whom had already been to war; men like Sam Templeton, one of the few World War I veterans to survive the cull.

Our own ranks on this special re-creation trek were not too dissimilar in age or experience. We had young men, some still at school, along with older men who too have been to war. Queenslander Karl Turvey played the part of Cec on the march. A captain in the current Australian Army, Karl embraced his character, chatting to Cec on the phone before the trip and sharing with us the many colourful stories he learned about the original trek.

The youngest in the group were Victorian Year 11 students Jared Copey from Emerald Secondary School and Mehdi Ahmadi from Pakenham Secondary School, who won their trip through the 39th Battalion Association. Mehdi walked in the name of Private Henry Evans, and Jake in the name of Corporal Reg Markham. Another young man, William Sumbler, was the great-grandson of 39th veteran and the association's long-time president, Noel Hall. Like the original marchers, we also had experienced men, including Andrew Miller in the role of Sergeant Les Martorana. Andrew has made the regular army his life and has been to war on many occasions during his career. But, regardless of our backgrounds or our life experience, we all had one thing in common – we all wanted to trek Kokoda in, as close as we could, the conditions that the originals trekked it in back in 1942.

Lest We Forget. ■

Note: David Howell is a Melbourne-based historian, author and tour guide. Growing up with his grandfather's stories of the war in New Guinea, he has made more than 40 crossings of the Kokoda Track, along with visiting most of the major WWII battlefields in PNG. He currently runs Kokoda Historical.

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WINGS OVER ILLAWARRA – A REAL HIGH FLYING EVENT

Wings Over Illawarra air show was held at Illawarra Regional Airport, Albion Park Rail over the weekend of the 6th and 7th May, 2017. This was the fourth year that the Airshow had been planned and organized by Bright Events Pty Ltd. This year the show was blessed with almost perfect weather, although the Sunday morning did start out a little windy, this eased and did not affect the flying display.

The show opened with the Australian Army's Red Berets parachute display team jumping from the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society owned de Havilland Caribou with the Australian and Army flags on display, followed by a spectacular display by the RAAF Roulettes formation aerobatic display team. The Australian Defence Force formation displays continued with the final appearance by the Royal Australian Navy's AS350B Squirrel Pairs display team and the arrival of 2 RAAF frontline fighters in the F/A-18 Hornets, which landed for the public to view throughout the day.

The day continued with one great display after another, including a mock dogfight between replica WWI Fokker DR1 and Royal Aircraft Factory SE5a from The Australian Vintage Aircraft Society which proved very popular as the majority of attendees would never have had an opportunity to see any WWI aircraft. Following the WWI display attendees were treated to some stunning displays by some classic fighters of WWII including a Supermarine Spitfire, P-51 Mustang and the one of the stars of the show, a Focke Wulf FW-190, making its Australian Airshow debut.

The flying displays continued all day with some amazing aerobatic displays by Red Bull Air Racer Matt Hall in his Extra 300L, Chris Clark in a Boeing Stearman, Paul Bennet with a superb solo display in his Wolf Pitts Pro as well as an amazing formation display with the Sky Aces. Visitors also witnessed the debut appearance of the AOPA Freedom to fly team led by Nigel Arnott in a Sukhoi 26MX, who also thrilled the crowd with a very impressive display in a Fox aerobatic glider.

Visitors to the event were also treated to the first official full aerial display of the newly acquired Royal Australian Navy's Seahawk Romeo, Australia's latest weapon in anti-submarine warfare. A favorite of Wings Over Illawarra, the Russian Roulettes put on a brilliant formation display in their Russian made Yak-52s and Chinese Nanchang CJ-6s and visitors were also treated to a first for Wings Over Illawarra with a formation display by 2 Learjet 35s from Air Affairs in Nowra.

The flying program went on to feature some classic WWI and post war warbirds and trainer aircraft in the Fleet Warbirds' T-6 Texan, Paul Bennet's T-28 Trojan, Grumman Avenger and CAC Wirraway. Jeff Trappet's CAC Sabre continued to excite the crowds as one of the few examples of these jet aircraft still flying and was joined by other amazing jet displays by Mark Pracy in his L-39 Albatros, Jethro Nelson in the JP-5 and Stephen Gale in the Italian Marchetti S-211. The closing highlight was a very impressive display from an RAAF F/A-18 Hornet as the two participating aircraft departed including a simulated bombing run and well timed 200m long "Wall of Fire" on the aircraft's final pass.

This was an impressive show by any measure, and the imposing escarpment to the west of the airfield made for a spectacular backdrop. Sunday's display followed a broadly similar flow with the notable addition of the mighty C-17 Globemaster III from 36 SQN at RAAF Base Amberley and the C-130 J Hercules from 37 Squadron RAAF Base Richmond, thanks to the RAAF. The hornet on Sunday was replaced by the Sabre who did the final pass igniting the "Wall of Fire".

