

Australian Peacekeeper

SPRING 2012

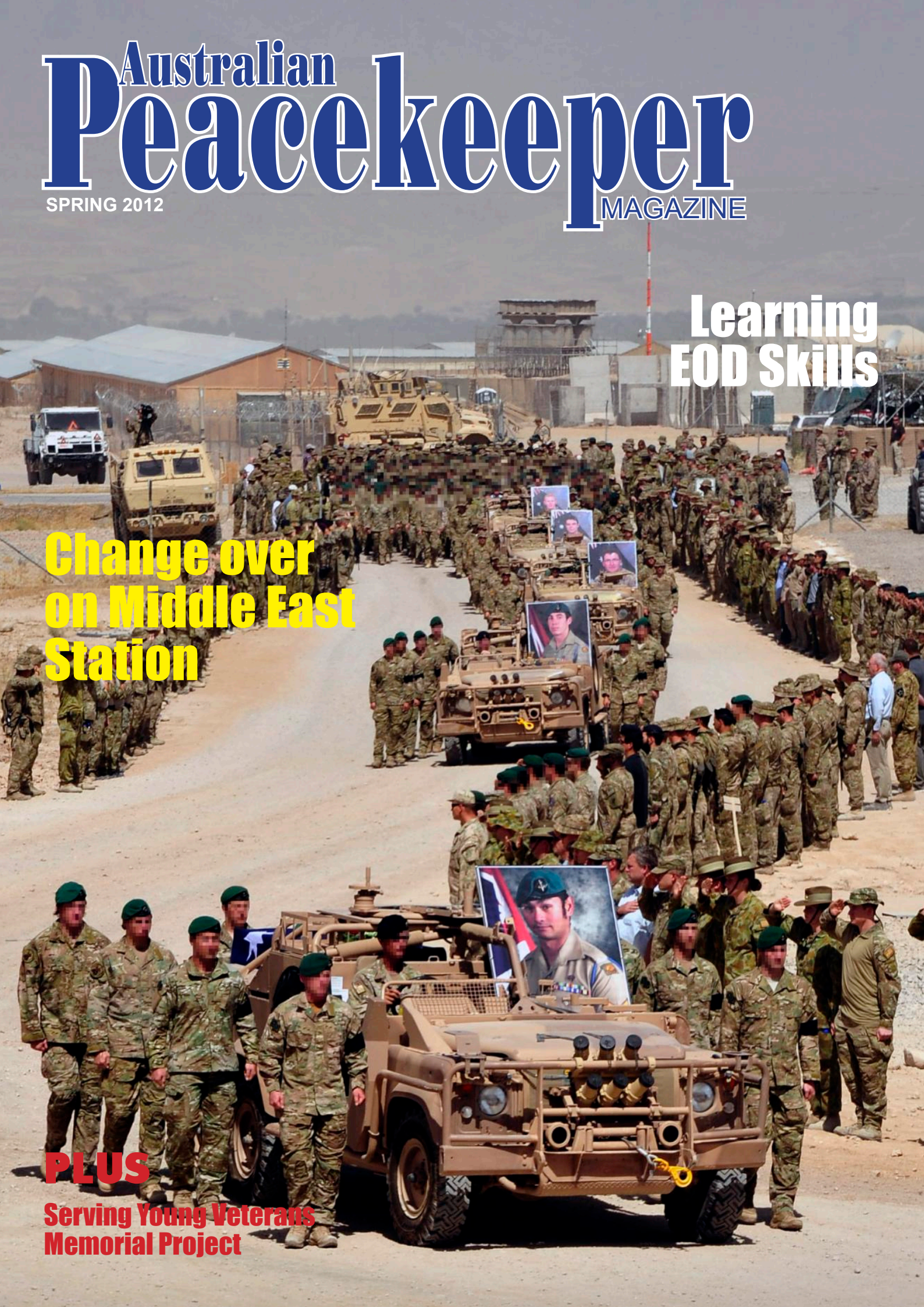
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Australian Peacekeepers Magazine attempts to provide insight into the experiences of peacekeepers, Defence members and war veterans and the issues that confront them together with encouraging informed debate regarding issues dealing with but not limited to Commonwealth compensation, pensions, superannuation and occupational health and safety that affect peacekeepers and their families. We welcome input from members and would love to feature personal experiences in each issue. Please email the editor with any stories you would like to see printed. The views expressed in the articles are those of the particular author and not those of the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA). The APPVA will not be legally responsible in contract, tort or otherwise for any statement made in the articles in this publication.



