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THE LAST POST

BI-ANNUAL

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR VETERANS

PLUS:

DVA UPDATES
FINANCE
TRAVEL
MUSIC
HEALTH
SPORT

AUSTRALIAN
RED CROSS
CENTENARY

The Last Post
Interviews

FAMOUS WAR PHOTOGRAPHER
TIM PAGE

MUSIC LEGENDS
**GLENN SHORROCK &
DINAH LEE**

GONSKI PANEL MEMBER
PROFESSOR BILL SCALES

CAPTAIN CHOICE'S
PHIL ASKER

COUNTRY MUSIC STAR
AMBER LAWRENCE

WHATEVER
HAPPENED
TO:
WAKE IN FRIGHT

+

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1914-2014



Message from His Excellency General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

This ANZAC Day, all around our nation and overseas, Australians will gather — solemnly and respectfully united — to honour the servicemen and women who, for more than century, have dedicated themselves to the safekeeping of Australia, and our values and way of life.



The Australian War Memorial's 2014 Anzac Day commemorations will have the largest audience ever, particularly with the attendance of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. As we approach the centenary of the First World War, there is unprecedented interest in the Memorial and its activities from Australians around the country, and from national and international media.

On Anzac Day, which marks the 99th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, the

We will proudly pay tribute to all aspects of our long and distinguished military heritage. As we approach the centenary of the start of the Great War, we should especially cast our minds back to those young diggers, who were sent ill-equipped, ill-trained and ill-prepared from Albany in 1914.

Humanity had yet to face war on this scale. Those Australians could not have imagined the horrors that awaited them on the shores of the Gallipoli Peninsula; in the trench warfare of the Western Front; the deserts of North Africa. What followed, in this immense and grave struggle, were extraordinary acts of bravery, mateship and sacrifice by ordinary young Australians.

Their fighting spirit has echoed down the ages to become an intrinsic part of our national character and identity. Their legacy was to provide not only freedom from tyranny, but an enduring ethos to which all Australians now aspire.

I am immensely proud that the ANZAC spirit lives on in the hearts, minds and actions of Australians today. I have seen it, not only in the military fraternity, but in communities all across our country. It is evidenced through the stamina, courage and good humour of Australians when the chips are down; their determination to ensure a 'fair go' for all; and their sense of community and selflessness when they see others in need.

In this there is no worship of war. Far from it, there is simply the acknowledgement that our frail human nature has yet to find a way to repudiate war, yet hold safe our fundamental values.

I applaud The Last Post for doing its part to ensure we are 'keeping the ANZAC spirit alive'. It is the least we owe for a debt we can never repay.

Foreword by The Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of The Australian War Memorial

Memorial encourages all Australians to remember the service and sacrifice of the courageous men and women who have served our country in all wars. This year we pay special tribute to those who have served in the recently concluded Afghanistan conflict.

The Memorial will project images of key land, sea, and air battles onto the Memorial building and excerpts from letters and diaries will be read aloud, followed by reflections on the Afghanistan conflict. Images of the 40 Australians who have lost their lives in Afghanistan will also be projected onto the Memorial before the traditional Dawn Service begins at 5.30 am. This service is a solemn reminder of the dawn landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

The National Ceremony commemorates the service and sacrifices of all Australian servicemen and servicewomen. The ceremony includes a veterans' march, and the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. Tony Abbott MP, will deliver the Commemorative Address.

Four living Victoria Cross recipients will be in attendance this Anzac Day – Corporal Mark Donaldson VC, Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG, Corporal Dan Keighran VC, and Mr Keith Payne VC OAM (Ret'd).

The Memorial's Dawn Service and National Ceremony have become an iconic part of the Memorial's annual program of events. Attending Anzac Day at the Memorial is a memorable experience that lasts a lifetime.

From the Publisher: GREG T ROSS

With a nation, as with the individual, if you stop trying to improve – if you are ever completely happy with the state of the nation – then you are encouraging the tide of decline. What does that mean? It means that, as a nation, as we enter the period to be known as the Anzac centenary, we have an obligation to be truthful and to be fair. To be truthful to ourselves and fair to others. As the self-examination of who we are as a nation and people intensifies over this time, this 2014 Anzac Day Edition of *The Last Post*, is timely. There is a lot going on at the moment that may encourage us to ask whether it falls within what may be termed the 'Anzac Spirit'. Whatever the answer you may find, it is a sure thing that all should, on some levels, strive to better what we are producing at the moment. There should be no reluctance to try because, as we have proven, we are capable. May your Anzac Day reflection centre not only on those who have given their lives and time for this nation and her people but to look at what we may yet become. All actions start with thoughts.

Interesting and informative stories again grace the pages of *The Last Post* for this important edition and we continue to keep veterans in the mix with DVA Updates. I won't go on too much but to say "welcome" to the latest in this, the national magazine for Australia's veterans. Hope you enjoy and feel free to make contact. Below is a list of books

that we have a limited number of to give away to readers who are first in to email us here.

Books – Allen and Unwin's 'Hells Battlefield' by Phillip Bradley and Peter Rees' 'Lancaster Men', William Heinemann Australia's 'First Victory' by Mike Carlton, Peter Fitzsimons' 'Ned Kelly and Paul Ham's '1914 – The Year the World Ended along with Grantlee Kieza's *Sons of The Southern Cross* from ABC Books. From Black Books Inc, James Brown's 'Anzac's Long shadow'. *Ashes to Ashes* from Gideon Haigh, thanks to Penguin Viking. *A Mouthful of Flies* from Sue Currie by Lyncon P/L. From Hachette, Roland Perry's 'The Fight for Australia'. ■



Greg T Ross
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HOW TO COME PREPARED FOR OVERSEAS ANZAC DAY SERVICES

Attending an Anzac Day Dawn Service overseas at the sites where so many Australians fought and died during the First World War is an honour and a privilege for many each year.

If you're attending Anzac Day commemorations at Villers-Bretonneux in France or Gallipoli in Turkey in 2014, here are some tips to ensure you get the most out of your experience.

France – there is no parking onsite at the Australian National Memorial in Villers-

Bretonneux so book your seat on a shuttle bus via the link on the DVA website. It can get extremely cold just before dawn so warm clothing including a beanie, scarf and gloves is essential, and plenty of water and sun protection for the later community services as it can warm up significantly in the afternoon.

Gallipoli – you will be exposed to the elements for up to 24 hours at the Gallipoli Historical National Park. Temperatures can reach below zero overnight so warm,

waterproof clothing is a must. A moderate level of fitness and sturdy shoes are required to complete the up to 8 kilometres of walking on steep and uneven ground between the commemorative sites.

For more tips on how to prepare and what to expect at the commemorations, sign-up for the Gallipoli or France visitor information service via the DVA website: www.dva.gov.au/anzac ■

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ANZAC CENTENARY 2014–2018

ANZAC Day is already a day of national commemoration when we pause to remember Australia's servicemen and women.

Between 2014 and 2018 Australia will commemorate the ANZAC Centenary, marking 100 years since our nation's involvement in the First World War. The ANZAC Centenary is a milestone of special significance to all Australians. The First World War helped define us as a people and as a nation.

During the ANZAC Centenary we will remember not only the original ANZACs who served at Gallipoli and the Western Front, but commemorate more than a century of service by Australian servicemen and women.

The ANZAC Centenary Program encompasses all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations in which Australians have been involved. The Program aims to give all Australians the opportunity to honour the service and

sacrifice of all those who have worn our nation's uniform, including the more than 102,000 who have made the supreme sacrifice.

It also aims to encourage all Australians to reflect upon and learn more about Australia's military history, its costs and its impacts on our nation.

For more information regarding the ANZAC Centenary visit:
www.anzaccentenary.gov.au ■



Foreword by Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson

Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC, Special Minister of State

This year, I will represent the Australian Government both at the Dawn Service at the Anzac Commemorative Site at Gallipoli and the Australian Memorial service at Lone Pine. Standing with my fellow Australians who have travelled from all over the world to pay their respects, this year will be especially poignant as we approach the beginning of the Centenary of Anzac.

From the 4th of August this year, Australia and many other nations around the world will start commemorating the Centenary of the First World War. It will be the most significant national period of commemoration in our nation's history.

For Australians and New Zealanders a key focal point of the Centenary will be the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landings in April 2015. However, our two countries continued on in the War for another three-and-a-half years fighting valiantly on the Western Front. Anzac Centenary commemorative events and initiatives will run from 2014 to 2018 to reflect the length of the Great War.

I was pleased to announce recently that the Turkish Government has approved the Australian Government's request for a commemorative service to be held on 6 August 2015 marking the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Lone Pine. The Government is committed to providing opportunities for all Australians to participate in the Centenary.

The Anzac Centenary Program will also mark a Century of Service. The Program encompasses all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations in which Australians have been involved.

The Centenary will highlight the service and sacrifice of our modern day veterans as well as those of the past.

Planning for the Centenary is well advanced and the Australian Government has now committed over \$145 million to see the successful implementation of the Anzac Centenary Program. State and Territory Governments are also developing and funding their own programs.

National Centenary events planned in Australia include a commemorative event at Albany in Western Australia in late October / early November this year to mark the 100th anniversary of the departure of the first convoy of ships that carried Australian and New Zealand troops to the First World

War. A National Anzac Centre is also being constructed in Albany. It will provide visitors with an opportunity to better understand the departure of the Anzac convoy. The Centre will tell the story of those Australians and New Zealanders who left the shores of our young nations, many never to return again.

Other Centenary initiatives include a local grants program of up to \$125,000 per Federal electorate to enable local communities to commemorate the Centenary in their own way and a national travelling exhibition that will visit rural, regional and urban communities. There are also major State and Territory events and initiatives.

The outcome of the Anzac Day Dawn Service ballot for Gallipoli in 2015 was announced recently.

The former Australian Government and the New Zealand Government decided to initiate a ballot process for the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Gallipoli in 2015, following advice from the Turkish Government that they had capped attendance at 10,500 people.

The Government is committed to providing opportunities for all Australians to participate. Those without tickets for Anzac Day 2015 may consider visiting Gallipoli on 6 August 2015 for the Battle of Lone Pine Centenary commemoration service. The Battle at Lone Pine saw some of the fiercest fighting of the Gallipoli campaign. Over four days, Australia suffered more than 2,000 casualties and seven Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross. Australians may also consider attending another Dawn Service in Australia or overseas or watch the television broadcast of the Gallipoli and Villers-Bretonneux services on the ABC. Another option is to visit Gallipoli at another time during the Centenary year.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and communities around Australia to ensure the Centenary commemorative period is relevant to, and significant for, many generations to come. ■



OCEANGROVE DEE WHY RSL - AN AWARD WINNING SUCCESS!

Marchese Partners Architects have delivered another outstanding Seniors Living Project for Dee Why RSL Club on Sydney's Northern beaches.

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This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Major Festivals Initiative, managed by the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals, Sydney Festival and Brisbane Festival.



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



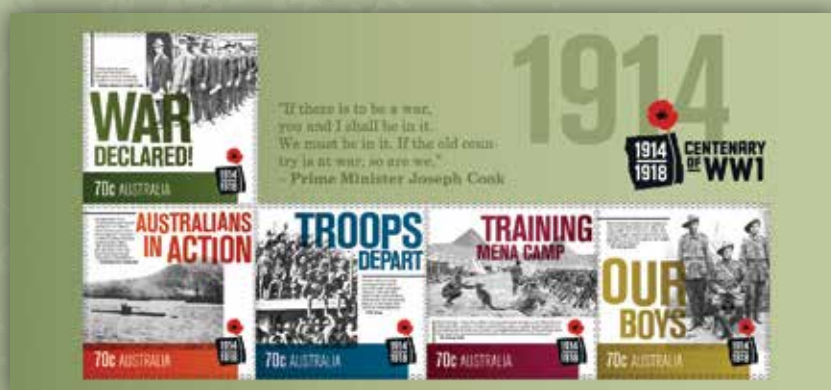
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REMEMBER THEM

It's as simple as just saying THANKS!

After recent years of involvement by Australian troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, Timor, Somalia and other global trouble spots, a community-based initiative is aiming to let Australian veterans know their work is appreciated back home.

A group of pipers and drummers from Canberra have established The Remember Them Trust; aiming to outfit Australians in t-shirts bearing the message THANK YOU Remember Them.

Proceeds from the sale of the shirts, which cost \$20, go to the Australian Forces Overseas Fund, which supports Australian service people overseas with comfort packages twice per year as well as recreational, fitness and communications equipment on land and at sea. (source: <http://rslnsw.org.au/programs/rsl-afof>)

But the initiative is less about making money than simply giving Australians a simple means by which to express their support for Australian service people. "We have only one aim," said spokeswoman Jen Hamer. "We just want to say thanks – not just to veterans, but also to their families for their sacrifices on behalf of the nation.

"We aren't interested in the politics. We don't pretend to be experts on the challenges service families have faced, some for generations. We just want to encourage the Australian community to join us in what we do through our music - show appreciation for the men and woman who selflessly do their duty.

"We also want to acknowledge the families of service personnel who provide vital support for their loved ones whilst on deployment, when they return, as they adapt to civilian life and, with the support of their families, try to settle down to everyday existence while bearing the memories of their service."

The trust was established in 2011, when in 4 weeks it sold close to 1000 t-shirts in the lead up to ANZAC Day. Slowly the message is crossing the country and with little to no advertising t-shirt sales exceed 3000. With clear public support, it is time to go national, with the dream of seeing a sea of community members wearing the simple message on Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day.

Since 1999, Australian service people have served overseas in theatres of war, peace keeping and monitoring and humanitarian aid in Somalia, Rwanda, Timor, Solomon Islands, Bougainville, Sudan, Thailand, Iraq and Afghanistan. While the postings usually last six to 12 months, many modern service people have returned for multiple tours of duty, leaving behind their partners and children to do their duty.

After the Vietnam War of the 1960s and 1970's, some Australian diggers, including conscripts, were criticised by anti-war protesters amid political controversy over Australia's engagement in the conflict.

It was not until years later that many Australians came to understand the need to separate the politics from the individual service and finally reconciled the nation with the veterans by staging a long-delayed welcome home parade in 1988. The Remember Them

Trust aims to ensure that all diggers - whatever the politics surrounding their engagement - receive credit and appreciation for doing their duty, with special consideration for those troops exiting Afghanistan at the end of the year.

Ms Hamer says that while the trust hopes people will don their thank-you shirts each Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, it also wanted people to bear the thank-you message throughout the year.

"We want people to wear their t-shirt on any day of the year, acknowledging that for some of our veterans, troops and their families, every day is a challenge.

"When they see this powerful recognition for their most private of sacrifices, be they big or small, they will know that we value them and that to them we say thank you. It's that simple."

One trust member recently experienced a potent demonstration of the strength of a simple thank-you. Wearing the Thank You shirt at a Canberra hardware store, the piper was approached and embraced by an ex-serviceman moved to tears by the message. No words were shared in the encounter. The message of thanks holds its own power that can be delivered in a silent, dignified manner to those who need it most.

T-shirts are available from the trust's website www.rememberthem.com.au for \$20 (plus p&p). Other enquiries can be directed to the Remember Them team via support@rememberthem.com.au ■

NEW MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

A new mental health initiative aimed at stigma reduction and early intervention and prevention has been launched.

News in Mind is a niche news website dedicated to all things mental health and originates from within the mental health sector. Established in Brisbane by Daniel and Kylie Hobbs, the platform will now go national through a partnership with the Mental Health Association Australia.

QLD Health Minister Lawrence Springborg said News in Mind would help contribute to stigma reduction and early intervention and prevention. "I am acutely aware of the importance of information and education,

not only for reducing stigma in the broader community but also for empowering people with a mental illness to seek support and to gain a greater understanding of their illness," Mr Springborg said.

Founders of the site, Daniel and Kylie Hobbs, were on hand to share their passion and vision for the platform. "When Kylie and I created News In Mind we were focused on delivering an initiative that would make a tangible difference to people with a mental illness, their families and carers," said Mr. Hobbs.

"The platform publishes quality, professional news and information on all things mental health, with a strategic undertone of empowering help-seeking behaviours in people with a mental illness and reducing the stigma so often attached to it."

As the sector looks to innovate and reform, Mental Health Association Australia Executive Director, Dr. Dennis Young, saw considerable value in rolling out News in Mind nationally.

"News in Mind is the kind of innovative thinking the sector needs right now, as it looks to the future and how we might meet the needs of people living with a mental illness and their significant others," said Dr. Young.

"As service provision becomes more expensive and prevalence rates continue to increase, strategies that target early intervention and stigma reduction will need to be central planks of any future Australian mental health system."

www.rlsa.org.au ■



Asylum seekers voice their joy

On one level they may not have much to sing about, but for Melbourne's newest choir it's all about the experience of coming together and enjoying music.

Choirmaster and founder of the Choir of Hard Knocks Dr Jonathon Welch (AM) has joined with a group of asylum seeker clients from settlement agency AMES to form a new choral group: 'Voices Without Borders'.

The initiative, a collaboration between Dr Welch's 'School of Hard Knocks' organisation and AMES' Meaningful Engagement Program, has brought asylum seekers from across Melbourne together to enjoy song and social activities.

The choir took part in the fifth birthday celebrations of the Melbourne Recital Centre last Saturday (Feb 8). It will also stage a major performance during Refugee Week (15 – 21 June), with the Choir of Hope and Inspiration at Deakin Edge, Federation Square on March 31, and at other events throughout the year.

Dr Welch said he was delighted to be part of the project aimed at giving asylum seekers a positive social and cultural experience.

"The choir is giving asylum seekers a chance to experience something different, engage with the broader community and simply experience the joy of singing," Dr Welch said.

He said singing is a universal language "that crosses cultural borders and builds a sense of home for Melbourne's newest arrivals."

"It's very much all about inclusion. Our singers are just fantastic and it is rewarding to see their faces light up when the singing starts," Dr Welch said.

Choir member Gobitha Manokar said the choir was a lot of fun and helped her meet a range of new people.

Gobitha, 20, fled Sri Lanka as a child after her father was injured in a bomb attack during the civil war.

She spent the next 14 years in a refugee camp in southern India before coming to Australia as a refugee.

"In Sri Lanka we were scared every day of what might happen," she said.

"Now we are here in Australia and life is much better."

Gobitha enjoyed singing in a choir at school. "This is the first time I have sung in a very long time," she said.

AMES CEO Cath Scarth said the choir was a good opportunity for asylum seekers to engage with the broader community and have some fun.

"The project is part of AMES' Meaningful Engagement Program, which seeks to address some of the emotional and social issues our asylum seeker clients face. These can include living with uncertainty, the inability to communicate, living in tight financial circumstances and living at risk of mental health problems," she said. "Through this program our volunteers and stakeholders help our clients engage in a range of activities including creative arts, sport and fitness, English/IT and cooking. The program gives clients valued roles in their community and a sense of purpose as they build their skills to potentially settle in Australia."

AMES is a leading provider of migrant and refugee settlement services; as well as education, training and employment services. ■



Photo courtesy Australian War Memorial PO 4959.053

an interview with **TIM PAGE**

Page left England in 1962 and first worked as an agricultural advisor for USAID. He began work as a press photographer in Laos stringing for UPI and AFP, having taught himself photography.



Tim at the Battle of the Ia Drang. Photo by Jack Laurence.

Tim Page (born 25 May 1944 in Tunbridge Wells, Kent) is an English photographer who made his name during the Vietnam War and is now based in Brisbane, Australia

His exclusive photographs of an attempted coup d'état in Laos in 1965 for UPI got him a staff position in the Saigon bureau of the news agency. He is celebrated for his work as a freelance accredited press photographer in Vietnam and Cambodia during the 1960s, also finding time to cover the Six-Day War in the Middle East in 1967. Due to a near-death experience in the early 60s, he came to view his life as 'free time'. This led him to take photographs in dangerous situations where other journalists would not venture. Similarly, Page was captured by the excitement and glamour of warfare, which helped contribute to the style of photographs he is acclaimed for. [In Dispatches, Michael Herr wrote of Page as the most 'extravagant' of the 'wigged-out crazies running around Vietnam'. His unusual personality was part of the inspiration for the

character of the journalist played by Dennis Hopper in *Apocalypse Now*.

Page was injured in action four times. The first, in 1965, was in Chu Lai where he was struck by shrapnel in the legs and stomach; the second was in Da Nang during Buddhist riots (1966), where he received more shrapnel wounds to the head, back, and arms; the third in August 1966 happened in the South China sea, where he was on board the Coast Guard cutter *Point Welcome*, when it was mistaken for a Viet Cong ship, and Air Force pilots strafed the vessel, leaving Page adrift at sea with over 200 wounds. Lastly, in April 1969 Page jumped out of a helicopter to help load wounded soldiers. At the same time, a sergeant stepped on a mine close by, sending a 2-inch piece of shrapnel into Page's head. This list of injuries led his colleagues

in the field to joke that he'd never make it to 23 years of age. He spent the next year in the United States of America undergoing extensive neuro-surgery. During recovery he became closely involved with the Vietnam Veterans peace movement [vague] and worked as a caregiver for amputees, traumatically shocked and stressed young men. One of these was Ron Kovic.

On 9 December 1967, Page was arrested in New Haven, Connecticut along with fellow journalists Mike Zwerin and Yvonne Chabrier at the infamous Doors concert where Jim Morrison was arrested onstage. Charges against all four were dropped due to lack of evidence.

In the 1970s Page worked as a freelance photographer for music magazines like *Crawdaddy* and *Rolling Stone*. During his



ROK White Horse Division on operations north of Bong Son, 1966

recovery in the spring of 1970 he learnt of the capture of his best friend, roommate and fellow photo-journalist Sean Flynn in Cambodia. Throughout the 1970s and 80s he tried to discover Flynn's fate and final resting place and wanted to erect a memorial to all those in the media that either were killed or went missing in the war. This led him to found the Indochina Media Memorial Foundation and was the genesis for the book *Requiem*, co-edited with fellow Vietnam War photographer Horst Faas. Page's quest to clear up the mystery of Flynn's fate continues: as late as 2009, he was back in Cambodia still searching for the site of Flynn's remains.

Page's book *Requiem* contains photographs taken by all of the photographers and journalists killed during the Vietnamese wars against the Japanese, French and Americans. *Requiem* has become since early 2000 a traveling photographic exhibition placed under the custody of the George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film. The exhibition has been presented in Vietnam's War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Minh City, as well as in New York City, Chicago, Atlanta, Washington, DC., Tokyo, Hanoi, Lausanne, London. In 2011, it was selected to be the main exhibition of the Month of Photography Asia in Singapore.

Page is the subject of many documentaries and two films, and the author of many books.

He lives in Brisbane, Australia and no longer covers wars. He is Adjunct Professor of Photojournalism at Griffith University.

In the 2010–2011 Queensland floods, Page's archives in his basement were damaged, highlighting at the time the need for a longer-term home for what he estimated were half a million images accumulated over his 50-year career.

The Last Post: Hi Tim, thanks very much for joining us here at The Last Post magazine. What have you been up to lately?

Tim Page: Well, I came back from Cambodia not so long ago. I've just done 19 months up there, working principally for the Finns and then the Germans on the sequence of land registration and titles to people for the first time ever in Cambodia, it's a completely new concept to them, introducing the idea of inheritance and ownership. It's taken the country a step forward in the battle against corruption.

TLP: That's some step forward for a country like Cambodia.

TP: Yes, considering where it was before. I witnessed it before in '64 and then in '68 and '69, then went back in 1990 and watched the evolution of change. The whole thing of war, with the Pol Pot era, the genocide and then the starvation, the Vietnamese. The UN elections in '93 and then again '98 the

elections and to watch this gradual change into a 2nd World country. It's a long way off but it's getting better.

TLP: War as well as music have played a big part in your life. Are they both stimulants to you?

TP: If you look back at the era, it's a hard call, shall we say, to de-segregate the whole ethos of rock 'n roll from the 60's and somehow much of that music was in protest about what was going on in Vietnam. It's that age-old axiom that sprung out of nowhere about sex, drugs and rock 'n roll was the symbiosis of the 60's. I don't think you're going to separate or take those apart. Vietnam just slots right into that equation.

TLP: The TV brought that war to us and made it as real as the music.

TP: I suppose we tend to remember things through still pictures, not by movie clips and the Vietnam War is personified by 20, 30 images and at the top of our minds is the Eddie Adams execution, the burning monk by Mal Browne, the napalm girl, they keep on coming and I suppose the only things we tend to remember about Vietnam is the first time war arrived on television and then the bounty of films which eventuated in the late 70's. You could probably pick that with *Apocalypse* which still keeps on reverberating. But we don't remember moving clips, we remember stills. Somehow, those still pictures and the

music just automatically slot together. I don't think you can segregate them. I don't see why we should. Most people who survived are now old now but it seems that when there's nothing new, people go back and look at that epoch with almost a fondness and a need to know more, it's their roots. I think we're all prone to that because it was exciting, there was a certain amount of glamour to it and for the first time, youth was emancipated, got the votes, the gay thing came into being, the blacks were emancipated in America. The whole world was changing by '68, which is when the Vietnam War was at it's peak. In '68, the Cultural Revolution in China, the merry month in Paris, the Prague revolution. In that way, '68 was a turning point as a year. It's not the year the war was won or lost but it proved America couldn't win the war.

TLP: Did the mass media coverage of the Vietnam War, Time, Newsweek, television, did that help to focus opposition to the war?

TP: It was fuelled by it. It was the first time

but if he'd been elected, the war would've slowed right down and become virtually a nothing event with Bobby in the White House but we never saw that. And after that we saw Martin Luther King gunned down.

TLP: Well, the man who won in '68, Nixon, he never did things by halves.

TP: He bombed Hanoi and committed America to further folly. In my opinion he put the first nail in the coffin of the American empire. I mean, they haven't really won a war since.

TLP: In Cambodia too, there was so much going on besides the fighting. You must have seen that, being on the ground there in the 60's.

TP: Well, I suppose it was going on from two points of view. The American thing which you had to cover because that's where the money was but the change to Vietnamese society and the pressure we were putting on Asia, not just looking at Saigon changing but you look at how Bangkok changed with

England as a teenager. Had you been planning that departure for a long time?

TP: I had not a clue in the world I'd end up with a camera around my neck trying to make a living, much less be in Vietnam. I mean, I set out from Amsterdam with an Aussie bloke who'd been a drummer in West Side Story. This was, like, August, September '62 and the idea was to get to Australia by Christmas. I think we got as far as Lahore in what was then West Pakistan. And the next Christmas I got as far as Laos. I was there for about one and a half, two years, working for US Aid and then becoming a junior stringer for United Press International, UPI. From that point I did some work for them and got a camera for one hundred bucks. Literally three weeks later there was an attempted coup between the army and the paramilitary and there were very few photographers or correspondents there. I rode around on my bike taking what I called my 'happy snaps' and because communications there between



5th RAR Operation
Hayman Island, Rung Sat, 1966



1st RAR artillery at Nui Dat, 1966

a conflict has been openly covered, back when we had, shall we say, that uncensored television of the conflict and I think that gradual swaying of public opinion, here as well but more importantly in America, changed the attitude of voters and leaders. I mean, things swung around and the whole thing was dismantled from '72 on, when the Vietnamese took the brunt of fighting. We were profiting from the arms business but at least we weren't losing bodies. I don't think there was ever going to be any quick ending for Vietnam because the military, industrial complex was making so much money and the whole consumer/consume thing was coming into play. There was never going to be a quick end to it. I think, in retrospect if Bobby Kennedy hadn't been shot and it's a big if,

everybody going on R and R and the whole start of the massive sex business. You look also at how it affected the Philippines and Singapore. It was a great, big handprint right across Asia. Korea, Japan. It accelerated progress in terms of Korean industry, Singapore servicing weapons and planes. The Malay's were involved with jungle warfare, training schools, I mean Asia came pumping along at that point. War is the biggest business we've got. It went right through South-East Asia very quickly. The Philippino troops in Vietnam, a whole brigade of them and the Korean's had 50,000 men there. Two divisions plus a marine brigade, that's a lot of people.

TLP: Almost back to the very beginning, did the journey really start for you when you left

the rest of the world were blocked off I got the stories and pictures from my friend who was UPI correspondent out to Thailand and Bangkok. For the best part of a week the only information was from UPI and we were exclusive. After the coup petered out, the bureau chief came in from Saigon and said, "Hey kid, do you want a job?" I'd never had such a weird offer in all my life. Four days later I was in Vietnam. It was so green, you couldn't see the roads and I had no idea what I was doing. I'd never processed film, I'd never thought about deadlines or about all of the complications of being in the media. I'd only been previously going around to embassies picking up information packages and suddenly you're on the front line of the biggest story on the planet.

TLP: You grew into that role so quickly.

TP: It must've been a latent skill because I'd never thought of myself as, or even trained in photography. It seemed to come naturally and I had a brilliant, awesome mentor when I was with UPI in Saigon there was a photo chief named Henri Huet, he died in a chopper crash in 1971 with Larry Burrows, a British photographer with Life magazine. He had incredible balance and temperament. Taught me dark room and basically that the fundamentals of how to make a picture, get it back to Saigon, go into the dark room, process it, make an 8x10 print, caption that baby and take that, sometimes as a wet print to the radio station to transmit. I suppose like downloading your card into some laptop and then pressing a button and having it appear on a front page some place. The whole thing was very laborious and quirkily old fashioned. But I think that that grammar, that background in black and white and the processing and understanding of what an image, what a

sent in, a big complicated story, early '65, early in the piece. I then became freelance as opposed to UPI. I suppose I found that I could do it. Somehow I could push the fear into the back pocket. I think after I was hit the first time it made me more appreciative of my vulnerability. It gave you a better way of looking at your immediate surroundings, where to hide, where to duck for cover. The second time was more serious. A grenade went off two metres from my head, an M79 and that required about ten days out of combat, chopped my nose, my face up a bit. The third time, I was on a coast guard cutter that was strafed and bombed and rocketed by three American jets, we had to swim for our lives in a shark-ridden sea. It was beyond traumatic and sort of put the mockers on me going out again. Yes, I went out again, in the field but very half-heartedly. I'd lost my mojo, my will, my zip, whatever you want to call it. I'd been blown away too much.

TLP: You went to America for some surgery?

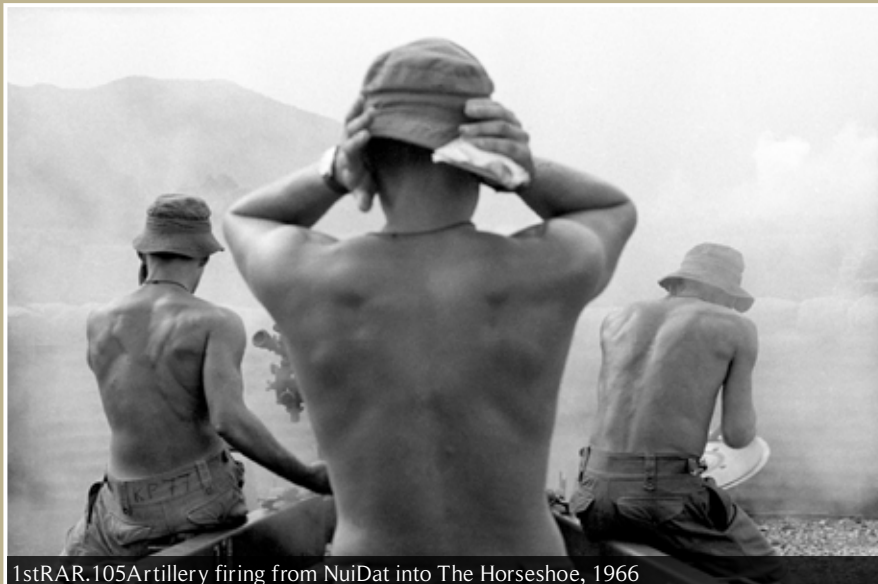
the time you're aware of it, you're scared, you're frightened but you contain it and turn it around into a positive thing. But at that time, it was over. It was the third time in three years and there was a motorcycle accident, there was a train wreck, a car crash, a whole bunch of stuff happened.

TLP: It was getting worse each time.

TP: Well, each incident became a bigger incident. You began to realise that maybe somebody had put a calling card out on you, you're no longer quite as light hearted as you used to be. So I left and went back to Europe and from Europe to the States and then I returned to Vietnam in April '68, after the Tet Offensive and just before the mini-Tet Offensive.

TLP: An incredible time to land back there. Your friend, Sean, had he gone missing by then?

TP: One of the reasons I went back to Vietnam in '68 was he had gone back just before the Tet Offensive and produced, well I



1stRAR.105 Artillery firing from Nui Dat into The Horseshoe, 1966

"I SUPPOSE WE TEND TO REMEMBER THINGS THROUGH STILL PICTURES... THE VIETNAM WAR IS PERSONIFIED BY 20, 30 IMAGES AND AT THE TOP OF OUR MINDS IS THE EDDIE ADAMS EXECUTION, THE BURNING MONK BY MAL BROWNE, THE NAPALM GIRL, THEY KEEP ON COMING AND I SUPPOSE THE ONLY THINGS WE TEND TO REMEMBER ABOUT VIETNAM IS OF THE FIRST TIME WAR ARRIVED ON TELEVISION..."

photograph is, stood me fair and good in an era where people have no idea what that's about and I'm sounding like Jurassic Park, I guess.

TLP: Yes and you made that your own, along with some other great photographers by getting so close to the action and of course, you were injured a number of times. How did that effect your outlook?

TP: I think the first time was just from shrapnel in my ass. I was very debonair about it. I was pretty shocked when I first got hit but I had a few cognacs and a few joints and kinda straightened that out. I went back into the field the very next day with Peter Arnett, when he won his Pulitzer for the story he did the next day on this Marine convoy that had been annihilated and a relief column

TP: I was in surgery in Da Nag. From Da Nag to Saigon. I was in hospital in Saigon for a month and then I went on R and R. I was out of action for two and a half months. It was quite serious, my nerve had gone. I did three or four more operations and in the middle of one we were being shelled by North Vietnamese guns up near the DMZ, up there with a mate of mine, Sean Flynn and we were both in a house, a bomb shelter bunker. We were under our own fire. Jets were coming in and dropping stuff on us and the North Vietnamese were raining artillery on us and that moment I decided that was it, I'd had enough. Somewhere, your spirit is broken, you don't trust yourself anymore, you can't push the fear, like a genie, back into the bottle. The fear is running with you all the time. Most of

kept seeing these spreads in Newsweek, Life, whatever and you saw these incredible, big spreads, ten-page picture spreads of action in Vietnam and it goes, if you're sitting on your butt in the West Coast of America trying to do art and you see all your mates pictures, you turn the telly on and you know who shot the footage. I think part of the thing about war is not just the action, war, the madness of it all, you form incredible camaraderie. Your mates become closer than your family. We lived in a house with half a dozen of us and we're still all good mates. You have this tight relationship with people you wouldn't even meet back in the alternative world and you're confronted with the daily life-death reality and you realise the guy you're having a drink with in the evening, you're telling more



5th RAR patrolling in the Rung Sat, Operation Hayman Island, 1966

to than you would your Dad. You're driven into each's psyche and arms, I suppose. You just become that way and mould together and survive because each other survives. And you wouldn't leave that other person behind under any circumstances.

TLP: My father had spoken, when he was in the mood, of a very similar experience. And with Sean – are you any closer to finding his final resting place?

TP: It's a hard core... I don't expect in the least to find myself in a hole in the ground holding up a skull, like Hamlet. I think whatever traces are out there are traces inside peoples minds. Memories if you wish. Little stories. It's possible a passport, a camera, something tangible will turn up but at this stage of the game, forty years on, I doubt it. The evidence of what happened to all the missing journalists still unaccounted for, their remains still in Cambodia, there's 14 people is all somewhere in the archives in Vietnam. All of the media that were taken captive by either North Vietnamese or Viet Cong units, with a few attached Khmer Rouge as their guides and translators and the Vietnamese, unlike the Khmer Rouge were very punctilious about keeping media alive, they realised the power of the media and the need for the media. The media after all was promoting their cause on the international stage. Whenever media were captured in Vietnam, or arranged to be captured to spend time with the other side, in a Burchett sense, it

wasn't that difficult to organise providing you were representing a neutral organisation. The problem was, at that time during 1970, that spring of 1970, in April, there were probably six different armies swirling and swarming about in the eastern zone of Cambodia. In that confusion I imagine some people were actually hit by friendly fire and some may have been executed because of the situation the captors found themselves in. But I do believe a number of them survived and made it to a central holding place. How many of them – I don't know. This is what we're trying to resolve. Out of those 14, I think 4, maybe 5 or 6 survived more than a few weeks. But to prove that is also to expose the whole of the CPP in Cambodia. If you look at the Cambodian Government, Hun Sen was Chief of the Eastern zone over the Khmer Rouge at one point. They all know the answers but if they fess up they then fess up to all kinds of culpability the trials in Cambodia have been trying to expose with the leadership being in charge of massacring millions. And the Vietnamese, for some strange reason don't want to come clean on their role in the disappearance of these media, why I don't know. Forty years on, I can't explain that. Sometimes I think the Vietnamese are just being hard headed. We gave them Requiem, I helped solve the road map to peace, I've been back and done films and books and docos on the country and yet they won't give us back a millimetre, must less an inch.

TLP: And, Requiem, your book, how many of those 14 journalists are represented in Requiem?

TP: Probably half of them. I mean some of them are Cambodian and some are Japanese and we don't have material from them. And obviously, the people that disappeared, we don't have the film they disappeared with. We have the archives of Sean Flynn and Dana Stone disappeared with him, he worked with UPI initially and was then poached across to the AP so we were able to find his stuff and stuff he shot for himself went back to his brother in Vermont. So we've been able to trace those two principal things. The French, Gilles Caron, his stuff survived but not obviously, his trip to Cambodia. And then there was Claude Arpin, both big names in France. Their work, up until their disappearance, had survived. And then possibly the most famous of all the photographers who was stopped, ambushed and then executed was Kyoichi Sawada, the Japanese photographer who won the Pulitzer world press award for that family in the river picture. The list goes on and on. You have images from the time preceding that of their work in Vietnam and in Cambodia. We are short of – and this is understandable – work from the Cambodian photographers. Not all of the photos shot in Cambodia in '70 through to '75 got out of the country. Some of it stayed in the country I guess, with the Khmer Rouge tossing it on a bonfire with the money and all the paperwork.



