



# SITREP

Australia Day Celebrations



**Lara RSL Sub Branch**

Issue 1, Feb 2025

**Councilor Chris Burson, Lara RSL President Marcus McEwen and  
Councilor Eddy Kontelj**

**Note:** This Australia Day was similar to last year's Australia Day, we had a very joyful and fun-filled day at the Lara RSL. You could say that we had a **Perfect Day**. We had, "citizens of Lara and the surrounding areas, Veterans of the Defence Forces and Emergency Services, Councilors, people from the Indigenous Community and at least one Indigenous Elder.

If we could replicate this outside the walls of the Lara RSL the country would be an even better place to live!

Welcome to the first issue of SITREP for 2025!

As I mentioned in the last issue, 2025 will be a massive year for our Sub Branch with so much in the pipeline! There will be lots of requests for our Volunteers to step up and lend a hand, with this year's ANZAC Appeal set to be our biggest ever, by far. For those of you who aren't aware, we have been invited to sell ANZAC Badges at the Avalon Airshow, across all six days! This is super exciting because not only will it give us a massive injection of welfare funds enabling us to hopefully do some really good things to look after our Veterans, but it will also give us the perfect opportunity to give back to our volunteers by allowing them to have free entry into the airshow! Obviously, we want to reward those who are always putting their hands up first, but there will still be plenty of chances for everyone to get involved if they want to do so. As this SITREP goes to print, we are still planning the event in conjunction with Head Office, but we do know that we are permitted to have 20 volunteers per day, some of these will be Head Office staff, but the majority will come from within our Sub Branch.

But, before we get to the airshow, we have our Annual General Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. I am incredibly grateful to have led our Sub Branch on our path of significant growth with a talented and dedicated Executive team, supported perfectly by a fantastic committee. We already know that this year we will be farewelling Dave Flatt, our Bar Manager from the Committee, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all of his hard work and support over the past few years, and I wish both Dave and Pam all the best as they commence their year of the road trips! May you have safe travels, good health and create many happy memories along the way. At the AGM, the Executive Committee will be presenting a very exciting proposal for the consideration of our membership. This is something that we have been working on since September 2024, and I personally have put in well over 100 hours of work into the idea since it first came to mind, supported by Roy, Andy and Russell along the way so it will be really good to be able to finally discuss it out in the open with you all. If you aren't at the AGM, you won't know what we are talking about!

It's fair to say that over the past few months, we have been doing some firsts for our Sub Branch. The commencement of Bunnings Sausage Sizzles has given us a fantastic opportunity to raise some money and spend some time out in the public to further raise awareness of our RSL. We have attended Sub Branch planning meetings whereby we were mingling with over 30 other Sub Branches and discussing ways to improve the RSL

statewide. We have been attending Council meetings in support of things that we are very passionate about, we have been raiding the bar at Costa House under the guise of mingling with Veterans, we held our first RSL Active event when we went clay target shooting, we have celebrated retirements, milestone birthdays, national awards and the list goes on! We even introduced a weekly members draw that is clearly growing in popularity! None of this would be possible without you, our members, who continue to turn up and make our Sub Branch what it is, so for that, I thank you all.

By the time our next SITREP is published, we will have hosted many more events, we will have conducted our biggest ever ANZAC Appeal, and we will have held both our ANZAC Day Dawn Service and also our lunch time event. This year's lunch event will include something very different. Many of you will remember Jenani and Sami who have donated thousands of hours of their own time to bring to life "Of Service" the fine art publication of the stories of life after service for over 100 Veterans around the country. What most of you won't be aware of is that as a Sub Branch, we acted as an auspice which enabled Jenani to receive a grant from the Victorian Veterans Council in order to bring "Of Service" into the digital world, and at 1pm on ANZAC Day, she will be officially launching the "Of Service" website at our Sub Branch! This will once again bring some special dignitaries to Lara which will be very exciting for us!

I know that there are plenty of stories to read in this edition of SITREP, so I invite you to sit back, put your feet up and enjoy the read! I look forward to seeing you all at the Sub Branch over the coming months.

Yours Aye,

Marcus McEwen

President





## Loz and Dazza

Bali Nov 2024



This merry couple didn't come back to the land of OZ the way they left. Loz has an inside forearm tatt that looks very classy, and Dazza went all out with this full leg job. This is the inside and outside of one leg.

Dazza spoke about his dad when we had the Vietnam Veterans Display. Do you think he is committed? Do you think he cares?



## Marcus

06 Feb 2025



It must be the quarter for skin artwork. Marcus also took to the ink shop for some memorabilia. Dazza's leg was the first item in this newsletter and Marcus's arm is the last item in this edition.

Between Dazza and Marcus there were many hours of pain. The bill for both guys was insurmountable "you could say "it cost an **arm and a leg**"!



1<sup>st</sup> sitting

2<sup>nd</sup> sitting



# HMAS Goorangai

17 Nov 24

## Commemoration Service



Wild and Windy at Queenscliff

Marcus laying the Lara RSL wreath

Marcus and Roy took the trip down to Queenscliff for the commemorative service of the HMAS Goorangai. This was the same trip that they did last year.

**HMAS Goorangai** was a 223-ton auxiliary minesweeper of the Royal Australian Navy. She was built in 1919 for the Government of New South Wales, then sold in 1926 to the fishing company Cam & Sons. The trawler was requisitioned for military service following the outbreak of World War II, it was then converted into a minesweeper and assigned to Melbourne. She was sunk in an accident/collision with MV Duntroon in 1940.

On the night of the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 1940, Goorangai was crossing the mouth of Port Phillip Bay to anchor at Portsea for the night. The minesweeper was sailing under “brown out” conditions with minimal lighting. At 2037 hrs, MV Duntroon, en route to Sydney, emerged from Port Phillip Bay and cut Goorangai in two.

The small auxiliary sank within a minute, taking all 24 personnel aboard with her. Only six bodies were recovered, one of which couldn't be identified. Goorangai and her ship's company were the RAN's first loss in World War II, and the RAN's first surface ship ever to be sunk while in service.

## Lara RSL, hat to be there....

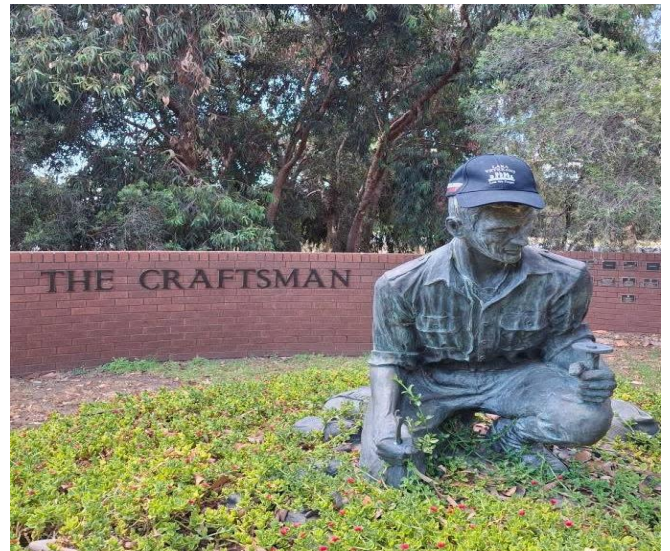


Pearl Jam Concert 18 Nov 24, Russell.



Luna Park 14 Jan 25, Marcus.