Not only did visitors get to experience one of the best flying programs ever seen in Australia, they had the opportunity to inspect, and in many cases climb aboard, over 60 static aircraft exhibits ranging from a restored 1960s Bell 47 helicopter to a retired Qantas 747-400. ■

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Bonjour from Bordeaux

BY BOB WALTER

There is something appealing about the South of France with its easy lifestyle and wonderful food and wine. Recently my partner and I spent two glorious weeks enjoying the diversity of food, wine, culture and history of beautiful Bordeaux. We began with a few leisurely days exploring this pedestrian friendly heritage city, as we recovered from our jet lag. This was followed by a relaxing 10-day river cruise through the surrounding wine regions. Finally, we spend a five days based in the nearby village of Brantome, before flying on to England to catch up with family and friends.

Bordeaux is a very pleasant small city which is easy to get around and provides some interesting contrasts between old and new. Amongst the old lies much of its architecture, which dates to 14th and 15th Century, with many buildings World Heritage Listed. By contrast, there is an extensive array of restaurants and contemporary shopping connected by a very modern tramway. This major port is also the access point for some space age technology, with components of the A380 Airbus floating by. Each day you might see a wing, or a section of fuselage, heading up river on barges destined for assembly at Toulouse.

When you think of Bordeaux, you may think of names such as Rothschild or Lafitte. This world famous fine wine region came to prominence when Henry II married Eleanor of Aquitaine and this led to the export of claret around the world. Due to soil type and climate variation, there are many different wine producing regions, such as the Medoc, Sauternes and St-Emilion. Close by, in the region of Cognac, distillers such as Hennessy and Remy Martin can be found. Their extensive storehouses are covered in black lichen stains from the evaporated alcohol, where the finest aged cognac is stored for up to 100 years.

In Australia, we think of vineyards and cellar doors, whereas in France the term chateau is used. A chateau includes a vineyard and a building which can range from very modest, to a very grand architectural triumph. This makes for some

spectacular scenery (and great photos) as one drives through the wine regions of France.

On the Right Bank of the Dordogne River lies St-Emilion, which is a scenic medieval town that dates back to the 8th century. It has been known as 'the hill with 1,000 Chateaux', due to some 800 wine growers in the region (and 42 wine shops). Beneath the town lie some 200 kilometres of tunnels which are used to store and age wine from the nearby chateaux. The caves and tunnels were formed by masons quarrying limestone blocks for building chateaux and cathedrals in nearby towns. Beneath the town of narrow winding streets lies an amazing cathedral, which has been carved out of one solid rock.

Wine production is strictly regulated in France under the Appellation d'origine Contrôlée (AoC), which dictates varieties that can be grown and sold in each region. As a result, many wine labels show the region only. To interpret the label, one needs some knowledge of the wines produced in that region. For example, in St-Emilion one finds softer red blends based on Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Whereas in the Sauternes region, a sweet dessert style wine is made from Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc, in combination with Botrytis. We found that the styles varied considerably. For example, the reds from St-Emilion seemed softer and fruitier than those from the Medoc region.

Bordeaux is a major port with access to the Atlantic Ocean via the Garonne and

Gironde rivers. The nearby Atlantic coast provides dramatic scenery and extensive windswept sandy beaches. We were able to visit one of these on a memorable day at the seaside resort of Arcachon. Popular with the Bordelaise as an escape from the hot inland summers, this coastal town is famous for its oysters which are farmed in the shallow waters of Arcachon Bay. Just south of the town lies Europe's largest sand dune (Dune du Pilat) which is 3 kilometres long and 500 metres wide. At 110 metres, this massive dune offers sweeping views of the coast and provides a perfect venue for hang gliders to take advantage of the onshore breezes. This dune is slowly marching eastwards at around 5 metres each year and is said to have covered trees, a road junction and even a hotel over time.

After 10 days, it was time to leave the river cruise and go our own way. We picked up a rental and drove through the pretty countryside in the South of France headed for our bed and breakfast accommodation at Brantome. Our hosts were British expats who had previously lived in Australia for 20 odd years. We learned that there was quite a community of expats who had left England for country France, in search of a better lifestyle.

Brantome proved to be a very picturesque medieval village, known as 'the Venice of the Périgord Vert' due to the village being surrounded by the river Dronne through a series of canals. The central historic feature is the medieval abbey, which dates to the



11th century. Its setting is dramatic as it is partly built into the sheer rock face with ancient troglodyte dwellings behind, while overlooking the river. This was just one of many examples of medieval architecture that we discovered on our day trips throughout the region. It is humbling to reflect on the age and construction of these ancient structures, when compared to our relatively recent dwellings in Australia.

With the freedom of our own vehicle we could explore the region at our leisure (despite the narrow country roads and driving on the opposite side). We intended to take in the nearby towns and attractions as well as visit friends while in the area. Close by, we found Bourdeilles with its well-preserved Chateau. The imposing buildings dominated the little village and comprised a medieval castle and a Renaissance Chateau. Both structures were in very good order with well-maintained gardens overlooking the river Dronne.

One special day we drove north to La Rochebeaucourt et Argentine which was a

pretty little riverside medieval village. After exploring the town and enjoying a local coffee, we discovered Chateau Mureuil which was in serious disrepair and was slowly being restored by efforts of mother and son. The elderly lady in residence provided a tour and explained that the castle had belonged to her forebears. Her grandfather in law was a General who fought with Napoleon and was awarded medals of honour from both the King and Napoleon, including the Croix de Guerre. Ironically, the castle was ransacked and seriously damaged during the French Revolution when the family were dispossessed. In more recent times the family descendants have bought back the Chateau and are valiantly seeking to restore it.