(Now retired) Major General John Hartley
– then a platoon commander on Operation Hayman Island, 1966

TLP: With you and other great war photographers working so close together, did you see any of your mates lose their mojo?

TP: I think everybody did eventually. Everybody had their moment when the straw snaps, when it all becomes too much. I suppose those who had nice staff positions with solid, big contracts and R and R every six weeks, probably suffered less from it. It only took one moment out there with something weird, wonderful or horrific happening and the whole thing unpeeled, unwrapped. It could be a near miss, you didn't have to be hit, it would be something that would just terrify the shit out of you.

TLP: Something that makes you stop and think...

TP: It stops you period. The straw that breaks the camel's back.

TLP: We spoke before, Tim about the period of your work. There was so much happening in the Western world during that time, '62 through to '70 and on from that. When you got to America, was it an exciting place to be?

TP: I had a week in New York in mid '67, I had to carry the film of Conrad Adenauer's funeral for Life magazine. We had a deadline and it wouldn't have made it if I hadn't have taken it to New York. I fell in love with New York and a lady there. New York is so full in your face, it was another planet in a sense. I was living in Paris but New York was the Headquarters of Life and I was feted for a week. In that week I spent most of my time romancing. In '69 I was evacuated back there which sort of gave me a horizontal perspective on New York. Then I came out of hospital to a flat in New York and then I travelled across the country. I went back initially in late '67 after I'd had the one week there. I had all these mates from Vietnam right across the country and I bought an old Volvo and drove from coast to coast, I did a kind of Robert Frank type essay on America, stopping at some strange places like Arkansas and the middle of Tennessee where I had mates from the war. I started to see America

from a veteran's perspective, I covered the anti-war movement in New York.

TLP: Were you in America during events like, say, Kent State?

TP: No, that came a bit later, during the invasion of Cambodia, 1970. This was the winter of '67. I was thrown in jail with Jim Morrison when he was busted in Newhaven.

TLP: You were at that concert?

TP: Yeah.

TLP: You must have appreciated seeing The Doors.

TP: I can almost hear the music now. To cover the music you'd been listening to in Vietnam, playing on your gramophone was quite a unique experience. Very exciting. And then to see people in the street, protesters, carrying pictures you'd shot and being beaten up by protestors and the police because you were in between the lot, it's a very weird trip.

TLP: You worked for Rolling Stone too....

TP: Yes but that was later in the '70's, after I'd come back from Europe. I was in the States for about five months then I went back to Vietnam in April '68. I was then carried back, evacuated to the States with serious brain injuries and gut injuries from the mine explosion in May '69. I was initially operated on in Vietnam and then in Japan and then to Walter Reed in Washington and then later to a rehab hospital in New York.

TLP: Moving ahead to East Timor. What led you to that and taking some magnificent photos in East Timor?

TP: I went there as an adjunct Professor at Griffith University. They wanted an independent take on East Timor. They sent me to the Solomon's initially, this is back in 2003/4. It was the first time I'd been in conflict since being evacuated from Vietnam. I'd been to Bosnia and Cyprus but it was towards the end of the whole thing. It was bad news but it was manageable. To go back into a conflict and face ferals throwing rocks and firing steel darts and stuff was hard yakka, running around with Aussie

troops to curb the ferals and put them into containers and to chill 'em off.

TLP: Did you wonder what you were doing there?

TP: It was strange because I met quite a few people I knew from going back to Cambodia and Vietnam, Aussie Press and international media. It was like putting on an old glove or a very comfortable pair of old shoes. I hate to say that but I thought I was going to be more terrified than I was. I suppose the big problem was, war is a young man's business. Old men send young men to die. As a 60 year-old tramping around in 38 degree heat, covered in gear is not my idea of a fishing trip. I shouldn't say fishing trip but it was seriously hard yakka. It's a young man's game, plus old men get in the way. You don't have the stamina. I've got three stents in my heart, a pin in my hip, no longer designed for four-wheel terrain.

TLP: We were talking earlier about music of the 60's being so closely attached to political and social events. Working for Rolling Stone, what was that like?

TP: It was a really good break for me in the 70's. I was living with a guy who invented the word 'Gonzo', Bill Cardoso. He only wrote two books and one was called The Maltese Sangweech and the other was A Guide To Gonzo. He died two years ago. He introduced me to a guy called Tim Cahill at Rolling Stone and ended up doing a thing on Boy Scouts, a thing on Jesus Freaks. I ended up working, well, I had seventeen pictures in Rolling Stone, one issue. It was a very good way of getting me out of the hole I'd got myself into, in Los Angeles. I moved to San Francisco and did more work for them and a San Francisco magazine. Things started to come back to reality, shall we say.

TLP: I know Tim Cahill's story.

TP: Yeah, he's become a really good writer of books, travel. He ran Outside magazine for a long time. He lives up in Wyoming now.

TLP: Dennis Hopper was said to have played you in Apocalypse Now. Have you ever got to meet Dennis?

TP: Once, at a high falutin Hollywood wedding. I was asked to photograph this wedding and, I mean, they were really high rollers in Hollywood society and I was asked to shoot their wedding. I didn't even get to keep the film. I was on a couch in an alcove, smoking a joint and opposite me were Dennis Hopper and I remember him passing a joint across to me. It was just like in Easy Rider. I think they took a picture but, again I don't have the negs because I had to give them to this guy who was one of the main costume designers in Hollywood, this is 73/74.

TLP: There's so much to talk about, it's been a pleasure Tim.

“IF YOU LOOK BACK AT THE ERA, IT’S VERY HARD, SHALL WE SAY, TO DE-SEGREGATE THE WHOLE ETHOS OF ROCK ‘N ROLL FROM THE 60’S AND SOMEHOW MUCH OF THAT MUSIC WAS IN PROTEST ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON IN VIETNAM.”

TP: If I could make a suggestion if it’s not too pertinent. If you go to your local library you may find my autobiography, Page after Page and another book called Derailed in Uncle Ho’s Victory Garden.

TLP: Your story is taken from such a great slice of history. It’s not wishing to being able to go back to exciting times or maybe it is but, going to school in the 60’s and 70’s – not only was there great music but there was lots, I mean lots happening. Music, fashion, social, politics all happening outside of school but exerting an influence that was felt at school and in growing up.

TP: It was the breakthrough era. The voting age dropped to 18 and the drinking age was under review. I mean, you could go to war and kill, representing your country but you couldn’t have a beer. From that era and the results of that era just changed the way we

are. I mean, 1968 was the year of gloom and that’s not just nostalgia.

TLP: The comic relief with shows like the Mavis Bramston Show here and Laugh-In in America, the black and white of it with so much violence but such beautiful music for example. You would turn on the radio and hear The Beatles, Frank Sinatra, The Doors, Louis Armstrong. Nearly every song you heard, from local acts or from overseas acts, was good. The Rolling Stones, Percy Faith. From one extreme to another but it was so catholic.

TP: Everything was new. I’ve still got the vinyls and I’ve played them too much.

TLP: I spilt beer on one of mine at a party.

TP: Substances like that can be very hard to get out of the grooves, I’m afraid.

TLP: Thanks Tim.

TP: Thanks mate. ■

BELOW (ALL): Tim Page more recently; in Afghanistan, working as United Nations Photographic Peace Ambassador. Photo by Barat Ali Batoor.



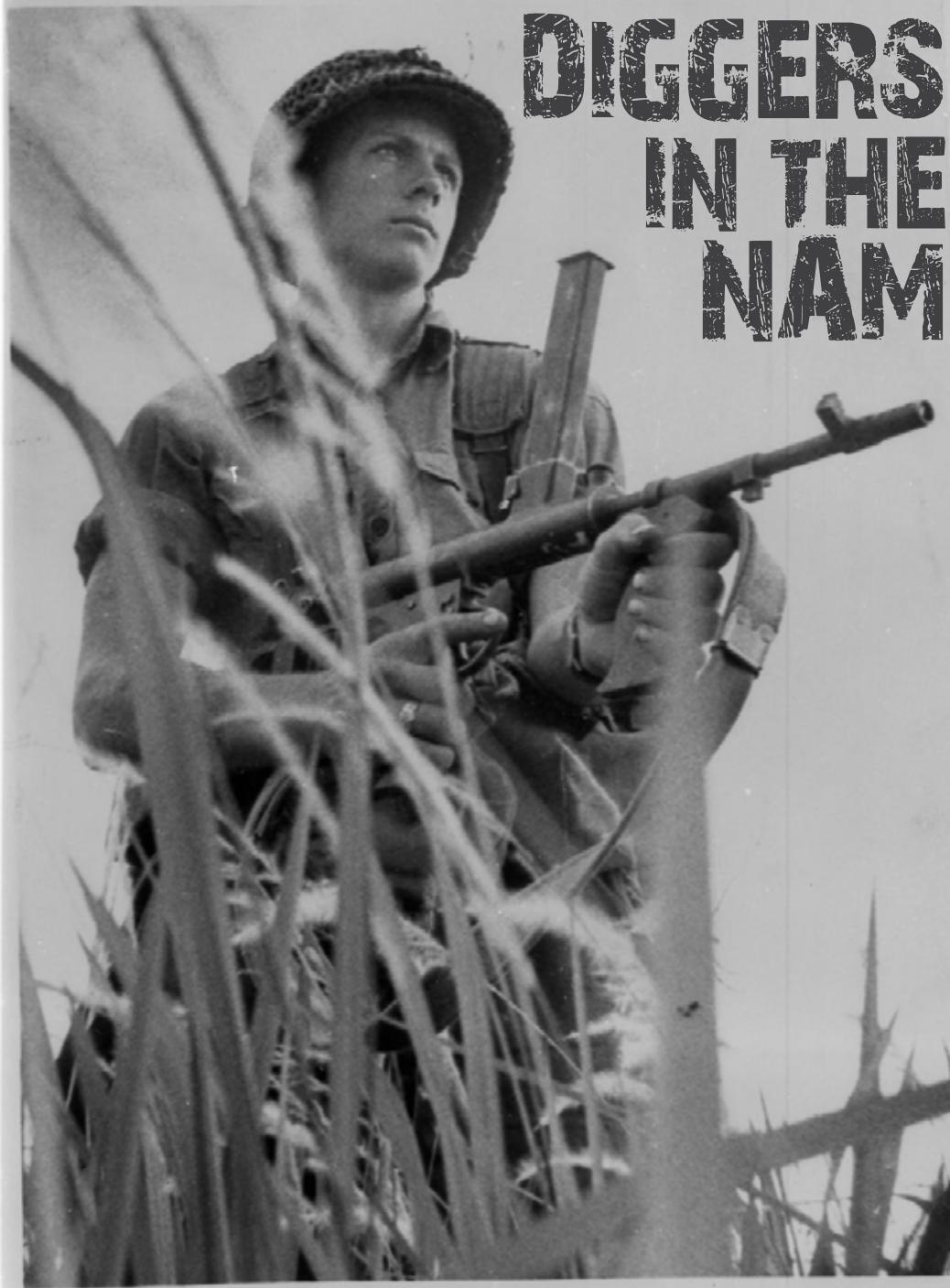
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Australian Government
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DIGGERS IN THE NAM

SGP2-6/9-BIEN HOA, S. VIETNAM: Pvt. Peter Quillson patrols through waist-high elephant grass near the Australian campsite 6/8, after his arrival with some 400 other Australian troopers. With more than 1000 combat troops in the country, the Australians are soon expected to commence operations against the Viet Cong. (Page)

UPI RADIOPHOTO dh



national
vietnam
veterans
museum

by Tim Page

15 February
30 April 2014

www.vietnamvetsmuseum.org



Those Magnificent Men...

Sunday, 30 March, 2014 saw a truly unique event at the Hindmarsh Island International Airfield near Goolwa.

Twenty one of our finest World War II RAAF veterans donned their goggles for one last flight in their beloved Tiger Moth.

These gallant men, all over 90, were all aircrew and they flew combat missions in almost every theatre of World War II.

Most were former pilots and they had flown a huge array of aircraft - some had been shot down, others wounded, several had been prisoners of war. Many had been decorated for gallantry.

They all had one thing in common – they had trained on and loved the Tiger Moth.

Former RAAF and TAA Engineer Barry Hills coordinated the aircraft and acted as Chief Pilot for the day.

The World War II veterans were “keen as mustard” but as you would imagine the tongue in cheek order “Scramble” did not solicit quite the reaction it might have seventy

years ago and climbing onto the wing and into the cockpit was something of a challenge for most.

Some of these gentlemen even wore their original goggles and flying helmets.

The day was a resounding success with all who flew commenting the experience made them feel years younger.

It was truly a unique occasion - indeed it was so successful that it might even happen again!

Veterans SA was privileged to host the event courtesy of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Zoe Bettison MP. We wish to thank Barry for his support. Barry and his colleagues conduct the flyover the annual ANZAC Day Commemorative March in Adelaide and this wonderful event was another display of their generosity.



W/O LLOYD LEAH OAM

Every veteran has a story to tell but few are as impressive as that of Aldgate resident Lloyd Leah OAM.

Lloyd hides his light under a bushel to some degree and Veterans SA has only recently heard of his remarkable tale.

Lloyd was a Lancaster navigator and flew with 460 Sqn RAAF in World War II. Returning from a bombing operation over Germany in 1944 his aircraft was shot down and he parachuted to “safety”. Unluckily Lloyd landed on an airfield right on the German Dutch border.

In spite of his efforts to hide, he was tracked down by the German air field defence guards using tracker dogs.

Realising the “game was up” Lloyd stood, raised his hands and surrendered. In an attempt at execution Lloyd was shot in the neck and left to die.

Lloyd tells the story that after shooting him the guards stood around and “had a smoke.” Lloyd was then carried by the guards to the guard house where he was left on the guard house floor.

Shortly afterwards when the airfield guards left Lloyd opened his eyes and the guardhouse staff realised he was still alive. Being a little more compassionate than their airfield defence colleagues they called an ambulance from the local hospital in nearby Venlo (in Holland).



Lloyd pictured shortly before taking to the sky at the Hindmarsh Island Tiger Moth reunion with son Andrew and Grandchildren Daniel and Mary Leah.
Photo by Kate Elmes.

Lloyd’s luck had changed. Unknown to the Germans the ambulance was from a hospital that was the centre of the Dutch Underground in that area. They gladly picked Lloyd up and tended to his injuries. In due course and not without other risks Lloyd finally made his way back to England after a period in three POW camps.

Lloyd was the only survivor from his Lancaster crew of seven.
What a story – what a man!

Everybody deserves to be heard

Being a good talker but an even better listener is the key to Lucy Clarke's success as a volunteer with one of Australia's oldest charities, Legacy.

The bubbly 26-year-old from Oyster Bay in Sydney, is one of the organisations' new breed of volunteers caring for the families of Australian Defence Force personnel who have suffered traumatic physical or mental injury or who have died serving Australia.

In days gone by, only returned servicemen could become Legatees (Legacy volunteers) but today anybody who upholds the beliefs and proud traditions of Legacy is welcome.

And Lucy has made her mark since joining the ranks of the 5600 Legatees across Australia who give up their time to help care for the 100,000 widows and 1800 children who rely on Legacy for support.

Relief from financial hardship, advocating entitlements, assisting with children's education and helping to combat social isolation is just some of the work carried out by Legacy, but for Lucy simply being able to listen is one of her most important roles.

"Everybody deserves to be heard but not everybody has somebody to listen to them," she said.

"We are all so busy and it's very easy to forget about these amazing people who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

"We get all sorts of calls from our widows who have so many different needs and requests which are a big deal to them but can be so easily solved.

"It may be assistance with filling out forms, getting quotes for work done on their homes or just help with doing a bit of grocery shopping.

"They know we are somebody they can trust, which makes me very proud.

"Such small things make such a huge difference, as a Legatee I guess my role is to just make these ladies lives' that little bit easier.

"And all it takes is a little bit of my spare time. If you can listen you can be a Legatee."

Lucy fits in her volunteering around her full-time employment as a real estate agent and does admit having a very understanding boss - who is also her dad - a big advantage.

He is very supportive of Legacy as he has experienced first hand some of the work they do.

Lucy's mum and his wife Beth lost her dad when she was just 10 following his Army service in Papua New Guinea during WW2.

Elwin "Ben" Attwood was a paramedic and despite coming home, died a short time later from his injuries.

Beth admits growing up without a dad did have quite an impact on her and her older sister Di, but she also remembers fondly what a difference Legacy made to her family.

She said she still remembers being taken on holidays and being given gifts at Christmas time which otherwise her Mum wouldn't have been able to afford.

For Lucy, hearing her mum's stories about her childhood, made the decision which charity to volunteer for an easy one.

She said everybody, especially younger people, should spare a thought for those brave men and women who fought to make Australia what it is today.

"We are so lucky living in Australia, we owe a huge debt of thanks to these brave veterans and to their families," she said.

"And the fact that a lot of them were my age when they fought overseas makes all the more reason why young people should do what they can.

"We should always remember what they did, but especially around ANZAC Day and the sacrifices they made.



"I have very strong memories as a child getting up early for the dawn service and that is a proud tradition I will continue when I have my own family.

"I owe so much to our veterans, and my work with Legacy is my way of repaying that."

Bankstown Legacy president Alan Rawlinson said volunteers like Lucy help to ensure the future of one of Australia's oldest charities.

He said attracting volunteers was always a struggle although in his experience you couldn't pay him for the satisfaction he gets from simply helping and making a difference.

"We have around 900 widows to look after with only eight volunteers so it is a big job and why attracting young people like and Lucy to our ranks is so important," he said.

"As volunteers we do as much as we can so the more people we have the more we can do.

"I joined Legacy after I retired from full-time work as a printer, thinking I would do a few hours a week in between playing lawn bowls although it's amazing how quickly Legacy becomes a big part of your life.

"I do something for Legacy most days which I certainly wouldn't do if I didn't get so much out of it.

"Helping people gives you such a great feeling, give it a try for yourself."

For more information about volunteering go to www.legacy.com.au

Legacy is the charity for partners and children of veterans who have suffered traumatic physical or mental injury, or have died serving Australia.

We provide advocacy, educational, financial and mentoring assistance to families.

We were there in the past, and we'll be there in the future.

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Kings Park is situated on the edge of the city, one of the largest inner city parks in the world. With amazing uninterrupted views of the city and swan river there is so much to explore in the park. It is home to the Kings Park botanical gardens, the Federation walk way and The WA War Memorial. It also plays host too many events throughout the year such as the Kings Park Wildflower festival held each year in September.

A short drive or relaxing river cruise away you will find yourself in the port city of Fremantle. With is maritime history or convict past you will easily fill your day. Shop till you drop in any of the unique boutiques or local markets, enjoy a coffee on the famous "Cappuccino strip" or tuck into some beautiful WA seafood at Fishing Boat Harbor.

West Australians live a laid back lifestyle and that is due to the long sunny days, beautiful pristine beaches and outdoor culture we have all come accustom to. Perth has something for everyone. Whether you stay 2 days or 10 you will always find something unique to entice you back.

"WHETHER YOU STAY 2 DAYS OR 10 YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND SOMETHING UNIQUE TO ENTICE YOU BACK."



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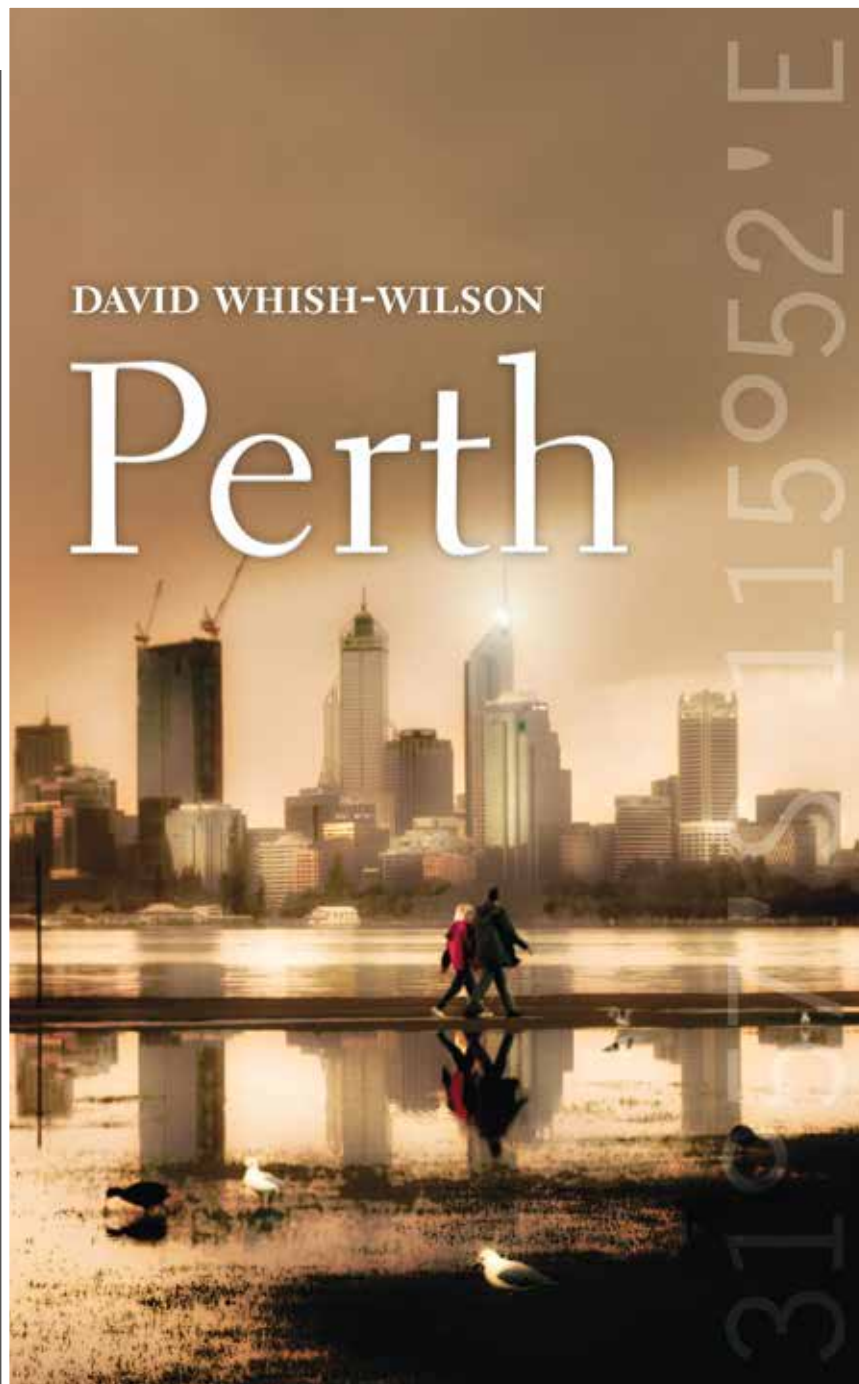


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PERTH

BY DAVID WHISH-WILSON

David Whish-Wilson's Perth is a place of surprising beauty, of sand-swept peace and brilliant light, yet a place where the deeper historical currents are never too far beneath the surface. Like the Swan River that flows in two directions at once at certain times, with the fresh water flowing seawards above the salty water flowing in beneath it, Perth strikes perfect harmony with the city's contradictions and eccentricities.

We look beyond shiny glass facades and boosterish talk of mining booms to the richness of the natural world and the trailblazers, the rebels, the occasional ghost and the ordinary people that bring Australia's remotest city to life.

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Melbourne - Sophie Cunningham;

Adelaide - Kerryn Goldsworthy;

Alice Springs - Eleanor Hogan;

Canberra - Paul Daley



David Whish-Wilson has lived in Perth for more than half his life. He teaches creative writing at Curtin University and is the author of the novels *The Summons*, *Line of Sight* and *Zero at the Bone*, the latter two set in Perth.



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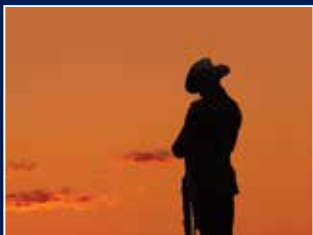
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MIRTH AND MERIT USHERS IN NEW GERALDTON NAVAL SUB SECTION

On the shores of the sparkling Indian Ocean sits the port city of Geraldton – capital of the Mid West of Western Australia – and mid-November 2013 saw the formation of a very special organisation aligned with the sea.

The City of Geraldton Sub-Section Charter of the Naval Association of Australia was recognised and celebrated with guest speaker, the WA Minister for Veterans, Joe Francis MLA, at a function hosted by the City of Greater Geraldton Council on November 18.

Mr Francis said the City of Geraldton Sub-Section joined 86 other sub-sections and 3,955 members Australia-wide.

“The Sub-Section is now part of the largest

ex-service organisation dealing with Naval men and women,” he said.

The evening was a jovial affair attended by Geraldton MLA, Ian Blayney; President of the Naval Association of Australia WA Section, Jack Le Cras OAM; members of the WA State Executive of the Naval Association; City of Greater Geraldton Mayor, Ian Carpenter; Nationals Member for Moore, Shane Love MLA; and members of the newly-endorsed sub section and friends and family.

Apart from being a great tourist destination, Geraldton is famous for the magnificent HMAS Sydney II Memorial, in memory of the 645 crew that lost their lives when the vessel



sank without trace after it was involved in a skirmish with German raider HSK Kormoran in 1941.

Mr Francis congratulated the City Council on the Memorial, listed as a Memorial of National Significance. “It is a fine memorial,” he said.

Mr Carpenter said he was pleased to have a sub section of the Naval Association in Geraldton.

“With HMAS Sydney II Memorial listed as a National Memorial, it is important that Geraldton has a Naval Association presence in Geraldton,” he said. ■

MEDICAL TRAVEL COMPANIONS “HELPING PEOPLE ACHIEVE THEIR TRAVEL DREAMS”

Medical Travel Companions CEO Ben Wilson has teamed up with world renowned emergency retrieval physician A/Prof Matt Hooper and launched a new service that enables people to travel that would not otherwise get the chance.

Wilson says “there are a large number of people in our community who choose not to travel due to a variety of personal circumstances. Medical Travel Companions removes this barrier and allows such people to realise their travel dreams. Medical Travel Companions is a unique service that assists people with their travel needs both within Australia and overseas”

Medical Travel Companions has initially partnered with travel company Phil Hoffman Travel with the aim to promote this service to the wider Australasian market, gaining access to a current and growing ‘hidden market’ within the travel industry.

Australia has a well documented ageing population with retirement rates increasing at a fast pace and the large ‘baby boomer’ generation now transitioning into retirement. This generation is the wealthiest to date with large assets in property and superannuation. Modern retirees have high expectations and will expect and demand a quality lifestyle that will include regular travel.

An ageing population trend leads to a resultant increase in age related health issues that in many cases will lead to a restriction in lifestyle choices. Travel volumes have increased significantly over the last decade with a large increase in the numbers of mature age travellers shown in both international and domestic departure statistics. This upward trend in mature age travel will result in a growing need for travel support services such as Medical Travel Companions.

In addition to senior travelers, the service can be accessed by a wide variety of people including the disabled, people with specific medical conditions, school travel groups, medical tourism patients or people who simply require a companion when travelling on a holiday.

Medical Travel Companions provides a fully qualified and experienced Registered Nurse/Health professional to accompany either individuals or groups of people when travelling. This unique service is flexible to match the needs of each traveler and can range from a ‘flight only’ escort right through to accompanying a traveler on a lengthy overseas holiday.

Over 25 Companions have been recruited across Australia and are now available to undertake travel assignments both within

Australia and overseas. In order to be selected as a part of the team, each companion has undertaken a strict credentialing process which includes police check, reference checks, medical, verification of qualifications and professional registration.

- Relevant Statistics (senior travellers)
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 - Estimated 4.86m domestic passengers aged 65+ in 2013
 - Total short term international departures in Australia 8.4m in 2013
 - 756,000 international passengers aged 65+ in 2013
 - Increase in 65+ travellers from 6.3% in 2003 to 9% in 2013 (international) ■

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an interview with **PHIL ASKER**

Founder and Director of Captain's Choice, Phil Asker sat down with The Last Post Travel to talk about why travelling is one of his greatest loves.

The Last Post: Good to catch up Phil, how are you?

Phil Asker: I'm good Greg, thanks.

TLP: I've been looking at the Captain's Choice website. Unique. What makes you that way?

PA: We are a unique company Greg. We started business 20 years ago, in 1994 and I started my first business in the tourism industry back in 1971 so I've been around for a long while and we've always done unusual things. We've taken a lot of people to remote and exotic locations. We've called ourselves over the years the leaders in luxury tours to those remote and exotic locations. We take people to places they wouldn't get to otherwise and where the mass market tour operators don't operate.

TLP: The experience of travellers is a very important matter for you.

PA: Absolutely. What we aim to do is to give people something well and truly special, something they wouldn't get normally and, there's nothing similar to it in the general market. I'm a passionate traveller, I've travelled all my life, I've been to over 170 countries. I got into this business through my hobby. My hobby was trains and ships and planes as a kid. I rode on all the suburban train lines and all the tramway bus lines as they called them in Melbourne, when I was 8 or 9. I'd covered the whole network by that time. I'd also get a pass and go onto every passenger ship that came to Melbourne when I was 12 or 13. I did my first trip out of Australia in 1959, to New Zealand on the maiden voyage of the Oriana. I've just loved seeing the expressions that people get from taking them to truly amazing places. In addition to running smaller groups, we've also chartered a lot of aircraft. We've chartered

747's and 767's off Qantas and we charter smaller aircraft off smaller companies. We also charter trains in Europe, Asia and in South Africa and we've chartered a number of ships and that's what's led us to charter both the Silver Wind and the Silver Cloud for the Gallipoli 100th anniversary.

TLP: Tell us a little bit about that. I did have a look at the video on your website.

PA: I've only been to Gallipoli the once, I took a group in 1997 to the dawn service and that was a very moving experience. I do have a family connection, my wife's grandfather won a military medal in Gallipoli and survived to tell the tale. I think we all recognise the contribution that our servicemen and women have done over the many years, from then onwards. I took 55 people that year and the passion and the experience of going there was amazing. It was a much smaller dawn service in those days and it was actually held at Anzac Cove not North Beach where it's held now. All in there were 52 buses which we thought was a huge amount and enormous number of people but, as you know, they're expecting 10,000 people there in 2015.

TLP: What have you got planned?

PA: Well, we understood the Government was going to do the ballot so we thought we'd offer something a bit different. We looked at all sorts of things, we looked at staying on the other side of the sea and chartering a hydrofoil to take us there because there's very little accommodation in the area itself. We do a lot of work with Silversea Cruises, which in my book are the best of all the cruise lines, people call them "6 Star" if there is such a thing. They're magnificent smaller ships so we managed to charter Silver Wind which is a beautiful smaller ship carrying about 270 guests. We put it on the market and it filled

up in next to no time. So we spoke to them about getting another ship and we've now got the almost identical ship, Silver Cloud as well. We're taking the two ships with around 540 people to drift off Anzac Cove during the Dawn Service. We'll be having the ABC broadcast of the Dawn Service being played over the ships and our own service on the ships with a breakfast. Prior to that we're going to go ashore at Gallipoli for a day and a half on the 21st and 22nd of April. We're going to pretty much all of the major sites of the major battles. We've got terrific military historians with us, Admiral Chris Barry and Lieutenant-General Ken Gillespie and others. They'll be giving talks on the cruise. I'll be over there in May this year with a couple of them to map out how we'll run the operation and to make sure we give people the best we possibly can.

TLP: A great experience for all, I'm sure. And being a stickler for detail and traveller satisfaction you would know that most of these people would either be coming back to you again or recommending you.

PA: Yes. Over 50% of the people that travel with us have travelled with us before. We call them the Captains Club. Once you've done a trip with us you become a member of the Captains Club. A large percentage of the people on the first ship are Captains Club members.

TLP: It'd be quite a social gathering. Are they mostly couples?

PA: Well, we cater strongly for solo travellers and 30 to 40% of our guests are solo. They get on board alone but they're not alone for long. It's amazing. People get on the tour and they remember people they've known from past trips and it is very social. Great camaraderie between all and all for the same purpose, to visit amazing places. And of course, in this case it's for the Gallipoli anniversary, something quite special.



GALLIPOLI 2015

100th ANNIVERSARY

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Doin' it for the Troops

an interview with Amber Lawrence

Lawrence has released three albums: *The Mile* (2007), *When It All Comes Down* (2009) and *3* (2012). *When It All Comes Down* was awarded Independent Album of the Year at the 2010 Australian Independent Country Music Awards. Lawrence also received the Horizon Award at the 2010 Country Music Awards of Australia for her success in touring, recording, songwriting and performing. In 2007, Lawrence travelled to East Timor to entertain Australian soldiers deployed there.

The Last Post: Thanks Amber for being part of this, the 2014 Anzac Day edition of The Last Post.

Amber Lawrence: Thanks for having me.

TLP: The 'Doin' It For The Troops' DVD, can you tell us a little about that?

AL: It's a compilation DVD of videos that has live footage of artists that have been out there, entertaining the troops, whether it's in East Timor, Iraq or elsewhere. There's also professional clips such as my song, 'The Man Across The Street' which is a song about a Vietnam veteran or Beccy Cole's 'Poster Girl' which is a song about her experiences singing for the troops to raise money for returned veterans with post-traumatic stress through the Repat Foundation with Choose Your Cruise. A great cause that we should all get behind. All the artists featured have volunteered their work so all proceeds go to the post traumatic stress research. There's a lot of great singers, a lot of country artists. Country artists tend to be story tellers and a lot of these stories are about soldiers or our connection to soldiers. Being over there entertaining the troops is an amazing experience and I'm so lucky to be able to do this through music. My visit to East Timor was a great life experience.

TLP: There's some great names on this DVD. Doc Neeson, Kylie Minogue, John Farnham, Jack Jones, Adam Harvey, James Blundell, Beccy, Jimmy Barnes, John Williamson, Eric Bogle, Noiseworks and you. How did it all come about?

AL: There's a whole lot of good people involved and you can find out more by visiting the Doin it for the troops website. They got in touch with us through my manager and it was a natural fit. A lot of positive effort from a lot of amazing people.

TLP: Your song, Man Across the Street, tell us about that.

AL: Yes, well I wrote it with the amazing Colin Buchanan and a few years ago I was telling him this story I'd known all my life. Mum had told me about this man across the street who saved my life one day when I was a baby, a little toddler. He was sitting out on his front porch like he did everyday with a beer. He had a bit of a drinking problem and the neighbours probably didn't think much of him but we learnt later that his being a Vietnam vet had played out with him as to how he coped with life. On this day he was watching the world go by as he did on the porch and, lucky for me he scooped me up as he saw me take those steps down the kerb onto the road of a busy street. He took me back to Mum and wasn't very happy that Mum had taken her eyes off me for a second or two. He saved my life. So we wrote that song. There's a few meanings in it. Like many soldiers, they go to war to protect our way of life and in some ways, they save our lives. He did that to me on a personal level. He'd come home and not received recognition for what he'd been through. This song is his song and says thank you to him. TLP: It's a wonderful DVD with some great songs Amber and your part in it is greatly appreciated by all Australians.

AL: Yeah, I narrated it, telling everyone what's going on. It felt good and right and to appear with other great artists and with proceeds going to a great cause, amazing. ■



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– Jonathon Moran, Sunday Telegraph



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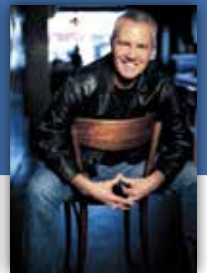
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FIRST AT WAR

Dr Adrian Threlfall

THE AUSTRALIAN NAVAL AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE AT RABAUL, 1914

Straining at their oars, the twenty-five naval troops from the cruiser HMAS Sydney rowed towards their landing place of Herbertshohe, south east of the port of Rabaul on the island of New Britain.

Under the command of Sub-Lieutenant Charles Webber, Royal Australian Navy Reserve (RANR), a twenty-four year old bookkeeper from Albert Park, Melbourne, their mission was to seize the German wireless stations that were believed to be operating on high ground several miles inland. East of Webber's small force, Lieutenant Rowland Bowen RAN, born in the Victorian town of Acheron, was leading the second party, which had disembarked from the destroyers Warrego and Yarra. It was 6am on

11 September 1914 and the first Australian military operation of the Great War had begun. Seven months before the men of the 3rd Brigade charged ashore in the darkness at Anzac Cove, Australian military personnel would fight and die in the tropical islands and jungle-clad mountains of the South-West Pacific. Today, the exploits of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN & MEF) are little known, but the curious tale of the two Victorian sailors who participated in the first jungle warfare action in Australian military history, illuminates the larger story of over 400,000 Australians who enlisted during the Great War.

As the request by Great Britain to seize German New Guinea had only been received a few weeks earlier it is little wonder that one writer has described the force as 'hastily kitted and rudimentarily trained'. Even the Official History admits that one of the contingents was:

Unfit for tropical campaigning. Supplies of clothing and boots were non-existent or unsuitable, food supplies were deficient, there were no tents, no mosquito nets, no hammocks, and the shipboard accommodation was hopelessly inadequate.

Perhaps surprisingly, Webber and his comrades had received some infantry training in terrain that bore a vague resemblance to the jungles of New Britain, when the convoy had paused for several days at Palm Island, north of Townsville. The force, as the Official History rather optimistically argues:

Were taken ashore nearly every day, across a shingle beach to rocky ground and bush – a terrain ill-suited to manoeuvres; but it taught them how to maintain touch in thickly-wooded country, and the lesson afterwards proved invaluable in the dense jungles of New Britain.