## RAEME Headquarters



4th Jan 2025- Dave and Fiona McBean headed to Bandiana in Wodonga for a reunion, home of RAEME (Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers), and the hat made an appearance.





While distributing the Nov 24 Newsletter I made a pit stop and had some lunch on the 19<sup>th</sup> of Nov 24.



Michael and the boys at Lara Tyre & Battery Service replaced all my tyres and did a wheel alignment before I finished

enveloping the mail outs. They now put a sticker on your windscreen, so you know when to come back for the tyre rotation (at no charge).



Then I went to Anna's Café for lunch and noticed that knives, forks and spoons were already there, you don't need to look

around to find them. It was the same with salt & pepper, sugar and napkins, now that is convenient. I was a guts and got the big breakfast.



## **Alert! Lara RSL President seen doing lines out the front of the RSL**

27 Nov 24



Marcus and Liam spent a few hours re-marking the parking spaces at the RSL. Interestingly Isobel, Marcus's partner, left her car at the RSL overnight. White paint on a white car won't be noticed.



We have put forward a request to have three disabled car park spaces marked close to the Lara RSL entrance. Don't hold your breath but it will get done.



# Brad's coming of Age

18 years of age on the 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024



**You won't believe it,** but this was possibly the first time that we have had hundreds and thousands at the Lara RSL (and the crowd went wild!).



We have had a couple of Karaoke Nights, Anzac Days, Remembrance Days and have required some audio inside the Lara RSL over the past year and a bit. All of this has been done with Brad's assistance. Many a night locking up, Brad can be seen assisting with this procedure.

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Alwyn likes to rewire and play with all things electrical and so does Brad. A big thanks to the Leech Clan for your help over the past year and a half.

And not to be left out, Brad's Mum Kerry, has joined the RSL now make it a family affair.

From the Lara RSL committee, thank you Alwyn and Brad for your efforts in the audio and other assorted areas of support.

## First World problem solved early Dec 2024



We have had running water at the RSL for many years, now when the water trickles between your fingers you will get a warm fuzzy feeling. We can thank the Lara Bendigo Bank which is Lara's District Community Bank for this donation.

### Community Bank Lara District



**Suggestion Box** -In the main lounge area on the mantel piece is a suggestion box. It doesn't get much action and is usually checked by one of the committee members. Alwyn put a suggestion in the box which was attended to in a timely manner.

This is a very efficient way to get a message through to the committee.

It is very easy to walk from the bar to the memorial room and have 6 conversations in the process. By the time we have reached the memorial room you are trying to remember the reason you were heading there in the first place.

The suggestion box works, it can be anonymous (if you like) and this way it won't slip our minds.



**While Bob Lawson is away the Artificer is at play** 13 Nov 24



In between making home brew and taking on the position of first mate alongside Kevin Bate (fishing). Dave McBean OAM is not an Ordinary Adult Male. He can also make fire pit lids as seen in this picture.

Not only can this be a seat, but it will be adorned with raffle prizes and hampers in the coming days.

**Costa House** 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024



**Back Row: Russell, Kylie, Norm, Jim, Roy, Don,**

**Front Row: Ron, Majorie, Jack and Gary.**

This was the third visit that we made to Costa House this year and we fully expect to continue in the same manner next year. After we greeted each other the first thing Roy said was how long have you been in, for a minute I thought we were in Barwon Prison. (Roy, what a joker), It was a good ice breaker, and our happy hour turned out to be an hour and a half.

Kylie is the social Care Coordinator and promotes the memory and wearing of medals, as we do. I have invited Kylie to the RSL as she does think along the same lines as we do, hope to see you soon.

Norm did National Service, Jim who is a Lara RSL member is also a Vietnam Veteran and our inside man, Roy was looking to book a room, Don was in the British Army and saw service in Saudia Arabia, he worked the bar with John Walmsley back in the day. Ron was a journalist for the Geelong news and 3AW, Majorie's husband Kevin was a World War II Veteran, Jack is the only living World War II Veteran that we know of in the area and Gary was an electrician. Jack features in this edition of the back story.

## **We draw the line at Pool** Early Dec 24

What went into the suggestion box was to re-mark the pool table as the lines had faded.

Marcus and Bob Schouten took the cue from this message and promptly seen to the task.





## Sashi picking up a National Gong



Avni Vagadia receiving the Commander's Leadership Award at TS Barwon

In the last edition of the SITREP Sashi was awarded an honor at the **Victorian Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards** on the 3rd Aug 24. That put him in the running for a national award. On the 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 24 in Canberra the **National Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards** took place with Sashi taking out the National RESCA Officer of the Year category.



Sashi and Divia have all their children involved in community activities.

Not to be out done by her dad, Avni the centre sailor picked up her own award.

Congratulations to you both.



## Constentine Brain Voice 13 Nov 24

Enlisting at the age of 18 years old and stationed in Papua New Guinea, Constentine served with the 86<sup>th</sup> Squadron during the Second World War.

This was something Constentine made in his spare time.

Kindly donated by his family to the Lara RSL Sub branch



The foyer looks really good with presents, food parcels, flags and a nativity set. Not only are members placing stock from their cupboards under the Christmas Tree, but some are purposely going out to buy items to place under the tree also. That is a fantastic effort from all who have participated.



At the time of placing this on the page, Pickle ball was still running on the 6-7 Jan and 13-14 Jan over at the Lara Tennis courts. This starts each evening at 6.00pm.

## Lara RSL Christmas Luncheon Sun 15th Dec 24



The luncheon started many weeks ago when Jackie slowly filled our spare room with many items for the Christmas Hampers. It looked impressive on the spare room floor but more impressive on the pool table.

Rays relo's returned up to feed us again and we got the same result as last time, nothing but positive feedback. Thanks Coast to Coast who cook our roast.

## Outside Job



As usual we set up the shade sails out the back. We needed a bottom prop for the table, so we put our top Artificer on the job (Technical Bloke).

“No Dave Mc, you’re not off the coast of Cairns fishing for Marlin”!



## Inside Job



We set the tables and other inside deco the day before with Jackie adding the intricate touch.



Fiona Mc was a partner with Jackie and part of the success of this event. It is an improvement both in numbers and in the standard.





The Hampers are definitely photo worthy and somehow the Lara RSL hat has made it into the shot.



Who is that bloke in the orange hat? He does look familiar.



Roy, Jackie and Fiona get the raffles under way.





I don't believe we need an official photo from the Lara RSL Christmas Luncheon but if we do this is it.

Mayor of Geelong, Stretch Kontelj OAM, Councilor Chris Burson (looking good), Lara RSL President Marcus and Vice President Roy.

## **Bunnings Sausage Sizzles** Nth Geelong 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 24



Not only is this the first time that we are flipping snags out the front of Bunnings but also the first time we are wearing our new Lara RSL Aprons.

The morning crew started with Marcus, Brad, Liam, Russell and Sashi. A little later Dave Mc and Liz Gothard helped.

In the afternoon James filled in to ease the load on the crew.



It does need to be mentioned that Brad and Liam stayed for the full day with Liam in the pole position, at the BBQ. We know he had a big one because he went quiet towards the end of the day and that's not Liam.

26th Dec 24



James, Kev, Liam, Russ, Ian and Marcus.

Morning Crew



Ray, Marcus, Elisha and Chris

Afternoon Crew

12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025



Brad, Robyn, Liam, Russell Steve, Ian and Marcus.

Morning Crew



Marcus, Isobel, James Ella, Liam and Brad.