On our must-see list was the prehistoric cave art of the Dordogne valley. While we knew of those at Lascaux, which is an hour south of Brantome, we also knew they attracted large numbers of tourists. So, we felt very fortunate to discover an extensive network of underground caves at nearby

Villars. La Grotte de Villars is the largest underground network of caves in the Perigord region, covering more than 13 kms, with prehistoric paintings from the Cro-Magnon era, dating back 19,000 years. The stalactite and stalagmite formations were extensive and quite stunning – more so, when you consider how long it takes for each of these to form.

Before we left Brantome, we had planned to visit a local market and catch up with friends who were holidaying nearby. This day was a highlight, as together we went to the Wednesday market at Piegut Pluviers. After perusing the wonderful array of fresh local produce and sharing a coffee, we purchased our provisions and drove to nearby St Estephe. Here we enjoyed a gourmet picnic lunch followed by a leisurely stroll around the grand lake. This was a perfect ending to a delightful two weeks. All too soon it was time to say 'au revoir' to the South of France, as our next adventure awaited across the English Channel. ■



IAN CHAPPELL

Former Australian cricket captain, Ian Chappell fashioned an Australian team in his own image between 1971 and 1975: aggressive, resourceful and insouciant. A dauntless batsman partial to the hook and pull, he inherited the post of captain from Bill Lawry with the team at a low ebb, but others fed off his unhesitating self-belief and conviction that team goals were paramount, and he never lost a series. Some of his personal bests as a batsman, meanwhile, were in partnership with his brother Greg, notably at The Oval in August 1972, and at Wellington in March 1974. English commentator John Arlott described him as “a cricketer of effect rather than the graces”, and his part in the World Series Cricket schism arose after years of disaffection with cricket officialdom. He later became a trenchant TV commentator.

The Last Post: Thanks for joining us here at The Last Post.

Ian Chappell: That's fine, mate.

TLP: What have you been up to lately?

IC: Doing a lot of writing. I was in Pakistan for the Champions Trophy, then a few other things but that's about it.

TLP: Your writing, Ian, that settles pretty much around cricket?

IC: Yes, pretty much. Occasionally it varies a bit but mostly cricket, yep.

TLP: It must give you some great joy to be commentating on a sport that filled your life and still gives you the ability to travel the world and see some interesting things occurring with the state of cricket. How are things in your mind, with the state of cricket here in Australia at the moment?

IC: Yeah, cricket...any problems they've got in Australia, to me, any problems with cricket can't be fixed until they fix the ICC and I'm not sure that's going to happen. You can't have the heads of each country sitting around a table making decisions for the obvious reasons, you know, what was it that Paul Keating said, “always back self-interest because you know it's a go-er”. So, for me, until you get an independent board running cricket and I really do think the game's got to be run globally. At the moment you've got, really a schedule that is just a mish-mash and that's because the ICC run some events and the other events are organised by the countries themselves. Everybody wants to play India because

obviously it's productive financially and so, if there are some spare weeks spare in the calendar it's “oh yeah, why don't we play some games...one-day games, Test matches, T20 matches and to me there's not a lot of rhyme or reason to it. When the ICL started up in India as a rebel league I thought that was the time for cricket to sit down and come together with everybody, with all parties at the table. Obviously the players, the administrators, the officials, the media companies, the sponsors even representatives of the fans and work out a blueprint on where the game is going and on how it's going to go forward for, who knows, ten years, you decide. And, to me the first big question that has to be asked is, “do we want three forms of the game?” and if the answer to that is yes then you work out how we go forward with the three forms of the game so that one is not cannibalising another. And if the answer is, “no, we don't want three forms” then, “alright, which two are we going to keep?” These are questions that need to be asked but cricket just goes ahead...I've described it as being a runaway train and it just goes on with no plan as to where it's going or to what's going to happen. There's rumblings every now and then about, “you know, we're going to have a test championship” but there's got to be a lot more context to the cricket rather than just “oh, ok, let's have some matches here, let's have some matches there”.

TLP: Very well said. The runaway train analogy is a perfect one. I can see one of those old cartoons of a runaway train and there's people trying to grab hold of the train to get onboard. Some are holding on, some are falling off but it's all over the place. Also the analogy of cannibalism is one I was going to use and perfect because at the moment, cricket is a monster that seems intent on destroying itself.

IC: Yeah. I mean it's...again I come back to my original point...the biggest problem in cricket is corruption because that is the one thing that can bring the game down. I mean, “chucking” has been around forever and all the other controversies that make headlines, they're never going to bring the game down but corruption will for the simple reason that why are you, as a fan, going to pay your money to go along and watch something that you feel is not fair dinkum. It's the same thing for the television viewer and also the same thing for the commentator. I don't knowingly want to be commentating on games that I think are corrupt.

TLP: As a commentator, have you ever felt uneasy about that during a particular game?