Thankfully, so brief would be the period of combat that their inadequate preparations

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“THE FIGHTING WAS BECOMING ACUTE, BUT THE ENEMY’S FIRE WAS BADLY DIRECTED, AND BOWEN’S MAIN PARTY...HAD SO FAR ESCAPED MISFORTUNE. BUT THE LUCK DID NOT HOLD.”

would not have major repercussions. After landing at Herbertshohe, Sub-Lieutenant Webber and his party advanced southwestwards along the Toma Road, towards the supposed location of the wireless station. To their disappointment the patrol would encounter no German opposition.

Landing at Kabakaul, east of Webber’s landing place, the force under Lieutenant Bowen would be far busier. A main road ran inland towards the wireless station at Bitapaka but it was sure to be covered by the Germans. Bowen therefore ordered his men into the jungle that crowded in on either side of the road. They were instantly hidden from view but had to struggle painfully – and slowly – through the tangled and unfamiliar tropical undergrowth. Muttered curses punctuated their travails. The scouts found it impossible to keep on course and had to repeatedly make their way back to the Bitapaka road, find a break in the jungle, re-enter it and continue.

Bowen soon decided that this was impractical and his force ‘kept to the fringe of the road, as it was impossible to maintain any formation in the tangle of tropical vegetation’. While this decision enabled the main body to advance more easily, his scouting parties were still floundering through the jungle. Two men became separated from one of these parties and suddenly found themselves face to face with the enemy. Petty Officer Palmer was quickest off the mark and his rifle bullet shattered the hand of the German patrol commander, whose native troops scattered into the jungle and began to return fire. If the enemy had not been fully alerted by the landing, they were now. Bowen called for reinforcements from the ships offshore and continued the advance. Resistance grew and the challenges peculiar to warfare in jungle terrain quickly became apparent, as highlighted by the Official History:

Bowen had pushed on, his party being fired upon at frequent intervals. His men returned the fire, but in such country...the German forces were almost entirely concealed, and the effect of the Australian shooting could not be seen. The fighting was becoming acute, but the enemy’s fire was badly directed, and Bowen’s main party, for the most part creeping low through the undergrowth, had so far escaped misfortune. But the luck did not hold.

As the Germans and their native troops fought to prevent the Australians from seizing the wireless station the first men were hit.

Most of them did not see where the fatal shot had come from. Eventually Bowen was also hit, receiving a serious head wound. The German resistance was to no avail however and by early afternoon the fighting was over. Australian casualties were deemed to be light, with six dead and four wounded. The high ratio of killed to wounded would become a feature of combat in the jungle; ‘evidence to the closeness of the fighting’ as the Official History stated. The ratio in a ‘normal’ combat environment was one killed to three wounded. In the jungle, unseen rifle and machine-gun fire exploded at ranges of feet or metres, causing devastating wounds that killed men instantly. Nearly 30 years later, young Australian soldiers would have to learn the lessons of jungle warfare in Malaya, Papua and New Guinea.

For the men of the AN & MEF, however, the dangers of close quarters combat in the jungle were over. Soon they would leave the tropics, returning with their commander, Colonel William Holmes, to Australia. Many of these men transferred to the 1st AIF with Holmes, upon his appointment as commander of the 5th Brigade. After training in Australia they would land at Gallipoli in August 1915. For the men of Tropical Force; the occupation contingent that would follow the AN & MEF, more insidious and painful killers – malaria and dengue fever – would claim dozens of their comrades as they garrisoned the German colonies.

For the two Victorians who had led the landing parties, the remainder of the Great War would take widely divergent paths. For his gallant role in the advance on the wireless station at Bitapaka, Lieutenant Rowland Griffiths Bowen would be Mentioned in Dispatches and promoted acting Lieutenant-Commander. After recovering from his wound, he returned to duty in April 1915 on the Melbourne naval staff. In ‘1916 he became first state President of the Returned Sailors’ and Soldiers’ Imperial League of Australia’. The following year he was posted to Perth and in 1919 he was promoted to Commander and made District Naval Officer in Tasmania. His longest posting was to Western Australia from 1923-35 where he was also DNO. The following year he would retire from the Navy, settling in Sydney where his service to the community continued in his senior role with the St John’s Ambulance Association.

As mentioned earlier, Charles Webber and his patrol had encountered no opposition. He

would eventually see more than enough action however, ending the war as a Major with the 10th Field Artillery Brigade after extensive service on the Western Front. Upon his return to Australia in early 1915 he transferred to the AIF, completed Officers Training School in Broadmeadows, Victoria and was appointed as a Lieutenant in A Company, 30th Battalion. On 9 November 1915 he departed Sydney on HMAT ‘Beltana’, arriving in England in December. In early 1916 he would transfer to 5th Division Artillery, serving in artillery units for the remainder of the war. In February 1917 he was gassed and spent time in hospital, while in October during Third Ypres – known even since as Passchendaele – he would be wounded again. Like Bowen, Webber would be Mentioned in Dispatches, in his case for ‘conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while commanding the 38th Battery...during the period 25th September 1918 to 5th November 1918’. At the time his unit was supporting attacks by the American 27th Division on the Hindenburg Line. In July 1919 he would return to Australia aboard the transport City of Exeter. In post war years he would return to life as an accountant in Albert Park.

Thus two Victorians, both members of the Royal Australia Navy, one a regular and the other a reservist, would serve in the first jungle campaigns undertaken by the Australian military. Chance would see one of them seriously wounded during a hectic engagement, while the other did not encounter the enemy. Upon their return to Australia they continued to serve their nations. One followed a relatively straightforward and distinguished naval career, while the life of the second took a completely different turn, as he left the navy and saw action during some of the most costly battles of the Great War. The stories of Webber and Bowen therefore add to the incredibly broad picture of the hundreds of thousands of Australians who enlisted during the Great War. ■

To commemorate the Centenary of the AN&MEF action in Rabaul, Kokoda Historical in conjunction with the Rabaul Historical Society, have put together a very special tour of Rabaul between 8-12 September. This all inclusive package will ensure that you attend the official service on the Centenary of the AN&MEF landing. For more information visit: www.kokodahistorical.com.au/ANMEF



The stunning HMAS Sydney II Memorial capturing the five elements that complete this unique tribute; the Dome of Souls with the Wall of Remembrance behind, the Stele standing proud with the Waiting Woman at left and the final element the Pool of Remembrance. Picture Richard Rossiter.

THE MAKING OF THE HMAS SYDNEY II MEMORIAL

Tourists flock to Geraldton, WA to visit HMAS Sydney II Memorial set high on the hill at Mt Scott, overlooking the Indian Ocean and the city below, commemorating the 645 crew who lost their lives when the Australian warship went down in 1941. Following is a short background on the Memorial's inception and creation.

HMAS Sydney II Memorial is a Memorial of National Significance – made up of five distinct yet inter-connected elements.

It has been completed over a period of more than 14 years, coincidentally 'closing the circle' with the fifth and final element shortly after the wreck of the Sydney was found in March 2008, in a watery grave more than two kilometres below the ocean's surface.

In 1999 the Rotary Club of Geraldton commissioned multi-award winning WA artists and sculptors, Joan Walsh-Smith and Charles Smith to design and create a memorial at Mt Scott, Geraldton, to commemorate the loss of HMAS Sydney II and her crew. The City of Geraldton and Shire of Greenough (now amalgamated as the City of Greater Geraldton), the Batavia Coast Maritime Heritage Association and the Mid West Development Commission joined the Rotary Club in its quest to advance the project.

At the memorial site dedication service on November 19, 1998, in the quiet of the late afternoon, as the sun dipped low to the horizon, and the final strains of The Last Post lingered in the air, a flock of seagulls swooped over Mt Scott.

This surely was a sign; and instantly Joan and Charles Smith were struck with the inspiration for their concept.

The souls of drowned sailors are believed to be embodied in seagulls so it could possibly be construed the flock of seagulls were the souls of the lost crew giving their blessing to the site.

The Dome of Souls

The Smiths interpreted this sign as the first element, the Dome of Souls, a nine metre high by 12 metre diameter cupola made up of 645 stainless steel seagulls, one for every soul lost on that fateful day, November 19, 1941 when the Sydney went down after a battle with German Raider HSK Kormoran, off the coast of Western Australia. The magnificent dome sits on seven pillars symbolic of the seven states and territories of Australia and also the seven seas.

The Wall of Remembrance

The Wall of Remembrance, the second element, is a semi-circular wall of Western Australian black granite, flanking each side of the entrance to the memorial, bearing the name, rank and home base of all 645 crew inscribed into its shiny surface. Reading these names is cause for reflection and evokes strong feelings of compassion and sadness. The final wording on the panel reads: 'The rest is silence.' And it is – a palpable, ethereal silence.

The Stele

The third element, the Stele, is representative of ancient standing stones universally used as grave markers or commemorative sites. It is a towering symbolic grave marker in the form of the Sydney's prow complete with water depth markers.

The Waiting Woman

The Waiting Woman, a life size bronze sculpture of a woman gazing anxiously out to sea, holding onto her hat as the wind blows around her, searching for her lost ones, has captured the imagination and emotions of many visitors. The sculptors temporarily

removed her in July 2011 for a polish and tidy up, and Joan Walsh-Smith said she was amazed at the smoothness of her hand where so many people had touchingly held it over the years.

Coincidentally the Waiting Woman – the fourth element – was positioned searching the sea along almost the exact bearings of the wreck site of the sunken vessel before it was discovered.

The Pool of Remembrance – 'Closing the Circle'

The fifth and final element is the Pool of Remembrance, symbolically 'closing the circle' of the loss and discovery of the wreck of the Sydney in March 2008. This element draws on the idea of the Sydney's watery grave with a recessed pool and circular granite terracing leading to the pool. The terraces have waterfalls that cascade softly to the pool floor where a map shows the location coordinates of the ship's final resting place.

The lowest terrace circling the pool is engraved with 644 silver gull shadows, and a two metre high silver gull in the middle of the pool, with its wingtip fixed on the exact location of the wreck, is the 645th soul, flying free.

A visit to this magnificent memorial is a very emotional experience; the openness and quietness of the five elements conjure up the feeling of the vastness of the ocean and the silence of the lost souls.

In May 2009 the [then] Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, declared it a Memorial of National Significance. ■

For visitors to Geraldton the very knowledgeable Geraldton Voluntary Tour Guides conduct guided tours of the memorial every day at 10.30am excluding Christmas Day and Good Friday. For more information on the tours contact the Geraldton Visitor Centre on (08) 9921 3999. Or visit the website: www.geraldtonvisitorcentre.com.au

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London? That's rock 'n roll

by Gina Reynolds

I run the risk of getting sticky fingers. I'm on the Rock 'n Roll Tour in London and we've stopped off for 15 minutes to visit Bill Wyman's great rock 'n roll themed restaurant.

Wyman used to be the bass player with the Rolling Stones, and the aptly named Sticky Fingers Café (named after the group's hit 1971 album) specialises in American ribs and Rolling Stone memorabilia. The amazing collection of guitars, records, artwork, posters and photographs displayed on the walls are part of Wyman's personal stash.

Rock 'n roll in London took off in the late 50's and rocked us into the 70's – and it is this period that our driver and tour guide, Mike mainly concentrates on.

Our three-hour minibus tour is full of nostalgia and the stories run thick and fast. David Bowie, Jimi Hendrix, Bryan Ferry, Bryan Adams, Queen, The Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, Cream, The Yardbirds and, of

course, The Beatles are just some who are introduced or, depending on age, re-introduced to us.

Mike carefully avoids a parked Bentley as we inch our way through the back streets of Belgravia to the Horse and Groom pub. Tucked away from the main thoroughfare, this is where The Beatles would enjoy a pint in peace with their manager, Brian Epstein.

History lessons never sounded so good.

We're told where these rock legends were born and, in the case of Jimi Hendrix, Freddie Mercury and Brian Epstein, where they died.

Later we pause outside Paul McCartney's North London house where Mike points out a drainpipe. Apparently a 14-year old fan scaled that pipe, climbed through the bathroom window and actually stole some of Paul's clothes as souvenirs. Shock horror!

Mike ramps up the music to She Came In Through the Bathroom Window and informs us it's on The Beatles 1969 Abbey Road album.

People are always milling around the Abbey Road Studios and the zebra crossing as they try to re-enact the famous album cover.

Giggling fans of all ages wait their turn before rushing into the middle of the crossing to have their photo taken. It's very funny and we're no different.

Then we're in the Kings Road where The Beatles fabulously floral Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club album cover was compiled, and we learn how Mae West came to be on the cover.

We see Vivienne Westwood's Kings Road boutique and hear how her partner Malcolm McLaren formed the Sex Pistols – a band of four guys who were not musicians. They were only around for 18 months, released one album, yet we've all heard of them.

My fellow travellers are all ages and come from Brazil, Canada, the USA, France, England and Australia. Martin is a magician from Dover and this tour is his 60th birthday treat.

Bruce Cherry – known to his university students as Dr Rock – was a lecturer who introduced the tour in the mid-80's as a hands on way to teach his students marketing and tourism.

Now Rock 'r Roll London is just one of six itineraries that run either daily or weekly. Many are organised around rock anniversaries (the death of Jimi Hendrix, The Rolling Stones' 50th, Beatles' anniversaries) and they are researching a new tour – The Australian influence on the UK rock scene. ■



NEW 2015 ANZAC CENTENARY CRUISE TOUR: Escape the Crowds and visit Gallipoli a Month after the 100th Anniversary

Australians are being offered the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Gallipoli for the centenary of the Anzac landings next year without the crowds, with a new cruise tour visiting Anzac Cove just a month after the milestone anniversary.

To be hosted by Australian travel agency, Cruise Express, the 50-day 'Voyage to Lone Pine' will see Australians sail from Sydney on April 17, 2015, aboard the luxury cruise ship, Rhapsody of the Seas, for a 45-night journey to Istanbul via 21 ports in Australia, Asia, Arabia, the Holy Land and the Greek islands.

Cruise Express will help lead a special Anzac Day ceremony aboard the ship on April 25 on approach to Darwin. Other destinations during the voyage include the Great Barrier Reef, Komodo Island in Indonesia – famous for its large dragon-like reptiles, Bali, Singapore, Phuket and the spice-filled Indian cities of Cochin, New Mangalore, Goa and Mumbai. Passengers will also sail to Dubai, the white, marbled domes of Oman, Ashdod and Haifa in Israel for tours through the Holy Land, and the Mediterranean islands of Cyprus and Rhodes.

A tour of the mosques and bazaars of Istanbul is included in the package as well as

an overnight trip to Gallipoli for a private and crowd-free commemoration at Anzac Cove on June 1, 2015, little more than a month after the official centenary of the legendary landings. A visit to the ancient ruins of Troy and a two-night stay in Istanbul are also included in the tour before passengers fly home to Australia.

Including the cruise, three-nights' accommodation with breakfast in Turkey, a tour of Istanbul, a two-day tour to Gallipoli and Troy, a welcome-aboard party hosted by Cruise Express and flight from Istanbul back to Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne or Perth (connections available to other cities) with Singapore Airlines, the 50-day 'Voyage to Lone Pine' package is available from \$9990 per person, twin-share, or from \$13,990 for solo travellers. Bookings are available from Cruise Express on 1300 764 509 or visit www.cruiseexpress.com.au ■

VOYAGE TO LONE PINE

SYDNEY TO ISTANBUL - APRIL 2015



CRUISE EXPRESS



100
YEARS OF
ANZAC

exclusive - \$250 onboard credit per stateroom
for past and present service men and women

With 2015 marking the 100th anniversary of the Anzac landings at Gallipoli, our special cruise-tour from Australia to Turkey will see us commemorate this historic milestone at the spirit-filled waters of Anzac Cove little more than a month after the official centenary without the crowds.

Visit 21 destinations including the Great Barrier Reef, the famous dragon reptiles of Komodo Island, the spice markets of India, the marbled domes of Arabia, the fabled Holy Land and the beautiful Greek Islands. After exploring the mosques of Istanbul, we'll make our private pilgrimage to Lone Pine a century after the Anzac legend was born.

50 night package from \$9990pp*

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50 DAY CRUISE TOUR EXPLORING ASIA, INDIA, ARABIA & THE HOLY LAND

*offer is subject to availability, terms and conditions.



AUSTRALIAN VETERANS' CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST

“The Long Tan Bursary will be forever a part of my university time and without it, none of what I have achieved would have been possible.”

Courtney Brooks graduating with a Bachelor of Food Science and Nutrition from Deakin University. Courtney is currently working with Nestle Australia as a Food Advisor and intends to further enhance her knowledge within the Food Industry before returning to University in the future.



“My message to [scholarship] winners is this: make them count. You all have a great opportunity to excel in your chosen areas...they are a sign of belief from AVCAT that you all can do great things.”

Scholarship recipient David Ludlow graduated with distinction with a Bachelor of Communication (Media) from RMIT in 2011. He is currently developing his second feature film Justice in a Smoking Gun, which will shoot in 2014. An Australian-Western, the film will star Julian McMahon (Nip/Tuck, Fantastic Four) and be released in 2015.

AVCAT, in one form or another, has been helping children and grandchildren of veterans further their studies for almost 30 years.

In its original form as the Vietnam Veterans' Trust, its purpose was to distribute the Australian share of the funds received from the Agent Orange legal settlement from the USA to Vietnam veterans and their dependants.

AVCAT now administers scholarships for the children and grandchildren of those who have served our country in peace and war. **Scholarship selection** is on a need and merit basis.

Since AVCAT's inception in 2003, 565 Long Tan Bursaries and numerous scholarships from other donors such as Legacy and the RSL have been awarded with a success rate of 83% to date. AVCAT is proud to have had the support of the previous Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Her Excellency Mrs Quentin Bryce AC CVO, as Patron.

Recipients come from all over Australia and study an enormous variety of courses. The years have seen doctors, psychiatrists and engineers, teachers, scientists, meteorologists, ballet dancers, circus performers, creative writers, film makers – the list goes on.

There is nothing more rewarding than seeing children of veterans flourish when they are given a pathway through tertiary study to new horizons of opportunity

AVCAT has a strong legacy and an important message. Without AVCAT many of the recipients would not be able to further their careers and lives through tertiary study. AVCAT is committed to being the respected, credible and independent organisation in the charity sector to ensure children and grandchildren of Australian ex-service community have the same opportunities as their peers.

The recently appointed CEO, Karen Blackwell says she believes strongly in what AVCAT stands for and looks forward to increasing further opportunities for funding.

AVCAT relies on the generosity of the ex-service and business community as well as private donors. If you would like to find out more about supporting AVCAT or apply for a scholarship, please contact us.

AVCAT is a registered charity. Donations to AVCAT are deductible for tax purposes.

SCHOLARSHIPS

HELPING CHILDREN TO A BETTER FUTURE



Photo courtesy of the University of Adelaide

The Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) is a not-for-profit organisation. AVCAT administers scholarships to help children, and in some cases grandchildren, of the Australian ex-service community with the costs of full-time education. The most deserving candidates are provided with financial assistance to facilitate their post-secondary studies.

"It means the world to me that someone I don't know cares about my education and believes I have potential."

2014 Recipient

AVCAT relies on the generosity of the ex-service and business community as well as private donors. If you would like to find out more about supporting AVCAT or applying for a scholarship, please contact us:

T: 02 9213 7999

E: avcat@dva.gov.au

W: www.avcat.org.au

APPLICATIONS OPEN 18 AUGUST





RSL CARE SA



Providing accommodation, care and support services for the benefit of the ex-service and wider community of South Australia.

RSL Care SA has been providing care and support to veterans since 1917 and, more recently, to the wider community. We offer a number of options for residential aged care, retirement living and affordable housing in various locations in South Australia.

RSL Care SA is a leader in looking after the needs of veterans. We believe that the ex-service community deserves the best care and affordable accommodation.

Our mission is to support veterans and their families. Although the ex-service community are our primary client group it is not exclusively so. The facilities and services are also available to the broader community.

Whilst being a separate entity, we have close ties to the Returned & Services League of Australia (SA Branch). We are part of the same family, sharing a common ethos.

If you would like further information about our facilities or require assistance with accessing our services, please call 8379 2600.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

55 Ferguson Avenue, Myrtle Bank, South Australia 5064

Tel: 08 8379 2600 • Fax: 08 8338 2577

www.rslcaresa.com.au

RSL Care SA

Caring for veterans and their families since 1917

RSL Care SA provides accommodation, care and support services for the benefit of the ex-service and wider community in Myrtle Bank, Angle Park, Wallaroo, Clovelly Park and Campbelltown. We are an independently incorporated not-for-profit organisation, and even though we are a separate entity, we have close ties to the Returned & Services League of Australia (SA Branch). We are part of the same family, sharing a common ethos.

In 2011 the Boards of War Veterans' Home and RSL SA made the decision to consolidate their Aged Care resources. This has resulted in War Veterans' Home taking on the operations of the RSL Villas facility and Community Housing operations under the banner of RSL Care SA.

The core business of RSL Care SA is in caring for our ageing veterans and the elderly in our community. We continually strive to improve the services and support we provide to our residents and those in our care.

Working in collaboration with RSL SA, the well-being and health needs of 'contemporary' veterans is also an area where both organisations are keen to assist and provide ongoing support. We are developing closer relationships with organisations like Trojan's Trek, Soldier On, The Repat Foundation and the Peter Badcoe VC Complex. Through providing assistance to these types of organisations, it is hoped that veterans, currently serving personnel and their families, will be better equipped with the tools and strategies to deal with issues that arise as a result of military service.

RSL Care SA is committed to supporting research into issues affecting the health and well-being of veterans and currently serving defence personnel in the community. Research support will give us greater insight into some of the future needs of veterans with the hope of being better able to provide for those needs.

The Centenary of ANZACs in 1915 also coincides with the inception of the War Veterans' Home. In 1915 the Peace Day League was formed to raise funds to assist soldiers and families of soldiers killed or wounded in war, with care facilities operational in 1917. Over the past 100 years, there have been many name variations and improvements to facilities however, the mission of providing care and assistance for the veteran community remains at the forefront of what we do.

"RSL CARE SA IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING RESEARCH INTO ISSUES AFFECTING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF VETERANS AND CURRENTLY SERVING DEFENCE PERSONNEL IN THE COMMUNITY. RESEARCH SUPPORT WILL GIVE US GREATER INSIGHT INTO SOME OF THE FUTURE NEEDS OF VETERANS WITH THE HOPE OF BEING BETTER ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR THOSE NEEDS."

Shining a light on the need for palliative care

Palliative care is beginning to get the attention it deserves internationally with Australia taking a leading role, writes Dr Yvonne Luxford, Chief Executive Officer of Palliative Care Australia.

This year is shaping up to be very significant for those involved in the care of the dying, with a number of 'firsts' for palliative care which will bring this essential healthcare service to the attention of governments around the world.

In January, the Executive Board of the World Health Assembly unanimously passed a ground breaking resolution which confirmed palliative care as core business for health. The resolution urges countries to integrate palliative care into their healthcare systems, to embed palliative care into the basic and continuing education for all health workers, and to ensure that relevant medicines, including strong pain relief, are available to people with a terminal illness.

Alongside this meeting was the publication of the Global Atlas of Palliative Care at the End of Life, a joint publication from the Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance (of which Palliative Care Australia is a member) and the WHO. The Atlas is the first ever publication that attempts to quantify the need for, and availability of, palliative care worldwide.

Why is this important?

All the evidence tells us that palliative care makes a huge difference to the quality of life of those living with terminal illness, and their families and carers. We also see that palliative care actually reduces the health budget as it is a truly cost effective service, yet there is still much work to do to ensure quality care at the end of life for all Australians. The global spotlight on palliative care issues allows us to position palliative care higher on the national agenda and to advocate for improved access to services.

Thinking about the areas we can make the biggest improvement from an Australian point of view, the need to make palliative care a compulsory part of all health professional education and training is one area that stands out. Without supporting the specialist and generalist workforce to provide palliative care across all settings, the needs of dying Australians will continue to go unmet and we need to make the development of a Palliative Care Workforce Strategy a priority.

The Atlas estimates that, every year, over 20 million patients need palliative care at the end of life.

This figure rises to at least 40 million if those who could benefit from palliative care at an earlier stage of their diagnosis are included. If family members and carers are also taken into consideration, the actual need could double or even triple.

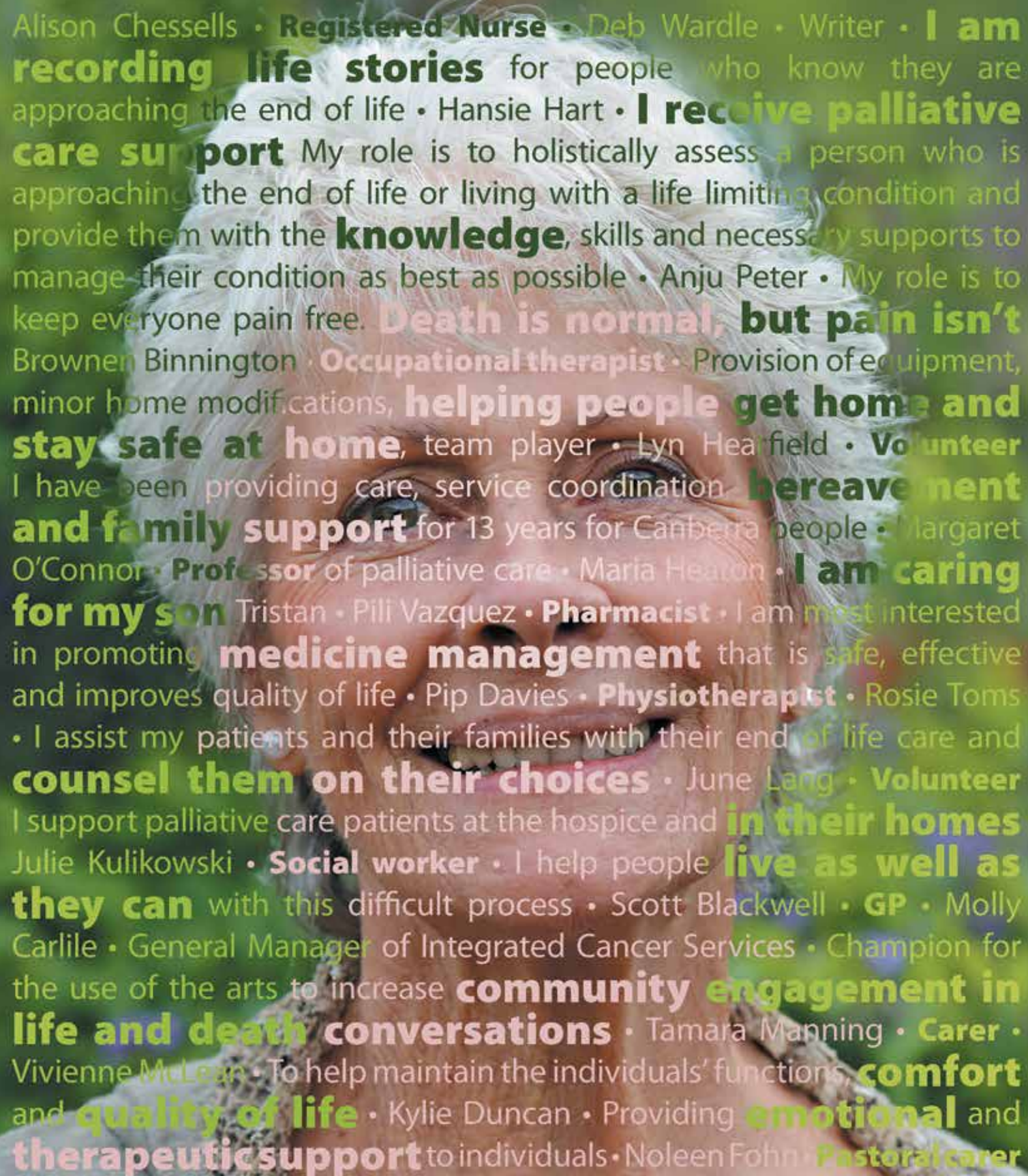
I think that this shows us that we are probably significantly underestimating the need for palliative care. Although Australia is one of the world leaders in palliative care, we are still unable to meet the palliative care needs of 50-70% of those who could benefit from access to these services.

Also particularly relevant for Australia is the fact that 69% of people who require palliative care are over 60 years old. This demand is only going to grow as our population ages and is further evidence of the need to improve palliative and end of life care services in aged care and particularly for our veteran population. With 50% of veterans over the age of 80, access to palliative care is essential right now, and the need will continue to grow.

Together, these international developments will strongly impact the provision of palliative care around the world, with implications for us here in Australia. They will give us the data needed to position palliative care higher on the national agenda and highlight the areas that we can improve to ensure that everyone in our community has access to the care they need when they need it most.

The Global Atlas of Palliative Care at the End of Life, states:

- Over 40 million people need palliative care each year
- Less than 10% of people who need palliative care currently receive it
- Children represent 6% of the need for palliative care
- 69% of people requiring palliative care are aged over 60 years
- Only 20 countries have palliative care well integrated into their healthcare systems
- 42% of countries have no identified hospice or palliative care service.



Alison Chessells • **Registered Nurse** • Deb Wardle • **Writer** • **I am recording life stories** for people who know they are approaching the end of life • Hansie Hart • **I receive palliative care support** My role is to holistically assess a person who is approaching the end of life or living with a life limiting condition and provide them with the **knowledge**, skills and necessary supports to manage their condition as best as possible • Anju Peter • My role is to keep everyone pain free. **Death is normal, but pain isn't** Brownen Binnington • **Occupational therapist** • Provision of equipment, minor home modifications, **helping people get home and stay safe at home**, team player • Lyn Hearfield • **Volunteer** I have been providing care, service coordination, **bereavement and family support** for 13 years for Canberra people • Margaret O'Connor • **Professor** of palliative care • Maria Heaton • **I am caring for my son** Tristan • Pili Vazquez • **Pharmacist** • I am most interested in promoting **medicine management** that is safe, effective and improves quality of life • Pip Davies • **Physiotherapist** • Rosie Toms • I assist my patients and their families with their end of life care and **counsel them on their choices** • June Lang • **Volunteer** I support palliative care patients at the hospice and **in their homes** Julie Kulikowski • **Social worker** • I help people **live as well as they can** with this difficult process • Scott Blackwell • **GP** • Molly Carlile • **General Manager** of Integrated Cancer Services • **Champion** for the use of the arts to increase **community engagement in life and death conversations** • Tamara Manning • **Carer** • Vivienne McLean • To help maintain the individuals' functions, **comfort and quality of life** • Kylie Duncan • Providing **emotional and therapeutic support** to individuals • Noleen Fohn • **Pastoral carer**

*Let's work
together*

National Palliative Care Week 25-31 May 2014

Palliative care is everyone's business and we all have a role to play. Let's work together to provide quality care at the end of life for all.

You can find out more about palliative care, services and support at palliativecare.org.au

Palliative Care
everyone's business



AUSTRALIA IS HEADED FOR A RETIREMENT SAVINGS DISASTER ACCORDING TO A CPB AUSTRALIA STUDY!

By Simon Guiliano, Senior Adviser, Segue Financial Services www.segue.com.au

No one wants to aim for less than a comfortable retirement yet recent Westpac Bank research indicates that at age 70, only 1 in 5 Australians will have any superannuation left. With a ‘big black hole’ looming for a large number of Australians in retirement where do you stand?

HOW DO THE COMMENTATORS DESCRIBE A “COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT”?

Lifestyle needs are a personal thing; what’s comfortable for some may be inadequate or even affluent for others, depending on what they are used to and what their goals are. The Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia (ASFA) has attempted to define what income is required to live a comfortable retirement through its regularly revised ASFA Retirement Standard. (www.superannuation.asn.au/resources/retirement-standard)

Based on the costs of a range of household essentials, as well as leisure activities, it has arrived at the following:

Modest Lifestyle – Single
\$22,024 per year

Modest Lifestyle – Couple
\$31,760 per year

Comfortable Lifestyle – Single
\$40,391 per year

Comfortable Lifestyle – Couple
\$55,213 per year

WHAT IS COMFORTABLE FOR YOU?

Your answer will help define your plans for building your Retirement Nest Egg

Whether you are happy with “comfortable” as defined by the ASFA Retirement Standard or whether comfortable for you is a multiple of ASFA’s Standard you need advice to find out where you stand right now and what action (if any) you need to take.

Peace of mind comes from knowing what is needed and doing it. Half of 65 year olds alive at present will live to 100 due to bio-medical advances in the next 35 years according to the Actuaries Institute Chief Executive Melinda Howes. Will your money meet your lifestyle comfort level in retirement if you live to 100?

The following are just some things you should consider, no matter how old you are...

1. SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

This is the most important step. A qualified adviser will provide you with a clear, step by step plan to help you achieve your goals. Look for an adviser who prioritises strategy over products. The strategy includes how best to structure your assets, how to build them over time in the most tax effective manner, how to protect them in the event of injury or illness and how to ensure they pass onto your intended beneficiaries when you pass away.

2. PLAN EARLY

The earlier you can start planning, the better your chances of meeting your retirement targets. Don’t fall into the trap of waiting until retirement is around the corner to prepare for it. Early planning helps position you to achieve maximum government benefits in retirement, as well as maximizing the value of your nest egg.

3. SET REALISTIC AND AFFORDABLE GOALS

There is a trade-off between enjoying your money now versus having enough for later on. It is important to set realistic goals about what you want to do in the future and assess the affordability of these goals. Is short term gain worth potential long term pain?

4. REVIEW YOUR SUPERANNUATION FUND

You should review your superannuation fund and whether it continues to be right for you. For most, superannuation will provide the bulk of our retirement savings. It is important to remember that your superannuation is your money, and you need to take an active interest in how it is being managed.

5. CONSIDER SALARY SACRIFICE

If you are generating income that is surplus to your needs, a tax effective way of building your assets is to direct part of your pre-tax salary to superannuation via an arrangement with your employer. Salary sacrificed to superannuation is taxed at 15%, compared to at your marginal tax rate when paid to you. This is a very effective way of building your superannuation assets.

6. TRANSITION TO RETIREMENT

You could elect to salary sacrifice a higher amount, and then replenish this by drawing a tax effective pension from your superannuation fund. Remember, super pensions are tax free after 60, so there can be significant tax savings which, in turn, boost your superannuation balance.

7. DELAY RETIREMENT AND PLAN FOR THE GOVERNMENT AGE PENSION

While it may not be ideal from a lifestyle perspective, delaying retirement in turn delays the need to draw on your own assets (while at the same time boosting them with the super guarantee for a few more years). This could add several years to their longevity. At least delaying retirement until you reach Age Pension age allows you to supplement your retirement income with the Age Pension, reducing the drawdown on your own assets.

8. CONSIDER DOWNSIZING YOUR HOME

If you find you don’t have enough at retirement, or run out of superannuation early, you can always consider downsizing your home to generate surplus capital which can be used to live on. Most will find that the family home becomes too big to manage at some stage, so a change can have both lifestyle and financial benefits.

By following the above tips, you can go a long way to ensuring you don’t become just another statistic, and can live the comfortable retirement you have dreamed of.

LEARN HOW YOU CAN AVOID YOUR OWN RETIREMENT SAVINGS DISASTER AND ACHIEVE YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS GOALS

CALL SEGUE TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION AND LEARN HOW TIM AND LORRAINE'S EXPERIENCE OR BOB AND ANNETTE'S STORY COULD BE YOURS WITH THE RIGHT ADVICE AND PLANNING



Tim and Lorraine's* story...

Tim age 63 and Lorraine age 63 wanted to retire when they reached 65. Tim and Lorraine felt they needed \$60,000p.a. to have a comfortable retirement. Their current combined income was \$85,000 net after super contributions and tax. With only two years to plan Tim and Lorraine had an uphill battle.

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Bob and Annette's* story...

Bob and Annette came to Segue when Bob was age 55 and Annette age 56. Bob wanted to retire in 5 years with an income of \$135,000p.a.

Given the longevity in both families, to provide the income they want indexed to keep up with inflation through to age 95 they needed to have saved a minimum of \$2,265,000 by age 60.

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They were delighted that in addition to achieving their income goals Segue's Self Managed Superannuation Estate Planning could enable them to save their estate more than \$300,000 tax on their death as well as provide tens of thousands in ongoing superannuation tax savings for each of their three children.

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Researchers to debunk super spending myths

Researchers from CSIRO and Monash University in Melbourne are putting the spending habits of retirees under the microscope in an effort to understand the finer details behind how they use and manage their super in retirement.

“We’re looking to understand what retirees need, how long their super lasts and what investment options and financial products might best suit them throughout their retirement so we can figure out how their super could work smarter,” CSIRO Research Leader Alan Dormer said.

“For example, what levels of confidence and security does superannuation provide to retirees, and how does it affect their spending behaviour throughout their retirement? The way you spend your super in retirement makes a big difference to the type of risk you take when selecting your investment options.”

Australia’s ageing population and growing pool of \$1.6 trillion in Superannuation is a national challenge and impacts anyone who has ever worked or employed anyone.

Michael O’Neill, chief executive of over-50s lobby, National Seniors, said he expected the research to debunk some of the super spending myths associated with older Australians.

“We expect claims that baby boomers are spending their super on living the high life, and then falling onto the pension, will prove unfounded,” Mr O’Neill said.

The Melbourne-based researchers will use big data analytics, social science, risk and economic modelling to answer questions such as how superannuation will affect the economy as it grows ever bigger, and how we provide security in retirement for all Australians.

“The super system is maturing and changing and we need to start using an evidence based approach to understand what we need to do now and into the future to re-engineer super to best suit members and inform decision making at an Industry and Government level,” Mr Dormer said.