Arvo Crew

25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025

Regrettably we didn't take photos on this occasion, that is a pity because we made

**\$5,481.73!** That's a lot of napkins, bread, snags and effort. A big thanks to all that helped on the day. (Marcus, Liam, Brad, Nicole, Isobel, Leanne Hardwick and myself.)

Now that I want a photo of a record-breaking Bunnings S/S team, we need to back it up and knock off this impressive total. This was **all profit**; the turnover was a little higher.

09<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025



Another day, another healthy profit. New member Peter along with Russell, Jackie, Isobel and Marcus for the morning crew.

Arvo crew saw Steve, Robyn and Liz Gothard assist Marcus, Isobel, Peter and Roy.

## Dixie Bashing in the mess ongoing



Two of the usual suspects in the kitchen. In recent months we have the likes of Julie Tilbrook and Gerard Beggs carrying out the dixie bashing duties. Others do help on occasions, and we do thank you.

Whilst we are thanking people for carrying out the behind-the-scenes tasks, we also thank Elizabeth and Ian for commuting our oldest regular member (June Meaney), cheers to you.



# Christmas in Lara

20 Dec 24



A great setup considering it is free.



Good choice of food stalls.



We see these two bumbling around.



One of many stalls



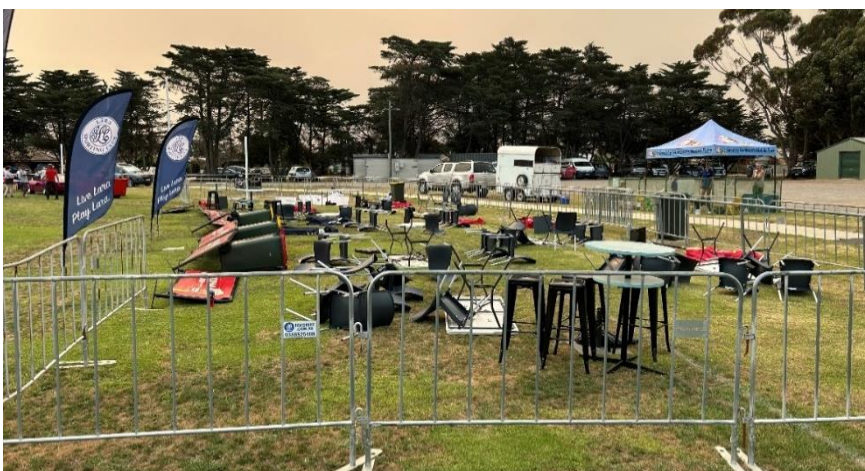


Ella's marquee, when it was up.

The Sporting Club's Christmas in Lara went well once again, a couple of us from the Lara RSL set up again with Marquees, tables, chairs, umbrellas and weights etc...

Once we had finished the set-up, Marcus and I headed back to the RSL for a change of pace but.....

the wind picked up, we were waved down and asked the return as marquees, umbrellas, tables and chairs rearranged themselves. That was about 4pm, come 6.30pm we had just reset the beer garden for the second time.



The two young ladies who ran the outdoor bar certainly put in a huge effort before the first drink was sold.

Elly and Jess were crafty enough to acquire some weights for the umbrellas and signage.

**Natural events, not a pub brawl, set this scene.**



## 2024 Calendar Year Review

At the time of writing this part of the newsletter, it is right at the end of 2024 and I would like us all to reflect back on the year that was, so here are some of the highlights from what was a mammoth year for our Sub Branch:

52 Friday catch up sessions, 21 functions at the RSL, 20 Community Events Supported, 27 Community Meetings attended, 32 Community Volunteer Days, 5 Working Bees, 3 Bus Trips, 2 karaoke's, 6 Ministerial Visits to our Sub Branch, 33 New Members joined our Sub Branch including 6 Veterans, We celebrated 75 Years in our building, we reached a new fundraising record for both our ANZAC and Poppy Appeals, we awarded Life Membership to one of our Vietnam Veterans, we celebrated the birthday milestones from 94 years young, 80<sup>th</sup>'s, 70<sup>th</sup>'s, 21<sup>st</sup>'s and even 3 x 18<sup>th</sup>'s!

Our committee have all worked exceptionally hard to bring this much social engagement to our members and we thank each and every one of them for the huge amount of hours that they have put in this year. The theme for the 2024 Veterans Health Week was "Stay Connected", and that is exactly what we have tried to do all year, together!

We also want to thank all our supporters, sponsors and community groups who have helped us out in 2024. We can't do what we do without each and everyone of you walking the journey alongside us.

Personally, I am really looking forward to 2025. My fellow Executives and I all know what we have coming at us and I promise you all, it's going to be even bigger and better than 2024, and we are super excited for what lies ahead!

Marcus McEwen-President

Hi Team, I am writing this on the 31 Dec to finish off the year. The word growth seems to fit everything at the Lara RSL. Memberships, weekly attendance, bar takings, raffle draws and atmosphere. If you look at any company's financial or data sheets and all the arrows are pointing north, then it is happy days. In a nutshell, that is exactly where we stand to date. How have we achieved this?

Hard work and good management. We started with the President being awarded Citizen of the Year then a great Australia Day at the RSL. Bus trips, karaoke's, morning teas and a well-planned Christmas Luncheon. Our two main events drew large crowds again with high profile dignitaries throughout the year. This has been a great effort. I have looked at the last two and a half months to see a wonderful group of people attending with an attitude and energy that can only inspire, thanks to you all for your support.

Russell Lowe-Secretary

## Start of another year

Very similar to last year, we were open every Friday with good attendance over the holiday break.



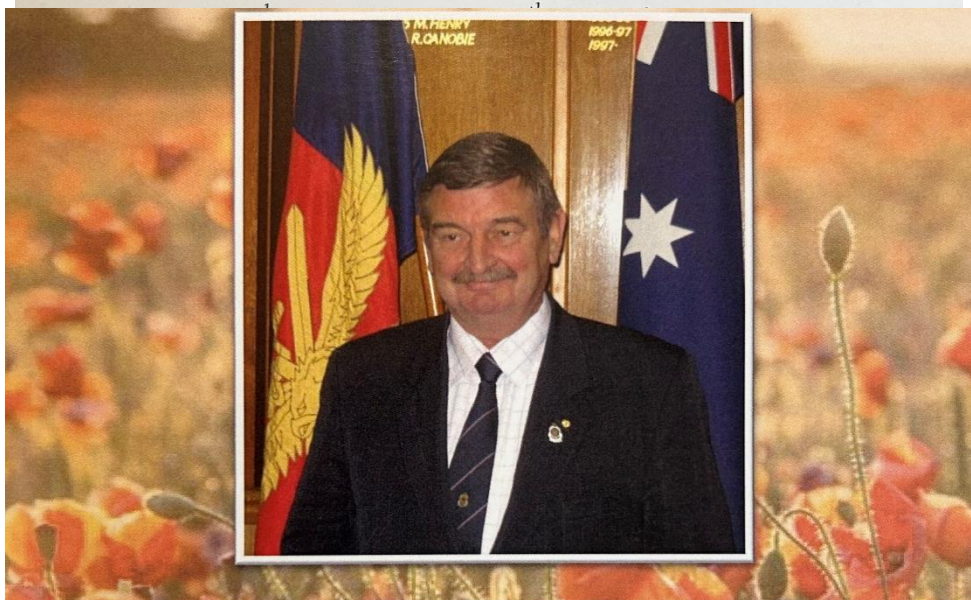
“For whom the bell tolls”, and no that is not Graeme Toll.