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Front Cover:

Losing Six of Our Finest.

The ramp ceremony gets underway at Tarin Kot for five Australians killed in two separate incidents during August. Their deaths bring the number of Australian soldiers killed in Afghanistan during 2012 to six, following the death of Sergeant Blaine Diddams in July.



From the President's Desk

As the Spring 2012 edition of The Australian Peacekeeper goes to print, many across Australia have just commemorated the 65th Anniversary of Peacekeeping on Australian Peacekeeper's Day.

At the site of the Australian National Peacekeeping Memorial in Canberra, a commemorative service was held. Again another year has passed without any construction commencing. Again another year has passed without substantial fund-raising due to the inability of Government to give the project Charitable Gift Status.

It is also the passing of another year in which this Government has refused to appropriately recognise the contribution of Australians on peacekeeping operations since 1947.

The non-inclusion of 48 Australians who gave their lives in service of this country on the Wall of Honour at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) remains the prime example of the lack of recognition with a lack of willingness on the part of Government and the Opposition to bring about any change – instead leaving any decision up to the AWM Board.

I am reminded that as we head to a Federal election in 2013 just how divided the Federal Government, the veteran and indeed the Defence community are on many issues. Some of these issues are:

- Military superannuation – this will remain a key issue until it is satisfactorily resolved with more than glib political talking points and a blunt refusal;
- Reduction in BEST funding which has seen undue and unfair pressure placed on volunteer advocates in the face of growing demand for their services and closure of veteran centres across the nation;
- Continual refusal to acknowledge Australia's peacekeeping contribution in 65 years;
- Reduction of Defence spending to the lowest point since 1938 – veterans are interested in the security of our nation which this Government has eroded just to save money;
- Rapid downsizing of the ADF Reserves with members cut back without notice to 25 days after years of being told they need to step up to the level of their ARA counterparts;
- A Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal which is personally judgemental of ESO members and refuses to give fair and unbiased hearing on submissions.

I often reflect on how Government does business with the response always being "No". Many people, not just veterans, complain how they've written to politicians and either received no answer or one that fails to address the original query or issue. When they write again to address the misinformation received, they don't receive a response.

Recently I heard that the mother of a young soldier who died on peacekeeping operations wrote to Prime Minister Gillard, a former Chief of Defence and former Chief of

Army asking why her son's name couldn't be placed on the Honour Roll of the Australian War Memorial. Despite her son dying in the service of this nation, she wasn't even afforded the courtesy of response from any of the addressees. This response (or lack of it) is absolutely shameful in every aspect.

However, there is a large rare positive tick in the box for the Government with the announcement of the Australian Operational Service Medal (AOSM), leading to the abolition of the Australian Active Service Medal and Australian Service Medal. This is on course to erode these divisive concepts and criteria of warlike and non-warlike service, which have been problematic in many ways including pensions, compensation and recognition.

Other Western nations have only an operational service medal that, at times, is accompanied by a campaign medal – in the AOSM the campaign medal is the different coloured ribbon for each operation. This makes perfect sense and despite the debate about retrospectivity, this is very much a proactive step forward in bringing equality in recognition.

However, the move still leaves the AWM in the cold with the decision-making and campaigning on the issue of those 48 veterans will gather momentum towards the 2013 election with a significant strategy.

Veterans' Health Week is coming up in October so please check the activities through your local DVA office. The ABC and Gardening Australia are covering some of the APPVA sponsored activities in one State.