IC: There's been times when I've felt, “this feels very strange” and, I mean you can't come straight out and say, “look, this is bloody fixing” because you don't have any proof but your cricket background



“THE THREE OF US WERE FORTUNATE. WE HAD A MOTHER WHO WAS QUITE PREPARED TO SPEAK HER MIND AND SHE CERTAINLY PASSED THAT ON.”

and knowledge tells you that, “this is bloody strange”. What I try and do, my attitude to fixing was formed by my interest in baseball. It goes all the way back in that game to the 1919 World Series that was fixed. Eight guys were thrown out of baseball. For me, it’s got to be a no-holds-barred situation. If somebody is fixing, “boom”, you’re out of the game and that’s it, see you later. Cricket hasn’t even come close to that sort of approach.

TLP: Why not?

IC: Well, you’ve got to ask the question, “How far up does this stuff go?” In the middle of the 90’s, when there was a lot of shit going down, the head of Sri Lankan cricket and the Sri Lankan representative in the ICC was a bookmaker.

TLP: it’s like a script from a movie.

IC: Yeah, I mean if you want to send a strong message to the crooks...and that’s what they are, they’re not bookmakers, they’re crooks. Bookmakers actually take a bit of a gamble. These crooks aren’t because they’re trying to fix the result or fix whatever

it is they want to bet on... so if you want to send a message to the crooks, you’ve got to take baseball’s approach that we are dead-set serious about this. There are a lot of other examples but I don’t want to get us a defamation case and that’s the reason I’ve questioned how high up this thing goes.

TLP: It must pee the players off too...

IC: Well, here’s the problem and again, my attitude has been formed by baseball. Baseball had a big problem in the 90’s through to the noughties with performance enhancing drugs and everyone knew what was going on but was looking the other way. This one journalist asked, could I have done more? I didn’t want to be in that position with fixing. I don’t know the first thing about gambling because I’m not a punter and I don’t understand odds very much and I came by way of some information from this bloke I respected and who was in a position to know what was going on. He told me some things that were quite confronting. Particularly, as you said, when it’s a game I’ve been involved with all my life. I thought, what am I going to do with this information? I then found a person in a position of power and I passed on that information because I didn’t want to be like that journo in America and I started asked questions from relative people to try and verify all of this and when you keep coming back to the same teams captained by the same players all the time, you start realising there is a fire here. Then a couple of other things happened and I passed on the information but nothing has ever happened. The point is, there’s a lot of information out there if you want to go checking. I mean, cricket has not found anyone guilty of fixing. It’s been police or stings by newspaper groups that have caught these people out. There’s been a couple of convictions by cricket but have a look at who gets pinged all the time, Pakistanis get pinged, a very soft target. If it’s an Indian player it’s way down the totem-pole. The other point you made about how it must annoy the

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players. What happened in in baseball was the clean players got so angry that, because they played in that era, they were lumped in...oh shit, he might have been juicing. So if you played in that era, there was a suspicion about you. Those clean players got so angry that when the Players Association met they said, right, we're going to have testing because as clean players they wanted to be shown as clean players. You've got the same problem now in cricket so that if you play in an era when things were going on, it's "oh, Jesus, was he involved or was he involved" so you become tainted because you played in an era, not because you played in anything. Sadly, that hasn't brought about a reaction from cricket players saying, listen you fuckers...being the games administrators, start cleaning this thing up because I don't want my reputation tainted. If I was a player now, I'd be saying, "Listen you fuckers, get this situation sorted out". Richie Benaud probably summed it up best. He said, all my career I've played bloody hard trying to win matches, now bastards are throwing them away.

TLP: Having played sport and cricket also, notably at a different level than you, I was intent on winning. I can't ever imagine a player wanting to deliberately drop a ball for example or deliberately bowl badly, knowing they are being watched. What sort of person would do that?

IC: You've got to understand the structure of cricket. You've got Australian and English cricketers in particular that, and Indian players as well, all paid pretty well with good superannuation. I think it's probably pretty good for those other two as well, India and England but then you get players from other countries that are not so well looked after, they are susceptible. It's hard to blame some kid who's come from a village in, say, Pakistan where his parents have a bowl of rice a day. Suddenly he's a good cricketer and if someone comes along and offers him a lot of money, it's hard to blame the kid. It's the same in tennis now, they target the strugglers. It's

hard to ask yourself, what would I have done in the same situation.

TLP: Going back to when you were leading up to become captain of Australia and when you were captain, you spoke your mind on issues from the beginning. I think that's what brought people close to you or had them believing they knew you even when they didn't. My brothers and I had little interest until we saw you and Lillee playing *The Rest of the World*, you are able to bring people together by a speaking of the truth. Is this a strength that helped you through your time in cricket?

IC: You've got to be pretty honest with yourself and the three of us were fortunate. We had a mother who was quite prepared to speak her mind and she certainly passed that on and we had a father who, two things stand out with Martin. Martin told me, I don't know, I was probably 7, 8 or 9 around that age and I'd obviously done something pretty stupid or wrong and he said to me, "Son, don't lie to me to get out of trouble". He said "If you've done something wrong, that's fine, everybody does something wrong, you won't get into too much trouble because of that" But he said, "If you lie to me to get out of trouble, you'll be in big strife". And I thank Martin everyday for that because he simplified my life. You work it out. If you tell a lie, you've got to remember which lie you told to which person, it complicates life.