It looks like most of them are drinking from the same glass.



In Loving Memory of  
*John Francis Cullen OAM*





Marcus, Liam and I took the trip up to Waverly to see off one of the Vietnam Veterans. John was Chair of RSL Victoria House Trustees, an esteemed former member of the State Executive (1994-2020) and State Honorary Treasurer (2002-2020). John joined the RSL in 1970 and was a former President, Treasurer and Secretary of the Boronia Sub-branch. John served in Vietnam with 5RAR B Coy and was part of the Battle of Bihn Bah.

John was a former Director of both Vasey RSL care and the Sir Edward Dunlop Medical Research Foundation. For his long and distinguished service to the RSL in Victoria, John was awarded Life Membership in 2000, recognized in the Order of Australia in 2006, inducted into the RSL's Hall of Fame in 2007 and awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 2008.

Cheers mate; we salute you.

## Members Draw

10/01/25

We have had our first members draw for the year and the first full stop. We have a transparent barrel with small tiles placed in it, a name will be drawn from the barrel each week. \$50.00 is the weekly prize and mathematically speaking there will be more carryover jackpots than weekly winners. Approximately 25% of members are present each week, meaning that there will be one winner every four weeks, that's \$200.00 in your pocket tax free.



The first Member draw was won by Brett Hutchinson, but he wasn't present for the draw. Next week \$100 is up for grabs, Marcus contacted Brett who said that he hopes that someone in need of the money wins it next week, "thanks Brett".



It is very realistic to expect the dollar value of the draw to look like the picture above, that is \$500, this is the cap we have put on the draw. Now, it gets even more interesting. If we have no winner after 9 weeks, we will be drawing out a winner on the tenth week. We will draw a tile and call the name and repeat this process until someone in the room wins the Jackpot.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 25 I am happy to say that we have not had a winner of the members draw since its inception. We currently have a jackpot of \$350. Although it will be good when it is won, it would be equally as good to reach the magical \$500.

## That's, Mr Dave Mc Bean to you....

17 Jan 25

Our resident Warrant Officer Class1 Dave McBean has handed in the armourer's kit for a stubby holder and fishing rod.



With 40 years plus in the green machine, Dave has seen and done plenty. Without saying too much, you can cast your eyes over the displays we set up in the Pool Room. Dave has a mannequin dedicated to him with a run-down of his achievements. **Come down and check it out.**



Andy is looking a little jealous of Marcus kissing Dave.



# Clay target Shooting

18 Jan 2025

A group of us took up the offer and tested our skills on the target range at Balliang East. Bright orange and looking more like a mini frisbee the disks won on the day.



Intro and Brief before shoot



Graeme Toll best Male shot



Maryanne Mullahy best female shot

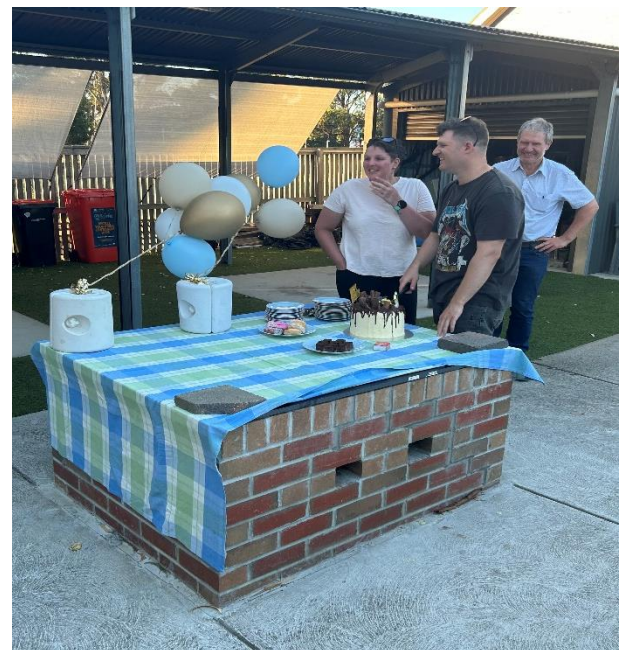


The killer team on the day, Birthday boy (middle front) flanked by best shots.



## Mitch's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday

18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025



Following on from our shoot, we ventured down to the RSL for Mitch's 30<sup>th</sup> bash. Both Mitch's parents and Kira's parents were present for the evening, and it turned out to be a perfect weather night.

Known one wanted to be inside with the perfect conditions, and it was good to meet some of Mitch's family and friends. We kicked on for a while then gravitated to the pool room to finish off.

We held off giving Mitch's membership card to him so that we could present it at his birthday party. "You have gotta love the outdoor area when we have the good weather".





## Goolwa RSL South Oz mid Jan 2025



Dazza and Loz carrying out some PR work in South Australia.



**26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025**

We started off the Australia Day celebrations with the free breakfast cook up. Sausages, eggs and bacon were our weapon of choice. The Sporting Club was shaking it out with pancakes, Apex did the cereal and fruit, The Lions Club ran their BBQ at the opposite end to ours and the Masonic Lodge did the coffees and juices from the canteen.



We have had numerous activities already this year and we have barely gotten into it.

**Thanks for the response from our members in volunteering to date, plenty more to come and plenty more laughs to be had.**





Some of the boys from the Geelong Vietnam Veterans chapter MC dropped in for a quick recce. These boys are also part of the Norlane RSL Sub Branch.

## Australia Day at the Lara RSL Sub Branch



Raffles Ray, Special Olympics Competitor Andrew and Tiny who will be carrying the torch in the "Law Enforcement Torch Run". Money raised on the day goes to funding Tiny's trip.



Anyone for a lamington?





Poddrick, Jackie and Heather are just, **Staying Alive**, “that’s what Barry Gibb said”.

### Australia Day Speeches



A good healthy crowd once again with live music and dancers on call. Nationwide, the celebrations are very popular. Can’t see this day disappearing off the calendar.

## Geelong Council Meeting

28<sup>th</sup> Jan 25



The COGG meeting didn't throw up too many surprises, the backers for Australia Day had interrupted rude outbursts thrown upon them, that we are becoming accustomed to and we let the nay sayers have their say without interruptions.

What didn't happen last time was the whole public being ejected from the meeting prematurely. There are no prizes for guessing which side caused that debacle.

The vote was 7 to 4 in favor of keeping our Australia Day celebrations on the 26<sup>th</sup> January.



This is something that the team at Hawthorn have put together. This is a Ball for all RSL members everywhere. The Lara RSL do have a few members attending at this stage.



## Hawthorn RSL - Planning Meeting

02 Feb 25



The good folk at Hawthorn RSL hosted this meeting in the hope of improving some of the processes at state level and encouraging better communication amongst the RSL Sub Branches.

It is very beneficial to hear ideas from other RSL's, to hear them speak about their experiences, successes and failures. At times it was a good learning experience and at other times we injected our experiences. There will be a follow-up meeting at some point and we will definitely be part of that mix.