In closing – as we quickly enter the end of 2012 and head into an election year, let's hope the Government enters a more conciliatory phase with Australia's veteran community – especially as the veterans are now beginning to carry out physical protests outside the offices of Federal Labor politicians for the first time in many decades.

Allan Thomas
National President
Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association



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From the Editor's Desk

Change is Coming

As we put together this edition of The Australian Peacekeeper magazine, change is taking place in a major way.

From the APPVA's first approach to the Australian War Memorial (AWM) in 1999 about recognition of peacekeepers to today – the issue has reached a point where the AWM must recognise that the Remembrance Book is completely inadequate as a form of commemoration.

In recent times the following has occurred:

- A petition running on Change.org with (at the time of writing) with nearly 8000 signatures;
- Opinion editorial in The Australian on 14th Sept;
- Opinion editorial in The Mercury on 18 Sept;
- ABC interviews with Avril Clark and Paul Copeland 14 Sept;
- RSL-TAS Executive voted to progress motion at next State Congress;
- Other ESO's debating same issue;
- Perth Now interview with Avril Clark 13 Sept; and
- A national piece on ABC 7.30 Tasmania (including internet) 17 Aug.

Some weeks ago I visited the AWM and went to the Remembrance Book. Ignored by tour guides, there's no signage and no indication of what the Book is unless one

leans over to read a small white sign inside the cabinet. Despite claims by AWM Board head, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan, that the Commemoration Book, the Remembrance Book and the Roll of Honour are equal – clearly to the families and younger veterans, including colleagues of the deceased, they are not.

Even those who disagree about those killed on peacekeeping (non-warlike), humanitarian and post-armistice operations (the 48) going on the Roll of Honour agree the Remembrance Book is completely inadequate and disrespectful to families.

However, there is one point in this debate which is very saddening. At no time does Defence or the AWM contact the families to advise them how their loved one will be commemorated in this national institution. The AWM appears to be embarrassed by the Remembrance Book and the reaction it invokes usually through the colleagues of the deceased members visiting the AWM.

So if the families think it is inadequate, younger veterans (indeed the veteran community) think it is inadequate as to serving colleagues of the deceased members, plus 8000 Australians who have put their name to the petition – then it is inadequate. Time for change – yes it is.