Research Leader of the CSIRO-Monash Superannuation Research Cluster and Executive Director at the Australian Centre for Financial Studies, Deborah Ralston, said the Centre was continuing to strengthen its ties with industry.

“We’ve seen very positive engagement from the Super industry since we launched in September last year with several industry bodies and funds coming on board including Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia, Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees, Financial Services

Council and Challenger, BT and CBUS,” Professor Ralston said.

David Cox of Challenger Financial Services said Challenger Limited valued the independence, objectivity and real world problem solving focus of the Monash CSIRO research collaboration.

“CSIRO’s big data capability provides the opportunity to shift superannuation research from assumptions based modelling to empirical analysis of relevant population cohorts so researchers, the industry and policy makers can gain new insight into what the superannuation system is actually delivering to retirees,” Mr Cox said.

Research over the next year will include:

- Retirees lifecycle expenditure patterns
- Managing liquidity risk for superannuation investment
- New and innovative superannuation products
- Behaviour economics in superannuation

The CSIRO-Monash Superannuation Research Cluster is a \$9m research initiative bringing together researchers from CSIRO, Monash and Griffith Universities, the University of Western Australia and the University of Warwick in the UK. ■



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RED CROSS 100 years of fundraising

Red Cross is celebrating its centenary in Australia this year and during March the annual Red Cross Calling Appeal will mark one hundred years of fundraising by Red Cross volunteers right throughout the country. Australia joined the growing international Red Cross movement soon after the outbreak of the First World War in 1914.

The Roma Branch of Red Cross in outback Queensland was typical of the hundreds of new Red Cross branches that opened up around the country to support the war effort. Local Red Cross volunteer Myrtle Flower reportedly wore out four pairs of shoes walking house to house to collect money to purchase a Red Cross field ambulance that was later sent to Egypt. <http://centenary.redcross.org.au/groups/determined-doorknocker>

Most of the enthusiastic, young Australian soldiers that were recruited in 1914 were first sent to Egypt for training before being shipped to Gallipoli in 1915.

For Australia, the First World War still remains the most costly conflict in terms of deaths and casualties. From a population of fewer than five million, 416,809 men enlisted, 60,000 were killed and 156,000 were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner.

During World War II Red Cross also volunteers worked tirelessly providing medical supplies, refrigeration for military

hospitals and comfort for injured soldiers, food parcels for prisoners of war and much needed funds for air raid victims.

Red Cross still relies heavily on the generosity of individuals and community groups to raise funds for its vital work. Today Red Cross runs a huge, diverse range of programs with a network of 90 regional offices, 180 shops and first aid training all dedicated to helping vulnerable people.

During Red Cross Calling local members, supporters, schools and community groups come out in force to conduct collections or organise fundraising activities. Schools, universities and colleges are also great supporters of Red Cross Calling, conducting collections at shopping centres or doorknocking in their local areas. ■

To make a donation, or to find out how you can get involved in Red Cross Calling go to the website: redcrosscalling.org.au or ph 1800 008 831.

Blue Care More than you imagined

Blue Care started as the Blue Nursing service in 1953 and has grown into one of Australia's leading not-for-profit providers of residential aged care, community care and retirement living, operating in more than 260 centres in 80 communities across Queensland and northern New South Wales.

With over 8,800 professional staff and 2,300 volunteers Blue Care directly assists more than 13,000 people every day with person-centred services tailored to meet an individual's needs.

Blue Care's services support people in their homes, in Blue Care community centres, residential aged care facilities and retirement villages.

"The Blue Care team provides services to people of all age groups at all stages of their life journey", said Robyn Batten, Executive Director of Blue Care.

"We are a values based organisation that prides ourselves on improving the health and wellbeing of our clients, their families and the community. Our team works with our clients and their families to meet their individual needs in a dignified and compassionate way".

Blue Care's professional and experienced team delivers a broad range of services including partnering with clients to self-manage chronic disease; personal care and domestic assistance; in-home and specialised nursing care; palliative care; allied health services such as occupational therapy; continence advice; disability services; respite care; residential aged care and retirement living.

Blue Care's retirement living villages are situated close to amenities and services such as hospitals, shopping centres and recreational facilities. Blue Care's retirement living offers residents a number of options to support residents to live as independently as possible in fully self-contained, one, two and three bedroom units.

A new addition to Blue Care's retirement living options in South East Queensland is the Azure Blue Lifestyle Communities, providing resort-style accommodation with access to Blue Care services if required.

Units are located in peaceful grounds and gardens, providing an attractive outlook while maintaining residents' privacy.

For further information about Blue Care's services or retirement living opportunities please visit www.bluecare.org.au or call 07 3377 3377.

Blue Care, more than you imagined

Blue Care began as the Blue Nursing Service in 1953 and has grown into one of Australia's leading not-for-profit providers of residential aged care, community care and retirement living. Blue Care operates more than 260 centres in 80 communities across Queensland and northern New South Wales.

Services include: Respite care - Allied health
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SHEILA

BY ROBERT WAINWRIGHT

Painted by Beaton, feted by film stars, courted by princes, adored by Fleet Street ... who was this Aussie lass we know so little about?

London society may have been ten thousand miles from her childhood on a remote sheep station, but Sheila took pride in her origins and was routinely described as 'quite the nicest thing ever to have come out of Australia.'

*Sheila blazed a trail through London society, amassing social connections which ran the gamut from Buckingham Palace and Downing Street to Hollywood and the Kennedys. She married three times – to a Scottish lord, an English baron and finally a Russian prince – and attracted the most remarkable string of suitors, among them the future king of England and Rudolf Valentino, who kept a photo of her by his bed. Her close friends included Idina Sackville, Wallis Simpson and she inadvertently inspired Evelyn Waugh to write *The Loved One*.*

And yet, Sheila was the antithesis of a vapid socialist, and her charity work and business acumen won her as many admirers as her good looks and impeccable designer outfits.

So who was this remarkable woman who was so warmly welcomed into the palaces, mansions and clubs of the elite? Filled with scandalous revelations and fascinating insights into 20th century high society (both in Australia and Britain), Sheila will no doubt shock and delight.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Wainwright has been a journalist for 25 years, rising from the grassroots of country journalism in Western Australia to a senior writer with the Sydney Morning Herald. His career has ranged from politics to crime, always focusing on the people being the major news of the day. He is the author of *Rose: The unauthorised biography of Rose Hancock Porteous*, *The Lost Boy* and *The Killing of Caroline Byrne*.



Might this Australian beauty have been Queen of England?

Sheila Chisholm wedded earls, barons and ended her days as a Russian Princess. The future King George VI adored her and Rudolph Valentino, Evelyn Waugh and Wallis Simpson were among her closest friends.

Sheila

ROBERT WAINWRIGHT

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WELFARE REFORM

The Federal Government announced in January that it is going to review Australia's welfare system. Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service agrees that the welfare system needs to be reformed. We believe that it needs to be made a fairer, more humane system that adequately protects the human rights and dignity of the most disadvantaged members of the community.

Australia's welfare system has fallen behind the times, both in terms of its payment levels, and its ability to adapt to the changing nature of the Australian workforce. More people than ever are in precarious forms of employment as a result of the changing face of the Australian economy.

There is strong evidence that Australia's unemployment benefit, Newstart, does not provide people with enough money to live off. The Newstart allowance has dropped to 45 per cent of the minimum wage and is more than \$130 under the poverty line. It is so low that it drives people into poverty – not employment.

In fact, the rate of Newstart is so low that the OECD has made the unprecedented call for an increase in Australia's unemployment benefits. Even the Business Council of Australia recognises that adequate welfare provision is not a drain on the economy – it actually increases people's capacity to work.

In our experience, people in receipt of government benefits want to work and make a positive contribution to the community. The role of government is not to drive them into poverty, but to support them to have a job. Reducing access to welfare will actually reduce economic participation for many vulnerable people. It is counter-intuitive to its policy goal.

We are particularly concerned for the women we work with who are leaving family violence. These women tell us regularly that poverty is a reason they feel they cannot leave their violent partner, or why they feel no choice but to return to them. These women need support, not more barriers to economic security.

We disagree that too many people are 'dependent' on the welfare state. Many Australians experience significant changes in their economic circumstances during their lifetimes. There is a tendency to think of welfare recipients as people permanently dependent on payments – as 'takers', with the rest of the community as the 'makers,' permanently 'independent' of welfare. But the impact of unforeseen events and consequent changes in incomes and life circumstances means that, over time, many people change their status as recipients of welfare payments on the one hand or as taxpayers on the other.

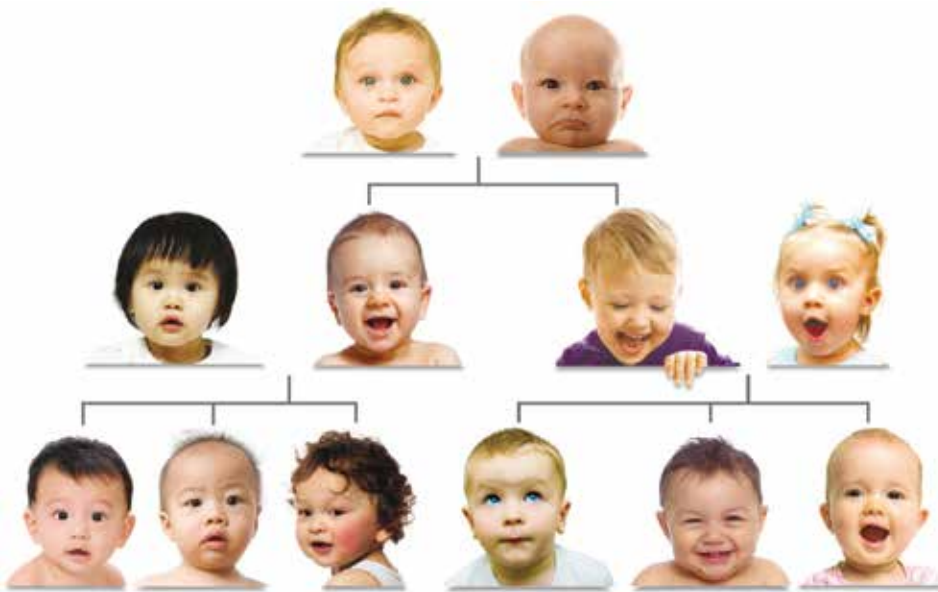
Any of us at, any time, could and will likely experience a life event that changes our financial situations. It is not about 'us' and 'them'. It must be about 'us'. ■

By: Robyn Roberts, CEO of Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service: www.goodshepvic.org.au
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Review of Funding for Schooling 'The Gonski Report'

In April 2010, Gonski was commissioned by Julia Gillard, then Minister for Education in the Rudd Government, to be chairman of a committee to make recommendations regarding funding of education in Australia. The findings and recommendations of the committee were presented to the government in November 2011, whereafter deliberations were entered into by the Federal and state governments to consider its content. The committee's report is known as the Gonski Report. Subsequently the proposed reforms (an increase in funding) began known as "Gonski" and supporters urged governments to "Give a Gonski". The report was removed from the website by the incoming government after the 2013 Federal election and is preserved by Australia's Pandora Archive.

The panel of eminent Australians was led by chairman David Gonski AC, an eminent businessman and philanthropist, who is also the Chancellor of the University of NSW and chairman of the Australian Securities Exchange, Coca-Cola Amatil and Investec Bank.

The panel also included:

- Ken Boston AO, the former Director-General Department of Education and Training (NSW)
- Carmen Lawrence, former Federal Minister and Premier of WA and Director of the Centre for the Study of Social Change, School of Psychology, University of Western Australia
- Kathryn Greiner AO, former Deputy Chancellor at Bond University and chairman of Australian Hearing
- Bill Scales AO, current Chancellor of Swinburne University of Technology, Chairman of the Port of Melbourne Corporation and a Board Member of the Veolia Australia Advisory Board
- Peter Tannock AM, noted international educationalist and former Vice-Chancellor at University of Notre Dame Australia

Summary of Key Gonski Review Findings

The Report makes 26 official findings and 41 recommendations.

Describing the current school funding arrangements as unnecessarily complex, the Report highlights duplication and inefficiency in funding by Australian state, territory and federal governments. The following main observations are addressed throughout the Report:

- In addition to declining school academic performance compared to OECD countries in the last decade, Australia has a significant achievement gap between its highest and lowest performing students.
- Some of Australia's lowest performing students are not meeting minimum standards of achievement and the link between low levels of achievement and educational disadvantage is considered unacceptable. Educational disadvantage is seen particularly among students from low socioeconomic and Indigenous backgrounds.
- New funding arrangements would require the various levels of government to work in a more co-ordinated manner to meet the educational needs of Australian children, and to improve performance to an internationally competitive high standard. It is unacceptable to see educational outcomes that are determined by socioeconomic status or the type of school an Australian child attends.
- The panel estimated that the additional cost of their recommendations to governments would be \$5 billion per year (based on 2009 figures). This represents an approximate 15% increase in funding for school education. It is recommended that most of this increase go to government schools because the majority of Australian children attend government schools (approximately two thirds) and because a larger number of disadvantaged students attend government schools.

Summary of Key Recommendations

- A new Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) should replace the current complex funding system. The SRS would allocate an amount per student that is required each year to provide them a high quality education. The amount per student will allow for loadings to adjust for students and schools facing performance barriers (e.g. students with a disability entitlement will get more). The SRS amount will initially be based on the cost of educating children in high performing schools, with the aim of 80 per cent of all students achieving above the national minimum standard in reading and numeracy.
- All government schools would be fully publicly funded for the amount of the SRS plus any applicable loadings. Non-government schools would be publicly funded for at least 20 to 25 per cent of the SRS per student. The assessment of a non-government school's need for public funding should be based on the financial capacity of parents enrolling their children in the school to pay for the school's resource requirements.
- Funding for capital works (e.g. a hall or other school buildings) should be available to both government and non-government schools from a separate funding system. There should be more public accountability for public funding of school capital projects.
- The current system in which the Federal government providing most of its school funding to the private system and state governments mainly funding public schools should change; both levels of government should be investing in more even proportions in the two education systems. The aim of the change is to remove any possible political or

other bias in different levels of government funding. Also, given the larger proportion of disadvantaged students in government schools, it is recommended that the Federal government play a greater role in funding government schools.

- School Planning Authorities should be established with representatives from government and non-government schools to develop a coordinated approach to planning for new schools and school growth. The Australian Government should establish a School Growth Fund for building new schools and for major school expansions, and the School Planning Authorities would be responsible for the approval of funding for these projects.
- Federal and state governments should establish a National Schools Resourcing Body responsible for a range of tasks including: maintenance, development and review of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS); research, analysis and data collection and improvement; and for the development of school building standards.
- The Federal Government and state and territory governments should legislate for the new funding framework to ensure certainty and transparency of public funding for schools over a 12-year cycle.
- The Federal Government should do more to help schools raise money from philanthropic sources. For example, the Report proposes a fund that operates to attract support (cash and in-kind) from businesses and other trusts and foundations, private individuals and communities.
- Public accountability is highly regarded, with the recommendation that there be greater collection and publication of more sophisticated data measuring the relationship between educational outcomes and funding.

Funding for the teaching of disadvantaged students should target flexible, evidence-based strategies, expertise in the leadership of the school, early intervention for students at risk of underperformance, and programs that encourage parent and community engagement.

Governments should give priority to the collection of nationally consistent data on students with disadvantage so that funding is directed to where it is needed most, and improvements in educational outcomes can be measured and improved over time. ■



an interview with BILL SCALES

speaking background of those in the school but it became quite clear that this wasn't about the individual capabilities of the students. But there was something inhibiting their ability, those individual students, to be able to achieve their full potential and it seemed to us that what we needed to try and find was a way by which we give all students in Australia, whether they were in private, public or independent schools the ability to be able to overcome those various disadvantages so that they could make the most of their own capability and that the disadvantage didn't get in the way of them fulfilling their own capability. That's not to say that every student would be the same or that every student would reach the same level nor that we should be aiming to have every student reaching the same level. That's in some ways been a little misinterpreted in what we were saying. What we've been saying is that resources will be very important in helping to give each of those students the best possibility to be able to reach their potential. That's why we argued, I think quite strongly that a funding scheme based on need was an important piece of policy that would serve the country well for the future.

TLP: Yes, and in line with that, how important were your recommendations to the Government on school funding, as far as for the future of education in this country?

BS: We argued that it was critically important. The education system of course

is a system and if you take away resources that would enable every student to make the most of their potential, then the whole of the system whether it's primary, secondary, tertiary or vocational will be less effective over the long run than if you fund them all appropriately. As you know, that was one of the big recommendations that came out of that review.

TLP: It's the backbone, in many ways.

BS: That's right. Another thing connected there is what we found when we started, and surprising to many people was that most education systems didn't have a funding system on the cost of educating a child. They had an expenditure approach to education, that is, what they effectively said was, we will take whatever Governments give to us and use that expenditure wisely. So there was no evidence readily available that said, what is the cost of educating a child to a particular standard of education. That was an important contribution that the Gonski panel made as well because it defined what was the basic fundamental cost, not the expenditure but what was the basic cost of educating an average – if there is such a thing – primary school student or secondary school student to a particular international standard. That hadn't been done before. What that then allowed us to do was to make these other judgements about what add-ons you should then allocate to address the cost of a child that has some form of disadvantage, whether it's

The Last Post: Welcome to The Last Post Bill and thanks for your time.

Professor Bill Scales: Hi Greg, it's a pleasure.

TLP: Targeted investment for schools with disadvantaged children. What does that mean and what are the advantages of that.

BS: I think the first thing we try to do with the Gonski review was to make sure that what we finally arrived at was based on good evidence policy making. When we were set about collecting that evidence, both by getting some research done and, as we went around visiting schools, as the panel did, for all intents and purposes, right throughout Australia, what became clear was that there were, not in any particular order but there were very good schools in all of the systems – public, private and independent. But there were also schools in every one of those sectors that had particular needs. Those needs revolved around the low socio-economic situation of the school or the area. It might have been around disability or it might have been around the non-English

disability or low socio-economic or whatever. That part of it hasn't been discussed much in the commentary around the panel's work.

TLP: So that taxpayer funded money was given to the various education departments without knowing a breakdown of the costing involved?

BS: Correct. Exactly. So what that did then, the danger with an expenditure approach is that Governments can then, almost with impunity, reduce education budgets without anybody actually understanding the full implications of that.

TLP: The real effect of that could then be disguised?

BS: It can be, yes. So, what can happen now is an education department, when it allocates funding can now be held accountable so the community can make quite simple judgements. For example, if there's 100,000 students and we don't fund them at the cost of say, \$12,000 per student, we know that most students are being under-funded. Those calculations can now be made as a result of the work of the Gonski panel. That couldn't have been done otherwise.

TLP: How strong is the link between low levels of educational achievement and educational disadvantage? Are they tied together?

BS: Not completely. Again, because what we were trying to do was base our recommendations on good evidence, what we know is, around about 75-80% of the performance of the child come from their own capabilities. The other 20% is important though and that's determined by the level of resources that are made available to address the differences between students.

TLP: How big is the gap Bill, between high and low achievers and how do set about rectifying that?

BS: That's more the funding. To be able to address the questions of standards, funding is necessary but not sufficient. You then have to have high quality teachers. You have to have outstanding principals. You have to have a governance arrangement within schools that has a substantial and quality relationship between principal and teacher, teacher and student, teacher and parent and principal and the governing body. All of those things matter. If we really want to get a high quality and international standard of education, all of those things have to be taken into account and addressed. You can't have one without the other and we're trying to make the point in our panel work, we weren't saying for one minute that funding was the only thing. What we were saying was that it was necessary but not sufficient. And all of these other things had to be done as well to make sure Australia has this international standard of education for our kids. What we know is that Australia has slipped markedly down the international ladder and that matters, a lot. It matters because Australian students will be faced with international students who are of a higher standing. So we are undermining their ability to take place in a highly inter-connected world.

TLP: Having students with learning problems and low socio-economic







backgrounds, are we short changing itself by not addressing the matter?

BS: There is no doubt that because we don't address the various levels of disadvantage we are, over the longer term, undermining our social and economic capabilities. It's too big a resource for us not to be using. We are diminishing our nation in a way by not devoting the resources to those children. As well, of course, as diminishing their own abilities to make the most of their talents. In football terms it's like putting a 3rd of your players onto the field without giving them any training.


TLP: I guess too, with teachers there is that fact that some may reach such a level of frustration at not being able to give their students the beat that they may opt out of the system?

BS: That's one of the dangers. When you expect very good teachers just to be coping every day and, yes it's a very human response, if you're exhausted it's very hard to keep doing that day after day, year after year. Again, that's why we came out with that funding model that would hopefully release some of those pressures on teachers












Unley High School



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and allow them time to dedicate to those kids with special needs. Australia is a first world society and in that sense it's a complex society and to be able to enable our young people to take their place in a complex society, both in Australia and elsewhere, educating them to that international standard is critical.

TLP: How important is it that we act now?

BS: It's urgent. Every year that goes by is another year where we are not providing the resources that are required to address those students where there is particular disadvantage. This is a very urgent matter. Non action effects not only the year that you don't provide but for every subsequent year that that child or young person leaves school

and then doesn't meet their potential within the workforce. If we get this right it will affect the lives of people who will never know who I am, and nor should they but their lives will be affected in some small way, by being able to influence the resources that are available for them to be able to reach their potential. That's a very humbling thing. ■



Conclusions from a Decade of Research

**MICHELLE GREEN,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS VICTORIA**

Independent Schools Victoria has been researching how governments can and should support the education of all Australian students for more than a decade.

We have been analysing funding models and discussing options with Australian and overseas academics, educationists and school leadership groups. Our conclusions mirror criteria nominated by Professor Scales for Australia to achieve high quality education:

- sufficient funding
- high quality teachers
- sound governance
- quality relationships linking:
 - governing body and principal
 - principal and staff and parents
 - teachers and students.

Funding

In our submission to the Review of School Funding we said:

- funding should focus on students, not schools
- there should be no funding freeze for individual schools
- parents' personal or private contributions towards their child's education should have no bearing on government funding for Independent schools
- choice in education should be defended by law.

Criteria for a new funding model should be:

- equitable
- consistent
- flexible
- student-based
- transparent
- based on robust data
- simple
- predictable

The new funding model does not satisfy all of these criteria. It does meet a number of the Review's goals but is there going to be sufficient funding to ensure that all Australian students receive a quality education?

It is not a single, national funding model. Differing federal-state agreements mean

that schools with the same need in different states will not receive the same funding allocations during the transition period.

High quality teachers

Independent schools value their teaching staff because principals know that quality teaching is the most significant in-school factor affecting student outcomes.

The engine room of learning at Independent Schools Victoria is the Development Centre that is:

- delivering professional learning programs for school leaders, teachers and support staff
- alerting educators to effective and emerging teaching and learning processes
- developing, implementing and evaluating policy for quality educational outcomes.

Our professional learning programs recognise the variety of leadership roles within schools – board members, principals, their deputies, department heads, business managers, curriculum and campus heads and Early Years leaders.

We draw on international best practice.

As the first authorised Feuerstein Institute Training Centre in Australia, our training program is designed to enhance students' cognitive skills necessary for independent thinking and academic success.

The Junior Great Books program uses shared inquiry and a focus on literature to promote reading, thinking and the sharing of ideas.

Working with the American Productivity and Quality Center, we have introduced the Southern Cross Program to improve schools' efficiency through process and performance management.

Our Leading Learning That Matters program, in collaboration with Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, is assisting senior principals to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. This year we have added our Future of Learning program, designed for Principals with at least three years' experience as a head of school.

We have entered an exciting research and development collaboration with The Centre for Real World Learning at the University of Winchester in Britain to help students develop habits of the mind that underpin confident, curious and creative learning.

Sound governance

For about ten years, Independent Schools Victoria has been briefing school boards on integrating good governance with sound management. The objective is to ensure that successful governance structures minimise problems and optimise performance and accountability.

Quality relationships

An effective board instils the values of transparency and trust that permeates through the school community reflecting a shared vision for excellence. The quality of the learning environment created by school leaders impacts on students' educational outcomes and their personal and social wellbeing, key concerns for parents who have chosen to educate their children at Independent schools. ■

Follow Michelle Green at is-dialogue.com and visit our Face Book page [facebook.com/indschoolsvictoria](https://www.facebook.com/indschoolsvictoria) and twitter.com/indschoolsvic

URRBRAE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL FINALISTS IN THE ZAYED FUTURE ENERGY PRIZE.

Urrbrae Agricultural High School has been awarded \$50000 as finalists in the Zayed Future Energy Prize.

10 schools from 5 global regions were nominated (from over 250 applicants) for their Energy conserving and energy production programs planned for their schools.

The 5 winning schools from the Bronx, Romania, Malawi, India and Tonga, each receive \$100000. The other 5 finalists were awarded \$50000 by Her Highness Shaikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Chairwoman of the General Women's Union and wife of the late Shaikh Zayed bin Nurh.

The deserving recipients of the award will use the prize to facilitate the development of their proposed energy saving projects. " Her Highness praised the proposed projects and said they characterised the innovation and knowledge "that future generations of students need to be involved in as they led the way to a sustainable future.

Caitlin Thompson Year 12 student represented Urrbrae Agricultural High School and received the prize certificate from Dr Sultan Ahmad Al Jaber the UAE Minister of State and Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland. Other schools include the Queen Elizabeth II High School on the Isle of

Man, Franklin Delano Roosevelt College Peru, Manhattan Night and Day School and Abaarso School in Somalia.

Urrbrae's project will microbially convert livestock effluent to methane gas; the captured gas will be flared and the heat energy released from this will be utilised converted to heat and provide electricity for the schools aquaculture and pig facilities. Students will study the processes of methane generation and monitor gas production, energy output and calculate the reduction of greenhouse gases in science, chemistry and physics classes. The outcomes for the school include advanced science education options for students, interaction with university and industry research and learning and a reduction of our carbon footprint.

We are very excited to be successful recipients of this inaugural award and wish to express our enormous appreciation to Her Highness Shaikha Fatima Bint Mubarak and the Zayed Future Energy Prize for this generous prize and the opportunity to be among the leading environmental schools and organisations in the world today.



The Zayed Future Energy Prize awards over 5 million dollars to Schools, large and small Corporations, Non Government Organisations and to individuals. This year the Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Wang Chuanfu, the founder and chairman of BYD, the Chinese auto and battery maker. ■



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Mentone Parade Memorial Park

The finishing touches are being applied to the new Mentone Parade Memorial Park ahead of this year's Anzac Day ceremonies.

The centrepiece of the park will be an honour wall commemorating the enlisted men and women from the Mentone, Parkdale and Mordialloc areas who died in service during WWI, WWII and in subsequent conflicts.

The remaking of the park and the central honour wall had its genesis in 2008 when Mentone RSL member and WWII veteran, Mr Vic Mossenton questioned why there was no memorial in the area to the local fallen. In response to Vic's persistence, Mr John Lee OAM and Mr Neil Richards from the Mentone RSL undertook to identify the enlisted men and women from the district who lost their lives in the service of their country. Their work was complemented by that of Neil's son, Lieutenant Commander Shannon Richards, Royal Australian Navy, who was on a posting in Canberra and hence closer to the national records.

The consolidated list of names was prepared ahead of discussions with Steve Perumal of the City of Kingston. Capital works funding for the project was secured, in part due to the advocacy of Mr Perumal and the support of Councillors Ron Brownlees OAM, Rosemary West OAM and Geoff Gledhill. A brief that proposed the honour wall as the anchor point of a new park design was then presented to Landscape Architects, Urban Initiatives.

The resulting design by Urban Initiatives moves the central axis of the park so that it aligns with the tower of the historic RSL building that sits above the park. The existing obelisk was also moved to a central position in a stone paved ceremonial court. Beyond this court, the central path runs through a contemplative garden of red-leafed trees before bisecting the new memorial wall. To the left lie two panels of the granite wall, inscribed with the names of those who lost their lives in the two world wars, in Vietnam and the Indonesian Confrontation. To the right, the wall continues for twelve metres, along its base a field of carved red poppies and above, a stanza from the Ode of Remembrance.

The southern side of the park is to be planted with Lone Pines, the ceremonial court with sentinel Cypresses and the central path with Coastal Banksia. A timber ramp will connect the Memorial Gardens to the RSL building above.

The Mentone RSL attracted a combined crowd of 3700 to Anzac Day Ceremonies in 2013 and the branch was anxious to see the

park improved. The new layout transforms the park into a true Memorial Garden, one where the formal layout will cater for large ceremonial gatherings and the richly planted spaces will create areas for more intimate contemplation.

Mentone Parade is the third war memorial project that Urban Initiatives have completed for the City of Kingston in recent years, a sequence that began with Beeson Reserve in 2009 and continued with the restoration of the Parkdale Memorial in 2013

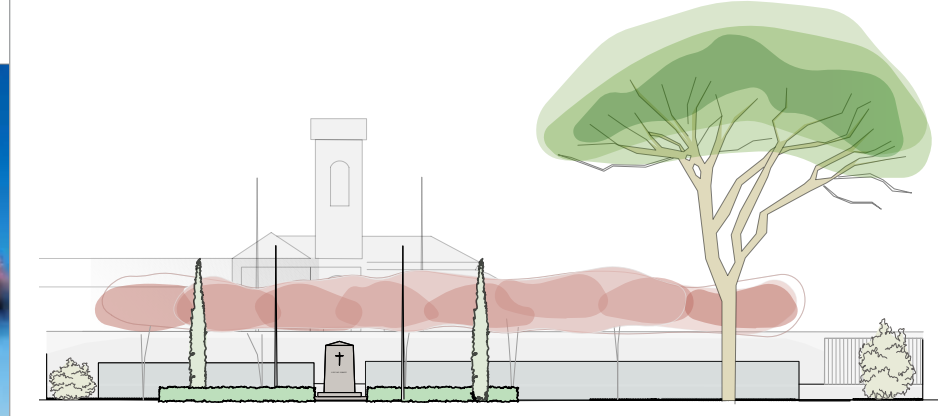
Granite panel of the honour wall being inscribed on the stonemason's bench



Construction shot of Mentone Parade Gardens



Urban Initiative's sketch view of proposed honour wall at Mentone Parade Memorial Gardens



Parkdale War Memorial Restoration designed by Urban Initiatives

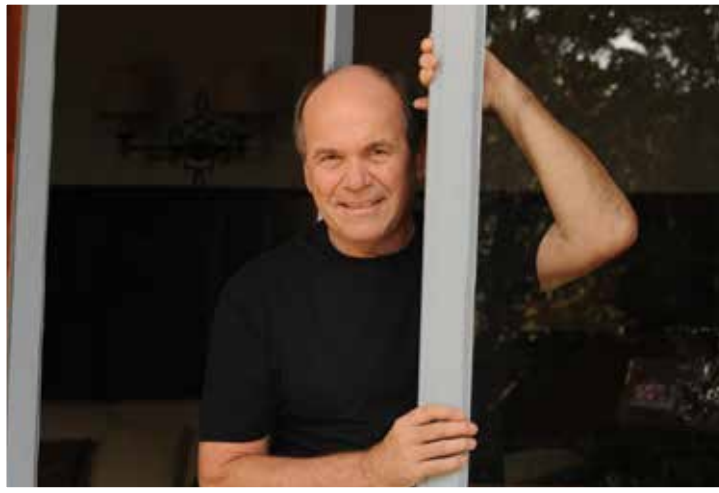


Edithvale War Memorial designed by Urban Initiatives



GLENN SHORROCK

With a career spanning over 40 years, Glenn Shorrock is an Australian music legend, inducted twice into the ARIA Hall of Fame. After successful stints with internationally achieving groups, The Twilights, Axiom and The Little River Band (LRB) and a successful solo career, Glenn sat down with The Last Post to talk of his time at the top, his friendship with Brian Cadd and his love affair with The Beatles.



The Last Post: Hi Glenn, welcome to The Last Post magazine. What have you been up to lately?

Glenn Shorrock: I've been out playing with Brian Cadd.

TLP: How's that feel for you and Brian, is it a good thing to be back together again?

GS: Yes, it's something we've talked about for a couple of years now. We've had a long friendship going all the way back to 1965 when I moved over to Melbourne with The Twilights. That was the first time I met Brian although we didn't really connect, we had a mutual respect, he was with The Groop and they produced one of my favourite records, Woman You're Breaking Me, so I had a healthy respect for his writing. As the years went by we won the Hoadley's National Battle of the Sounds as The Groop did the next year. Each of us in our own way kamikaze'd on the white cliffs of Dover and came back with our tail between our legs, it kind of took the wind out of our sails and The Groop and subsequently they split up. We were at Ian Meldrum's place when I was talking and Brian was talking and we just talked up a new band, which was Axiom. And off we went, back to England again! Wrong!

TLP: Do you think you should've gone to America?

GS: Yes, Brian's always said that. We should've zigged when we zagged. But it wasn't as easy as it sounds. There were problems. You couldn't get work permits in those days. It was much easier for a Commonwealth country to go back to the motherland as it were but our influence was strongly American with, obviously The Band and Crosby, Stills and Nash. We

wanted to make that sort of music but they weren't it to it at that time, still bleeding over The Beatles' death.

TLP: I suppose in many ways it had been a tradition for Australian groups to go to England in preference to America. You would've been breaking new ground.

GS: Yes and there was also a physiological thing but that all turned around once LRB began. Also, Brian informed..... well, let's go back a bit: Axiom spilt in London and I stayed on, I didn't want to come back again so I dug in and etched a living out of writing some songs with a publishing contract and, well, I did all sorts of things, I did a stint with a rock group called Esperanto.

TLP: I remember hearing on the grapevine that you'd joined them, a multi-national group, what was that like?

GS: Oh, I loved it. We were still young and hippies. It all came together on a commune down in Cornwall, lovely at the time. I enjoyed it but professionally it was totally hard, trying to launch a 12-piece band on the road in England and Europe at that time, you know, banging our heads against a brick wall plus ELO stole our thunder with their string section. They decided just to put strings on Chuck Berry songs as it were where as Esperanto were very avant-garde to say the least. It wasn't a very commercial sound. But I hung in and did some session work and winged it until Cliff Richard, who had and still has a very strong connection to Australian people, his manager's Australian, we grabbed the remnants of The Twilights with Terry Brittan and other Adelaide guys that I grew up with, Alan Tarney, Kevin Peek, they became his band. They were my earliest friends, they came from Elizabeth. They had a band. The Twilights used to gig with these guys. Anyhow, Cliff wanted a back-up so I did that for a couple of months and that paid for my ticket back to Australia, which I was planning to do. Then, lo and behold I get a phone call from Wheatley and Birtles with the idea of forming a band. I went in there pretty cynically, thinking, I don't want to be in a band anymore, I'll just go home and be a manager or agent but when I heard the songs that they brought to the table with the one's I had, we just sang beautifully together and I thought I might as well give it a shot. We went back to Carlton in Melbourne and put it all together there and off we went.

TLP: That first album from LRB, what, '75? It was a breakthrough. There was nothing like it we'd heard before. The song, It's a long way there, very long and just amazing. Had you been writing songs long before then?



GS: I'd had a crack at it, early in the life of The Twilights. Obviously The Beatles coming along and writing their own material influenced us. I put pen to paper and came up with a pretty banal song called, 'I don't know where the wind will blow me' and that was the first recording The Twilights made at a local studio in Adelaide. And then Terry started writing and he was much better at it than I so I put my pen aside and concentrated on singing his songs. Meanwhile while I was in London with the LRD notion, Brian had gone off to America on the back of The Bootleg Family, which was a pretty radical thing to do at the time. Lo and behold, when LRB started touring there, we hooked up again. I used to see a lot of him in LA and then in Atlanta and Nashville and the friendship continued.

TLP: And that's what you're doing now, with Brian. Is it in some ways a flashback to Axiom?

GS: Oh, definitely. Inspired by, we felt that we'd only had a limited shot at it. 2 years, 2 and a half years so we went over to re-visit it, wouldn't it be nice to put the old band back together for a short tour and sure enough Doug Lavery, the original drummer who we'd got from The Valentines joined us and he'd had 40 years experience in America anyhow with the Ricky Nelson band, he joined us.

TLP: Was Chris Stockley there?

GS: Yes, Chris was there and through him, he said, why don't you get Glyn Mason and that sounded like a good idea. We all clicked together, we all grew up with the same music and influences and the ups and downs of the music scene so we decided to put this show together and it's become more than just an Axiom reunion. We went into the studio and decided to have another look at all the material we'd had over the years and produce a CD that we could sell at the gigs. That's

essential these days. We wanted it to be part of the show although the story of Sharkey and the Cadd Man is a lot wider, deeper than that.

TLP: Sharkey?

GS: Sharkey is a nickname that I got over in America and it's a play on the way the Americans often pronounced Shorrock. It often came out as "Shark" in their drawl, you can imagine. So the band started calling me 'Sharkey'. Hah. So with this latest move, we've gone back to the beginning to look at what songs and acts turned us on as teenagers and later on through our careers. We're not only doing our hits, we're doing other people's hits. It's been fun to do. We were all cover bands to begin with anyway. I like doing other peoples songs so that's good. It was a difficult call though with Graham Goble because he always wanted our songs to be ours exclusively but I'm not that restricted, I'm more catholic in my tastes.

TLP: For me, the song, 'Cool Change' was a knockout and a healthy platform for you to demonstrate to the world what a good songwriter you are. How do you look back on those songs now?

GS: Well, obviously I was inspired to write better songs because I was surrounded by great songwriters. Graham's a great songwriter. When we used the material that we had in our arsenal to begin with, we had 100 songs to begin with and we just picked the best of those for the first three or four albums. Then things got busier and we found success in America and touring was more intense and we were up there with the big boys so we needed new material as well. Cool Change was a reaction to the life I was leading with the band, the lyrics, "If there's one thing in my life that's missing, it's the time that I spend alone..." and that sort of sparked the whole thing off and the words cool change is another way or using the vernacular like 'Help Is On It's Way' which has a different meaning.