**Bowl For Your Lives** Mental Health Awareness presents the **2025 LEECARE CUP**

**10 March 2025 (Labour Day)**

AT THE **LARA BOWLS CLUB**  
10 Alkara Avenue, Lara  
9.30 A.M UNTIL EVENING

**YOU'RE INVITED**

128 COMPETITORS, PLUS SPECTATORS  
COMING TOGETHER TO CREATE POSITIVE  
CONVERSATION AROUND MENTAL HEALTH

**RAFFLES  
BBQ  
DRINKS**

OVER \$48,000 RAISED FOR  
BLACK DOG INSTITUTE SINCE OCTOBER 2022

Sponsored by **leecare** and **Woolworths** The fresh food people

Proudly supporting **Black Dog Institute**

Email: [ShaneHafner@bowlforyourlives.com.au](mailto:ShaneHafner@bowlforyourlives.com.au)

A group of RSL Members headed over to the Leecare Cup last year and we had a jolly good time. We had 6 or 7 people sitting at our table including Libby Bate. Everyone on our table won a prize. It is a first responders initiative and a very worthy cause.

Shane, who walked the 1<sup>st</sup> Kokoda Challenge is a Co-Founder of this event and a local bloke. Shane has also seen his share of trauma being an ex-policeman.

## Regional Meeting

04 Feb 25

When we visited Anam Cara House. They offered us the opportunity to use their facilities, we have now taken that up. Lara RSL hosted the surrounding RSL's at the Deakin University Campus at Anam Cara House.



An interesting meeting that has followed on from the collective state planning meeting at Hawthorn. I have no doubt that RSL Vic has a lot on their plate but there are questions that need answers. We will be inviting an RSL Vic representative to our next regional meet at Drysdale.

We also had two guest speakers on the day. The Heart Health Program and Australian Catholic University. Anam Cara's Rob and Vanessa gave us a guided tour of their facilities which are mind blowing state of the art and an Australian first.



Large windows for ease of surrounding views. Sitting areas throughout the facility of different designs for different occasions and the same with kitchen areas. This room looks plain until you pull on the wall panels, and out pops the usual hospital apparatus. Look up their details and read about this outstanding facility.



## Community Bank Lara District Grants Night 13 Feb 25



On this occasion we were at the Lara Golf Club for Bendigo Banks Community Grant night where we heard from the **Little Tea Pot Café**.

Sarah was once commuting to Sydney where she worked for the ABC then brought things back a little closer to home. With three small kids under her wing Sarah started up the Café. After going through some ups and downs the café is set up for a sustainable future. Bendigo Bank have helped out along the way with Astro Turf, vouchers and a caterpillar (guessing the caterpillar is a back yard plaything).

The Community Bank Lara District aids over 90 different organizations in the Lara area, one of the events last year was the Christmas in Lara which was hosted by the Lara Sporting Club. We will be putting in an application for a marquee and three standard umbrellas in this grant period..

### Veteran of the Year and Member of the Year

photo taken 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 25



Here are a couple of likable chaps that received in house awards for 2024.

I have been waiting for months to take this shot. We were thinking of resigning Bob as a new member, (he has been away in the UK since the middle of October) but we do remember him.

Bob is ex-Navy and has picked up the Veteran of the year and James is the Member of the Year. Both of these awards had other competition but there can be only one recipient or two in this case. Well, Done Lads!



Marcus and I took up the invitation to attend the Lara Secondary College morning tea. Luke the Principal and Peirre the Vice Principal thanked different organizations in the community for their support.

Whilst talking to Peirre at the morning tea we did establish that Lara Secondary School will have a presence at the Lara RSL Anzac Day ceremony commencing in a little over two months



## Ladies Lunch – Sporting Club

19 Feb 25



“What a great ladies lunch at the Lara Sporting Club. For a short notice event we had 16 ladies turn out for a meal and a catch up. It was great to see some members who we don’t see on a regular Friday night accompanied by the usual suspects. The food was excellent and everyone had nice words to say.”

Fiona Mc Bean

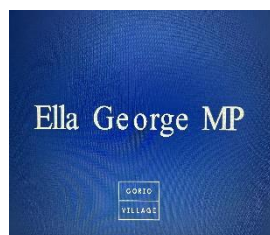
The word going around is that they were a noisy bunch.



As we are leading up to an Annual General Meeting, we will refrain from placing the committee in this issue. There will definitely be changes to the committee come the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2025. We will then place the current committee members in the next issue.



These are the businesses that help us on our big occasion days with selling food, printing, vouchers, large sum donations, prime badge selling locations and oil & lube.



If possible, use these businesses because their donations come from the community in the first place.



## Bus Trips and Karaoke's Nights are on the horizon.



Bus trips to wine about and new acquisitions to the band, but let's keep karaoke Bass ic, no talent, no problem, join the queue.



Lara RSL Sub Branch

A portrait of Ella George, a woman with blonde hair, smiling, wearing a black blazer over a white top.

This newsletter is proudly printed by the office of

## Ella George MP

LABOR MEMBER FOR LARA

 [ella.george@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:ella.george@parliament.vic.gov.au)

 5275 3898   EllaGeorgeMP

 Level 1, Corio Village Shopping Centre, Cnr of Bacchus Marsh Rd & Purnell Rd, Corio VIC 3214



# **VX 116710 Act/Sgt E.R. Carroll (Jack) OAM**

## **5 Aust Army Troops Company**

### **R.A.E. No 3 Platoon**



Enlistment: 03 Jan 1942

Discharged: 02 Sep 1946



Born and bred in Batesford, Victoria, Jack was a man of the land. Born to Edward Percival Carroll and Esther Victoria Carroll nee Smith on the 06<sup>th</sup> Sep 1923.

At the spritely age of 16 Jack joined the Air Training Corps which would have assisted him in becoming an Air Crew, Wireless-Air Gunner in the R.A.A.F. As there were no vacancies at the time, and anxious to get into one of the services, he enlisted in the C.M.F. (Citizen Military Forces) as a volunteer in 1941 at the age of 18 years old, he then transferred to the A.I.F. (Australian Imperial Forces) and was posted to the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Troop Company R.A.E. No 3 Platoon.

After completing training in Victoria, NSW and then QLD Jack's Unit was as ready as they could be. But, just prior to leaving for overseas deployment Jack had a surprise, "I had walked past many tents on the night before departure and as I passed one particular tent, I heard coughing, and I said that sounds like my brother Laurie." Sure, enough that's who it was, the brothers were able to spend the last night together before both embarking on overseas service. Jack's Unit was headed for Milne Bay, Lae and Madang in New Guinea. During this time Jack was promoted to Corporal.

(After transcribing Jack's New Guinea diary, we have some firsthand accounts of life in a support Unit near the Japanese front around Milne Bay.)

## New Guinea Dairy 1943-44



**25th Mar-** Townsville, one month Jungle Training and road making.

**26<sup>th</sup> Apr-** Townsville, boarded the SS Taroona (transport ship) for New Guinea, escorted by HMAS Vendetta (Destroyer).

**28<sup>th</sup> Apr-** Arrived at Milne Bay at 4pm.

**03<sup>rd</sup> May-** Heavy rain set in “mud & water everywhere”.

**06<sup>th</sup> May-**Taroona stuck in mud bank in bay, towed off by Destroyer, mail coming.

### Jack one week after enlistment

**10<sup>th</sup> May-** At 6.50am Togo's come over and drop bombs around the bay area. We took cover in good order, up to knees in mud and water. Heavy barrage put up, but bombers sneak off into the clouds. On roof tops with tar and malthoid (bituminous flashing).