TLP: Telling the truth makes you stronger. You are liberated automatically.

IC: Yes, it simplifies. Another thing Martin told us was to play hard but play fair. If I had have cheated on the cricket field, whether it was a Test match or a club match, Martin would've marched onto the field and grabbed me by the collar and dragged me off the field. That sort of upbringing was very, very important. ■

This in an edited version of an interview Greg T Ross had with Ian Chappell. For the full chat, please go to www.thelastpostmagazine.com/interviews

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On a trip to the Warrior Games in the United States in 2013, Prince Harry saw the positive impact sport could have on the recovery and rehabilitation of wounded, injured and ill servicemen and women. He vowed to take the idea and launch a similar event in the UK. The Invictus Games Foundation was established and in 2014 London hosted the inaugural Invictus Games, at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, with more than 400 competitors from 13 nations.

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The second Invictus Games took place in May 2016 in Orlando, Florida, and built on the excitement of the London Games with more than 500 competitors from 15 nations. The Invictus Games continued this year in Toronto, Canada from 23 to 30 September before heading 'down under' to Australia.

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“ON A TRIP TO THE WARRIOR GAMES IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2013, PRINCE HARRY SAW THE POSITIVE IMPACT SPORT COULD HAVE ON THE RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION OF WOUNDED, INJURED AND ILL SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN. HE VOWED TO TAKE THE IDEA AND LAUNCH A SIMILAR EVENT.”

EDITED EXTRACT FROM
**THE SPIRIT OF GOLF AND HOW IT
APPLIES TO LIFE: INSPIRATIONAL TALES
FROM THE WORLD'S GREATEST GAME**
BY RICHARD ALLEN, MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING

extract

1. CONFIDENCE

'I never wanted to be a millionaire. I just wanted to live like one.'

– Walter Hagen

'Golf never had a showman like Hagen. All the professionals who have a chance to go after big money today should say a silent thanks to Walter each time they stretch a cheque between their fingers.'

– Gene Sarazen, *Thirty Years of Championship Golf*

In April 1928, American professional Walter Hagen arrived in England for the British Open, which was to be held at Royal St George's on the Kent coast. His appearance caused quite a stir. Touring professionals were rare, especially professionals as unusual as Hagen. Locals were intrigued by his swing—a wide stance, strong grip, flat swing plane and lurching follow-through, probably the legacy of Hagen's first sporting love, baseball.

They also whispered among themselves about Hagen's flashy car and dandy clothes. He liked to play in plus-fours made from alpaca wool, a bow tie and a white shirt with gold cufflinks. You could see the part in his brilliantined hair from 100 metres (he would eventually be sponsored by Brylcreem). And he always played with a smile.

Hagen's manager, Bob Harlow, never one to pass up an opportunity to generate interest in his player—nor some extra winnings—had arranged for Hagen to play a series of exhibition matches during his visit. One was a 72-hole match at Moor Park, near London, against the British Ryder Cup player Archie Compston, with the winner getting £500. Hagen—not long off the boat, where he had prepared assiduously with late-night drinking sessions—lost by the staggering margin of 18 down with 17 to play. There was an accusation that he played 'frivolous' golf. Regardless, it was a monumental drubbing, especially for a professional who had won two U.S. Opens.

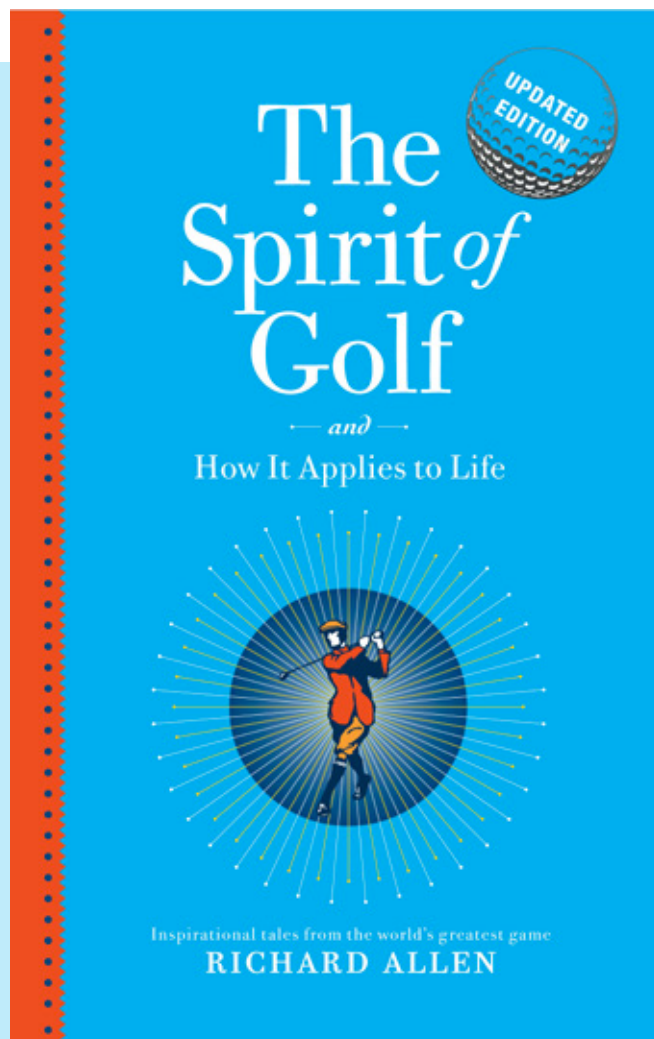
After the match Hagen posed for pictures, smiling his broadest smile and chatting happily to the press. He then left in his car with Harlow. A long, very pointed silence ensued, which was broken by Hagen: 'What's the matter with you? You're not worried about that are you? I can beat that sonofabitch the best day he ever had'. A week later, Hagen won his third British Open at Royal St George's, shooting 292; Compston came third.