TLP: You were looking at yourself pretty deeply there with the essential element of having to take time out, quiet time.

GS: Absolutely. I used to be a bit of a driftwood, exploring mysticism and macrobiotics, eastern philosophy and music. It's important to be able to spend time by yourself. You need to be able to regenerate the batteries.

TLP: Do you find now, being back with Brian, that you're in a better position to be able to translate what it is you want to do?

GS: Definitely. Our craft has refined itself. It's been hard work but it's good with Brian because we share a sense of humour. He makes me laugh and I make him laugh. We share a lot of jokes on stage and humour, it's always

been very important to us both throughout our careers, it keeps your feet on the ground and you don't take things too seriously. He brings with him a great knowledge of the business that he's lived through. He understands copyright, publishing and this and that and he's formed his own label. So he's well into the business side of it. I'm still a lead singer and I sing the songs, you know what I mean and I'm a journeyman that way, if you understand.

TLP: Yes I understand very well and that's probably part and parcel of how it was for you when you started out all those years ago, when was it, in '62 you started your first group?

GS: Yes, and the first group evolved out of a disappointment. Back in Adelaide in the late fifties, early sixties there was a band called 'Penny Rockets' and they were THE band. If you wanted to see some good rock and roll live, you went to where they were playing. They had a vocal group with them called The Four Tones and I worked alongside the lead singer of The Four Tones in Myer, SA. He had me singing harmony alongside him as we worked. He encouraged me to join his group because one of them was leaving. I passed the audition. I was 16 or 17. I was very excited saying, "Mum, I'm going to be in a group". Then as you would have it, the guy that had left decided to return. In all my budding excitement I said to my own good pals, "We could do this". As teenagers we knocked around and sang do-wop songs and folk. The folk thing then was happening with the Kingston Trio. Pretty easy songs to learn. Also, our big influence was The Everly Brothers. I remember listening to the Everly's and devouring every thing they did and I could sing both Don and Phil's part. I had a natural ear for harmony. I still play their songs. Phil's passing was a sadness but unfortunately that happens more and more these days. As fate would have it one of the songs we've been doing was 'When Will I Be Loved', because Brian and I wanted to illustrate the influence that The Everly Brothers had on us and also The Beatles of course.

TLP: Were you performing 'Sgt. Peppers' on stage with The Twilights?

GS: Not all of it but as much as we could recreate as a guitar band. A Day In The Life was a bit beyond us.

TLP: I can imagine that. Before The Twilights, was it The Checkmates?

GS: Yes, after the disappointment with The Four Tones. It was an early form of The Twilights. I'd decided we should have a four-piece group, as it was at the time. But then, the bass singer, Billy Volraat gets arrested for receiving stolen goods so we were a trio! So,

we put on our Ivy League button down shirts and tried to be The Kingston Trio for a while until destiny stepped in and in 1963 we heard 'Please Please Me'. That changed everything. We found out about The Beatles because we lived in Elizabeth and we were getting people from Liverpool all the time. They would tell us stories about this group.

TLP: So you knew beforehand about The Beatles?

GS: Yes, I didn't take much notice of them. I hadn't heard anything from them. This one guy in particular, I remember him showing me the front cover of The New Musical Express, Liverpool Mersey beat. There was a photograph of Pete Best's Beatles. Then I heard 'Please Please Me' which was released in Adelaide before 'Love Me Do' and the first time I heard it I thought it was The Everly Brothers. But then it all fell into place, oh, that's The Beatles. From then on it was a whole love affair and we just relaxed into what they were doing. It was, for us, oh, forget about the Americans now! So The Twilights came about as the sixties band and we formed with our friends The Hurricanes. Bought black skivvies, combed our hair forward and sang Manfred Mann, The Beatles and The Rolling Stones and bought myself two maraca's.

TLP: You'd landed right in the middle of a pretty talented group there, with The Twilights.

GS: It's funny you know, I never really thought about it that much, it just seemed to happen for me, I seemed to get people around me that were good. We, I mean, we weren't virtuoso's. We certainly had a natural gift for recreating what we'd heard, whether it be

The Beatles or whatever. You know, we could turn our hand to anything as it were but as the years went by you realised that Terry Britten was a budding maestro as far as playing and songwriting goes. We went off to England of course and came back with a whole bunch of new ideas.

TLP: Yes, 9.50, What's Wrong With The Way I Live, Needle in A Haystack, absolutely brilliant. You sounded like The Hollies on one song and someone else on the next but all the time you could tell it was The Twilights and it captured that mid-to late Sixties mood, at least here in Australia, very well. What happened to make you break up in the end?

GS: Well, we were a band of brothers, you know. We had an unwritten law, no-one leaves, you're not allowed to leave and Laurie decided to leave prior to going back to England, which we'd planned to do in 1968, I think it was and, for whatever reason he said I don't want to go back again, he'd had enough of the cold weather and the living in basements. And we went, huh, you want to leave? You can't leave and he said, yup, I'm leaving, sorry. And then Terry puts his hand up and said, oh, well, I think I'll just go off and do my own thing guys. And we sort of said, huh, nobody had any, like, Nah, hold on a minute, we can make it, we can get through this. I think we'd all just had enough. Deep down I think we all thought it was time to move on.

TLP: Yes, things seem to have a natural life. When you were in London, having come from England originally, how did it feel to be there among such frenetic artistry and great music?

GS: Yes, it was pretty wild. My English accent returned pretty quickly! A lot of people were interested that we were an Australian band, I didn't lose that part of it. I was very proud of The Twilights in all respects and they still are my favourite band. We were a band of brothers that became a band of musicians. It was beyond good and we still share a strong bond, as I do with a lot of people in this industry. I've been very lucky to have formed some strong fellowships.

TLP: How did it feel, coming out here as a ten-year old? Did it seem a really weird country?

GS: Yes, certainly did bit it was an exciting one for me. We landed in Outer Harbour in 1954 and back then, the overseas terminal was just a big shed. It was the heat, bang, right in our faces and I remember my mother.... when we got to the Hostel, that was another corrugated iron set up and she was distraught. She felt we'd done the wrong thing and Dad, being the dire Yorkshireman said, "Don't worry love, we'll make something of it". All that sort of stuff but I was just enthralled by the difference. The migrant hostel on Grand Junction Road in Finsbury was a bit grim but, you know, a young boy takes it all in his stride, doesn't he.

TLP: Yes, that's been my experience. Did you make friends quickly?

GS: Yeah, I made some good friends. But mother, she cried every night as I went to sleep and was crying when I woke up in the morning. She was miserable so Dad said, take the kids back home and I'll pay off the contract and join you later so we went back to England. Nine months later my mother



decided she'd made a mistake and we came back out again. So, I'm pretty pleased about this because, you know, as a young boy going into his teenage years I've had three trips through the Suez Canal and I'd seen half the world. I knew it existed because geography always fascinated me but I was seeing it.

TLP: You could've got a major in it.

GS: Yes, I was a good traveller. Still am. So, we wasted the whole family fortune, that was all gone so we had to scrape a living in the Barossa Valley. It was about the cheapest place we could find for our family, it was a couple of rooms in a farmhouse and my father got a job at the Weapons Research Establishment and then moved onto Holden's at GMH in Elizabeth and we finally scored a Housing Commission house in Elizabeth North. By then, I'm 12 years of age and growing up, it was 1956 and lo and behold, Bill Haley and Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis Presley just came at me and blew me away.

TLP: I remember seeing you at the Astor Cinema in Prahran in 1976 with LRB just before you left for America and you had a bottle of champagne which you frothed up and all was before you again. I thought, he's giving it another crack with another great group.

GS: Yes, LRB changed my life. My life wouldn't be what it is now. You say that glibly but I don't know if I could've climbed the ladder again, looking for success. I think LRB was the last straw for me. It was a good straw that put everything in place.

TLP: How did it feel to be playing in front of so many people because you attracted huge crowds in America.

GS: Yes, eventually we did. We did great stuff. A lot of those huge crowds were part of festival crowds, you know along with The Eagles and Floyd, they had big summer jams and concerts, all inspired by the Woodstock time. Big open arenas, Dallas, 85,000 people. Superbowl, 75,000 people but we eventually got to the stage where we were doing our own 30,000 crowd. Our first song, 'It's A Long Way There' the edited version got to 28 in the States and got us into the Colleges and then 'Help Is On It's Way' was a top ten song so, yes. We had a crack at England on the way over and in Germany, worked with The Hollies and then went off to Washington DC, that was our entry point into America and we opened for The Average White Band at the college of Virginia or Williamsburg. I remember we opened and halfway through our set the power went off which kind of destroys your momentum a bit. We recovered and ended with a standing ovation on our very first performance in America. We all looked at each other and said, shit, this isn't as hard as we thought. It was on those early tours that we realised that we could do this. The telling thing was when people would come up to us and say, "Man, you guys sound great, how can you sound so much like your records?"

TLP: Yes, well with you and Beeb and Graham, there's a lot of great harmony and heritage. I think Graham was in an Adelaide group Alison Gros, was it?

GS: Yes. I had a wonderful eight years with them. A lot of it was due to a guy called Bill Bartlett in Jacksonville, Florida and the radio station there. He had a penchant for early 70's Australian music and he was big on us and AC/

DC and he basically launched both bands into college radio and that's how we went our own ways. AC/DC into heavy metal which they do so well and us, well whatever you want to call it but we were more lyrical and fitted in very well alongside The Eagles and The Doobies, Steve Miller and Heart, Orleans, all those bands, we managed about 12 Top 20 hits and about 8 Top 10's.

TLP: Shut Down Turn Off was a great one of yours.

GS: I still do that with my new show.

TLP: I really like your song-writing. I know that with Axiom it was Cadd and Mudie but...

GS: I was waiting in the wings. That was the end of Axiom. While we were struggling for that short time in England I was trying to write songs again. Statue of Liberty was one of them, Help Is On It's Way was one of them, Emma. And that's what I brought with me to LRB.

TLP: Love is the Bridge was a great song.

GS: Yeah, I like that too. We got back together for that and nearly cracked it again but we all sort of fell off the twig after that.

TLP: It's been great Glenn and thanks from all of us for being such a big part of Australian music. Three groups, three great groups.

GS: Yeah, I haven't done too much wrong. I'm still out there almost every weekend doing something on stage. In my quiet time I love to read, watch television but, you know, I'd love to go back to America one more time and show them who's the boss, but it's the age thing, I don't want to push shit uphill again. ■



DINAH LEE

Dinah Lee is the stage name of New Zealand-born singer, Diane Marie Jacobs (born 19 August 1943), who performed 1960s pop and then adult contemporary music.



Her debut single from early 1964, "Don't You Know Yockomo?", achieved No. 1 chart success in New Zealand and in the Australian cities, Brisbane and Melbourne. It was followed in September by her cover version of Jackie Wilson's, "Reet Petite", which also reached No. 1 in New Zealand and peaked at No. 6 in Melbourne. On her early singles she was backed by fellow New Zealanders, Max Merrit & His Meteors. Lee appeared regularly on both New Zealand and Australian TV variety programs, including Sing, Sing, Sing and Bandstand. She toured supporting Johnny O'Keefe, Ray Columbus & the Invaders and P.J. Proby. According to Australian rock music journalist, Ed Nimmervoll, in the 1960s, "Lee was the most successful female singer of in [sic] both her New Zealand homeland and Australia ... on stage and on record Dinah had all the adventure and exuberance for the time the boys had". On 24 March 2007, Lee was inducted into the RockoNZ Rock Hall of Fame, alongside fellow New Zealanders Ray Columbus and Max Merritt.[17] She released a new album, Islands in 2006 on Waterfront Records.

The Last Post: Thanks for joining us Dinah, how are you.

Dinah Lee: I'm good, thanks.

TLP: What have you been up to lately?

DL: Well, I've only recently finished recording a new song and a video for it so it's all go, go, go. I'm very happy with it and had it written specially for me.

TLP: What's the name of the song Dinah?

DL: It's called Cathedral Square and written by Jordan Luck, a guy from New Zealand. He's had two or three number one's there. He's a young rock singer who used to be in a band called The Exponents. So he's written me this song. I'd worked with Jordan when I went over to Christchurch for the earthquake appeal and I ran into him there. He's been a big fan of mine for a while, having sort of grown up with me. I said, well, if you're such a big fan, write me a song! And so he did.

TLP: It's exciting stuff for The Last Post and readers that you're recording again because most remember you from the Sixties and beyond but, the New Zealand connection, still very strong?

DL: Very much although of course, I live in Sydney. I love going back and forth and catching up with everybody so my most recent trip is all centred on promoting this new recording.

Actually, it all ties in because this year is the 50th anniversary of the release of my first single, 'Don't You Know Yockomo', 'Reet Petite' etc, etc. It's funny isn't it because today just about everything comes out on iTunes and hard copy of songs is harder to get. If I do tour on the back of this new release I'll probably get some CD's made up to sell at the shows.

TLP: Everything comes around again though and vinyl is making a comeback so maybe we can see you back on vinyl!

DL: You never know, Greg.

TLP: How's it all feel to you, listening to that older stuff now?

DL: It's crazy isn't it, 50 years ago we just went into the studio with a two-track tape but it still comes up well. It still stands up. When I did the Long Way To The Top shows recently, people still want to hear that early material and I'm happy to give it to them. It's a lot of fun.

TLP: New Zealanders and their music stand up well over the years. You had help from Max Merritt and Ray Columbus and you toured with these guys.

DL: Yes, my earlier recordings were with Max and the Meteors. Then of course we did all the big tours, firstly through Harry M Miller, The Searchers, Peter and Gordon, Del Shannon and Eden Kane and all those big shows. The list goes on...P.J Proby, Gene Pitney.

TLP: Eden had that great song, Boys Cry.

DL: That's right and he lived in Sydney.

TLP: I didn't know that.

DL: Yes, he lived in Sydney for a while in the sixties. We all shared a big house together in Woollahra. We had a great time in the sixties, the swinging sixties. It was a great time and we used to pop down to Melbourne quite a lot because Melbourne had a great range of fabulous disco's. The club and dance scene in Melbourne was great.

TLP: You toured with Johnny O'Keefe as well?

DL: Very much so, a great experience and he managed me up until his death. I went over to America and Mexico and when I came back, '71, '72, I joined up with Johnny. It suited us because we did a lot of tours around Australia at the time.

TLP: You appeared on, and we mentioned it briefly before, shows like Sing Sing and

Bandstand. What are your memories of those days?

DL: Bandstand was incredibly popular, it was part of the culture. It was done on a Saturday and everybody we knew would stop to watch it. At one stage Bandstand was being played somewhere around Australia every night of the week. I became one of the Bandstand family.

TLP: Your father ran a nightclub?

DL: Yes he was a musician and ran a dance club and had Ray Columbus up there before they became Ray Columbus and the Invaders. I started by learning music and dance and it went from there. I started recording when I moved from Christchurch to Auckland. My first label was Viking, which came out through EMI in Australia. I'd done a tour, early on with Max and the Meteors and I wasn't even know then and the tour manager got hold of the guy from Viking and said, come and have a look at this! They like the fact that I looked different and sounded different and they invited me to come and put a demo down. They liked it. It was so different then, though because with no great exposure or social media as we know it we had to work on the look, the sound, the image. Going to Australia was the next and natural step because you can only go around New Zealand so many times. Then of course, the great experience of those big concerts at Myer Music Bowl. I did one there with Little Millie and of course the Bandstand concerts there in front of thousands and thousands. It was fabulous. Probably on You Tube. Coming across here was great because I got to meet these people I'd heard about, Col Joye, Little Pattie whom I'm still friends with, P.J Proby, Peter Asher from Peter and Gordon. He's got my new recording over in America. The Searchers, they're always happy to catch up with me because we all go back a long way.

TLP: Everything was new back then and you were trying everything.

DL: That's right, we were the first ones to do everything. Pioneers. I'm still out there now and who knows what will happen this

"I TOURED VIETNAM BACK IN 1966. 67. I'M STILL VERY MUCH INVOLVED WITH THE VIETNAM VETS.....I'M PATRON OF THE VIETNAM VETS MOTORCYCLE CLUB, PRETTY RARE FOR A WOMAN."



year with my new song, Cathedral Square. It's fantastic and going worldwide on iTunes.

TLP: You've had some involvement with the Vietnam Vets?

DL: Yes. I toured Vietnam back in 1966, 1967. I'm still very much involved with the Vietnam Veterans. I do concerts for them and now and

then they'll fly me somewhere if they've got a big do on. I'm patron of the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club, Sydney chapter, which is quite unusual for a female. I'd love to get back to Vietnam one day. As far as Anzac Day goes, we march under the Entertainers banner with a lot of the younger veterans.

TLP: It's been a great pleasure Dinah and your contribution to art through music.

DL: 50 years on, unbelievable. ■

Dinah Lee's latest recordings are available on iTunes or visit: www.dinahlee.com.au

WORTH LISTENING TO:

THE BIG CHILL—ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK

By Taj Worthington-Jones

That album title sounds quaint now but it was groovy back then and available upon release only on vinyl of course. More on the music shortly.

I first saw the movie that carried this soundtrack back in '83 during an interstate visit home. I took my Mum along as she'd catered to my brothers and my musical tastes during the 60's and 70's without complaining.

The story of the movie was one that appeals – getting together for a weekend with a bunch of old classmates that you hadn't seen for a while in a remote looking big beautiful house. Although the reason behind the reunion, as outlined at the movies beginning, was less that appealing. It was my first sighting of a whole bunch of young actors in this clever film, *The Big Chill*. Kevin Kline, Jeff Goldblum, Meg Tilly, Tom Berenger, William Hurt, Mary Kay Place, JoBeth

Williams, Glenn Close. All went on to other movies and boasting of successful careers.

The music was rollicking and a reflection of why, after the initial folk craze, if you weren't protesting in the 60's or off fighting wars your government had sent you to, you were dancing and taking your mind to places it maybe hadn't been before – sometimes with the help of stimulants, both natural and concocted.

From memory the movie opened with the Stones' 'You Can't Always Get What You Want' and it had me hooked from there.

Marvin Gaye's 'I Heard It Through The Grapevine', Smokey Robinson and The Miracles' 'I Second That Emotion', The Young Rascals with 'Good Lovin' – all good.

Aretha Franklin, The Exciters and Three Dog Night also feature as do others.

The following year, in '84 'More Songs From The Original Soundtrack' was released with Creedence, The Beach Boys, The Band, The Marvelettes, The Young Rascals and Martha and the Vandellas amongst others.



If you want to go back to the Sixties within the legal volume you can do it here without causing much social upheaval or finger pointing from neighbours. These days you'll probably do it with a cup of tea. But if, in a moment of being who you were, you get the urge to dance or stimulate your mind to a wonderful soundtrack, who can blame you.

And the movie?

Mum loved it. ■

10 SONGS

by Jack P Kellerman

Welcome to Part 1 of an ongoing essay dedicated to the memories that are stimulated by songs from your past. When I was involved with radio – first on community and then commercial I was constantly reminded of radio’s one major selling point - it can happen anywhere. In the bath, in the bedroom, in the car, in the park, in the service station, in the mall. When you’re by yourself or a loved one or with mates. When you’re being serious and when you’re not. In short, there’s very few life situations that cannot be defined by or with radio music or the memories of a song. But I became aware of that from the first brilliant time I heard music on the radio. As a kid I imagined that somehow the singers of these songs, the groups or orchestra’s, came into the radio stations to sing at 2am...at 7am...whenever. How did they fit all their gear into the studio was a question I couldn’t answer but, whatever, that’s the way it used to be. So, as much as anything else, this story may be a look back on itself. A toast to music and radio and memories that helped to define us and gave us an image of who we might like to have imagined we were seen as. What are your memories?

Feel Like Makin’ Love, Roberta Flack – Back in ’74, my twin brother and I had made our way across the Nullabor in our ’64 Bug. We were only 17 but had already done what we looked at back then as a lot. When we made it to Perth Dad had already lined us up a one-bedroom flat in Hastings Street, Scarborough, one road back from the West Coast Highway and the surf and the girls. There was a Milk Bar on the corner of Hastings and Scarborough Road. I walked down there soon after we’d moved in - for milk, or something. There was this incredible looking blonde there, maybe a year or two younger than I. When I went up to the counter to pay, she asked if I wanted to go to a party that night. That’s what these days they’d call a no-brainer. Yes, we went to the party but I can’t remember what happened. Probably got drunk. Craig and I both got jobs pretty quickly as you could back then. His was as a storeman at Domestic Appliances and mine was with god-knows-who as an on-the-phone-sales type selling air-conditioners and washing machines and assorted crap. Our social life took off pretty quickly with good guys, bad guys and parties and girls. So many blonde girls. In our flat, Craig and I learnt how to cook by buying Fray Bentos pies and heating them up in the oven while boiling carrots and or potatoes and making gravy. Quite imaginative for guys so young. Each night we went to bed in the same room and, as the shadows from next door’s block danced across our ceiling and walls and as we said goodnight to each other, we listened to Tom Needle or Ted Bull on 6PR or Ric Melbourne on 6KY and fell asleep. Roberta Flack’s Feel Like Makin’ Love was charting then and I remember that playing one night as I drifted off, hoping for surf the next day as an excuse not to go to work or for a discount on Fray Bentos or to make contact with the girl I fancied on the bus. Which I eventually did. ■

THE DEATH OF POP— DON’T BLAME IT ON THE DOWNLOAD

By Neil Davenport, Writer And Teacher

IT’S THE CONSERVATISM OF TODAY’S YOUTH THAT FUELLED POP’S DECLINE

In 2011, the US band Destroyer tugged at many critics’ heartstrings with their ninth album, *Kaputt*. Despite having a name better suited to a death-metal outfit from Sweden, the band based the sound for this album on the mid-Eighties, ‘progressive pop’ template of Prefab Sprout, Talk Talk and forgotten Scots duo, The Blue Nile. The result was sumptuous, smart, adult-oriented pop with bags of melodic and emotional complexity, let down somewhat by fretless bass and wafting saxophone solos. No matter, the title track of *Kaputt* caught many a critic’s ear for the chorus refrain alone: ‘Sounds, Smash Hits, Melody Maker, NME, all sound like a dream to me.’

In one line, an Anglophile open love letter to a vanished pop era highlighted an unusual generation gap, and reduced fortysomething hacks to blubbing wrecks in the process. While those born in the Sixties may cling to notions of pop’s ‘importance’, younger generations appear far less obsessive or even interested. Many argue that computer games, the internet and social media have filled the gap where buying vinyl and the music weeklies used to be. It is the impact of this new online world, and how it has altered people’s relationship to pop music, that partly informs Bob Stanley’s new book, *Yeah Yeah Yeah: The Story of Modern Pop*. A dense and thorough history of pop music, Stanley’s book actually stops in 1999 because it was at this point that pop music, as he sees it, ceased to be ubiquitous. *Smash Hits*, *Select*, *Melody Maker* and the BBC’s *Top of the Pops* are all gone. Chart hits no longer have much of an era-defining quality to them, and regional-based underground music scenes, based around small pub and club venues, barely exist in any meaningful way.

Thus *Yeah Yeah Yeah* appears as both a warm celebration of pop’s greatest hits and a forlorn elegy for a fading institution. As both a broadsheet freelance journalist and a musician with the band *Saint Etienne*, Stanley is well equipped to cover this mammoth story from both angles. His way of approaching pop’s story echoes the sound of *Saint Etienne* at their best: mainstream and modern in sound, but echoing a bygone world of *Ready, Steady, Go*, the *Beach Boys* and back copies of the 1970s paper, *Record Mirror*. Just as *Saint Etienne* unified the present and the past, so, too, does *Yeah Yeah Yeah*.

Stanley decides to start his epic story in 1952, the year seven-inch singles were first issued, and the *Hit Parade* started to appear in the *NME*. Far from being a dry list based exclusively on sales (at least in Britain), the parade ‘meant competition, excitement in league-table form, pop music as a sport’. Stanley captures well the youthful ritual of listening to the singles chart rundown on a Tuesday lunchtime, the appearance of key bands on *Top of the Pops* on Thursday, and the ‘did you see...?’ conversations at school the next morning.

Although Stanley covers the vast majority of chart-busting acts over a 50-year period, he still finds time to mention the no-hit wonders whose influence endures to this day. It is this wholly personal, often unorthodox approach to pop’s back catalogue that gives *Yeah Yeah Yeah* the authentic voice of the music fan. Hence there are recognisable and highly enjoyable pub-style arguments about past greats raging across its 700 pages. Pop music can be a tribal beast and Stanley captures

“THE DESIRABILITY OF POP MUSIC HAS FADED, NOT BECAUSE OF MP3’S OR FREE DOWNLOADS, BUT BECAUSE THE DESIRE TO BE EXTRAORDINARY AND INDEPENDENT IS LESS OF A SMASH HIT THESE DAYS.”

well the sometimes personal championing of one band against another. And so it is here: The Beatles over the Rolling Stones, the Sex Pistols over the Clash, Pulp over Blur, and so on. Stanley is unafraid to champion those who have long been derided, be it Cliff Richard and the Shadows in their prime or the ‘genuinely subversive’ UB40 (before they became a chicken-in-a-basket cabaret act), or Phil Collins’ debut solo album, *Face Value* (praised for its straight-ahead blue-eyed soul).

One of the most fascinating and surprising chapters, given Stanley’s anti-rockist stripe, is his explanation of why heavy metal was so big – and mostly enjoyable – in the Seventies and Eighties. But Stanley is wise enough to avoid making any ludicrous claims for, say, Herman’s Hermits being better than The Beatles or for Bob Dylan and the Beach Boys being ‘overrated’. Each of these staples of pop history given praise, but without Stanley rehearsing and falling back on familiar arguments. Stanley’s trick is often to uncover some fascinating new fact about a long-established act which he then uses to explain their appeal. None of this means that Stanley makes his judgements according to melody and brilliant-album status alone. Pop bands and singers still have to display a sometimes-elusive cool factor because, even if they’re masterful tunesmiths, some can still be resolutely unlovable. The Boomtown Rats, the Stranglers, XTC and, for me, Elvis Costello tend to hit that category. For Stanley, while the Police’s early singles were ‘economical and irresistible’, ‘the feeling that something wasn’t quite right crept in early’. Quite. Nowhere is this truer than with U2 who, despite some very fine albums, are a band impossible to love and easy to hate – and it’s not all down to the preposterous Bono, either.

Sometimes, the anti-cool factor is a cruel judge, as the Bee Gees repeatedly found to their cost. Despite a back catalogue of genuinely phenomenal songs, despite the soundtrack to *Saturday Night Fever* still sounding miraculous and beamed in from another planet, the Bee Gees have become a byword for the gauche and tacky. Chic they were not. Stanley’s attempt to explain this chasm between the pristine quality of the Bee Gees’ songwriting and their irredeemable public image is perhaps the finest segment in *Yeah Yeah Yeah*. The hostility the Gibb brothers

generate is long documented, and attempts to rehabilitate them by focusing exclusively on their music remain unconvincing. No matter how much Barry Gibb remains bitter at the Bee Gees’ public reputation, that enormous gap between their work and their image is an inexorable part of the Bee Gees story. Stanley gets the balance right and offers a sharp insight into why a set of siblings who had so much going for them ended up getting all the fine details so spectacularly wrong. But by concluding that the Bee Gees were ultimately responsible for writing a dozen or so pinnacles of modern pop, Stanley gets the judgement just about right.

Stanley is keen on repeating the term ‘modern pop’. He argues that Elvis Presley ‘invented himself, a true modernist’ and makes similar claims for Sam Phillips, too. This allows Stanley to have a balanced, nuanced view of Berry Gordy and Motown Records while defending their universal appeal and brilliance against (usually white) soul purists. As Stanley puts it: ‘Motown is shorthand for goodtime party music, memories of simpler times when pop was there to make young America dance, not challenge audiences. In that respect, nobody did it better.’

The key strength of *Yeah Yeah Yeah* is that Stanley appreciates the lives people were leading in the postwar period and shares their excitement at the dramatic improvements in life then being experienced. So while Chuck Berry or Bill Haley may sound thin and tame to contemporary ears, Stanley reminds us how electrifying and revolutionary they would have sounded back in the 1950s. Compared with historian Dominic Sandbrook’s series of books on postwar Britain, Stanley shows a much greater affinity with how people were living their lives back then and why consumer society, affluent teenagers and the breaking down of racial barriers were a positive, transformative development. He is far less positive about the twenty-first century than he is about the Swinging Sixties or the radicalised Eighties.

Ending his story of pop in 1999, Stanley appears a little unenthusiastic about Nineties pop, especially Britpop. Perhaps it’s because that tension between the underground and the mainstream, so essential to Stanley’s pop history, had started to fade by this time. Pop music was already beginning to resemble fun for all the family, a development which was

to reach its nadir with the intergenerational camping trips, and blanket BBC coverage, of the Glastonbury festival.

Stanley’s key argument is that the digital age has killed off the modern-pop era. ‘Pop music doesn’t have the desirability it once had; it’s not as wantable. Instant downloads require no effort, and so demand less of an emotional connection.’ No doubt technological changes have influenced the way people react to pop music, but, as the ebb of pop during the Nineties indicates, it seems the tribal edge, the localised scenes and the desirability factor of pop were starting to fade long before illegal downloads were just a click away.

Although the image of the pop-obsessed teen ensconced in his box-bedroom evokes isolation and privacy, for many young people pop music was also a gateway to achieving independence and standing out from the crowd. Singer Tracey Thorn, in her charming autobiography *Bedsit Disco Queen*, writes that ‘I’d realised that joining a band could be a shortcut to the kind of local status and prestige I dreamed of. I was uncertain about my looks... and thought I had a better chance of making an impact if I became someone. And being in a band surely made you a someone.’ Thorn writes that the appeal of pop music was to be where things were happening and exciting, and if a boyfriend was to be found along the way, all the better.

For previous generations, pop music was as much about the social side of music as it was about seven-inch singles and chart rundowns. Today, when young people are encouraged to hunker down in the bosom of the family well into adulthood, and with the outside world presented as a fearsome place to be, pop music is no longer quite so resonant as a symbol of excitement and independence, sex and romance. The desirability of pop music has faded, not because of MP3s and free downloads, but because the desire to be extraordinary, independent and free is less of a smash hit today. Sounds, *Smash Hits*, *Melody Maker*, *NME* - no wonder it all seems like a dream. ■

www.aldaily.com

Neil Davenport is a writer and teacher based in London. *Yeah Yeah Yeah: The Story of Modern Pop*, by Bob Stanley, is published by Faber & Faber. (Order this book from Amazon,UK)

MONDO ROCK REUNION



Iconic Australian rock band, Mondo Rock are hitting the road this June for the first time in 24 years, but this time with the classic line-up not seen since the Summer of '81. Ross Wilson, Eric McCusker, James Black, Paul Christie & Gil Matthews are reuniting for this very special run of national shows. The tour coincides with the 33rd anniversary of the bands breakthrough album, Chemistry, which spawned four massive hits.



Mondo Rock started out as a quintessential pub rock outfit and quickly developed into one of the most prominent bands of the burgeoning live music scene of the 80's. The band dominated the charts and was influential from its inception in 1976 until the last tour in 1990. Playing their trademark electric performances to packed houses across the nation and with a string of sophisticated albums to their name, Mondo Rock were one of the most popular acts of the 80's.

As Mondo Rock prepare to take the stage once more, fans can expect to experience the same musical pleasure all over again – the concert will be a two hour, all Mondo affair, with the first half being a performance in full of the Chemistry album, including the Top 40 singles: State of the Heart, Cool World, Chemistry and Summer of '81. The second half will cover other highlights of the band's career and will include album favourites, rarities and of course, other hits such as No Time, Fugitive Kind and Come Said the Boy. Eric McCusker says "I'm really excited about Mondo's first national concert tour in 24 years, it's a great line-up, terrific to have Gil Matthews drumming. Some recently unearthed live recordings with this line-up show what a fierce live band it was. We can't wait to play the Chemistry album as a piece for the first time and we are really buzzed about the chance to play for the real fans again after all this time!" Ross Wilson also shares his sentiments "Getting back together with the original Chemistry era Mondo Rock members, I imagine, is like when war veterans get back together 'you had to be there, no one else understands' kind of thing. And then

MONDO ROCK 'CHEMISTRY - 33 1/3 ANNIVERSARY TOUR'

TOUR DATES:

Friday, 20th June

Eatons Hill Hotel, Brisbane

Tickets available from:

Oztix.com.au or

Ph 1300 762 545

Saturday, 21st June

Thebarton Theatre, Adelaide

Tickets available from:

Venuetix.com.au or

Ph (08) 8225 8888

Sunday, 22nd June

Regal Theatre, Perth

Tickets available from:

Ticketek.com.au or

Ph 132 849

Friday, 27th June

State Theatre, Sydney

Tickets available from:

Ticketmaster.com.au or

Ph 136 100

Saturday, 28th June

Palais Theatre, Melbourne

Tickets available from:

Ticketmaster.com.au or

Ph 136 100

when we do re-unite, we'll raise all kinds of musical hell".

A limited deluxe edition, double CD & 20 page book version of the Chemistry album with bonus tracks, B-sides, previously unreleased demos and live recordings will be released by Aztec Records on May 2. The remastered Chemistry album is available on iTunes now. Mondo Rock are back - be sure to get in early so you don't miss these very special shows. ■

Tickets on sale Friday February 21st

For full tour information, please visit: www.zaccariagroup.com

For all publicity enquiries, please contact: Leanne Menard - Menard PR

leanne@menardpr.com.au (03) 9689 0215 or 0438 233 100

zaccaria
GROUP

Centenary – As we prepare to remember the brutal birth of the Anzac legend, be ready for an outpouring of sentiment, writes Tony Walker in Turkey.

*The mettle that a race can show
Is proved with shot and steel,
And now we know what nations know
And feel what nations feel.*

A.B. Paterson

We're All Australians Now, 1915

We are now at the dawn of a cathartic moment in Australia's history, whatever reservations might be held about the mythology of Gallipoli, and its various interpretations.

We should brace ourselves for an outpouring of nationalist sentiment and revisionist perspective. This will not be a moment without controversy as the nation prepares for a period of reflection.

On April 25, 2014, (The Great War began on July 28, 1914) we will begin the countdown to the centenary of the Gallipoli landings of 1915 that resulted in Australia's worst military defeat and, in the conventional view, the birth of a nation.

Over dinner recently at the town of Canakkale at the narrowest point of Dardanelles across the strait Gallipoli Peninsula. I asked Professor Mehmet Fatih Yavus, of the local university, whether Turks regarded it as strange that Australians adhered to the legends and myths of Gallipoli when in fact we are acknowledging a catastrophic defeat.

"In history, there are glorious defeats like the battle of Thermopylae," Professor Yavus said simply, as if that said it all.

At close proximity across the Aegean Sea on the Greek mainland the Spartans and their allies were annihilated by the invading Persian armies of Xerxes I in 480 BC but not before remnants of the forces of King Leonidas held out for three days against overwhelming odds.

So a Greek myth – or legend – was born, like the Americans' last stand at the Alamo, or a glorious French defeat at Waterloo.

In 2500 years from now, give or take a few years, Australians – if we're still around – may well look back on Gallipoli in the way the Greeks regard Thermopylae, although there is one essential difference.

The Greeks were defending their homeland. The Anzac forces, on the other hand were the invaders of sovereign territory in a vainglorious exercise directed by the War Office in London and executed by commanders on the ground who mindlessly followed orders.

All this makes the linkage between Australia and Turkey a hundred years later the more remarkable. Victors and vanquished find themselves joined in a way that no-one could

have predicted – and possibly without parallel in the annals of war.

What other two countries (or three including New Zealand) have put behind them to the same extent the fact they were enemies on the battlefield who inflicted mass casualties on each other and, in Turkey's case, had its sovereignty violated?

More than 8000 Australians and at least 85,000 Turks died in a conflict that lasted from April 1915 until the allied withdrawal in December.

In the accompanying illustration, George Lambert captures the carnage of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade at the Nek on August 7, 1915 as Australians were decimated by Turkish machine gunners who occupied higher ground. The battle of the Nek resulted in one of the heaviest casualty counts of the entire Gallipoli campaign, and stands as the deepest possible affront to misguided battle plans formulated thousands of kilometres distant.

No visit to the Gallipoli battlefields from Chunuk Bair to Suvla, including Anzac Cove itself, leaves visitors unaware of the story, not only of Australian and New Zealand sacrifice but also the extraordinary history of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who commanded the Turkish forces and later became the first president of post-Ottoman Turkey.

In 1934, nearly 20 years after Gallipoli and 11 years after he became president, Kemal Ataturk wrote a tribute to the Anzacs killed at Gallipoli in a gesture of reconciliation acknowledging a common sacrifice.

Adjacent to Anzac Cove the following inscription records Ataturk's words: "You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well."

The inscription is also on the Kemal Ataturk Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra. I ask Ulgur Gokhan, the Mayor of Canakkale why such an affinity developed between Australia and Turkey framed, as it is, by war, but unlike Turkish attitudes to Australian allies – the French and British.

Bear in mind also Australian troops, notably the Light Horse under the command of General Harry Chauvel, had routed the Ottoman Turks in a series of battles across the Middle East, including at Beersheba, described as history's last great cavalry charge.

Gokhan spoke of "parallel identities" between Australia and Turkey. This concept of parallel

identities is a Turkish perspective and may not resonate among Australians but if you reflect, it makes a bit of sense.

Neither Australia or Turkey bore animosity towards each other, neither had experience of the other before the hostilities, neither harboured bad feelings towards the other after the war, and both were drawn into a conflict not of their own making.

Not least of the remarkable aspects of Gallipoli is that bonds between Australia and Turkey – two countries that barely connect – are stronger than those we nurtured with countries nearer home, including Indonesia.