**12<sup>th</sup> May-** Togo over at 10.00am today, no bombs dropped, Kitty Hawk chased them off. Worked mixing cement.



**Milne Bay 1943, Kittyhawk Fighter Aircraft of No.77 Squadron RAAF**



**14<sup>th</sup> May**- Started carrying gravel in new trucks.

**19<sup>th</sup> May**- Driving day & night ceaselessly, engine started 6am on the 17<sup>th</sup> and was and was not until 6pm on the night of the 19<sup>th</sup> that I finished. Tired, sick in the stomach & toothache.



**21<sup>st</sup> May**- Last night air raid, losses totalling, 1 x Kitty lost, 1 x petrol dump set ablaze and destroyed on ship. Togo's bomber downed by A.A. (anti-aircraft).

**Australian Troops man one of the Anti-Aircraft Guns at an airfield near Milne Bay.**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May**- Night very uncertain, coastal artillery going at night. Carting more gravel. Alert alarms off and on all day.

**23<sup>rd</sup> May**- Had half hour alarm while at the pictures. Togo, he didn't give any trouble though. Heavy air traffic throughout day, planes taking off every few minutes.

**26<sup>th</sup> May**- Very busy carting gravel, slipped over bank into mud & tipped truck over, not much damage. Hell of a fight righted her with winch, very relieved.

**Jun 02<sup>nd</sup>**- Quiet and still on the water. Building ramp & workshop. Mail arriving every second day. Very cloudy at night, no moon, no Togo. Hauling logs with Caterpillar Tractor.

**Jun13<sup>th</sup>**- Sunday, Work today. Trucks unloaded spent morning on truck maintenance. Very tired 3 and a half hours of heavy sleep in 36 hours. Recce plane over this morning, moon getting full, plenty of mail.



**Jun 19<sup>th</sup>**- Went to pictures at 10 o'clock, had an alert while driving home, good moon, no lights. Spitfires arrive.

**Jun 25<sup>th</sup>**- Fresh arrival of carrots, parsnips, onions, potatoes and apples. It's great after tinned stuff. Rained since 22<sup>nd</sup>, eased off a bit.

**Jun 27<sup>th</sup>**- Air Cobras (fighter planes) arrive, Spitfires gone. No raids, cloudy weather, ceiling zero.

**Jun 29<sup>th</sup>**- Saw General McArthur today, followed his car.

**Jul 01<sup>st</sup>**- General McArthur leaves in an escort of 12 fighters.

**Jul 10<sup>th</sup>**- Rumour from Warwick Hospital that the 5<sup>th</sup> Army has been badly cut about in action & is returning to Aussie. That accounts for my headache, still raining.

**Jul 15<sup>th</sup>**- Still raining heavily, no mail for a week. Food still rotten. Breakfast, grated biscuits followed by bully beef, meals a repetition.

**Jul 31<sup>st</sup>**- Had terrible cold but much better now. Still muddy & wet. 9<sup>th</sup> Div arrives in bay (advance guard).

**Aug 02<sup>nd</sup>**- Half dozen Malaria cases in hospital, others sick. Work too hard & too long. New American Thunderbolt dive bomber arrives.

**Aug 09<sup>th</sup>**- Sunday, Went for load of wood as punishment and rest day off. Kitty cracks up on ship this morning, blow up and pilot killed.

**Aug 10<sup>th</sup>**- Two 9th Div trucks tipped over today, need to drive the N.G. way. Mail tonight, first for 10

days.

**Aug 11<sup>th</sup>**- Twelve months today since we left Melbourne

**Aug 16<sup>th</sup>**- Showery weather, night driving till 12 o'clock. Australian Boomerang fighter here.

**Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>**- Tremendous petrol blaze at Bipod Dump, hundreds of drums burned. Unit called out to make breaks in drums. Under control now but still burning. Estimated 140,000 gal destroyed.



**The bad state of the roads in and around Gili Gili.**



**Aug 28<sup>th</sup>**- Very hot again, first mail & papers for 10 days. Maintenance on trucks this morning and afternoon. Spinal recreation, very nice indeed.

**Sep 02<sup>nd</sup>**- Still salvaging material & trucks from sunken Chinese ship in bay.

**Sep 13<sup>th</sup>**- Saw my first Jap plane in action, I was down at wharf and flew right over head. Shrapnel fell to close for my liking. Blazed away, excited but also frightened.

**Sep 17<sup>th</sup>**- Just arrived back from pictures & as I write, tracers 3.7 & 4.8's are blazing into the sky and shaking our huts. A beautiful sight with nine search lights and the gun flashes lighting up like daylight. No word as yet as to what is down.

Sep 26<sup>th</sup>- Sunday, worked in morning, went for a swim in sea in afternoon, then a 50-mile drive to Shinger Bay. Saw Jap invasion barges smashed, and place where 80 Jap marines are buried. Had drink of spring water from Cameron Springs.

**Oct 06<sup>th</sup>**- Half hour alert last night, went for swim in sea with Norm at 10.15 on the moonlight after duty, showery.

**Oct 10<sup>th</sup>**- Sunday, working today. Weather still cloudy & unsettled. One of Unit Tippers tipped over a bridge into creek fully loaded. Took three 9 Div winch & crane trucks. Another truck tipped over into creek where our own went only a better job this time.



**Oct 15<sup>th</sup>**- More rain & mud. An alert yesterday morning. Beaufort bomber caught fire in the air this afternoon, crashed and bombs exploded, killed crew of four.

**Oct 26<sup>th</sup>**- Heavy ack-ack tonight, terrific flashes. Weather still awful hot and dusty.

**Nov 04<sup>th</sup>**- Has been raining steadily since Sunday, bridges, roads flooded.

**Nov 05<sup>th</sup>**- Jap soldier captured near Bipod in jungle, first reported by natives.

**Nov 18<sup>th</sup>**-Received cake.

**Dec 06<sup>th</sup>**- Recce plane over at 10.30 this morning. Shrapnel falls very close to us, 5 of our fighters try to intercept but too late.

**Dec 12<sup>th</sup>**- Went to church in morning and rested for other part of day. Received parcel from Betty & postal from Joy.

**Dec 14<sup>th</sup>**- An alert at 2 o'clock in the morning, all clear. 3 o'clock submarine scare, heavy artillery & machine guns manoeuvring all night.

**Dec 27<sup>th</sup>**- Report of the Units movement soon, hope we move north. Steady rain last night & yesterday.

**1944**

**Jan 02<sup>nd</sup>**- Moved camp, now situated near sea. Good swimming & much healthier. Tojo 4am in bomb alley.



**Jack, bottom left**

**Jan 05<sup>th</sup>**- Went to pictures, just got into bed and air raid sirens blasted. Terrible noise from ships in bay. Could hear the orders to the AA gunners alongside our camp. Raid 11 o'clock, all clear 12 o'clock.

**Jan 14<sup>th</sup>**- Camp transformed to mud & slush after several inches of rain, still very heavy. Fresh potatoes, apples & mangoes.

A story that Jack did tell his son Ron was *"driving with a sergeant and four Fuzzy Wuzzies in the back of a truck, we headed into the jungle. One of the Fuzzy Wuzzies yelled out JAP! The Sarg swore and said, if we see the enemy we should engage them (Unit Policy). The Sergeant got out of the vehicle and shot his side arm (pistol) into the air, Bang, Bang, Bang quickly got back into the vehicle and drove off"*. (They complied with Unit policy and more importantly lived to tell the tale. If there was one Jap then there would have been more not far away.)