Hagen was a natural. Over the course of his career, in addition to two U.S. Opens—he won his first in 1914 at only his second appearance in the tournament—he won five U.S. Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) championships. He also won four British Opens in a remarkable eight-year stretch, and was generally recognised as golf's first millionaire.

During the summer of 1924, after he had won his second British Open at Royal Liverpool, *The New York Times* described Hagen as 'the greatest golfer who ever lived—bar none'. His secret, in addition to a short game that got him out of countless jams, was an unwavering confidence in his own ability.

In the 1925 PGA championship at Olympia Fields in Illinois, Hagen famously walked into the locker room and asked Leo Diegel and Al Watrous, 'Which one of you is going to finish second?' He polished off Watrous in the first round and Diegel in the third.

During his last British Open win in 1929 at Muirfield in Scotland, he shot 67 in the second round—at the time, it was the lowest round ever recorded in championship golf. With two rounds to go he was two strokes behind Diegel. Late in the night before the 36-hole final day, Hagen was holding court, whiskey in hand. Someone pointed out that perhaps he should think about retiring, given that



Diegel had gone to bed hours beforehand. 'Yeah', Hagen retorted, 'but he ain't sleeping'.

On the first tee the next day, in a gale, Hagen brought out a mallet-headed, deep-faced driver. He hit his ball no more than 6 metres off the ground for the next thirty-six holes, shooting a pair of 75s and winning by six shots. Diegel shot 82, then 77.

Henry Longhurst recounted a story about Hagen at another British Open, at Carnoustie in 1937. Longhurst was sitting in the bar at half-past one in the morning: 'In walked Hagen with a basket under his arm. In it were half a dozen trout. He was lying well up the championship, but that had not stopped him driving 70 miles for an evening's fishing. He took the fish down to the kitchen, gutted them, and solemnly cooked them for his supper'.

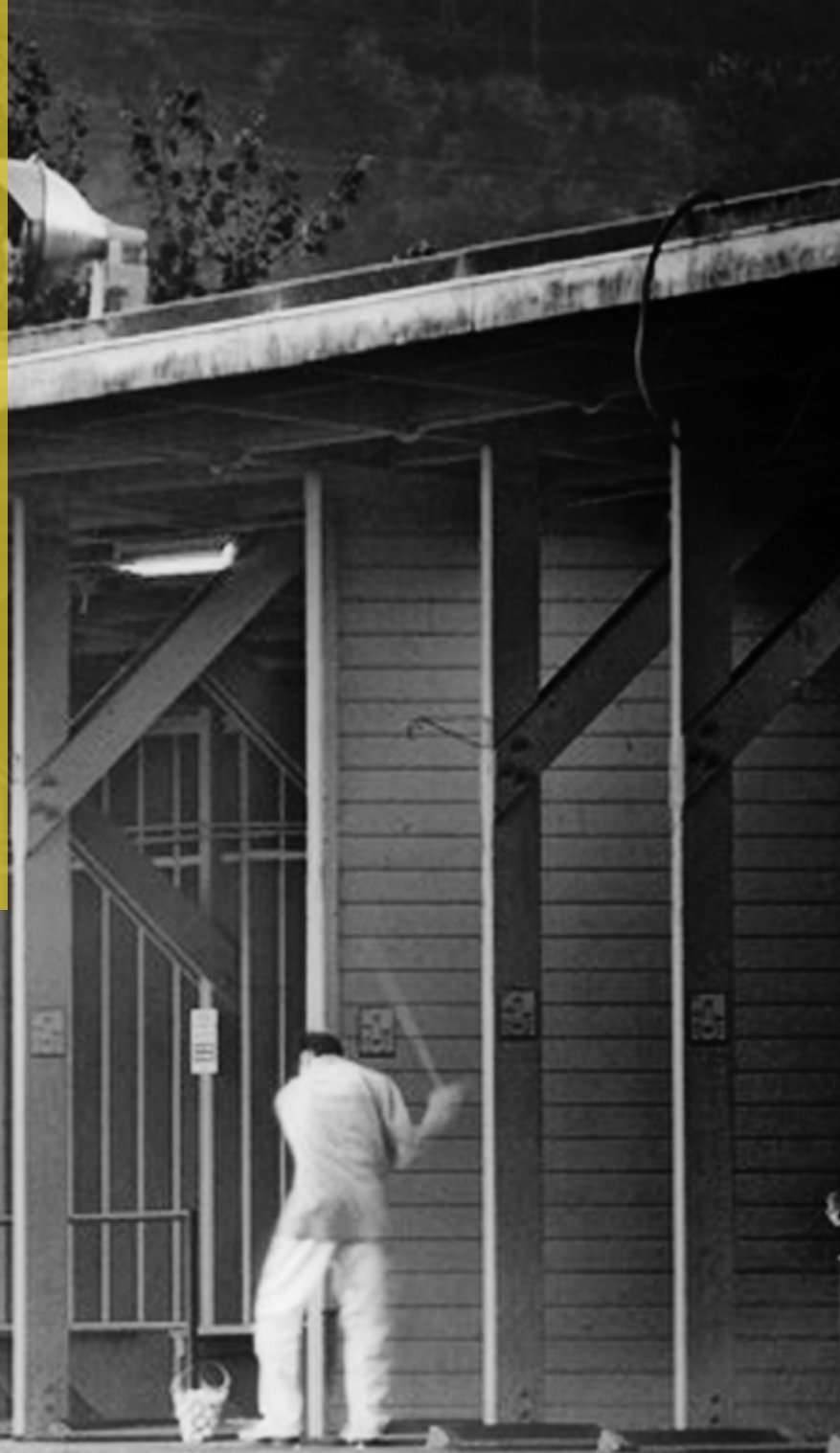
Hagen displayed the same confidence with women as he did with his golfing opponents. He reportedly once looked at the ample bosom of the Metropolitan Opera singer Ernestine Schumann-Heink and said, 'My dear, did you ever stop to think what a lovely bunker you would make?' Hagen was twice married and divorced, at a time when divorce was rare.