In all of this, it would be naive to pretend the Anzac story is unblemished, or that different perspectives don't – and will exist – over the event's significance in Australian historiography. Already we are seeing attempts to elevate conflict on the Western Front at the expense of Gallipoli.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott may not have intended to do this in recent remarks to the Australian Financial Review, but this was one interpretation of what he had to say.

Abbott told us the Anzac legacy needs to extend beyond the defeat at Gallipoli and embrace Australia's larger and bloodier but ultimately victorious campaigns on the Western Front and in the wider Middle East.

Personally, I think it would be unfortunate if attempts to erode Gallipoli's significance in the national story of Australia gained traction, either at the hands of revisionist historians or others who may have their own agendas, including a cottage industry to elevate John Monash to the detriment of others.

Monash was a great Australian, a distinguished general in the field and a significant contributor to the national story in the post-war period. But he was not superman. He had a troubled Gallipoli campaign, and no doubt learned lessons from his experience in the Dardanelles.

In the fervid political atmosphere that prevails these days, in which the cultural warriors of the right and the twittering trolls of the left prowl the land, it would be disappointing if we could not agree on certain truths.

Surely, it would be hard to take exception to Ernest Scott's assessment in his *A Short History of Australia* in which he wrote the following: "This Short History of Australia begins with a blank space on the map and ends with the record of a new name on the map, that of Anzac." ■

"WE'RE HERE FOR EVERYONE,"

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE SERVED IN THE DEFENCE FORCES OR BE A SERVICE PERSONS RELATIVE, YOU'RE VERY WELCOME HERE."

Geelong RSL

50 Barwon Heads Road
Belmont, Victoria
03 5241 1766

Upcoming Events:

Sunday Traditional Jazz
Bowling Club
Snooker Club
Golf Club
Bistro for functions



Everyone is welcome at GEEELONG RSL

Tuesday is the popular \$17 steak night, with the feedback on this price level and product being very good!
Wednesday's \$13 "Parma and Pot" night is very popular, attracting a very good range from the local community of all ages.

The club's Belmont building has just undergone major refurbishments, expanding the car-park to fit 155 cars
and sprucing up and extending the front of the building.

Members will pay only \$8.50 for lunches and \$3.50 for pots of beer.

The club also have bands every Saturday night and holds jazz nights every Sunday
where you can purchase a two-course meal is just \$18.

Regular meal and show nights started off on October 28, with Iconic Australian rock star Ronnie Charles in his band,
Ronnie Charles and the Retro Bandits. More great acts on their way.

The Geelong RSL also features a large function room with fully-serviced bar and kitchen which can be booked
for any occasion for \$250. Half price if you support my footy team!

Manager Chris Bennett says despite common misconceptions, anybody can become a member.

"We're here for everyone," he says. "You don't have to have served in the defence forces or
be service persons relative, you're very welcome here."

"Every day at 6pm we honour the people that guard our freedom with a moments silence."

Chris says the most anyone pays for membership is just \$35 but non-members
are also welcome to come and enjoy some of the facilities.

...COME DOWN AND TRY US OUT!





RSL CARE FAIRWAYS HONOURS FALLEN SERVICEMEN IN HMAS SYDNEY II MEMORIAL

On 19 November, 1941, during World War Two, the HMAS Sydney II was sunk off the coast of Western Australia during a fierce battle with the German raider Kormoran. Tragically, all 645 of the Sydney's crew were lost in the battle which resulted in the sinking of both ships.

In commemoration of the Australian naval crew who lost their lives, RSL Care's Fairway's Retirement Community, Bundaberg held a Memorial Service on Sunday, 24 November.

RSL Care Chief Executive Officer, Craig Mills said it was the first time HMAS Sydney II had been commemorated in Bundaberg.

"RSL Care is proud of its heritage and the ongoing partnership with the service and ex-service community," he said.

"Many of the people who live and work within RSL Care have close ties to the Australian Defence Force."

RSL Care Sales Team Leader, Tom Andrews who served in the Royal Australian Navy including on HMAS Sydney III and is still an active member of the RSL, was instrumental in organising the Memorial Service.

Mr Andrews said Sydney II always evoked a great deal of emotion due to the substantial loss of life.

"The sinking of Sydney II remains Australia's greatest maritime disaster, in both war and peacetime," Mr Andrews said.

"It is important we continue to remember and honour those servicemen who lost their lives protecting their country at a time of war – Lest We Forget."

Mr Andrews said the service was a moving one.

"Tears were shed; it's hard not to get choked up at the thought of so many young men lost and of so many mothers, wives and loved ones receiving the awful news.

"Even after all this time, it's just so tragic." ■

To find out more about HMAS Sydney II, visit the Australian Navy website at: www.navy.gov.au/hmas-sydney-ii



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO:

Wake in Fright (also known as *Outback*) is a 1971 Australian-American thriller film directed by Ted Kotcheff and starring Gary Bond, Donald Pleasence and Chips Rafferty. The screenplay was written by Evan Jones, based on Kenneth Cook's 1961 novel of the same name.



Made on a budget of A\$800,000, the film was an Australian/American co-production by NLT Productions and Group W. *Wake in Fright* tells the story of a young schoolteacher who descends into personal moral degradation after finding himself stranded in a brutal, menacing town in outback Australia.

For many years, *Wake in Fright* enjoyed a reputation as Australia's great "lost film" because of its unavailability on VHS or DVD, as well as its absence from television broadcasts. In mid-2009, however, a thoroughly restored digital re-release was shown in Australian theatres to considerable acclaim. Later that same year it was issued commercially on DVD and Blu-ray Disc. *Wake in Fright* is now recognised as a seminal film of the Australian New Wave. Australian musician and screenwriter Nick Cave called *Wake in Fright* "The best and most terrifying film about Australia in existence."

A film version of *Wake in Fright*, based on the 1961 novel by Kenneth Cook, was linked with the actor Dirk Bogarde and the director Joseph Losey as early as 1963. Morris West later secured the film rights and tried, unsuccessfully, to raise funding for the film's production. The rights were eventually bought by NLT and Group W. and Canadian director Ted Kotcheff was recruited to direct the film. At the time of production, Kotcheff had directed two films, *Tiara Tahiti* (1962) and *Two Men Sharing* (1969). After *Wake in Fright*, Kotcheff would continue to have a successful career as a director. His later films included *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* (1973), *Fun with Dick and Jane* (1977), *First Blood* (1982) and *Weekend at Bernie's* (1988).

The shooting of *Wake in Fright* began in Australia in January 1970 at Broken Hill, New South Wales (the area which had inspired Cook for the setting of his novel), with interiors shot the next month at Ajax Studios in the Sydney beach-side suburb of Bondi. It was the last film to feature the veteran character actor Chips Rafferty, who died of a heart attack prior to *Wake in Fright's* release, and the first film with Jack Thompson, the future Australian cinema star, among its cast members. Coincidentally, Rafferty (real name John William Pilbean Goffage) had been born in Broken Hill, the film's stand-in for "The Yabba", in 1909.

The world premiere of *Wake in Fright* (as *Outback*) occurred at the 1971 Cannes Film Festival. held in May. Ted Kotcheff was

nominated for a Golden Palm Award. The film opened commercially in France on 22 July 1971, Great Britain on 29 October 1971, Australia during the same month and the United States on 20 February 1972.

Wake in Fright received generally excellent reviews throughout the world and found a favourable public response in France (where it ran for five months) and in the United Kingdom. However, despite receiving such critical support at Cannes and in Australia, *Wake in Fright* suffered poor domestic box-office returns. Although there were complaints that the film's distributor, United Artists, had failed to promote the film successfully, it was also thought that the film was "perhaps too uncomfortably direct and uncompromising to draw large Australian audiences". During an early Australian screening, one man stood up, pointed at the screen and protested "That's not us!", to which Jack Thompson yelled back "Sit down, mate. It is us."

The un-restored version of *Wake in Fright* received a three stars (out of four) rating from the American film reviewer Leonard Maltin in his 2006 *Movie Guide*, while Brian McFarlane, writing in 1999 in *The Oxford Companion to Australian Film*, said that it was "almost uniquely unsettling in the history of new Australian Cinema". Askmen.com echoed these sentiments, citing that "it's not hard to see why the dusty savagery and clown-faced surrealism of Ted Kotcheff's fourth feature was never shown on telly at the time."

Following the film's restoration, *Wake in Fright* screened at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival on 15 May 2009 when it was selected as a Cannes Classic title by the head of the department, Martin Scorsese. *Wake in Fright* is one of only two films ever to screen twice in the history of the festival. Scorsese said, "Wake in Fright is a deeply -- and I mean deeply -- unsettling and disturbing movie. I saw it when it premiered at Cannes in 1971, and it left me speechless. Visually, dramatically, atmospherically and psychologically, it's beautifully calibrated and it gets under your skin one encounter at a time, right along with the protagonist played by Gary Bond. I'm excited that *Wake in Fright* has been preserved and restored and that it is finally getting the exposure it deserves."

Roger Ebert reviewed the re-release and said "It's not dated. It is powerful, genuinely shocking and rather amazing. It comes billed as a 'horror film' and contains a great deal

of horror, but all of the horror is human and brutally realistic." Don Groves of SBS gave the film four stars out of five, claiming that "*Wake in Fright* deserves to rank as an Australian classic as it packs enormous emotional force, was bravely and inventively directed, and features superb performances." Rex Reed, an early advocate of *Wake in Fright*, praised the film's restoration as "the best movie news of the year", and said it "may be the greatest Australian film ever made".

For many years, the only known print of *Wake in Fright*, found in Dublin, was considered of insufficient quality for transfer to DVD or videotape for commercial release. In response to this situation, *Wake in Fright's* editor, Anthony Buckley, began to search in 1994 for a better-preserved copy of the film in an uncut state. Ten years later, in Pittsburgh, Buckley found the negatives of *Wake in Fright* in a shipping container labelled "For Destruction". He rescued the material, which formed the basis for the film's painstaking 2009 restoration. Another complete copy of *Wake in Fright*, reputedly in good condition, exists in the collection of the Library of Congress, which has screened it in the library's Mary Pickford Theater.

Wake in Fright was released on DVD and Blu-ray Disc formats on 4 November 2009, based on a digital restoration completed earlier that year. This restoration was shown to the general public for the first time at the Sydney Film Festival in June 2009, was subsequently given limited theatrical re-release in Australia and received wide and consistently positive coverage in the Australian media. ■

SWING INTO THE SIXTIES BABY

Does the Miley Cyrus freak show make you nostalgic for a time when shockvalue was measured by how high a skirt was above the knee?

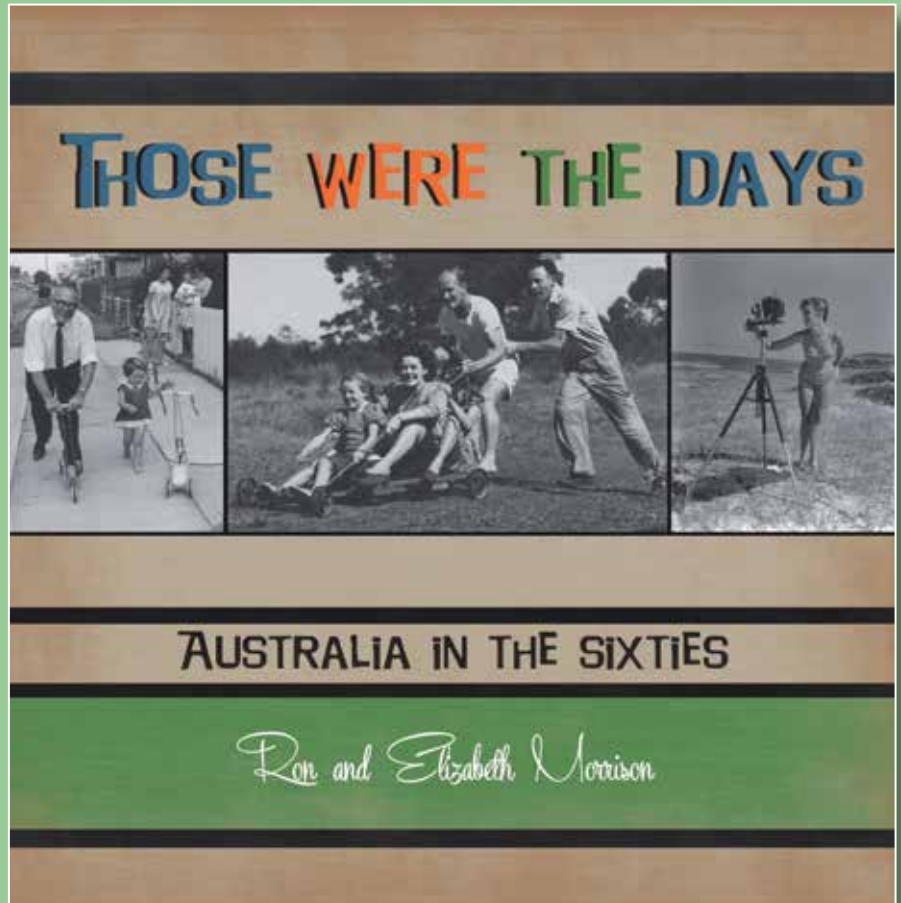
Those Were The Days: Australia in the Sixties remembers a decade in which youth culture stripped off the pin-striped straight jacket of post-war conservatism and wriggled into a mini-clad era which celebrated individuality, sexuality and personal freedom.

In photographs and words, this beautifully presented book rekindles memories while providing glimpses of a time when Australian's were reaching out to a new national maturity. It is a snap-shot of ordinary Australians living in extraordinary times.

They were times which changed to the soundtrack of the Rolling Stones, the Seekers and the Beatles. It was an era which saw post-war baby boomers witness (on still novel television sets) the moon landing, the Cuban Missile Crisis and building of the Berlin Wall.

From the conscription lottery to the Freedom Bus and Aboriginal recognition, from the drowning death of Harold Holt to the building of the iconic Opera House, and from the introduction of decimal currency to Australian sporting successes *Those Were The Days* is a celebration of the swinging sixties in all their sexiness and seriousness. Its kaleidoscopic images, in both colour and black-and- white, are juxtaposed to emphasise the differences that emerged during this exciting decade of change.

Those Were The Days is the perfect Christmas gift idea for those with parents and grandparents who have fond memories of the sixties (and perhaps a paisley maxi still squirreled away in the back of the wardrobe). ■



ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

Ron Morrison has been taking photographs for over 60 years. He started as a cadet photographer at the Newcastle Morning Herald in 1949 and left in 1959 to begin a press photographic agency. He later taught photography in the National Art School and was Head of Department in the School of Fine Arts at the NCAE (now University of Newcastle). Ron has a PhD (University of Wollongong), an MA in Graphic Design (University of Central England, UK) and a Dip.Art. He has exhibited widely and is the co-author of fifteen books.

Elizabeth Morrison has a BA DipEd (Dist) from the University of Newcastle and has taught Professional and Media Writing in the School of Communications at Charles Sturt University. In addition to writing many articles, Elizabeth has written the text for five photographic books and recently a book on commonly confused words, *The Right Word*.

***Those Were The Days. Australia in the Sixties*
Ron and Elizabeth Morrison
Exisle RRP \$39.99
978-1-921966-07-1**



The 2014 Parkinson's NSW Unity Walk and Run

Parkinson's NSW is hosting the 7th annual Unity Walk & Run on Sunday 31st August at Sydney Olympic Park. It began in Australia in 2008 and, so far, has raised more than \$1.2 million to fund important research and increase the support services we provide for people living with Parkinson's, their families and carers.

The Unity Walk is the perfect day out with family and friends. The event's focus is a leisurely stroll or, if you are more eager, an additional 4km or 8km Run, for a great cause. It gives a voice to all those living with or touched by Parkinson's.

Registrations will be opening soon.

For more information go to www.unitywalk.com.au or www.unityrun.com.au



www.parkinsonsnsw.org.au

www.facebook.com/parkinsonsnsw

www.twitter.com/ParkinsonsNSW

SUNDAY 31 AUGUST 2014 UNITY WALK & RUN



THE SCHOOL OF LIFE SERIES: HOW TO THINK ABOUT EXERCISE

By Damon Young

In a series of titles dedicated to exploring and refining modern philosophies in various aspects of Western life, *How to Think About Exercise* is a look at how and why exercise affects the way we think and feel.

It can often seem like existence is split in two: body and mind, flesh and spirit, moving and thinking. In the office or at study we are ‘mind workers’, with superfluous bodies. In the gym we stretch, run and lift, but our minds are idle.

Damon Young challenges this idea, revealing how fitness can develop our bodies and minds, together. Exploring exercises and sports with the help of ancient and modern philosophy, he uncovers the pleasures, virtues and big ideas of fitness. By exercising intelligently, we are committing to wholeness: enjoying and enhancing our full humanity.

One in the new series of books from The School of Life, launched January 2014: *How to Age* by Anne Karpf, *How to Develop Emotional Health* by Oliver James, *How to Be Alone* by Sara Maitland, *How to Deal with Adversity* by Christopher Hamilton, *How to Think About Exercise* by Damon Young and *How to Connect with Nature* by Tristan Gooley.

‘This new series of The School of Life’s self-help books build on the strengths of the first, tackling some of the hardest issues of our lives in a way that is genuinely informative, helpful and consoling. Here are books that prove that the term “self-help” doesn’t have to be either shallow or naive’ Alain de Botton, Founder of The School of Life.

About the author: Damon Young is a philosopher, author and columnist. Damon is the author of *Distraction* and, most recently, *Philosophy in the Garden* and has also published poetry and short fiction. An Honorary Fellow in Philosophy at the University of Melbourne, he has written for *The Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, the ABC and the BBC. A regular presence on Twitter, he once played a mafia thug in a Jackie Chan film. He is a founding faculty member of The School of Life Melbourne.



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Melanoma

By Dr. Frank Nettlefold

Hopes have been raised for Australia’s melanoma patients after a drug company’s decision to allow Americans compassionate access to a promising new drug.

The treatment, which Grand Prix boss Ron Walker claims saved his life, is called *Lambrolizumab* or MK-3475 and is produced by pharmaceutical company Merck. An American study has found the drug helped shrink melanoma tumours in 38% of patients.

The company announced in March that it would give Americans with advanced melanoma “expanded access” to the new “anti-PD-1” drug.

This means that patients who were not included in clinical trials of the drug and “have serious or immediately life-threatening illnesses for which no comparable or satisfactory alternative therapies are available” can access it while it is still in the development stages.

Greater expectations have been generated by the drug, among a group of new treatments that are halting the often fatal disease in many patients and putting some into remission.

A Merck spokeswoman said the company planned to make the scheme available in Australia “at the earliest possible time” but did not say when that would be.

There are currently clinical trial in Australia although only 175 patients are receiving the treatment. Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre’s Skin and Melanoma Service Director, Grant McArthur said he hoped MSD would announce an expanded access scheme in Australia later this year. Currently about 1500 Australians died from the disease each year.

McArthur said that trials had demonstrated that the drug was capable of shrinking tumours significantly in a greater number of patients compared with other drugs that prolong the lives of melanoma patients.

Meanwhile Bristol-Myers is conducting three phase-three studies of its own drug called *nivolumab* in advanced melanoma, and is studying the drug’s effect on a range of other cancers, including lung cancer.

Both *nivolumab* and *lambrolizumab* are part of a promising new class of drugs that disable programmed death 1 or PD-1, a protein that keeps the immune system from spotting and attacking cancer cells.

Walking

By Nathan Davies

MOST mornings I walk to work.

I've lived in my little old house near the Adelaide Showgrounds for six years. Allowing for weekends, stinking hot days, days where I sleep in, lazy days and holidays, I probably make the 45-minute walk 200 times a year. That's 1200 journeys in total (how ya like that maths Sister Lillian?).

Twelve hundred strolls through Adelaide's inner south, listening to the Slate Culture Gabfest, WTF with Marc Maron, All Songs Considered or This American Life. It's brain food. When my brain's not hungry I listen to early Metallica.

You get to know your route pretty well when you've walked it 1200 times, but I still see good things, things that make me laugh, almost every day.

My journey starts with a shortcut through the Showgrounds, unless the Show's actually on, or they're setting up or pulling down Stereosonic (Stereos bro!) or Carnivale or a Monster Truck rally.

When I walk past the asphalt wasteland that plays host to sideshow alley for two weeks of the year it's hard not to think about carny who accused me of cheating on the softball roll three years ago. I know I should let it go, but I swear my hand didn't go over the line

and my little boy really wanted that giant yellow duck. He wasn't even watching, he was busy talking to his mate.

Next section of the Tour de Work is the vast unkempt wilderness that is the southern parklands. In the summer it so resembles the African savannah that you half expect a common eland to wander across the path. In winter it's more like the Great Steppe without the nomads, although you do see the occasional tent.

Then it's on to Whitmore Square, where the hipsters and the homeless rub shoulders. The stains on the footpaths bear testament to the late-night fights and drinking sessions, and old blankets and empty goon boxes stand as silent memorials to those who couldn't find a bed in one of the shelters. Sometimes you get hit up for a smoke or some "bus money", but they're generally a friendly bunch.

Through a few side streets with some great old decaying houses and strange little shops before I hit the Central Market. The same bunch of lawyers drink coffee and read the morning papers at the same table outside Lucia's every morning. I've never actually asked if they are, in fact, lawyers, but you

can tell. Lawyers, like policemen and outback truckers, have a look.

Over on the Grote St side guys are still pushing pallet jacks around loaded with boxes of broccoli and snake beans. Last week I saw a dude pushing a dead pig in a trolley.

Nearly there now, down Pitt St and past the Metropolitan, one of the CBD's best pubs and a great supporter of live music, past the Maughan Uniting Church with its awesome sixties architecture and vegie patch, past the old Farmers Cooperative building - scene of one of the city's great fires and now a hotel - around the corner and through the revolving doors (can anyone explain the point of revolving doors?) and into Keith Murdoch House.

Grab a coffee, log on, start the day.

If you want to get to know a city you have to walk it. You see things that are nothing more than a blur from a car or bus, things that you don't even see on a bike.

Give it a go sometime.

It'll cost you a pair of shoes, and possibly a couple of kilos, a year. ■

Thanks to The Sunday Mail.

www.news.com.au

EXISTING MEDICINES SHOW PROMISE FOR TREATING STOMACH AND BOWEL CANCER

Stomach and bowel cancer, two of the most common cancers worldwide, could be treated with a class of medicines that are currently used to treat a blood disorder, a Melbourne research team has discovered.

The finding, in preclinical models, that medicines called 'JAK inhibitors' reduce the growth of inflammation-associated stomach and bowel cancer provides the first evidence supporting their use in treating these cancers.

JAK inhibitors are currently used to treat the cancer-like condition myelofibrosis, and are being investigated in clinical trials for the treatment of conditions including leukaemia, lymphoma, lupus and rheumatoid arthritis.

Dr Emma Stuart, Dr Tracy Putoczki and Associate Professor Matthias Ernst from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute made the discovery with colleagues while at the Melbourne-Parkville Branch of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research. Associate Professor Ernst is also currently a Ludwig Member. Their findings have been published in the journal *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*.

Dr Stuart said the discovery stemmed from the research team's long interest in the links between inflammation and cancers of the

digestive tract. "Recently we have begun to unravel the complex signaling that occurs in inflamed tissues, such as when a person has a stomach ulcer or suffers from inflammatory bowel disease, and how this drives cancer development," she said.

"By understanding the molecules that are involved in promoting the survival and growth of cancer cells, we have been able to identify which of these molecules can be targeted with potential anti-cancer treatments. In this case, we determined that proteins called JAKs are involved in cancer formation in the stomach and bowel. It was exciting to discover that when JAKs were blocked with existing medications (JAK inhibitors), bowel and stomach cancer growth in experimental models was slowed, and many of the cancer cells were killed," Dr Stuart said.

Associate Professor Ernst said the findings were significant as JAK inhibitors were already available and had shown success in

clinical trials, particularly for treating cancer-like blood conditions.

"Our team's research has uncovered several proteins that could be valuable targets in treating cancers of the digestive tract," he said. "The reason this discovery is particularly exciting is clinical trials have already shown that JAK proteins can be safely and successfully inhibited in patients. We hope this will expedite bringing our research to possible clinical trials that may improve the outlook for people with stomach and bowel cancer," Associate Professor Ernst said. ■

The research was supported by the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council, the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research and the Victorian Government.

Politicians must change if they are to earn our respect

By John Fien

There is a chronic leadership malaise in Australia, with many voters disillusioned by leaders who seem to put party interests and the wishes of their close supporters ahead of the wider social good. We have just lived through a decade of negative politics in which playing the man or woman, not the ball, and black and white (rather than informed) debate are the norm.

Australia's leaders have a specific responsibility to rebuild trust in our institutions and the practice of politics. Rethinking the way they talk to each other and to us is a necessary first step in this. Imagine what our political leaders would say if, instead of talking tough to buy popularity, they sought to earn our respect instead.

Let's have a closer look at how, say, the Minister for Defence, senator David Johnston, could have handled matters better when he made a statement to the media recently, criticising the ABC's reporting of the alleged mistreatment of asylum seekers by some members of the Australian Navy - the so-called "burnt hands" incident.

The minister began by saying that he was "sick to the stomach" and "extremely angry" over what he saw as biased reporting that vilified the reputation of the navy. As a result, he had delayed his statement for several days to allow his anger to abate.

I, too, have let some time pass before writing - to allow the controversy to settle so I can use Senator Johnston's statement as a touchstone for reflecting on the state of Australian political leadership in 2014.

Drawing on what is on the public record, here is an alternative version of the statement that Senator Johnston might have made:

Thank you for the opportunity to brief you this morning. I would particularly like to thank you for your patience in waiting several days for this statement.

When I last spoke to you, just after allegations against some members of the crew of an Australian Navy ship were aired, I told you three things. One, I was shocked that allegations such as those could be made. Two, I had asked senior naval commanders to investigate immediately and report back to me. And three, I would share the findings of their investigation with you.

Today, five days later, I am reporting back to the Australian people with a progress report on the investigation.

I am afraid that the report at this stage is inconclusive. Five days have not been enough for the thorough investigation we need.

Mindful of this government's pre-election commitment to be as transparent as we responsibly can be, I am happy to inform you that copies of the report I was given are available from my office, obviously minus personal names and details of operational matters not related to the allegations.

There were no CCTV cameras on the deck of the ship in question. So there is no footage to show exactly what happened. The investigation team I established has spoken to the captain. He has interviewed his crew, who have denied that the alleged cruelty took place. The captain vouches for their honesty.

However, we have not yet located the men who claim that they were injured. They are somewhere in Indonesia.

Without hearing from the alleged victims, it would be unfair to come to a firm conclusion. However, please let me assure you that we are doing our best, but procedural fairness and thoroughness take time.

Let me now say a few words about the ABC and the Australian Navy.

Has the ABC acted honourably in this matter? This is for the public to judge, but it doesn't reflect high journalistic ethics to report second-hand allegations without fact-checking with all sides first. It would be tempting to describe the ABC reports as hearsay, innuendo, and rumour that have maliciously maligned the good men and women of the navy. But that is not the sort of language I like to use.

If a small number of rogue sailors behaved inappropriately, they will be dealt with.

However, I am proud of the three services of the ADF and have respect and admiration for every serving member. They are highly

trained and work in dangerous and frequently distressing situations. This does not mean that anyone is beyond reproach or criticism - where it is justified. We know this is not the case - and, when in government, the current opposition established an inquiry that led to criminal charges against a small number, albeit still too many, of our defence personnel. Thank you.

How would this alternative statement contribute to a renewal of public leadership in Australia? It would show that our leaders are dignified, fair-minded and respectful of others and of due process. They are not intimidated by pressure for quick answers and do not, themselves, speak and act in anger or with hubris.

They are willing to take and defend a position - but only after they have all the necessary evidence. They defend their organisations and their staff, but are not blind to the possibility of rogue behaviour - and take firm action when they find it.

They are tolerant of those who criticise them and willingly recognise the achievements of others, even their opponents.

Such a speech would be a display of strength, not weakness, the very model of a true leader's statement.

The alternative is continuing with the current pattern of behaviour that reinforces public disengagement from and disenchantment with the political system, with damaging consequences for our democracy.

Alternatively, surprising voters by aiming higher than a boost in the opinion polls might be worth trying, just to see if instead of buying popularity, earning respect is a pleasant surprise - for followers and leaders alike.

John Fien is executive director of the Swinburne Leadership Institute at Swinburne University.
Courtesy: Fairfax Media

Who's afraid of pride and patriotism?

By Tim Soutphommasane

Another January, another controversy about national identity. This time our ritual of introspection began early, barely a week into the new year. The subject was a patriotic t-shirt being sold by the Aldi supermarket chain, printed with the words, "Australia. Est. 1788".

Twitter lit up with outrage, quickly followed by Facebook and news websites. Some said the t-shirts were insensitive towards Indigenous Australians. Others went further and argued the shirts were racist. It wasn't long before Aldi took the t-shirts off the rack.

Then came the backlash against the backlash. "How dare these left wing nutters change history," wrote one commentator on a news website. "[H]ow dare Aldi insult a day that has significance to my past and my ancestors ... It is not called Indigenous day it is Australia day EST 1788 and it happened and I am proud of my heritage."

In strict terms, the Aldi t-shirts weren't racist, although I understand why many Australians found them objectionable. Historical insensitivity does not constitute racism, even if it frequently accompanies racism.

It would be too easy to use the Aldi t-shirt incident as an excuse to raise that perennial question: Is Australia a racist country? Instead, I'd like to pose a different one. With Australia Day this weekend, why don't we ask: Who's afraid of pride and patriotism?

Patriotism means a love of country. Yet that on its own says very little. We can, after all, love many different things about our country: a sunburnt and wide brown land; a lifestyle associated with beaches and barbecues; an irreverent, larrikin streak in our national character. It is perhaps this latter quality that marks out our national spirit the most. As described by critic Peter Conrad, Australians have always maintained our national identity through "raillery". Our laughter, our talent for levelling, is a cultural expression of Australian egalitarianism.

If we can love many things about a country, we may also love it in different ways. And often, we are guilty of loving not too wisely but too well. Some who would describe themselves as patriotic believe that their country is not only the best in the world but must be protected jealously from any criticism. This is when

patriotism can morph into jingoism. A love of country may mutate into an unnecessary belief in your country's superiority.

In a globalised world, many say that it would be better for us just to become citizens of the world. I disagree. We shouldn't abandon patriotism. But some of us need to think of it in a different way.

First, we should tie pride and patriotism to civic membership. Modern Australia isn't defined by race or ethnicity or ancestry. How could it be, when more than 45 per cent of us were born overseas or are the children of migrants? Rather, what holds Australia together is our political culture and our historical tradition. We all share a commitment to democratic values and aspirations: a deep sense of equality, a fervent belief in a fair go.

Second, patriotism needn't mean blind loyalty or ethnic chauvinism. You love Australia not just because it's your country, but also because it has qualities that make it worth celebrating. When your country falls short of its best, it may be your obligation to criticise it. If you truly love something, you will want to improve it.

Seen this way, patriotism is about civic responsibility rather than cultural pride; it is a love of country where you can wear your flag on the inside.

There is one issue where we need to be especially vigilant of our patriotism: asylum seekers. Our language on this has changed for the worst over the past decade or so. Too many of us seem disproportionately alarmed about defending our national borders and keeping out asylum seekers who arrive by boat.

A patriot is committed, of course, to the proposition that nations can determine who they admit into their membership. But this gives no licence for the demonisation of those who don't look like "one of us". It is no excuse for the callous treatment of those who breach no law in seeking sanctuary from persecution. We must not underestimate the



potential consequences of invoking fear – or, as has been happening lately, employing the language of war.

It's not just that such language runs counter to the spirit of Australia's moral and legal obligations as a liberal democratic nation. Playing on fear and manufacturing martial anxiety also feeds a nasty xenophobia – one that may be difficult to contain. Not everyone makes a distinction between an asylum seeker, a refugee, a skilled migrant, a second-generation Australian, or an Indigenous Australian. If we're not careful, we could end up contaminating our social cohesion and racial harmony.

There may be a time in the future when we have an opportunity to forge a new national day, free of the ambivalence that accompanies Australia Day. But for now, 26 January is it. Let's use it as an occasion to celebrate our achievements and reflect upon the things that we share as Australians. Let's also use it to ask whether our country is living up to the best of its traditions. In the words of one patriot, "My country, right or wrong: if right, to be kept right; and if wrong, to be set right."

Tim Soutphommasane is federal Race Discrimination Commissioner and a board member of the National Australia Day Council. This is an edited extract of his Australia Day Address in Hobart (evening, 23 Jan). ■

"... WHAT HOLDS AUSTRALIA TOGETHER IS OUR POLITICAL CULTURE AND OUR HISTORICAL TRADITION. WE ALL SHARE A COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND ASPIRATIONS: A DEEP SENSE OF EQUALITY, A FERVENT BELIEF IN A FAIR GO."

Alice Springs



The Alice Springs RSL Club has undergone a transformation. After major renovations the Club has recently resumed full trading, under the management of Brad Carter. Brad has assembled a team who will ensure your visit is relaxing and enjoyable. The outdoor Long Tan Bar is available for functions and is a great place to enjoy a cold beer on a warm evening. And when the weather cools, fire pits keep the atmosphere toasty.

Head Chef Turei Harogan offers an exciting menu selection. Delicious platters, traditional Schnitzels, Roast Chicken and the Special Alice Springs RSL BLT Burger are just a few of the mouth-watering temptations to choose from.

Alice Springs, in the heart of Australia, has an interesting connection with the Military. During WW2 there were as many as 8000 troops stationed there. Currently the town is home to a NORFORCE Squadron and both RAAF and US Air Force personnel. The RSL Club boasts a unique collection of Military Memorabilia. The Museum is undergoing renovations, and pieces from the collection are being redisplayed in their new environment with accurate interpretation.

The Alice Springs RSL sits just beneath ANZAC Hill. It is a spectacular experience to watch the sun rise over Central Australia from the ANZAC Hill vantage point. ANZAC Day and commemorations, including the Dawn

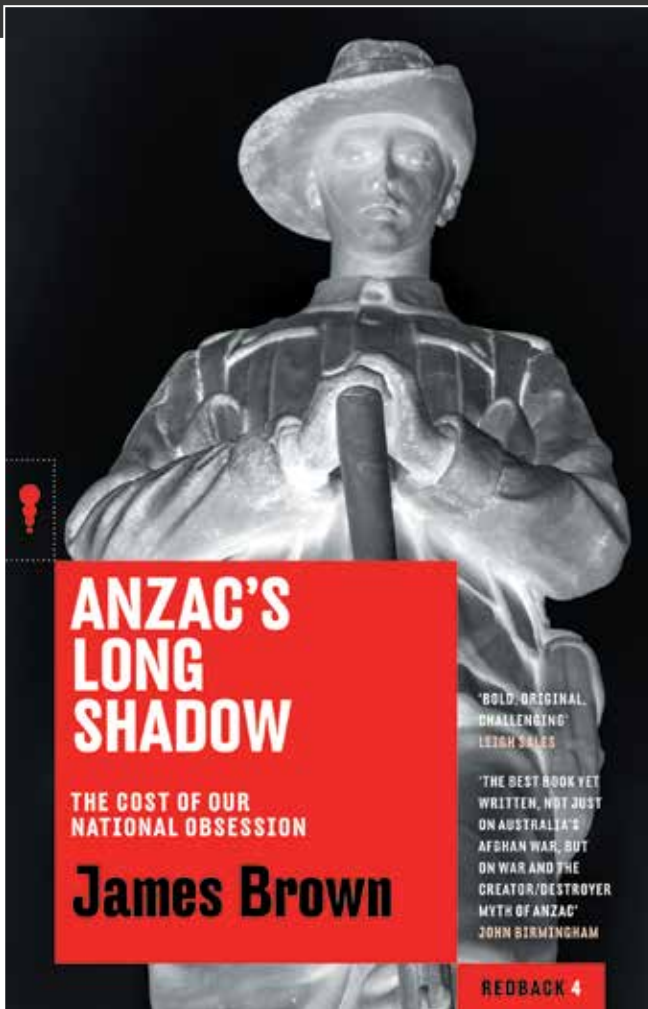
Service and March, are well attended by the local community and visitors. Services are held on ANZAC Hill, a memorial from which the best views of Alice Springs are gained.

Entitlements and Welfare staff from RSL South Australia regularly visit Alice Springs. Assistance and guidance for current and ex-defence personnel ensure support is given through issues such as: transition from the military and negotiating the military entitlements system for those well into their retirement. Appointments can be made with an Entitlements Officer through the South Australian RSL State Branch on 08 8232 0322.

If you are a veteran travelling to the Red Centre make sure you call in and introduce yourself to the committee and club management who will be only too glad to make you feel at home and to help with their local knowledge.

There is room for your van around the back if need be and you will certainly get a great meal at a good price. ■





Extract from *Anzac's Long Shadow* by James Brown. Published by Redback and available in bookstores now.

www.blackincbooks.com/books/anzacs-long-shadow.

The breathless Irish voice on the end of the phone had been singing for four minutes straight on the majestic scale of the Anzac centenary. 'It will be the biggest thing you've ever seen,' she said. 'It's going to start with a gorgeous recreation of the Gallipoli convoy departure in Albany, Western Australia, on 1 November 1914, to bookend the whole centenary of celebrations. 'Everybody's involved,' she gushed from her call centre: 'Legacy, the City of Albany, the West Australian Government, the RSL, the Australian Light Horse Association – it's going to be magnificent. You don't want to miss out.' Untroubled by the silence from my end of the phone, she homed in with

her sales pitch: 'So we're producing the commemorative publication for the whole centenary, Gallipoli 100, distributed to 84,000 people and with introductory letters from the likes of the prime minister. Would you like to book a message of support and show the defence forces what you do?' She outlined the options: the best spots upfront had already been taken by the National Australia Bank and a 'gorgeous' advertisement from the Australian Submarine Corporation, but \$14,950 would buy me a full page. For a 50 per cent premium she could reserve a special spot right after the ode of remembrance.