Phil Pyke
Editor

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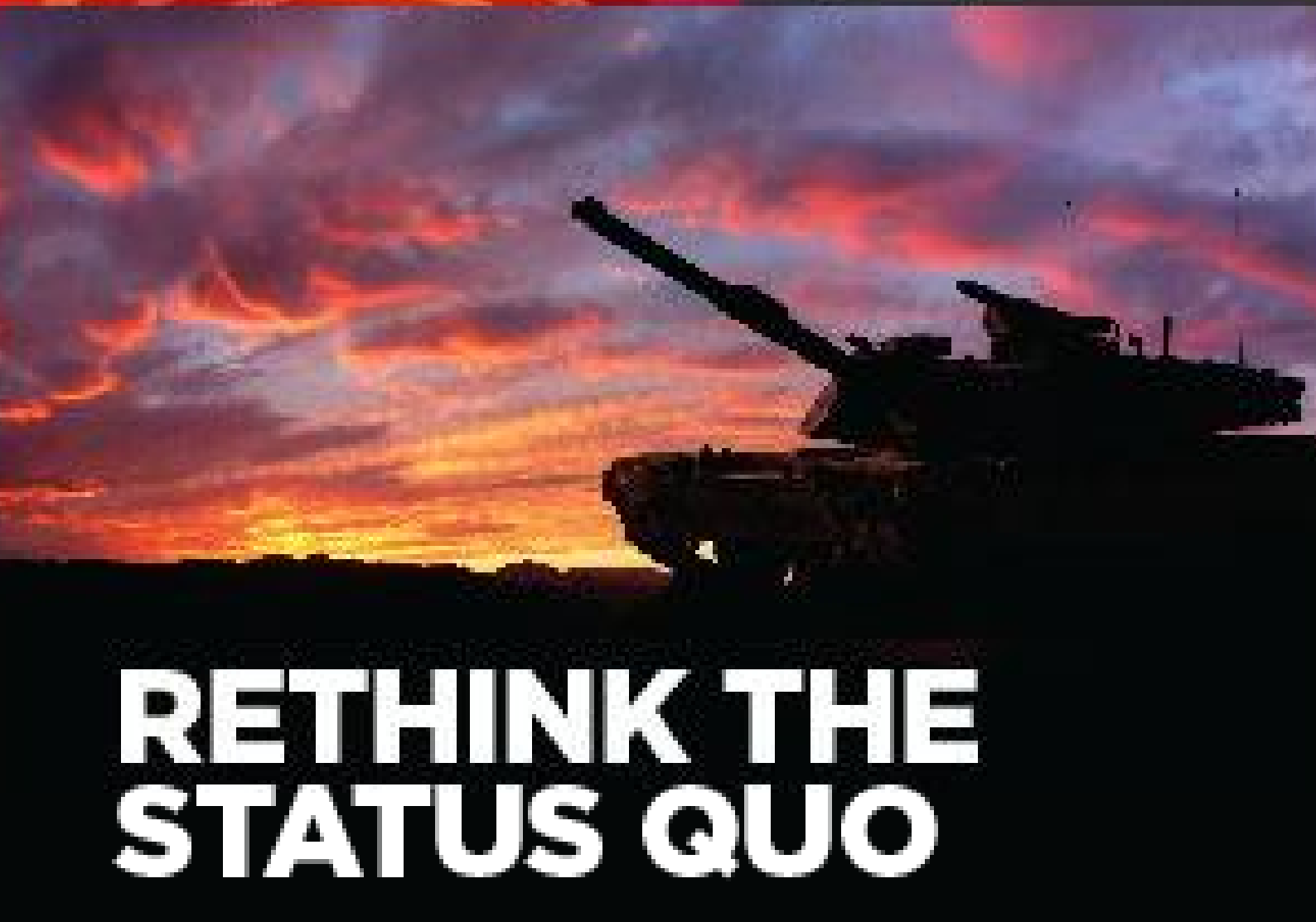
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Change Over On M

In late July, HMAS *Melbourne* departed the Middle East Area of Operations after handing over maritime security operations as part of Operation SLIPPER to HMAS *Anzac*.

Melbourne returned home after a successful six-month deployment conducting maritime security patrols, counter-piracy and anti-smuggling operations from the Red and Arabian Seas to the Gulfs of Aden, Oman, Aqaba and the Straits of Hormuz and Bab-Al-Mandeb.

The ship also provided maritime security and executed counter-terrorism activities around the Horn of Africa in support of the regional 26 member nation Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

Commanding Officer of HMAS *Melbourne*, Commander Richard Boulton, said *Melbourne*'s crew had done themselves, the Navy and Australia proud.

"Their performance has earned *Melbourne* an outstanding reputation in the region and the coalition nations working as part of the Combined Maritime Forces.

"We also had the honour of embarking three sailors from the New Zealand Navy for the deployment."

As they headed home, Commander Boulton said it was certain to be both a proud and emotional homecoming as the ship's company lines the upper decks when we sail into Sydney harbour and reunite with loved ones," Commander Boulton said.

HMAS *Melbourne* is the Royal Australian Navy's 28th ship to patrol the region since 2001.

Commander Joint Task Force 633, in the Middle East Area of Operations, Major General Stuart Smith, praised HMAS *Melbourne* on a successful mission.

"HMAS *Melbourne* has had a crucial role in minimising harmful activity in the Middle East maritime environment; ultimately interrupting criminal support to terrorist organisations and violent extremists further a field, in places such as Afghanistan."

"She has also provided freedom, security and profitability for legitimate mariners who rely on either transiting through or making a living off the sea lanes," General Smith said.

HMAS *Melbourne* and her 230 personnel returned to Fleet Base East in Sydney in late August where the crew enjoyed some well-earned leave and respite.