He was also a generous man who never forgot his own modest upbringing. He gave away large sums of money to his friends and to caddies—one of whom famously received Hagen's 1922 British Open winner's cheque for £50—and played in many exhibition matches for charity.

* * *

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I had a window of opportunity to be a professional tennis player once. I was around 11 years old and I won a summer tennis camp singles championship, despite having a broken arm.

It was my non-playing arm sure, but it still impressed an eccentric American coach who was watching.

He took me under his tutelage and decided to unlock my potential — I should head to Florida and enter a full-time tennis academy.

Could I leave home and dedicate my entire life to tennis? I chose instead to become epically shy, overweight, super short, and heavily bullied.

The thought of me ever becoming a tennis pro would, and often did, get me laughed out of the room.

I stand by my choice. Yet I regularly get consumed with some solid “what if?” pondering.

So when Bernard Tomic, after being lambasted across the world for crashing out of Wimbledon in the first round and claiming he was bored, responded by telling his detractors they should “Pick up my racquet and try and do my job” I instantly vowed to do just that.

I always wanted to know what it would really be like to be a professional tennis player, and so this past week, I spent every waking moment finding out. ■

Herald Sun

PREPARATION

Before undertaking any extreme challenge the most important thing is to spend time wildly fantasising about how amazing your life will soon be.

I dream that I'd play so much tennis this week, I'll probably unlock a gift and accidentally end up winning the US Open later this year.

I fantasise about all the weight I was going to lose.

Plus my girlfriend demands I hang out with models to really do this right, and live the professional tennis player lifestyle. A boy can fantasise right?

Yep I'm off to a flying start and I haven't even begun. This is going to be a breeze.

DAY ONE

It's 5:45am on Saturday. It's 6C, it's still pitch black and I am standing in a dirty urine-speckled alley behind my flat.

As a comedian who mostly works nights, and as a horrible insomniac, my preferred wake up time is about nine hours from now.

Technically, I shouldn't even be asleep yet. So why does it hurt to be awake so much?

I'm struggling to get my body warm enough to run, so I decide to just head off cold and risk injury.

I've heard “experts” over the years, claim that you should always jog before you stretch, and I've heard others say you should always stretch before you jog.

Strangely I can't find any advanced philosophical studies on just why health professionals choose to focus their lives on giving contradictory advice. It must be pleasurable in some way.

Now it turns out — and this may shock some people — running at 5:45 in the morning is not 100 per cent pleasurable. Seriously. Like it hurts and is cold and stuff.

On the other hand there are some wonderful parts.

You have the world pretty much to yourself and it's stunning to look at. But I can't linger with it as I have a personal training session to attend.

I ride my bike there, so arrive knackered, and then my new lovely trainer, a former circus performer named Colin, spends a solid hour with me explaining all the many, many ways I am likely to injure myself this week.

Oh, there are so many ways.

It turns out the human body is comprised of literally dozens of parts, and every one of them HATES tennis.

Your tendons, muscles, bones, and plasma membrane sarcolemmas spend most of their time sitting around getting fiery from knocking back bourbons, and saying things to each other like “I'm just at breaking point mate, if I even see another tennis court I'm gonna snap”.

They're also fond of whispering “cruciate ligament” regularly. Which I'll admit is super fun to whisper, but they're doing it to remind you they have knives to your cruciate ligaments' throats and are threatening to cut them at the first whiff of a can of balls.

Fortunately, many of these imminent injuries can be stopped. Unfortunately, one of the main things you need to do is squats.

So many squats. So many kinds of squats.

Pigeon foot squats, bowleg squats, even something called a “sissy squat”, which somehow, despite being named after the term of endearment my classmates would regularly adorn me with, before ironically pushing me in the mud, are actually really hard.