I hesitated, and asked her to email me through a pamphlet. She duly did so. A thoroughly unsentimental advertising rate card was placed alongside a sweet photo of a World War II veteran being helped along to an Anzac march. 'Gallipoli 100 aims both to commemorate the sacrifice of Australians who fought at Gallipoli, and by extension in other wars, and to educate the reader about what actually happened during the Gallipoli campaign,' it read. 'Many other scholarly and popular books are likely to appear for the Gallipoli centenary. This unique publication will stand out as the most comprehensive, accessible and attractive of them all.' With the promise of fifty 'lavishly photographed' and 'thoughtprovoking and satisfying articles' written by world experts, it was hard to say no. I told my new friend Nicky I needed time to think about it. She promised to follow up with me in a few days, adding, without the slightest trace of irony, 'Lest you forget.'

A century after the war to end all wars, Anzac is being bottled, stamped and sold. Nicky is not the only one spruiking the Anzac spirit. The Anzac industry has gone into hyperdrive. The year 2015 will be a bumper one for battlefield tour operators as thousands of Australians wing their way to Gallipoli for what is being marketed as a onceinalifetime opportunity. One company, with a flash of brilliance and a tenuous link, is arranging a surf boat race across the Dardanelles. Another is organising marathon swimmers to make their way from Europe to Asia Minor. Off the shores of Suvla Bay and Anzac Cove, cruise ships will anchor so that thousands might nestle alongside the Anzac legacy. By morn on 25 April, pilgrims will embark in small boats as Anzacs once did, to join the throngs on the sand. By night they'll rock away to Daryl Braithwaite and Kate Ceberano. Bert Newton will narrate the war.

It's an allAustralia jamboree. Just issuing tickets for the Gallipoli event will cost more than half a million dollars, and an events management company in Melbourne is pocketing a cool \$27 million for a multiyear contract to keep everything well organised on the day. What started as a simple ceremony is now an enormous commercial enterprise. Cartoonist Michael Leunig has captured it best: 'they've put a big thumping hoon outboard motor on the back of a tragedy'.

Anzac Day is also a time to honour and remember. That might best be done with a purchase from Australia Post's limited edition 'Sands of Gallipoli' range of keyrings and medallions, which promises to 'keep the spirit alive' while earning millions for its savvy creator. In the view of the historian Ken Inglis, these little vials of sand are 'relics from the holy land'. For just five instalments of \$39.99 plus \$19.99 in postage and handling, the Bradford Exchange offers the chance to 'honour a loved one who served our country courageously'. ■

AUSTRALIAN WORLD WAR 1 LEGACY UNVEILED IN BELGIUM

Australian visitors to Belgium seeking a military history experience are set to benefit from a new interpretive centre that opened in Ploegsteert, Belgium in November

Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, said the interpretive centre, *Plugstreet 14-18 experience*, depicts the experiences of soldiers and civilians in the Ploegsteert area during the First World War.

The Australian Government contributed €250,000 (approximately 355,000 AUD) towards the development of the centre, in a funding partnership with Belgian authorities and the European Union to commemorate the 'Great War'. "The centre's cutting-edge digital displays tell the story of Australia's first large-scale action in Belgium, the June 1917 Battle of Messines," Minister Ronaldson said.

"The Third and Fourth Australian Divisions, alongside the New Zealand Division and supported by British troops, played a key role in the week-long battle, the success of which prepared the way for the opening of the Third Battle of Ypres six weeks later.

"Australian and British soldiers alike commonly referred to

Ploegsteert as 'Plugstreet', a title that still resonates today and is reflected in the centre's name."

Australia suffered some 6,800 casualties, killed and wounded in the Battle, 78 of whom lie in the nearby Toronto Avenue Cemetery, the only all-Australian cemetery in Belgium, and one of only two all-Australian cemeteries on the entire Western Front.

Australia's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, the European Union and NATO, Mr Duncan Lewis AO DSC CSC, represented the Australian Government at the opening.

"... it is fitting that this significant tribute to Australian service is unveiled for all to see," Mr Lewis said.

The centre sits within Ploegsteert Wood, adjacent to the Ploegsteert Memorial to the Missing and marks the completion of the final part of the *Australian Remembrance Trail along the Western Front* site in Belgium.

The *Australian Remembrance Trail along the Western Front* is a commemorative trail highlighting key sites along the Western Front that allows visitors to interpret the Australian experience of war. ■

An overview of Australian Remembrance Trail sites is available at www.ww1westernfront.gov.au

ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT APP 'ON TRACK' TO DELIVER ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, announced in December a new and improved version of the ON TRACK with The Right Mix mobile phone application, which is available for download.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA) ON TRACK mobile app currently lets you keep track of the number and types of drinks you consume; the amount of money it's costing you; and lets you know about that impact the alcohol has on your wellbeing and fitness.

"With the update, users will be able to graph the data being collected – providing a visual representation of the impact of one's drinking behaviour over time. Users will also have the ability to send data to their health clinician, enabling the app to be more easily used in conjunction with treatment," Senator Ronaldson said.

DVA has also expanded the options to track how much exercise is required to burn off the alcohol kilojoules consumed.

Since being released in March 2013, the app has been downloaded

over 3000 times. Current users of the app will receive a notification to download the update.

The updated version will also include a feedback feature which allows users to provide feedback to DVA on how they use the app.

"We are evolving ON TRACK to meet user needs as we learn more about what users want, what works and what doesn't.

"This updated app will further assist veterans and Australian Defence Force members to better understand how their drinking habits affect their fitness and wellbeing," Senator Ronaldson said. ■

ON TRACK with The Right Mix was developed by DVA in consultation with the ADF and the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS). It can be downloaded free from the Apple App Store (iOS) and Google Play (Android) or at www.at-ease.dva.gov.au
Note: Some features of this app may not be accessible on earlier model Android phones.

SACRIFICES OF OUR NATIONAL SERVICEMEN REMEMBERED

On the 14th February, on National Serviceman's Day, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, encouraged all Australians to take a moment to pay tribute to the young men who took part in the National Service scheme.

"50 years ago, enlistments began in Australia's most recent National Service scheme. Introduced in 1964, the scheme was the fourth in our history, but was the first to have the power to send National Servicemen overseas," Senator Ronaldson said.

"Australia has a proud history of military service with our National Servicemen, or Nashos as they are affectionately known, playing a vital role. These young men left their homes to undertake military training and stand ready to protect our country.

"For those Nashos who were enlisted under the 1964 scheme, their lives changed forever when, at only 20 years of age, they were asked to register with the then Department of Labour and National Service and endure an anxious wait to see if they would be drawn out of the 'birthday ballot'," Senator Ronaldson said.

More than 63,000 Nashos were called up to serve in the Army, between 1964 and 1972. Almost 20,000 Nashos served in Vietnam where some 200 died and more than 1,200 were wounded. The National Service scheme ended in December 1972 following the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam in 1972.

"I encourage all Australians to reflect, and if possible to attend a service, to commemorate the efforts of these exceptional men to ensure their sacrifices are not forgotten," Senator Ronaldson said on the day.

National Servicemen's Day was marked around the country with services led by the National Servicemen's Association of Australia. ■



MINISTER OPENS NEW PREMISES OF AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR POSTTRAUMATIC MENTAL HEALTH

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson officially opened the new premises of the Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health (ACPMH) at the University of Melbourne in December.

"The Coalition Government is committed to addressing mental health challenges facing veterans and ex-service personnel. This Centre actively contributes to the knowledge available and these new premises, co-located at the University of Melbourne, will enhance its role in mental health research," Senator Ronaldson said.

"I am proud of my Department's collaborative partnership with ACPMH and the Department of Defence; a partnership which is vital in helping us to deliver the support that our veterans need. This support will be based on research and testing of the best available treatment available to veterans and their families."

Professor David Forbes, the Director of the ACPMH, said "The new ACPMH facility at the University of Melbourne places us at the centre of national efforts to help veterans recover from mental health issues. Being physically based at the University of Melbourne means we can provide a unique link between researchers, clinicians, the Department of Veteran' Affairs and Defence in a way that can fast track new research into the broader community."

During the opening, Senator Ronaldson also launched the new Evidence Compass website – the first of its kind in the world – developed by ACPMH for the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"The Evidence Compass website will provide access to the most up to date evidence based research in an online centralised repository. This website is all about translating complex research literature into a summarised and accessible format for veterans and their families and medical professionals. "This research will help guide future policy development and treatment pathways for veterans," Senator Ronaldson said. ■

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) and Veterans Line can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and free and confidential counselling. Phone 1800 011 046.

TOWARDS 2020: A BLUEPRINT FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

In December, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Secretary, Mr Simon Lewis PSM, jointly launched the Department's new strategic plan, DVA towards 2020.

While visiting staff at the DVA State Office in Melbourne on the morning of December 16th, Senator Ronaldson took the opportunity to congratulate the Department on cementing its commitment to being a client-focused organisation, with the release of its new strategic plan.

"The Secretary and I share a determination to ensure that the core strategy of the Department going forward is one that is fully client focussed, responsive and connected," Senator Ronaldson said.

"Over the next five years, the Department of Veterans' Affairs is set to undergo the most significant change in its history. This a unique challenge for the Department and one which we must look to with optimism, as an opportunity and not a threat.

Senator Ronaldson said that the sad but inevitable decline of our Second World War veterans will continue, and our Korean, Malaysian, Borneo and Vietnam veterans will continue to age and require different services. For veterans of more recent conflicts, their needs are no less complex

nor less pressing.

"Change is inevitable, but our approach to that change must reflect our core philosophy. As we face up to the challenges of the future we must not forget where we have come from, and must not lose sight of where we are going.

"This strategy will enable DVA to look confidently to the future as we, as a nation, continue to provide care and support to veterans and their families. In particular, the Government is determined to ensure the nation's response to the mental health needs of veterans and their families continues to evolve and improve as new strategies and treatment opportunities are identified.

"This strategic plan leaves me in no doubt that DVA will continue to support the veteran community and will not lose sight of the challenges that lay ahead," Senator Ronaldson said. ■

DVA's strategic plan DVA towards 2020 is available on the DVA website.

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) and Veterans Line can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and free and confidential counselling. Phone 1800 011 046.

HMAS VOYAGER

On the 10th February, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson encouraged all Australians to remember one of the nation's greatest Naval tragedies, the sinking of HMAS Voyager II.

"On the 50th anniversary of this tragic event it is important that we as a nation remember the Australians who lost their lives that day."

"Of the 314 men aboard HMAS Voyager II when it collided with HMAS Melbourne II on waters off Jervis Bay, 82 lost their lives, including 14 officers, 67 sailors and one civilian dock worker," Senator Ronaldson said. On the evening of 10 February 1964 HMAS Voyager II was undertaking the role of guard escort, as HMAS Melbourne II was conducting night flying exercises.

Both ships had to rely on their navigational and operational lights, as it was a moonless night which resulted in decreased visibility.

"Just prior to 9pm the two ships collided and the Voyager II was sliced in half. The forward section sank nearly immediately, however, the after section took some hours before falling beneath the waterline.

"The quick thinking and brave actions by

those on Melbourne II and the RAN search and rescue boats HMAS Air Nymph and HMAS Air Sprite saw many lives saved, and prevented the tragedy from becoming far worse, as they plucked survivors from the cold night time waters," Senator Ronaldson said.

Voyager II was one of three 'Daring class' destroyers, specifically tailored to the Australian conditions. The Darings were built as a multi-purpose 'Gun Ships' with increased manoeuvrability and three separate weapon control systems.

"Each day our brave men and women put their lives on the line, whether in the skies, on the land or at sea. It is truly heart breaking when an incident like this occurs, and as we reach half a century since the sinking of the Voyager II, we realise and are grateful for the selfless contribution these men and women have made," Senator Ronaldson said. ■

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) and Veterans Line can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and free and confidential counselling. Phone 1800 011 046.

PENSION INCREASE FOR VETERAN COMMUNITY

More than 272,000 veterans, their partners, war widows and widowers across Australia received a pension increase yesterday, announced the Minister for Veterans' Affairs Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson.

As pension rates are calculated on a daily basis, the next pension paid after the 20 March increase (on payday 3 April 2014) will be paid partly at the old rate and partly at the new rate. The first full payment at the new rates of pension will be payday 17 April 2014.

The table below highlights the key changes to fortnightly rates.

PENSION	OLD RATE (PER FORTNIGHT) ¹	NEW RATE (PER FORTNIGHT) ¹	INDEXATION INCREASE COMPONENT
Service Pension—single	\$827.10	\$842.80	\$15.70
Service Pension—couples	\$1,246.80 couple \$623.40 each	\$1,270.60 couple \$635.30 each	\$23.80 \$11.90
War Widow(er)'s Pension	\$840.20	\$856.20	\$16.00
Income Support Supplement	\$247.60	\$252.40	\$4.80
Special Rate (TPI) of Disability Pension	\$1,269.00	\$1,293.20	\$24.20
Intermediate Rate Disability Pension	\$861.30	\$877.80	\$16.50
Extreme Disablement Adjustment	\$700.70	\$714.20	\$13.50
100 per cent General Rate of Disability Pension	\$451.00	\$459.60	\$8.60

¹ These are the maximum rates of payment and include any clean energy supplement payable.

Pensions are indexed twice a year in March and September taking account of changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI) and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE).

A full list of pension rates are available on www.dva.gov.au or by calling 133 254 or 1800 555 254 from regional Australia. ■

NEW \$1 COIN SHARES THE SPIRIT OF THE CENTENARY OF ANZAC

In February, the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson and Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, The Hon. Steven Ciobo MP unveiled a new \$1 circulating 2014 coin featuring the Centenary of Anzac logo. The coin is produced by the Royal Australian Mint.

The special commemorative 2014 \$1 circulating coin features the official logo of the Anzac Centenary, including the image of an Australian soldier, head bowed and rifle reversed in solemn reflection and the words '100 Years of Anzac – The Spirit Lives'. The coin is rimmed with a motif reflecting

the sun's rays as captured on the Australian Army's Rising Sun badge.

Senator Ronaldson said the Anzac Centenary would be one of the most important commemorations in Australia's history and it was fitting that the Royal Australian Mint had created this coin.

"The Centenary of Anzac will be one of the most defining moments in our nations' story and the creation of a coin is a permanent way to reflect on and remember this commemorative period," Senator Ronaldson said.

"I am delighted that the Mint has chosen to feature the Centenary of Anzac logo on the 2014 circulating coin."

Mr Ciobo said introducing this coin into circulation would mean that for many years to come these coins would pass through the hands of thousands of Australians.

"Every time someone looks at this coin it will remind them of the service and sacrifice of our past and present Australian

Defence Force members. In particular, of those who died in the First World War," Mr Ciobo said.

Students from St Andrew's Primary School in Werribee attended the launch and were presented with coins.

Royal Australian Mint CEO, Ross MacDiarmid, said the Mint had a proud tradition of commemorating Australian military history with the production of a coin and the 2014 \$1 '100 Years of Anzac – The Spirit Lives' circulating coin would add to that.

"The Anzac Spirit has long been invoked as part of the essence of what it is to be Australian. The Anzac Centenary reminds us all that it is a living spirit and this coin captures aspects of that spirit in a permanent form," Mr MacDiarmid said. ■

For more information about or an image of the 2014 \$1 Century of Service circulating coin please visit www.ramint.gov.au



MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND LOCAL MEMBER FOR HERBERT VISIT DVA OFFICES IN TOWNSVILLE

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, was joined in January by the Federal Member for Herbert, Ewen Jones MP, meeting staff from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) offices in Townsville, along with local ex-service organisation (ESO) members.

"I am very pleased to be in Townsville today to meet locally-based staff from my Department and once again with members of the ESO community. This is my first visit here as Minister which comes on the back of several visits as shadow minister," Senator Ronaldson said during the visit.

There are over 4,300 DVA clients located in the Townsville area who have served in the

Australian Defence Force from the Second World War through to the more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, with many still serving.

"For my Department and the VVCS this is an important client region in Australia, with a large number of serving personnel at nearby Defence Force bases," Senator Ronaldson said.

Federal Member for Herbert, Ewen Jones, also thanked local DVA and VVCS staff for their work for local veterans.

"The DVA office in Townsville first opened its doors back in 1985 and has maintained a presence in the local community. The office provides veterans in the region direct access to services that are available through the Department.

"For around 30 years the VVCS has played an important role in the region, providing specialised, free and confidential counselling for veterans and their families," Mr Jones said.

Senator Ronaldson also took the opportunity to re-affirm the Government's commitment to the fair indexation of the Defence Forces Retirement Benefits (DFRB) and the Defence Force Retirement and Death



Benefits (DFRDB) military superannuation pensions.

"DFRB and DFRDB superannuants aged 55 and over will see their pensions indexed in the same way as age and service pensions with effect from 1 July 2014. Ewen Jones and I have made a pledge to deliver this commitment to the veterans of the Townsville region, and deliver it we will," Senator Ronaldson said. ■

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) and Veterans Line can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and free and confidential counselling.
Phone 1800 011 046
or international: +61 8 8241 4546.

WARTIME DEFENCE OF DARWIN HONoured

On the 19th February, The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, urged all Australians to honour those who defended Darwin against Japanese air raids during the Second World War.

"On 19 February 1942, seventy-two years ago today, Darwin suffered two horrifying air raids causing widespread devastation. These were followed by more than 60 further raids over the next two years, but luckily none with the same devastating result."

"The attack took Darwin by surprise, with Japanese fighters and bombers already on the horizon when air raid sirens eventually sounded. Of the ships at anchor in the harbour, three Allied naval ships and five merchant vessels were sunk and another 10 were damaged," Senator Ronaldson said.

The raids saw more than 240 people, mainly Allied service personnel and merchant seamen, lose their lives. Many more died or were injured as later raids extended to other Northern Australian towns and cities including Broome, Katherine, Wyndham, Townsville and Horn Island.

"Since 2011, 19 February has been known as 'Bombing of Darwin Day', recognising this day as the anniversary of the war coming to Australia. The bombing of Darwin marked the first time the Australian continent had been attacked during war time."

"I was proud to work with the people of the Northern Territory, and particularly the Federal Member for Solomon, Natasha Griggs MP, to secure parliamentary endorsement of the Bombing of Darwin Day ahead of the 70th anniversary commemorations in 2012."

The Bombing of Darwin will be marked in the Northern Territory with a commemorative service at the Adelaide River War Cemetery, the final resting place of 434 airmen, soldiers and sailors from the Second World War, some

of whom died as a result of the Japanese air raids. Adjoining the war cemetery, the wartime civilian cemetery contains the graves of 63 civilians who died during the war, including a common grave for the nine Darwin Post Office personnel who were killed during the first Japanese air raid. There are 31 indigenous burials within the wartime civilian cemetery.

Soldiers from the 8th/12th Medium Regiment based in Robertson Barracks, Palmerston, have assisted the Office of Australian War Graves staff in site preparation and clean up following the recent flooding of Adelaide River while soldiers from NORFORCE based in Larrakeyah Barracks, Darwin provided the ceremonial catafalque party for the service.

"It's important to recognise, that while the Australian Army completes vital work on deployments around the globe, they also play a vital role back home, helping Australians in times of need, such as during recent bushfires and flooding as we have witnessed here in the Northern Territory," Senator Ronaldson said. ■

Vice Chief visits Vietnam

Vice Chief of the Defence Force Air Marshal Mark Binskin visited Vietnam in November to meet with his Vietnam People's Army (VPA) counterpart Lieutenant General Vo Van Tuan.

During the visit, Air Marshal Binskin called on naval and air force units and a language school. Air Marshal Binskin met the Chief of General Staff Senior Lieutenant General Do Ba Ty and Deputy Chief of Navy Admiral Pham Ngoc Minh.

Air Marshal Binskin said the Australia-Vietnamese defence relationship was on sound footing, and that it would continue to develop and grow.

"Australia looks forward to enhancing our cooperation with Vietnam, with a specific focus on maritime security, peacekeeping and special forces cooperation," he said.

"One of the valuable aspects of our relationship is the training and education opportunities we provide."

About 2000 training positions have been offered to Vietnamese officers either in Vietnam or in Australia since 2000. On average, around 200 VPA officers receive

training under the Australian Defence Cooperation Program each year.

"I was particularly interested to visit the language school where Australia has taken a lead role in providing English language training to the Vietnam People's Army. Unit 871 has had an additional 80 VPA officers undergoing English language training over the past two years.

"This will be important when working in joint environments such as with the United Nations where the common language is English," Air Marshal Binskin said.

The Australian Defence Force aims to assist the VPA to enable it to take a greater role in supporting regional security. ■

Technologies Improve Quality of Life

IEEE MEMBERS ARE WORKING ON ROBOTS AND SMART WHEELCHAIRS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

Extract of article By Ania Monaco

PARO, an interactive robotic seal, is used as a therapeutic tool for patients with cognitive and psychological disorders, at a nursing home in Nanto, Japan.

As people live longer, the number of those with disabilities will rise significantly. About 15 percent of the world's population today lives with some form of disability, up from 10 percent in the 1970s, according to the World Health Organization. Many disabled people are hard-pressed to do such household chores as cleaning and cooking or even simply moving around. But innovative technologies are being developed to help, and IEEE members are at the forefront of these efforts.

Member Kimitoshi Yamazaki and his colleagues have developed a life-size humanoid robot that sorts laundry, sweeps floors, and performs other chores. Member Moritz Tenorth is working on a humanoid for cooking and other household tasks. Member Takanori Shibata has developed a furry, robotic seal used therapeutically for patients with cognitive and psychological disorders.

And still more helpful technologies are in the works. Senior Member Hung Nguyen is developing a wheelchair steered by brain waves, while Senior Member Mahesh Krishnamurthy is building a motion-detection system with infrared sensors that makes a wheelchair more aware of its surroundings.

There's also the work of IEEE Fellow Takeo Kanade in Pittsburgh at the Carnegie Mellon University Quality-of-Life Technology Center. Plus, several IEEE standards and conferences tackle topics related to improving people's lives.

CHORE BOTS

In Japan, the number of people older than 65 is expected to balloon: from 20 percent of the population in 2005 to 40 percent by 2055. Such statistics inspired Yamazaki to develop a robot to help with household tasks. The assistant professor at the University of Tokyo and his colleagues have built a 1.5-meter-tall, two-armed robotic housekeeper on wheels. Its onboard computer accepts commands from the patient that tell the robot to perform any number of chores, including picking up a tray and taking it to the kitchen, putting dirty clothes in the washing machine, and sweeping the floor with a broom.

The PR2 robot is designed to assist humans with various household tasks, such as fetching coffee, folding clothes, and even making pancakes. To perform its chores, the robot must know about the world around it. "One of the biggest challenges is teaching the robot about real objects and programming it to recognize and manipulate them," Yamazaki says.

Shibata, who developed PARO in 1998 as a visiting research scientist at MIT's Artificial Intelligence Lab, has been refining it ever since. PARO has five types of sensors—tactile, light, audio, temperature, and posture—with which it can perceive people and its surroundings.

For example, with the tiny tactile sensors that cover PARO's entire body, it feels when it is being stroked or hit or is merely being held, thanks to a posture sensor that determines the orientation of the patient's body. With its audio sensor, PARO can recognize some words and the direction a person's voice is coming from, as well as learn its own name (if the patient gives it one.) It can also sense expressions of kindness, such as words of praise, because it can interpret the tone of a person's voice.

Since 2003, PARO has been used in hospitals in Australia, Europe, Japan, and the United States for patients with cognitive disorders such as dementia, autism, and Down syndrome, as well as brain injuries and psychological problems. PARO can learn to behave in a way the user prefers. If gently stroked, for example, PARO will remember what it did just before the stroking began and learn to repeat the action. And if the robot is smacked, PARO takes that as a disciplinary action, remembers what it did just before the reaction, and tries not to do it again.

Shibata says he hopes to create other versions of his seal suited for particular disorders, including the teaching of social skills to children with developmental problems.

"Those who use PARO seem to be very happy with it," he says. "I hope to see more make their way into medical facilities and even people's homes." ■

Find more information like this at the website: theinstitute.ieee.org

NED KELLY BY PETER FITZSIMONS

Thief, remorseless killer or criminal mastermind? Hero, Robin Hood or political revolutionary?

Love him or loathe him, Ned Kelly has been at the heart of Australian culture and identity since he came out fighting, dressed in bulletproof iron armour made from farmers' ploughs.

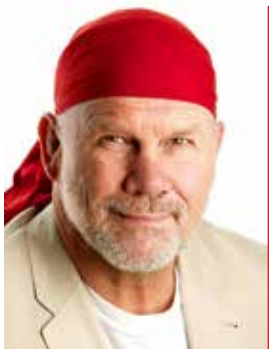
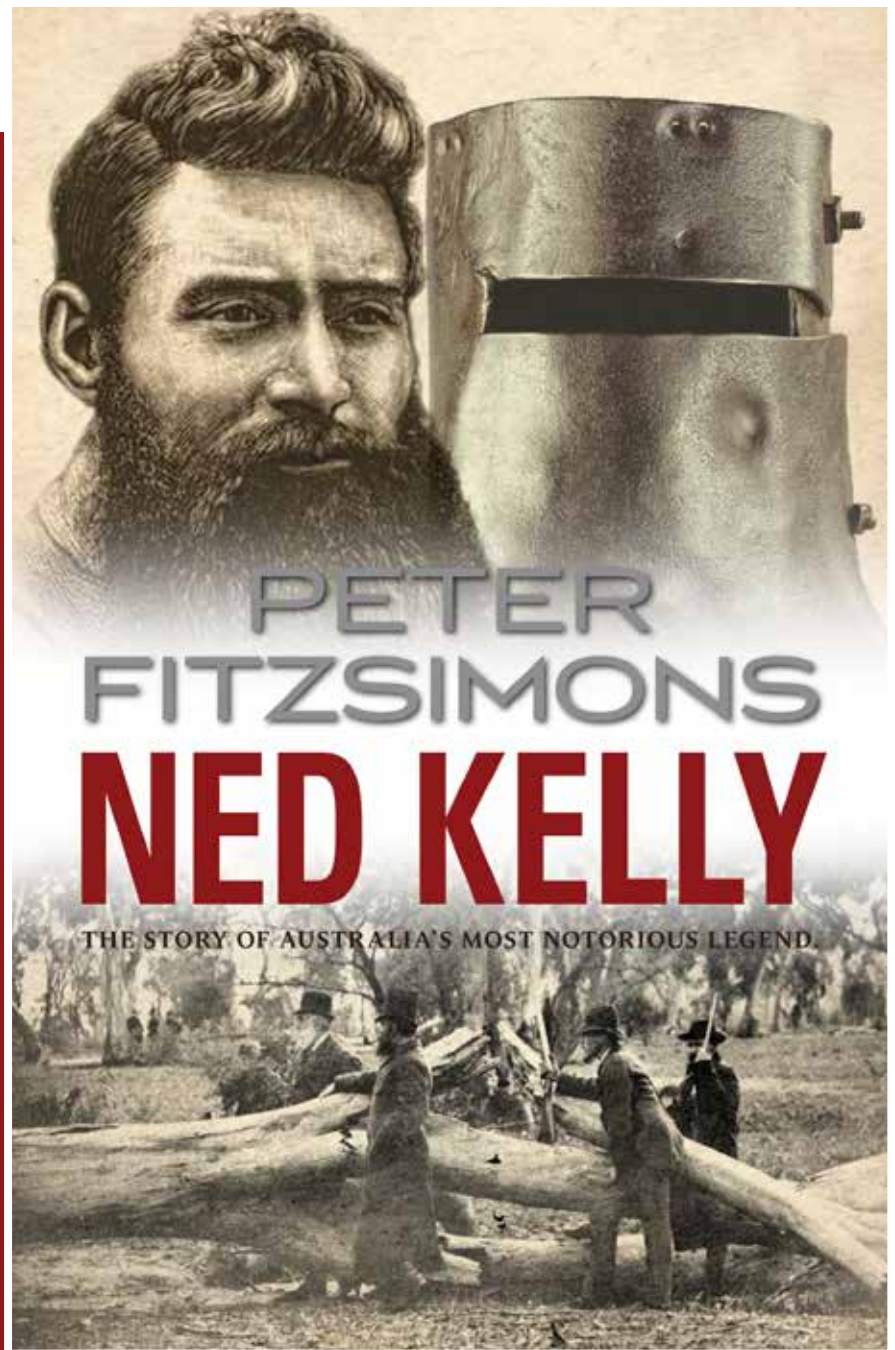
Now Peter FitzSimons is telling the story of this most iconic Australian. Hero or criminal? Fitzy's weighed up the arguments and made his decision!

Historians still disagree over virtually every aspect of Ned's brushes with the law. Did he or did he not shoot Constable Fitzpatrick at their family home? Was he a lawless thug or a crusader against oppression and discrimination? Was he even an Australian republican channelling the spirit of Eureka?

Peter FitzSimons has examined this part of Australia's history and retold it as only he can – with wit, humour and passion – bringing the Kelly story to life!

'The legend of Ned Kelly is the most enduring Australian one of all.

There has always been something about him, what he did and how he did it that fascinated the people not only of his generation but of all generations since. Why? What exactly is it?'



Peter FitzSimons is a journalist with The Sydney Morning Herald and Sun-Herald. He is also a regular TV commentator; a former radio presenter (very successfully, with Mike Carlton on Radio 2UE) and is also a former national representative rugby union player. Peter is the author of 25 books, including *Tobruk*, *Kokoda*, *Batavia*, *Mawson* and *the Ice Men of the Heroic Age*, and biographies of Nancy Wake, Kim Beazley, Nick Farr-Jones, Les Darcy, Steve Waugh and John Eales. Peter is Australia's biggest-selling non-fiction author of the last ten years. He was named a Member of the Order of Australia for service to literature as a biographer; sports journalist and commentator; and to the community through contributions to conservation, disability care, social welfare and sporting organisations. He lives with his wife, Lisa Wilkinson, and their three children in Sydney.

Port Adelaide Football Club Defence Partnership Strengthens

Power Community Ltd, the community development arm of Port Adelaide Football Club, has expanded its Defence Recognition Program in 2014 with the announcement of new partner BAE Systems.

BAE Systems will be the Major Partner of the Defence Recognition Program, and will also be the game-day sponsor for AFL ANZAC Round when the Power play Geelong at Adelaide Oval on April 27th.

The Defence Recognition Program was created by Power Community Ltd in 2012 to engage all levels of the Defence sector in South Australia. The program supports and recognises Veterans and their families, current Defence personnel and their families, and the large Defence Industry in the north of Adelaide.

Power Community Ltd works closely with the key Veteran organisations including Veterans SA, the Returned Services League (RSL), Legacy and Soldier On. The organisations and their clients are hosted at Power games and are provided with fundraising support throughout the year. Power players are also scheduled to visit veterans at the Repatriation Hospital in April, and the RSL will be the game-day charity for AFL ANZAC Round on Sunday April 27th.

Power Community Ltd has created a partnership with the 7 RAR Battalion, who moved from Darwin to Adelaide in 2011. The 7 RAR Battalion hosted the Power players at Edinburgh Barracks in 2012 and senior staff from the Battalion recently toured the facilities at Alberton

Oval. The Battalion will continue to receive ticketing to Power games in 2014 and some new ideas have been discussed for soldiers and footballers to interact and share ideas during the season.

The Department of Defence have provided funding to Power Community Ltd to engage children of current staff in the Australian Defence Forces. The Optimistic Kids program is facilitated at Alberton Oval and works with children to develop positive mental strength and resilience. The children also meet a Power player, participate in a coaching clinic and see the elite facilities used by AFL footballers. Power players are involved in the delivery of the program and highlight to children the techniques they use to stay mentally strong.

It was the work with the Veteran Community and current Defence personnel that attracted BAE Systems to the program, and they are now the Defence Partner of Port Adelaide Football Club. The partnership will be acknowledged with all other stakeholders during AFL ANZAC Round, but importantly the relationships and activities will continue throughout the year.

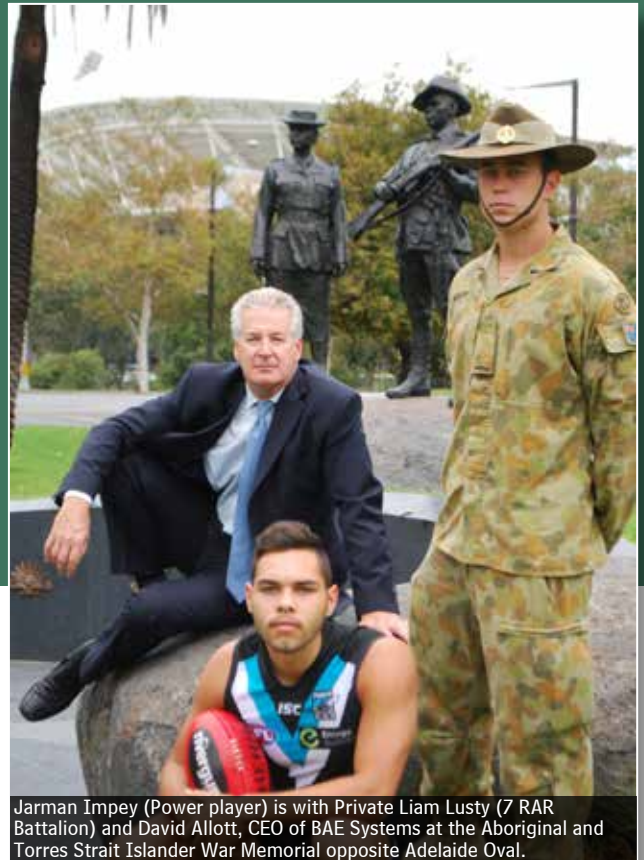
Darren Adamson, General Manager of Power Community Ltd, noted that the football club values its

community roots dating back to 1870, and is proud to recognise and support such a significant industry in South Australia.

“The Port Adelaide community has its own football club in the AFL, and a significant Defence Industry on its doorstep. The significance of the industry to the community is growing every year, and the precinct extends from Port Adelaide into the north with the RAAF Edinburgh Base, home of the 7 RAR Battalion. It makes sense that we do as much as possible to support and recognise this industry.”

Darren confirmed that the Defence Recognition Program had been embraced by a range of stakeholders including the Defence Teaming Centre, the peak body for the Defence sector in South Australia with over 250 member organisations.

“We have received so much support over the past two years, from the Defence Teaming Centre and Defence SA, to the Federal Government and Veteran’s community, and we are very proud to now have a company like BAE Systems as our Defence Partner. Support from BAE Systems will allow Power Community Ltd to increase its support for the Defence sector as we approach the 2015 ANZAC Day Centenary. ■



Jarman Impey (Power player) is with Private Liam Lusty (7 RAR Battalion) and David Allott, CEO of BAE Systems at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial opposite Adelaide Oval.



AFL TO RAISE FUNDS FOR ANZAC CENTENARY FUND

The Australian Football League's longstanding commitment to commemorating Anzac Day has been bolstered by the announcement of a range of fundraising initiatives in support of the Anzac Centenary Public Fund.

The first of these initiatives will see a portion of funds generated from ticket sales across this year's Anzac Round - Round 6 of the 2014 Toyota AFL Premiership Season - go directly to the Anzac Centenary Public Fund.

Between 2014 and 2018 Australia will commemorate the Anzac Centenary, marking 100 years since Australia's involvement in the First World War. The Anzac Centenary Fund was established in 2013, as part of the Anzac Centenary Program, by the Federal Government in conjunction with prominent businessman Lindsay Fox, to enable the business community and the public to donate to Anzac Centenary commemorations.

Contributions to the Public Fund will ensure the Centenary of Anzac is properly commemorated in an enduring way, honouring the almost two million Australian servicemen and women who have served their country. The Anzac Centenary Program encompasses all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations in which Australians have been involved.

The AFL will undertake a range of fundraising initiatives throughout 2014-

2018 with the first being a commitment of proceeds from Anzac Round ticket sales going directly to the Anzac Centenary Public Fund.

AFL Chief Executive Officer Andrew Demetriou said the AFL community's connection with Anzac Day ensured it was in a unique position to support the Anzac Centenary Fund.

"Anzac Round is one of the highlights on the AFL calendar each year and indeed the traditional Anzac Day clash is considered to be the biggest game of the season outside the Grand Final," Mr Demetriou said.

"Anzac Round provides a platform for the football community to honour the Anzac spirit and to commemorate those Australian service men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

"A significant number of elite level footballers have served Australia in a number of conflicts, many of whom lost their lives.

"We have worked closely with both State and Federal Governments to support the Anzac Centenary Program and the Centenary Fund as an appropriate way to acknowledge this

significant milestone in our nation's history and to strengthen the recognition for our service men and women.

"Through the Anzac Round initiative, the footballing public will play a role in contributing to the Fund and making a real difference."

The AFL is also again proud to support the RSL's Anzac Appeal as the official AFL charity across the 2014 Anzac Round. The RSL's annual fundraising activity will again engage the entire AFL community through a strong presence at AFL Anzac Round matches

This year's Anzac Round will see matches played throughout Australia along with the second ever Anzac Day clash to be held in New Zealand. Following the overwhelming success of last year's match between St Kilda and Sydney in Wellington, Australian Football returns to Westpac Stadium again in 2014 with the Saints taking on the Brisbane Lions in what will be just the second ever AFL Premiership match played outside Australian shores.

New Zealand fans will have the opportunity to enjoy live AFL football while joining their Australian counterparts in commemorating the Anzac ties that intrinsically link the two countries.

Anzac Round remains a highlight of the AFL calendar each year with 2014 matches to be staged in Perth, the Gold Coast, Melbourne and Adelaide. ■



NRL helping honour heroes

BOTTOM PICTURE: From left, Flt-Sgt Don Taylor, Preston Campbell, Uncle Rick Gross and former Titans player Jamal Idris at the announcement that Preston Campbell has become an ambassador for the Department of Veteran Affairs Indigenous Champion Project.