**Jan 27<sup>th</sup>**- Light & heavy rain off & on since 20<sup>th</sup>. Shifted into huts from tents, nearly as cool as tents. Back to 100 miles a day driving now.

**Jan 31<sup>st</sup>**- Strong rumours, we will soon be going home or further north. Like it's one way or the other.

**Feb 10<sup>th</sup>**- Hauling logs at bridges, big strain on truck, finished weekend. Heavy rain set in during past three days. No mail for 10 days.



**Feb 13<sup>th</sup>**- Went for sea trip into China straights in Jap barge, had good time fishing, swimming, eating and fooling, landing at bow of coast.



**Japanese Landing Barge that was abandoned at Milne Bay**

**Feb 18<sup>th</sup>**- An alarm on all day and night, while I write this a plane has been shot down and is burning in the bay, terrific ack-ack.

**Feb 27<sup>th</sup>**- Another day off, on guard last night so am relaxing today with "The Term of his Natural Life" good book. Another batch of our chaps going home tonight.

**Mar 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>**- Painted truck light & dark green camouflage, looks like a new job. Weather hot again and no mail for a while now.

**Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>**- Rumours flying high regarding leaving M.Bay. Preparations being made by Unit. Saw good picture in the rain tonight, raining steadily now. (pictures are open air).

**Apr 08<sup>th</sup>**- Good Friday, day off. Went to service had sing song & then service Barge, busy tomorrow. Expected to be on mainland by 1<sup>st</sup> week of May. Ahn Chung fully raised, now just waiting for tug which is on its way from Australia. Many hundreds of planes used in invasion, excessive, very impressive.

**Apr 14<sup>th</sup>**- Americans taking over all anti- aircraft defences of Milne Bay. Maintenance under school supervision for last 3 days.

**Apr 15<sup>th</sup>**- Our movement order has had a sharp setback; don't think we will leave till July.

**Apr 16<sup>th</sup>**- Sunday, day off after 2hrs duty. Went for trip in afternoon to see sick mate in 110<sup>th</sup> C.C.S. (casualty clearing station). Talked to some American nurses, looked over Ahn Chung, food bad & no bread.

**Apr 28<sup>th</sup>**- 1 year today since we landed Mine Bay, half day holiday. Raining very heavily.

**Apr 29<sup>th</sup>**- 2 Big bridges washed away as yet, still raining. Cut off from ration supply, infantry training cancelled. Unit to build bridges quickly as possible. Exams today at T/School.



**Milne Bay, Bridge Construction from coconut logs**

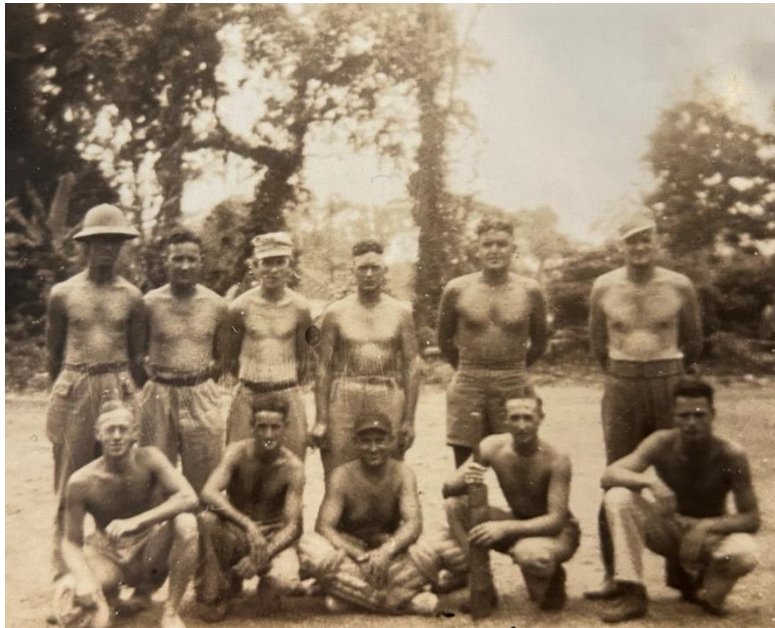
(Logs sagging due to floodwaters)

**Apr 30<sup>th</sup>**- Spent night guarding partly washed-out bridge, still raining at 1 inch an hr, 15 bridges damaged or washed away up till today. (Biggest storm in Pacific for two years).

**May 01<sup>st</sup>**- 3 bridges repaired so far, heavy work driving. Unit working 3 shifts, no bread, mail or rations. Largest Air Force Unit in Pacific totally destroyed.

**May 21<sup>st</sup>**- Sunday, work today again. Heavy rains yesterday & last night. Temporary box girder bridge washed away and waters still rising. One of our chaps killed last night, funeral today.





**Jack with cricket bat.**

**Saturday-** Heavy rains again, on guard tonight. Mail scarce. Liberty ship smashed through repulse wharf (120ft). Terrible cold, feel miserable.

**Jun 04<sup>th</sup>**- Mail arrives by boat, 7 letters, still very wet. Rumours running strong about leaving here. Finished painted & checking truck, expect to loose them this week. Light rain all week, have a cold, not properly better yet. No mail for over a fortnight, think it being held up on mainland.

**Jun 06<sup>th</sup>**- Have just returned from picture show, very good. Plenty rain about but well worth it. Received news of invasion of Europe. Douglas & 4 airmen lost up mount.

**Jun 10<sup>th</sup>**- Has rained for 19 consecutive days & still going strong. Strong rumours about going south.

**Jun 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Advanced guard leaves here for Madang. I expect to be going on leave then follow rest of company north.

**Jun 25<sup>th</sup>**- Ahn Chung leaves by tug pulling early this morning. On guard last night, day off today. Lovely and sunny.

**Jun 26<sup>th</sup>**- Just received official orders to pack for Madang. Expect to be leaving tomorrow. Am on next draft for mainland.

**Jun 27<sup>th</sup>**- Movement order cancelled until further date. Rain again.

**Jun 30<sup>th</sup>** More boys leave for Madang aboard HMAS Bunderburg.

**Jul 01<sup>st</sup>**- Took truck to workshop for check, drivers still have their truck. Received parcel with wedding cake & mail. Weather not so wet.

**Jul 13<sup>th</sup>**- Have just returned from transporting our chaps to docks. They went aboard Destroyer Vendetta for Madang. Only a few left in Milne Bay. Going home soon, I think.

**Jul 23<sup>rd</sup>**- Sunday, raining all week, no mail for a while. Just received news of home leave, packing up today. Expect to go early in the week.

**Jul 27<sup>th</sup>**- At last, it has come. Came aboard Canberra a little after dawn, up at 4 o'clock underway at 10.35. Have cleaned sheets now and sleeping and resting.

**Jul 29<sup>th</sup>**- Saturday, land signalled early this morning. Cleared channel 1 o'clock now steaming down reef, expect to arrive Townsville after midday. Completed trip without being sick. Canberra rides like a sedan car. Anchored Townsville harbour for an hour at 2.30 pulled into wharf 4.30, disembarked at 6 o'clock. Entertainment at wharf for staging camp at Jalagee, 12 miles south of Townsville.

**Jul 29<sup>th</sup>**- Received fruit as we were coming off boat. Home comforts friendly girls, camp food good here. Surrounded by palm trees, no coconuts.