Squatted to hell and back, and I'm back on my bike now, racing to the courts. It's time, FINALLY for TENNIS!

I've hooked up a hit with someone special in the tennis world, a man named Peter who has gone all the way to Centre Court at the Australian Open.

As a linesman.

We have a lovely match (I won). I fail to get him to spill gossip on which players are rudest, and after a day of pain, I remember something I'd completely forgotten — tennis is fun.

Josh Byrne

Gardening Australia's presenter in Western Australia

Born in Esperance on the south coast of Western Australia, Josh spent his early childhood years surrounded by some of Australia's best coast and bushland.

Josh Byrne is an environmental scientist with a passion for sustainable gardening, appropriate technology and innovative environmental design.

Prior to establishing his own environmental, horticultural and communications consultancy business, Josh spent five years working in research and development with the internationally renowned UNEP Environmental Technology Centre (ETC) at Murdoch University, where he was the principal designer and site manager overseeing the development of the landscape and environmental technologies that support it. During this time he gained invaluable experience in a wide range of environmental technologies and their application in the areas of energy conservation, water and waste management, sustainable housing and food production for urban as well as rural and remote settlements. Josh continues to have strong links with Murdoch University where he is engaged in undergraduate teaching and doctoral research.

Josh is recognised as a national leader in urban water management and permaculture, is the author of *The Green Gardener*, and as well as presenting on *Gardening Australia*, also writes for the *Gardening Australia* magazine. His horticultural media achievements were recently acknowledged as the inaugural 2006 Anita Boucher Horticultural Media Association Young Achiever Award recipient, and the 2007 Horticultural Media Association Laurel for outstanding communication through television. He is the patron of the WA Organic Growers Association and the WA chapter of Sustainable Gardening Australia, as well as an ambassador for the WA Department of Planning and Infrastructure's Living Smart Program.

Josh has a unique and integrated approach to both landscape and broader environmental design and development which combines his academic background in Environmental Science with over 10 years hands on experience as a sustainability practitioner. He has extensive experience in community consultation and education and sees this as a key step in achieving sustainable settlements that are responsive to both local environmental conditions as well as the people who interact with them. ■



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Dr Josh Byrne is best known for his role as the WA presenter on ABC TV's Gardening Australia program where over the past 10 years he has demonstrated practical ways to create productive and water efficient gardens to a national audience. Josh is also a regular contributor to the Gardening Australia Magazine and author of two best-selling books, including The Green Gardener published by Penguin, and Small Space Organics published by Hardie Grant.

Josh's media achievements have been acknowledged as he is a recipient of four consecutive National Horticulture Media Association television awards for excellence in communication. In 2014 Josh also became a Business News '40 under 40' recipient and in 2013 he received the Australian Water Association's WA Water Professional of the Year Award, and Murdoch University's Distinguished Alumni Award for Science and Engineering.

Josh is Patron for the Conservation Council of WA and the Living Smart household sustainability program. He is also an Ambassador for Nature Play WA, the national Smart Approved WaterMark program and Vision 202020.

Josh is a Research Fellow with Curtin University's Sustainability Policy Institute (CUSP) and also holds a position of Adjunct Lecturer at Murdoch University. His key research interests include high performance housing, water sensitive design and sustainable urban landscapes.

Josh Byrne is the Director of Josh Byrne & Associates, a multi award winning WA based consulting practice integrating the fields of environmental science, landscape architecture, sustainability policy and environmental communication.

Josh is the Director of JBA and is a widely respected sustainability practitioner and communicator well known for his work on ABC TV's Gardening Australia program. He has a unique and integrated approach to environmental design, community engagement and environmental communication projects, with over 20 years experience in the landscape design, sustainability and media industries.

Josh regularly consults to West Australian state agencies such as Water Corporation, LandCorp and the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority on matters relating to urban water management, environmental technology and design, and has contributed to projects around Australia.

Josh is a Research Fellow with Curtin University's Sustainability Policy Institute and the CRC for Low Carbon Living, and an Adjunct Associate Professor with the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of New South Wales. His research activities span high performance housing, water sensitive design and sustainable urban developments.

Josh is a recipient of the Australian Water Association's WA Water Professional of the Year Award, and Murdoch University's Distinguished Alumni Award for Science and Engineering. He is Patron of the Conservation Council of WA and Sustainable Gardening Australia, an Advocate for the national collaborative 202020 Vision urban greening initiative and an Ambassador for the Living Smart household sustainability program and Nature Play WA.

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Please allow up to 10 business days for delivery. All sales subject to product availability and reservation acceptance. Credit criteria may apply. Our privacy policy is available online at www.bradford.com.au. You must be over 18 years old to apply. From time to time, we may allow carefully screened companies to contact you. If you would prefer not to receive such offers, please tick this box.

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2. **MAIL** no stamp required, to:
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Reply Paid 86369 Parramatta NSW 2124

3. **PHONE:** Toll-Free 1300 725 103
8am-5pm E.S.T Mon – Fri

A photograph of a man and a woman smiling and embracing each other. The woman is on the left, leaning her head against the man's shoulder. The man is on the right, looking towards the camera. They are both wearing white clothing. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting.

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