Rugby League is working to recognise the efforts of Indigenous servicemen and women ahead of the biggest program of ANZAC Day events in the code's history.

For the first time, three ANZAC Day blockbusters will be played in Sydney (Dragons v Roosters), Melbourne (Storm v NZ Warriors) and Brisbane (Broncos v Rabbitohs), as Rugby League pays tribute to Australian and New Zealand servicemen and women both past and present.

The special day of Rugby League activity comes as Gold Coast 'Titans 4 Tomorrow' ambassador and NRL hero Preston Campbell is working with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) as an ambassador to help Indigenous ex-servicemen and women receive the support and recognition they deserve.

"There are many inspiring stories of bravery and sacrifice involving Indigenous servicemen and women and I am proud to be working with the DVA to help ensure these men and women are properly recognised for their service to our country," Mr Campbell said.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen and women have proudly served virtually in every war, conflict and peacekeeping mission in which Australia has participated since the Boer War and through to Afghanistan today.

With the support of Preston and the Titans, the DVA is helping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans and their families who may not be aware that there are services and support available to link up with the DVA.

"The Australian War Memorial is gathering a list of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen and women, or those who served the nation in an auxiliary capacity, to ensure their contribution is appropriately

commemorated. I encourage those interested in being on the list to get in contact with

Gary Oakley on (02) 6243 4532," Mr Campbell said.

In another important commemoration for Rugby League later this year, former St George first grader Lance Corporal Spencer Henry Walklate will be buried with full military honours, along with Private Ronald Eagleton, almost 70 years after they were tortured then executed by Japanese troops on a tiny island off the coast of Papua New Guinea.

The pair were members of top-secret 'Z' Special Unit who undertook an ill-fated mission to the enemy-occupied island of Mushu off the coast of Wewak in April, 1945.

Their remains were recovered last year and are being held at the Bomana War Cemetery near Port Moresby. They will be laid to rest at the Lae War Cemetery, where the five other men from Operation Copper are buried, in late May this year. ■

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The portrait of Private Francis James Cormack, who joined up at the age of 18 and was killed in action, is one of the photographs in the Bonds of Sacrifice collection

Discovering Anzacs

A new website Discovering Anzacs allows Australians and New Zealanders to download their ancestors' World War I service files at home – and discover much more about the period.

Developed to mark the centenary of World War I, the website provides an insight into the reality of war – and the anguish of those who were left behind.

It has been created by the National Archives of Australia, in conjunction with Archives New Zealand. As well as service files from both nations, the website will include records of Australian munitions workers and Merchant Navy seafarers, those who enlisted in the Boer War, enemy internees, and copyright

files from the era which show how the war influenced literary and artistic works. It also reveals censorship files, indicating the type of wartime information that was hidden from the public.

Discovering Anzacs also allows visitors to add their own tributes to individual service men and women. Many people have already added photographs, information on grave sites and other details about diggers and their families.

The site also includes 500 digital images of Australian diggers from the Imperial War Museum's Bonds of Sacrifice collection. They are images of World War I soldiers who had their photographs taken in London but never returned to collect them.

The digital images were given to the National Archives of Australia by the Department of Veterans' Affairs after a staff

member identified their Australian uniforms in a collection at the Imperial War Museum in London.

A range of individuals' stories feature on the site. They include one about the woman, who against public and government criticism, created a sexual health kit to protect servicemen from venereal disease and the New Zealand air ace who grounded his crippled plane, manipulating the controls as he stood on the wing.

There's the story of the courageous Antarctic explorer who suffered from shell-shock and the surgeon who pioneered plastic surgery and re-created faces for men who were too embarrassed to be seen in public. ■

The website can be explored at discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au

Discover our Anzac history online

discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au



Image: John Gurner Burnell

**As part of the Anzac Centenary, we are building
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A National Archives of Australia and Archives New Zealand joint project.

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NEW ZEALAND

The Yarrawonga Letter (for Ursula)

By Martin Flanagan

Why am I a writer? The simplest answer, I think, is because I've got no choice. It's my way of understanding the world and my place in it; without writing, I'd be more lost than I already am.

If I were to single out one occasion which marked my evolution as a writer I would probably say the first day I went to school in Rosebery, on the west coast of Tasmania. The year was 1964, I was eight years old and I was walking alongside my father, the town's new headmaster. Before then, we had lived in a country town called Longford in Tasmania's north. Longford was flat and rural and quiet. Rosebery was a mining town surrounded by mountains, not far from the World Heritage area. I didn't feel at home in the dense bush that ringed the town. Periodically I heard sounds I'd never heard before – sirens followed by the dull thump of a blast deep underground. And I was the headmaster's son. In Longford, where our family was well known, that hadn't mattered. In Rosebery, it was central to my identity.

That day, walking beside my father I sensed his stiffness – he must have been conscious that all eyes were upon him as the new headmaster. Whatever, I felt a great loneliness which now, fifty years later, I would describe as existential. I seemed to know I had all sorts of questions about life my father wouldn't answer, so much so, there was almost no point asking. My father had endured a war crime. He had witnessed the death of 100,000 men laying 400 kms of railway track as slaves of the Imperial Japanese Army during World War 2. Among those who died were men he was close to. There was so much he couldn't say, wouldn't say. I count that as the day my childhood ended and “the big loneliness”, as Truganini called it, began.

There was at that time no television in Rosebery and only weak, occasional radio reception. There was an enormous amount of rainfall – more than 140 inches in our first

year. I sat inside and read books. When I was ten or so, I had a go at a small hard-backed collection of Australian short stories and read *The Drover's Wife*. It marked me indelibly. I couldn't have articulated what it was at the time but now, looking back fifty years later, I would say I felt the emptiness in the story, the stoicism of the woman in the face of that emptiness, and got the story at some level because I had felt a similar emptiness that first day I walked to school at Rosebery with my father beneath the dark towering curve of Mount Black.

I always wanted to be a writer; I never wanted to be anything else. I never thought I would become a writer because I didn't know anyone who put words together as I did. I read my first novel, *Lord of the Flies*, when I was 14. Being in a Catholic boarding school at the time and seeing first-hand the terrifying lengths to which adolescent politics can go, I had no trouble whatsoever believing the plot. The following year I read *The Great Gatsby*. I couldn't see *Gatsby* – his character didn't make a picture in my head. He was a silly smile and not much else. The character who captivated me was the narrator, Nick Carraway. He was like a journalist – he stood like a rock in the fast-flowing river of his time describing the human debris as it swept past him. I read some Romantic poets and got a taste for what they did. I discovered Welshman Wilfred Owen, the great poet of World War 1, and was smitten. I tried to write a poem in the manner of Wilfred Owen, but it wasn't me. There was something grand about his writing, a high seriousness based on classical European culture, which I could only imitate.

The truth is that, after *The Drover's Wife*, I don't think I saw or read another Australian work of art until I was 18 and I went and saw Jim McNeil's prison play, *The Chocolate Frog*. In that gap where Australian culture might have been was Australian sport to the extent that I have been known to say that, for a long time in this country for a lot of people, sport was culture. I always say sport is where I first encountered mythology, where I first encountered dance; it's the first passion play

I saw. I immersed myself in it totally. This was the era of Australia boxing champions Lionel Rose and Johnny Famechon. Australia cricket was resurrecting itself around the figure of Ian Chappell. I barracked for the Cats and was so smitten with nerves I listened to the first bounce of the 1967 grand final sitting on the toilet.

I was good at theatre and went to university to do law but with the intention of joining the theatre society. I didn't enjoy the theatre society. I was out of my element somehow. I wasn't very good at football but I joined the Tasmanian University Football Club and soon felt right at home. Within a year or so, I was writing match reports of Uni games which people seemed to like. Even more importantly, I noticed that one of my brothers kept a copy of everything I wrote, storing them away like they'd be worth having at a future date. It was a serious act of respect which made me think that maybe, after all, I did have something as a writer.

I did a law degree, worked for a couple of years with parolees and kids on probation, frequently visiting Hobart prison, then went overseas for two years, wandering the world, often alone. A whole lot of things happened to me in those two years which I tried to encapsulate in my book *Going Away*, but in terms of becoming a writer what was most significant was that Dad wrote me a couple of letters. He'd never written me a letter before. We'd never actually talked that much – and we'd certainly never shared a creative space which you do when you write a letter, or write them like Dad did. In Mum's letters, she always told you the news. Dad created an atmosphere of feeling. I remember telling him I was thinking of coming home overland through Africa. He replied with a quote from Tennyson's “*Ulysses*”:

*All experience is an arch wherethro'
Gleams that untravelled world
Whose margin fades forever and forever
when I move.*

I always said Dad was the best story-teller in the family because he used the least words. That's something I learnt from him. Say it as simply as you can. And reading his

letters gave me access to the flow that was his understanding of our family history – or what in Aboriginal culture might be termed his dreaming. It was like I suddenly inherited a memory older than my own. As a writer, you periodically get asked which writer most influenced you, which books? I say Dad's letters. Last year, Dad died a few months from his 99th birthday. At his funeral, I said that if we were a family of jazz musicians and not a family of writers I'd be saying that Dad didn't put out many records, didn't make many CDs, but he did hit some notes better and more truly than anyone I ever heard.

If ever I speak like this publicly someone always comes up to me later and says - what about your mother? In so far as I have a gift for colour, it comes from Mum. She's from some of the most picturesque country in Tasmania - the hills up behind Devonport. From the farm where she grew up, on a fine day you could see an astonishing amount of Tasmania's northern coastline and the glittering waters of Bass Strait while being surrounded by grass as green as any grown in Australia and chocolate red soil. Mum had a spirit of adventure – in a word, she had spirit. She had six kids and a sick husband – it took him 15 years to get over the war. She drove like Galignite Jack. She taught me to kick the footy. She and I fought over religion. Without knowing it, I had absorbed Dad's religion which was the religion of the Burma Railway where nothing mattered, nothing at all, but whether you had what Dad called humanity. Mum's 95 now, she's had four strokes and she's still fun to be around. It's not correct to say her religion has gone but she holds it gently now and, more to the point, it doesn't hold her. We don't disagree on anything. Mum's an optimist. I get energy from Mum and, as a writer, the older you get, the more desperately important energy becomes.

A couple of things happened at boarding school that contributed to my development as a writer. When I was 13, I was bullied and, in a moment of frailty, I joined the bullies and was an accessory to the breaking of someone. The following year, when I read *Lord of the Flies*, I saw all too clearly the

events described in the book – that is, what happens to a group of schoolboys when they are ship-wrecked on an island during a time of war. The long-term effect of my action was that it taught me that if I cross certain lines of behaviour, I will have to answer to myself. No-one can save me from that judgment. What that meant when I became a journalist was that I had certain lines of behaviour which no-one could push me across. From one of the worst and most traumatic moments of my life came the strength I have since relied on.

The other thing that happened occurred when I was 14. It was end of term. You were meant to go home by public transport, wearing school uniform which included a hat. The punishment for breaking such rules was severe but the brave boys wore their own clothes and hitchhiked. One bright spring day, I wore my own clothes and hitch-hiked the 400 ks from Burnie to Hobart. The previous night we'd been allowed out and I'd met a girl, slightly older. Her charms were an undeniable part of the following day's adventure. It was Tassie at its best, a cool spring day alive with brilliant sun and a blue sky that bounced off my eyeballs and directed my dazed attention to colours and sights I'd never really looked at before, like late sunshine in a yellow paddock. And every car I got in someone told me a story. Who was I? Just a kid. None of the people driving the various vehicles thought they'd ever seem me again. And so they told me stories, real stories, the ones you ordinarily don't tell people you know because it might change their regard for you, the stories that keep you thinking in the night. By the time I got to Hobart, my life had changed. I had learned about the importance of listening, of giving people the space to find the words which can carry the meaning stored up in a lump inside them. I also knew that, for me, the richness of this world lies in its stories.

My business is collecting and telling stories. In old Irish culture, I would be a shanachie – a story teller. The great Patrick Kavanagh wrote that in the old days in Ireland – before television, radio or indeed electricity – news of the big football matches was carried from one district to the next by poets who sang of

the games in verse. I would have been one of them. In the culture of our time I'm called a journalist and I identify with that term also. To me a journalist is someone who understands that his or her imagining of the world is rarely, if ever, correct, and that the act of journalism involves going out into the world and taking it as you find it so that the story invariably begins at precisely the point where the pre-conception ends. That means as a journalist you are not entitled to censor reality – you have to be open to the lot – to the Holocaust, to Pol Pot, to the plight of indigenous people in Australia, the plight of indigenous people in America, the munitions industry, global climate change, the global financial crisis, the drought in New South Wales, the list is endless. It's also the case that a percentage of journalists make careers by telling stories which attract our attention by manipulating our fears and superficial concerns. Neitzsche said against human stupidity even the gods contend in vain, and there's a lot that's stupid in this culture. But as a journalist with a background in law and a regard for evidence I am here to report that so often when I go out into the world as a journalist, far from being daunted by what I find, I am moved and invigorated. There is a lot of ordinary goodness in the world and, precisely because it is ordinary, it doesn't make its way into the evening news bulletins.

I have spent much of my career as a journalist trying to tell stories which, in the words of the English poet DJ Enright, "convey such wisdom and courage as the race has painfully acquired". I do not deny the negative side of the world we find ourselves in but nor will I deny the positive. I reckon my father had a pretty keen view of reality. He told me not long before he died that God's all the good people that's ever been. I do sometimes wonder what might have happened if he had told me that when I was eight. What would I have written about? ■

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Almost as soon as couples sit side by side on the sofa in my therapy room, they start to pour out the details of their latest rows, each other's bad habits, miserable childhoods and mutual recriminations. It's easy to get caught up in the drama acted out in front of me and to forget to ask about the one subject that they almost never volunteer: sex. And when I do bring up the state of their love life, they exchange embarrassed glances, as if asking each other's permission to speak.

"When we do, it's very nice," said Sarah, a 30-year-old management consultant and one of my patients. "We're very close and we enjoy cuddling and Sunday morning lie-ins," added Jake, her lawyer husband. "That's something you'd miss if we had children."

If I'd given them half a chance, they would have reverted to their arguments about when was the right time to start a family and fertility issues.

However, when I probed deeper, neither Sarah nor Jake could remember the last time they had had sex. It soon became clear they were in what sex therapists call a "sex-starved relationship" - which means less than 10 times a year. (Low sex is defined as only every other week.) Worse still, their love life had been dwindling over a long period - "probably since after we got married," admitted Sarah - and, although they had sought advice from a fertility clinic, they had waited five years before seeking help from me.

This couple are by no means unique. While our culture becomes more sexualised than ever before, we're less likely actually to be having sex, and we're certainly not talking about it - even to professionals like myself. I call it the silent epidemic.

After 25 years as a marital therapist, I was not surprised by last week's findings from the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles, which canvassed 15,000 people and found that Britons aged 16 to 44 are having sex on average fewer than five times a month. When they asked the same question 10 years ago, it was just over six times. What's the problem?

Of course, some of it is obvious - taking our phones and tablets into the bedroom (and catching up on work emails or playing games), as well as porn entering the mainstream and becoming more acceptable (so it is easy to satisfy the biological need without being intimate with our partner).

However, a greater obstacle with some is the demand we place on ourselves as parents to be ever present and always at the top of our game. Something has to give.

"I'm afraid we didn't get a chance to do our sex homework," said Kate, 50, another of my patients. (I had given them a sensual touch exercise.) "We just didn't have the time."

"We did go to bed early last night especially, and then our daughter remembered that she needed to hand in her homework and Kate went off to type it up for her. Then, when she came back to bed, she was too tired," explained James, 53. Although their daughter was 17 - and more than capable of doing her own typing - Kate found it impossible to say no, even to a request at 10pm.

"Kate can say no to me," noted James, bitterly. "But you want our daughter to do well," Kate snapped back. Once again, being a great mum and dad had trumped being a loving husband and wife.

Sometimes when I recommend putting a lock on the bedroom door, so parents have a private space and children can't just wander in, you'd think I'd suggested sending kids down the mines.

"But what if there's an emergency and they need us?" asked Carrie, a 38-year-old mum of three.

"They could knock and shout fire."

"But it only takes seconds for smoke to sweep through a house."

When we looked deeper at her resistance, I found a far bigger problem. Carrie was outsourcing responsibility to her partner for her sex life - and then being angry when he did not deliver. "I need him to turn me on and bring me out of mummy mode," she explained. "Otherwise I'm running over a list of what they need for school tomorrow and what I have for their packed lunches."

Meanwhile, her husband, Mike, also 38, was fed up with being the one to initiate sex. "It's me who always risks being rejected and repeatedly turned away. How does that make me feel about myself?"

Carrie didn't say anything, so Mike answered. "Not very good."

In effect, he had outsourced his self-esteem to Carrie. "If we do have sex - which is hardly ever - I'm walking around with a big smile on my face for the rest of the day and I'm even more effective at work too."

His wife tried, but failed, to console him: "But if Brad Pitt walked in to our bedroom naked, I wouldn't be interested".

Ultimately, we have to be responsible for getting in the right mood for sex ourselves - by learning to switch off from everyday concerns and not needing constant reassurance from partners.

Unfortunately, there are lots of myths about desire and sex that make this extremely hard. The most pernicious is that sex should be spontaneous. So when I suggest planning as one of the bridges from the everyday world of children, bills and chores into the sensual world of lovemaking, I meet plenty of resistance - even

though we're happy to book concert, theatre or plane tickets and arrange to hook up with friends in advance rather than on the spur of the moment.

Partly it's a hangover from our Victorian past, where sex is OK as long as we're swept away on a wave of passion - and not fully responsible. However, it's also down to something else. Sheila, 58, said: "What if we plan but I'm not in the mood for sex?"

Sheila and Patrick had been together for more than 35 years, their children had grown up and Patrick's work was becoming less demanding. They should have been having the best sex of their marriage, but they had fallen into another trap that promotes low sex: all or nothing. They either had full intercourse or stayed over on their own side of the bed.

"I have to be sure that I'd be able to deliver," Patrick explained, "because I didn't want to start and not be able to finish, and actually I didn't think that Sheila was interested in sex."

"I thought he was too tired from work or depressed or having an affair and not interested in me," she replied.

I could think of nothing sadder than both wanting sex but not being able to talk about it for fear of upsetting the other. So I initiated a program to break "All or Nothing", where they would cuddle on the sofa while watching TV, giving permission for a cuddle to be "just" a cuddle. Therefore, when Sheila asked what to do if they planned an early night and they weren't in the mood, I turned the question back to her to answer.

"We could put on relaxing music and dance and cuddle, or have a hot bath together," she replied, "and who knows? We might get into the mood, or we could just enjoy being intimate together."

Interestingly, she had challenged another myth about sex: you either feel desire or you don't. In reality, desire takes time to build and it comes and goes (sensual touch is a great way both to enter into the zone and to bring it back if distracted).

Ultimately, what counts is the quality rather than the quantity of sex. So please don't feel that you have to hit a national target. However, if you'd like to improve your frequency, instigate this simple plan. Flirt with your partner during the day - send sexy texts, exchange private jokes and compliments - so you build a sexual connection. Co-ordinate bedtimes and body clocks, so you go to bed and get up at the same time, to maximise the possibility of sex and, finally, switch off electronic devices in the bedroom (and that includes the TV) so you don't undo all your good work. ■

Free speech is often not so free, Mr. Brandis

By Peter Balint

Something is fishy when bigots' rights are put ahead of protections for the vulnerable.

When Senator George Brandis said that we have a right to be a bigot, he was in one sense right. He did not (I assume) mean that it is right to be a bigot, but that in liberal society we ought all to have freedom of conscience - that is, we have a right to think whatever we like no matter how horrible it is. So Bill Shorten's and many others' attacks on him involved either misunderstanding or deliberately misinterpreting his comments in the Senate on Monday night.

Where Brandis is wrong, or at least unjustifiably selective, is on what follows from this right. In his attempt to repeal section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act, Brandis is using this "right to be a bigot" to allow people who have bigoted views to express them in speech. This is the common justification of free speech: freedom of conscience is meaningless without being able to act on it in some way.

So far so good. The problem, and I'm certainly not the first person to say this, is that while we think conscience should be entirely free, actions that we take on behalf of our conscience are an entirely different matter. These actions affect other people, and thus their interests need also to be considered before giving carte blanche to free speech.

Of course, and here Brandis is also right, mere offence is not normally sufficient to limit one's free speech. But it is here that Brandis is on some very shaky ground and appears to have been particularly selective in reading from his well-known library of political theory. There are two types of arguments that resist Brandis' insistence that if you are a bigot you have a right to say whatever you think in the public sphere.

The first challenges the notion that racist slurs and insults only cause "mere offence" rather than substantive harm ("harm to others" being the ambiguous gold standard on which all liberals agree that freedom should be limited).

To understand racist slurs and insults as causing "mere offence" is to deeply and tragically misunderstand the nature of racism. Racism further marginalises the most vulnerable in our community, and undermines any attempts to achieve social equality. They may well be offended and insulted, but there is a deeper harm here.

The second argument is entirely separate. While much of the first argument relies on a particular understanding of what a good

society is, and on a particular notion of harm, this second argument simply points out the inconsistencies in arguing for free speech in one domain but not others.

If, as Brandis and Tim Wilson (following JS Mill) believe, free speech is important in a society for the discovery of truth and for the intellectual and moral development of its citizens, then why pick on section 18C? Unlike the United States, speech in Australia is very limited. Even if I conscientiously believe (without sufficient evidence) that a particular individual or corporation is, for example, polluting a waterway, I'm not free to simply say it publicly. And if I decide to publish a doctored picture of somebody having sex with an animal, I'm going to need a very good lawyer.

There are countless examples of how our speech is limited in Australia. I'm not saying that there is something wrong with these restrictions. But if expressing our conscience is so important in a free society, why is it only bigots who have this right? Surely, if we want a more vigorous intellectual climate and to uncover and maintain truth, then allowing all of us to regularly speak our mind in public would be a good thing, and it would seem there are much more important laws that Brandis should be looking at repealing.

But wait. What would happen if we removed all these protections? People would risk having their lives disrupted, their reputations besmirched, their businesses fail, all because of somebody's right to express whatever wacky or ill-founded view they might hold.

Of course, in this world of free speech you can talk back. But once you've been labelled a paedophile, a wife beater or a philanderer there is the small problem of "the more one doth protest..." And all this is assuming that you have the power (and resources) for your voice to be heard.

Balancing free speech is a difficult task, and I do not envy legislators on this matter. And, to be honest, I'm still not sure where I stand. But something seems more than a bit fishy about focusing all our free speech efforts on eradicating the quite weak protection that exists for some of the most vulnerable people in our society, and leaving the rest of us, the rich and powerful, fully protected. ■

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Tobruk home from humanitarian mission

Just in time for Christmas, the crew of HMAS Tobruk returned to their homeport of Garden Island, Sydney, after spending the previous six weeks in the Philippines, supporting Australian Defence Force (ADF) humanitarian disaster relief operations.

Acting Commander Australian Fleet, Commodore Jonathan Mead, met the ship and congratulated the hard-working sailors and officers on their tireless assistance to the multinational response effort. "In November, Tobruk deployed to the Philippines to provide assistance to the people following Tropical Cyclone Haiyan," Commodore Mead said. "The ship sailed with an embarked Army Recovery Support Force, medium landing craft (LCM8) and a Navy MRH-90 helicopter. While in the disaster zone, Tobruk conducted an amphibious lodgement of the embarked Army Recovery Support Force in Ormoc Bay, and took part in cleanup tasks at local schools.

"The ship also distributed aid from the World Food Programme and the Philippine Government to remote islands in the Visayas archipelago," Commodore Mead said. Commanding Officer of Tobruk, Commander Leif Maxfield, said the ship's company is proud to have helped those in need. "We sailed from Sydney on 20 October for a deployment to the Solomon Islands. Little did we expect that we would be re-tasked to provide humanitarian support to the Philippines," Commander Maxfield said. "Arriving in Ormoc Bay, the scale of damage was significant. The crew worked hard as part of the multinational effort to help the local people get their lives back to normal as quickly as possible. "Arriving back in Sydney, the crew is excited to be joining our loved ones for Christmas. The consensus on the ship is that we are all proud to have made a positive difference. This is what many of us joined the Navy for and why we train so hard," Commander Maxfield said. Before docking in Sydney, Tobruk made a short stop in Townsville, unloading 35 members of the Army Recovery Support Force, the landing craft and helicopter. The crew of the amphibious landing ship will now go on leave,



with HMAS Choules and ADV Ocean Shield, the assigned humanitarian and disaster response vessels over the Christmas period. The ADF contribution to the response to Tropical Cyclone Haiyan started on 13 November 2013, after a request for support from the Philippine Government and commitment from the Australian Government to provide assistance. ■

Australian War Memorial Indigenous Australians in the First World War

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders have served in the Australian military since before the Boer War. We will never know how many have worn the Australian uniform, mainly because ethnicity was never formally required on enlistment papers when men volunteered for service. Even today, potential recruits are not required to state their ethnicity.

Indigenous Australians who served in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in the First World War did so in fully integrated battalions and were exposed to the same conditions as non-Indigenous soldiers. Many experienced equal treatment and pay for the first time in their lives while serving in the army. Things were very different when they returned to civilian life-many were treated with greater prejudice and discrimination, as then they had been exposed to before the war.

It is believed that more than 1300 Indigenous Australians fought in the First World War. They came from a section of society that had few rights, was paid little to no wages, and lived amid poor conditions. Being subject to their respective state rather than Federal Laws most were not eligible to vote, nor were they counted in the national census. In the AIF, however, Indigenous Australians were treated as equals-they were paid the same as other soldiers and were overwhelmingly accepted without prejudice.

The Australian War Memorial has a number of projects planned throughout the First World War centenary period to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Indigenous Australians alongside their non-Indigenous comrades. These include the redeveloped First World War Galleries, where a particular feature is made of the men of the 11th Light Horse. This unit from North Queensland had a high proportion of Aboriginal troopers within its ranks and fought a successful action at Semakh in Palestine in September 1918.

The Memorial is working jointly with the Australian National University to establish a database of Indigenous Australians who served in the First World War. It will record details such as whether a man became a casualty, his place of burial and state of enlistment, as well as other biographical information preserved in First World War service records. ■

Australian War Memorial.

100 years of women's service to Red Cross

Women have been at the forefront of Red Cross since its foundation in Australia. As Red Cross celebrates 100 years in Australia, we pay tribute to the critical role women have played throughout our history. It's a remarkable story about the hundreds of thousands of women who gave their time, enthusiasm and dedicated service to Red Cross over 100 years, a significant part of the social history of women in Australia.

Professor Melanie Oppenheimer, author of the book *Women and War* says, "The roles might have changed over the generations, but the reason behind the work and the character of the women continues."

In the days after the outbreak of World War I, the wife of the then Governor-General, Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, established the first Red Cross branch in Australia on 13 August 1914. She wrote to the wives of each State Governor to secure their support and Red Cross branches were quickly formed in each state.

Australian women flocked to the cause, many volunteering to train in first-aid and home nursing to carry out unpaid domestic and quasi-nursing duties in hospitals and convalescent homes. They became the public face of Red Cross.

Red Cross enabled women to do something tangible for the war effort. Women volunteered in the Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau that researched the whereabouts of soldiers serving in Europe and sent word to their anxious families. Australian women also raised funds - over one-third, or almost £5 million pounds, of all monies donated in Australia over the four years of WWI to the patriotic funds.

Women produced millions of pounds worth of in-kind support through volunteer labour and goods, sending an astonishing volume of goods overseas to servicemen and prisoners of war. They knitted and sewed socks, towels and vests for soldiers, much of the work done

by hand in small rural communities where there was often no electricity.

Between the wars Red Cross women volunteers continued to care for sick, injured and recovering returned servicemen and their families. They worked in hospitals and community health to support national health emergencies, such as the Spanish flu epidemic, the spread of tuberculosis, and the Blood Transfusion Service.

At the outbreak of WWII many people who had supported Red Cross during the earlier war were mobilised once again to provide first aid, social services and nursing care at home, and to produce and send goods overseas. Their experience allowed Red Cross to expand to become the largest charitable organisation in Australia. From a national population of seven million, nearly half a million people, mostly women, were Red Cross members.

During WWII women served overseas on the front line as Red Cross Field Force officers, as nurses and specialised aids trained in disaster relief, working in units in Italy, the Middle East, Ceylon, India and Burma.

"By the end of World War II, Australian Red Cross had developed its Field Force," explains Melanie. "That's where you get people like Maureen White - typical young Australian women who wanted to do something actively for the war."

Maureen was one of almost 200 Australian women who served overseas during World War II. Based in the Pacific and then Japan, she provided support to prisoners of war returning home from the Japanese camps.

"They were very sick men," she explains. "Too ill to go any further until we built them up."

In the post-war era from 1945 to 1965 many women cared for returned servicemen with disabilities and expanded their work into other social services, including assisting war brides, supporting women and children in need, working in hospitals and helping new migrants to Australia.

We continue to have a strong cohort of women delivering our work in Australia, including in disaster and emergency services, social services, community development and first aid training, and overseas, providing humanitarian relief in conflicts from South Sudan to Afghanistan, and working as emergency and disaster relief specialists and community aid and development workers.



Jessica Hazelwood, who worked as a Red Cross nurse in Afghanistan has some advice for today's woman working in conflict zones.

"You need to be resilient, you need to have unrelenting faith in humanity, you need hope, and you need to be 100 per cent neutral and impartial."

"We don't live in an equal world and until we can improve the situation, I'll keep going back," says Jessica.

Her predecessor, Maureen, agrees, "I'd do it again quite easily. I'm quite sure all the girls would." ■

Sources:

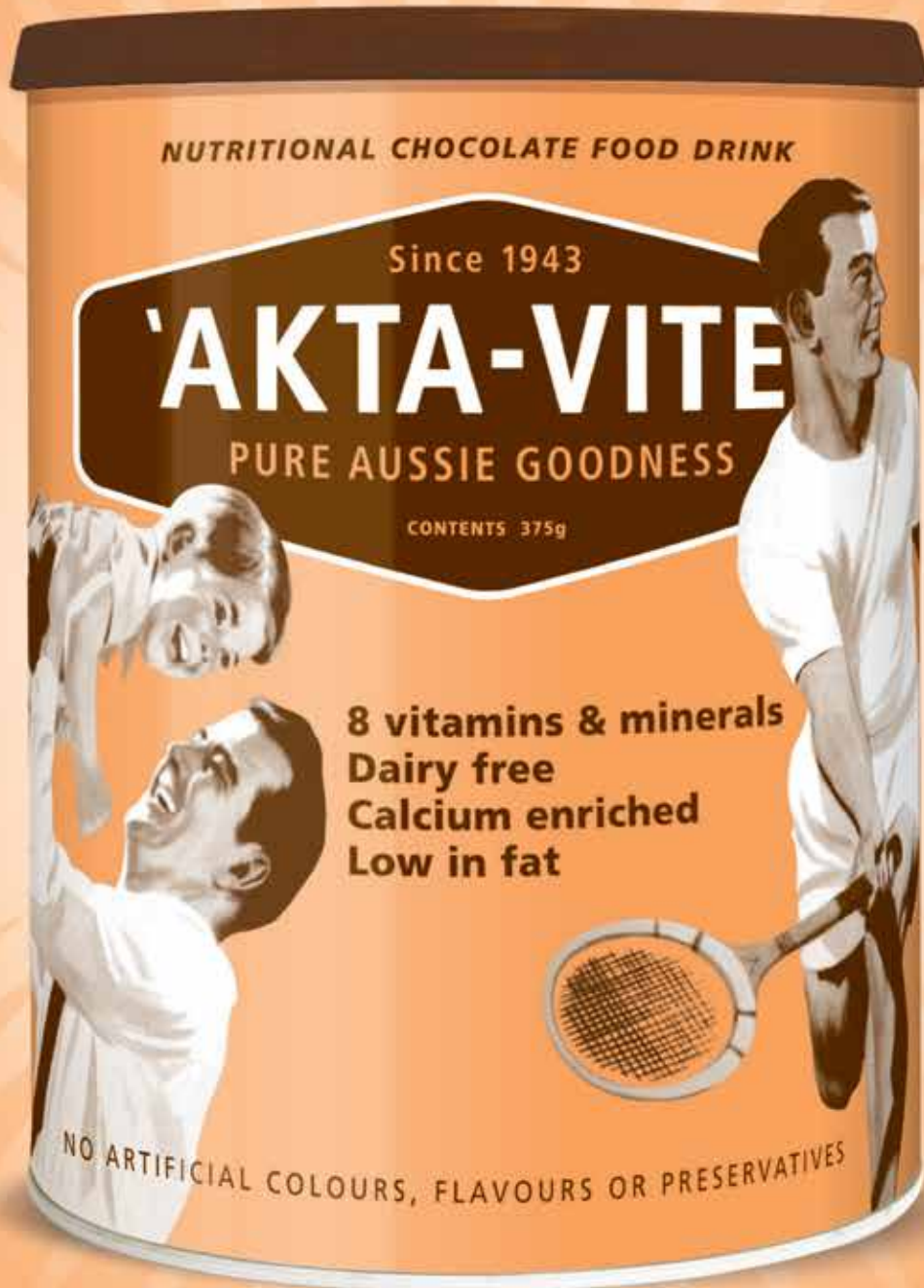
Melanie Oppenheimer *The Power of Humanity: 100 Years of Australian Red Cross 1914-2014*, Sydney, Harper Collins, forthcoming, August 2014.

In our Centenary year, Red Cross pays tribute to the millions of women who shaped our history. As we look ahead to the next 100 years, we invite the next generation of young women to join our humanitarian cause.

Visit www.redcross.org.au

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ADAM GOODES, AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR: 'empowering and inspiring'

The Australian Human Rights Commission is "absolutely delighted" that its anti-racism ambassador, Adam Goodes, has been named Australian of the Year 2014.

"It's a fantastic achievement; we're absolutely delighted that Adam Goodes has been honoured as Australian of the Year," said the Commission President, Professor Gillian Triggs.

"The award acknowledges and celebrates the very significant contribution Adam Goodes has made to human rights in Australia.

"The award highlights Mr Goodes' support for anti-racism initiatives such as Racism, It Stops With Me and it draws attention to Mr Goodes' support for constitutional reform," Professor Triggs said.

Mr Goodes was honoured for his leadership and advocacy in the fight against racism both on the sporting field and within society - a stance which has won him the admiration and respect of people around Australia.

The 34-year-old Australian Rules football player and Indigenous man holds an elite place in AFL history, winning two Brownlow Medals and two premierships. He is a member of the Indigenous Team of the Century and has represented Australia in the International Rules Series.

Mr Goodes is also an ambassador for the Human Rights Commission's Racism,

It Stops With Me campaign. He features in an anti-racism video clip produced by the Commission as a Community Service Announcement in partnership with Play by the Rules.

That video clip quickly went viral after Mr Goodes experienced a racist incident during an AFL game in Melbourne last year. Almost 250,000 people have now viewed the clip online.

"Racism, It Stops With Me encourages people to think about what they say and to understand why racist comments are wrong," Professor Triggs said.

"We were lucky to find the perfect ambassador in Adam Goodes. We thank him for his leadership and we congratulate him for his achievements."

The Race Discrimination Commissioner, Tim Soutphommasane, also congratulated Mr Goodes on becoming Australian of the Year.

Dr Soutphommasane said Mr Goodes has delivered a simple but important message: that there is no place for racism in Australia.

"Adam Goodes' stand against racism has inspired and empowered many Australians," Dr Soutphommasane said. ■

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RSL Care Chairman's Appeal: Help people like Katie get more out of life

RSL Care will launch its 2014 Chairman's Appeal in May which aims to raise much needed funds for Australians living in residential care.

RSL Care Chairman Mr Pat McIntosh said the appeal was raising much needed funds to help people to get more out of life.

"This appeal is about promoting wellbeing and independence for our fellow Australians and aims to raise funds to provide support, equipment, tools and services to deserving members of the community in need," he said.

Deserving people like 44 year old Katie Burgess, who, after a diagnosis of Motor Neurone Disease came to live at RSL Care Milford Grange, in Ipswich last October.

Two months after her diagnosis, the disease rapidly progressed to the point where she had to give up work, sell her house and find rental accommodation.

Katie's challenges progressed to the point where she needed high-care 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Katie has very limited ability to communicate, she has lost the use of her arms and legs and her speech is severely impacted. The future looked grim for Katie.

Since coming to live at Milford Grange our qualified and caring staff have used all their skills and experience to encourage Katie to

have a go at life again and feel confident about seeking improvement.

Mr McIntosh said Katie has had a positive impact on the lives of staff and other residents here too.

"We are so lucky to have Katie, we have learned so much from her," he said.

"It's so fulfilling for our staff to be able to understand Katie and chart a new course for Katie's life, to shape a new future with her and give her independence back."

Mr McIntosh said RSL Care would use funds donated to the appeal to install specialised software onto Katie's laptop.

"This will open up a world of connection, communication and self-expression. Katie said "I will be able to take back some control".

Donations to the 2014 Chairman's Appeal will directly support people in our care to make the most out of life.

Donated funds will go towards programs and items that support and enhance individuals



mental, physical and emotional health, activities that keep them socially connected to their community and most importantly activities that acknowledge their unique life and self-expression giving them a purpose to be healthy and live a productive life. ■

**Donations can be made at
www.donaterSLcare.com.au**

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- HomeCare support services[^]
- 24 hour emergency call systems
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**For more information call 1300 558 648
or visit www.retirerslcare.com.au**

[^]Residential aged care and HomeCare services subject to assessment and availability.



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A photograph of Petula Clark performing on stage. She is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark, long-sleeved top. Her blonde, curly hair is illuminated by a bright light source, creating a halo effect. She is looking upwards and to the right, holding a microphone in her right hand. The background is dark with some stage lights visible.

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