**Jul 31<sup>st</sup>**- Monday, arrived Kalinga near Brisbane, stayed night at staging camp.

**Aug 01<sup>st</sup>**- Moved into Brisbane, sightseeing 11.00am till 11.00pm Tues, Wed, Thur & Fri was sight-seeing.

(Jack spoke very highly of the Fuzzie Wuzzies that are native to New Guinea. We read about the Fuzzie Wuzzies in many campaigns that the Australian Troops were involved in. An invaluable asset at a time of great need.)

## 21<sup>st</sup> August 1944, Home

Jack was a very meticulous man as you can see by his diary. He had also written down the distances to and from various o/s locations he had been to (should have been in intelligence).

After New Guinea, Jack was sent back to Australia on sick leave. A bout of dysentery and an injury from unloading the trucks earned Jack a short break. Jack returned to his Unit in time to relieve the American troops in the Solomons Islands where he served until peace was declared.



## Singapore Tour Aug 1945

Left Sydney 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 4pm  
Passed Brisbane 29<sup>th</sup> Aug 6am  
Passed Townsville 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 7am  
Passed Cairns 31<sup>st</sup>  
Left Darwin 05<sup>th</sup> Sep 4pm  
Passed Nth Timor 07<sup>th</sup> Sep  
Passed Sth Cebebe 08<sup>th</sup> Sep  
Passed Java 08<sup>th</sup> Sep 6am  
Passed Xing Equator 9<sup>th</sup> Sep  
Passed S.W. Borneo



**Singapore Bay**

After returning to Australia at the end of the war Jack then sailed on the Mercy Ship “Duntroon” to Singapore and Malaya with the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Prisoner of War Recovery Group. Now assigned to a British Unit and driver to a British Officer. Jack would assist with the rapid return of prisoners from the 8<sup>th</sup> Division and civilians who were also caught up in the Japanese take over.



**Changi Prison 1945**

On the **13 Sep 1945** prisoners of war were released from Changi Prison Camp. They were evacuated from Singapore by the Australian Hospital Ship Manunda. This was the first Australian ship to arrive at Singapore after the surrender of the Japanese.



The British Officer wasn't impressed with Jack's well-worn Aussie uniform, so he sent Jack to their Quarter Master Store for a new British uniform.

Jack stayed on in Singapore until November that year and history tells us that great cruelty happened in Changi Prison. As a result of what Jack witnessed his path would eventually lead to helping Return Servicemen in various forms.

### **Jack in British uniform**

On completion of this task, he returned to Australia and transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Army Ordnance Corps Tank and Vehicle Depot at Bandiana in Victoria. Here Jack was promoted to acting Sargeant in charge of a section where he spent the next nine months.



**Some of the hundreds of Tanks at Bandiana.**

Jack was discharged on the 02<sup>nd</sup> Sep 1946 with 1700 days of service under his belt.



# St George Presbyterian Church Geelong



**Edward Roy (Jack) Carroll & Florence Jean Rees**

**Wedding Day 12 Jun 1948**

## **Distinguished Service to the Community**

- Jack joined the Geelong RSL Sub-branch in **1949** & was elected on the committee in **1951** with the next 30 years on Sub Committees of Management, Membership and Welfare. Appointed a continuing delegate to annual State Conferences from **1951**.
- Elected Secretary/Treasurer of No 43 District Board in **1954**.
- Secretary of the Soldier Settlement Sub-Committee of the board in **1954** until it concluded in **1964**.
- Joined the Masonic Lodge on the 12 May **1954**.
- On the recommendation of the Geelong Sub-Branch was awarded Life Membership of the League by National Headquarters, Canberra in **1962**. Youngest life member at the time.

# LIFE MEMBERS

*1953	E.J. FAIRNIE
*1957	J.H. MCGREGGOR-DOWSETT
*1961	W.R. DRAYTON M.M. M.S.M.
⊕ 1962	E.R. CARROLL O.A.M.
*1963	N.F. LAWRY
*1964	G.L. KENNEDY
⊕ *1965	I.A. STEWART
*1975	D.E. SCALE
*1979	R.W. POULTON
*1983	R.K. MORTIMER O.A.M.

## ⊕ BADGE OF HONOUR

Note: The asterisk's go further down the board, Jack stands alone as the sole survivor.

\*Passed away.

- During the Vietnam War Jack was a member of the Geelong RSL visitation committee to relatives of the Vietnam war Mid **60's** to early **70's**.
- Elected State Councillor for the RSL in **1967**.
- Delegate to State Veterans Affairs Welfare & War Service Homes Sub-Committee **1974-1989**
- Received his 25-year Pin from the Masonic Lodge on the 12 May **1979**
- Secretary to the RSL District Board Chairman for fundraising efforts for Churchill Foundation Appeal.
- Awarded Life Member No43 District in **1983**.
- Appointed Trustee to the Crimean War graves pilgrimages since **1958** until being taken over by Drysdale RSL in **1983**





- Received his 40-year Pin from the Masonic Lodge 15 May **1994**.
- RSL, 50 years continuous service awarded on the 08 Sep **1998**.
- Appointed a permanent member of the No 43 District Board RSL in **1999**.



For all of Jacks' efforts and a lifetime of service to the community he earned himself the OAM medal.

The Order of Australia is an Australian honour that recognises Australian citizens for outstanding achievements and services.

Jack was accompanied by his oldest daughter Heather and his only son Ron. This ceremony took place at Government House on the 9th Jun **2003**.

- Received his 50-year Jewel from the Masonic Lodge on the 15 May **2004**.
- Received his 70-year Jewel from the Masonic Lodge on the 15 May **2024**.



Jack was a market Gardener his whole life and lived at Batesford the entire time with the exception World War 2 and the move to Cost House 8-10 years ago.

Ron tells me that even though Jack lived near the Batesford Pub he never went in there. He would wait until he was travelling into Geelong to attend the RSL.

The other reason Jack ventured into Geelong was to take his market produce to South Geelong. Jack's son Ron recalled the name Richardson's as the Fruit, Veg and Poultry Market that bought their produce and sold to the public.

On the courts of Batesford you could find 8 players at the local tennis club with 6 of them being a Carroll. That would be sisters, brothers and cousins.

Jack and Jean had three children with the oldest being Heather (Baxter) then Ron Carroll and June (Waight).

Before joining the Army at around the age of 18 years old Jack and his mates would gather at the bottom of Hyland St Fyansford. The aim from here was to see who could driving to the top of the street at McCurdy's Rd without changing gears. (If you know where the Fyansford Pub is and where McCurdy's Road is then you know it is a very steep incline).

From the bottom of the hill Jack and his mates would go through the gears as quickly as possible and see who could make it to the top of the hill in top gear. "A dangerous feat if you stall on the way up". Jack would challenge this stunt in his yellow soft top Austin.



Also around the age of 18 Jack was a trend setter, he was happy to boast that he had 14-inch cuffs on his trousers, trendy back in the day.

Around 1963 Jack's daughter Heather was about 13 years old and she wanted to watch the Seekers on TV. Jack said, "we are not watching some pop group," Heather was upset. Heather's Mum Jean said, "go on let her watch the Seekers," Jack conceded and sat with his arms folded and begrudgingly watched the show. By the end of the telecast Jack had been entertained and later took Jean, Heather and June to see them perform at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl in Melbourne (along with 80,000 other fans). Jack is still a fan of the Seekers, especially Judith Durham.



Ron and Jack at Costa House Anzac Day ceremony 2024.

**End**

Published 15 Feb 2025