Middle East Station



Commander Joint Task Force 633, Major General Stuart Smith addresses the ships company during a visit to HMAS Melbourne, in Ruwi, Oman. Commander Joint Task Force 633 Major General Stuart Smith visited HMAS Melbourne in Oman to congratulate her crew on a highly successful deployment and thanked the ships company for their achievements in 2012, awarding commendations for exemplary individual performance

Chief of Army Blast for “Selfish” Journalist

To the Editor,

It was with the greatest disappointment and dismay that I read Ian McPhedran’s article in your newspaper this morning, releasing the name of our most recent combat fatality before official release by Defence and by his family.

The Army and the Defence Force have well established protocols for the release of names and personal details in these circumstances; protocols with which your journalists are very familiar but have clearly chosen to ignore.

The family in this instance, whose lives are currently consumed with their own grief, had asked Army to wait to release his details so that they could deal with this terrible loss in their way. You have robbed them of this right. Such actions are unconscionable and un-Australian.

Our only concern is a desire to look after those of the grieving family of a courageous soldier. Their trust has been betrayed by the selfish act of a journalist intent on being ‘the first’.

D.L Morrison

LTGEN

Chief of Army

04 July 2012

A Letter to The Prime Minister Ross Eastgate Townsville Bulletin 07 July 2012

DEAR Prime Minister, It's been a difficult week for those of us in the extended Australian Defence community, serving and retired.

There's a personal dimension to Australia's 33rd Afghanistan combat fatality because he comes from a respected military family known to many.

Why one individual should be expected to do multiple operational deployments and why the Afghanistan burden falls mostly on the so-called special forces defies reasonable logic.

Each ADF member is special - every single one of them - except when they leave the service and expect to enjoy the secure retirement they were promised when they joined.

British writer Rudyard Kipling knew the grief of a parent who lost a child in combat.

He also understood how governments abandon soldiers once their duty's done - just as yours has done to us - and he exposed it in his epic poem, Tommy Atkins.

On behalf of the retired community may I thank you for the letters we recently received from your people advising

us of the CPI-indexed, biannual increase to our fortnightly military superannuation payments the DFRDB pension.

In most cases it was a whole dollar - give or take a few cents - depending on base retirement salary.

However, tax increased by around \$30, leaving everyone worse off than before the so-called pension increase.

This occurred hard on the heels of \$44,000 the Remuneration Tribunal salary increase granted to members of Federal Parliament, not to mention the \$5500 you've granted yourselves annually to offset your carbon tax.

It's difficult being a parliamentarian but perhaps we don't understand the pressures under which you serve.

Then again we've never had to doze until 4.30am in parliament waiting for a division.

However, we've often stayed awake days on end waiting, at best, for a couple of reinforcements.

Sorry, that's a bit ungrateful because I failed to mention the other letter we received from the same people who played the pea and thimble trick with our pensions who wrote to advise us of the \$140 one-off payment to offset your incomprehensible carbon tax.

It's a bit short of your annual \$5500, and after a mere five fortnights we will be \$10 worse off than before we received our pension increase and your one-off "gift"?

Then again, the \$44,000 annual parliamentary salary increase you accepted without demurring is much more than what many of us receive as an annual pension before tax.

To put it bluntly, we in the extended defence community are of the view you and your government believe nothing is too good enough for us in our retirement after years of service and sacrifice.

Your guiding principle seems to be nothing is the baseline and anything less than that is best for your government's bottom line.

Australia's retired defence community doesn't expect the same generosity their political leaders lavish upon themselves.

They simply expect those same leaders to guarantee the reasonable standard-of-living benefits they were promised and paid for when they enlisted. No more, no less.

Ross Eastgate is a military historian, writer and journalist specialising in defence. A graduate of Duntroon and the Army Command and Staff College, he has served in the Middle East, PNG and East Timor.

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TRAINING THE BODY INTELLIGENTLY

- Ian O'Dwyer

It is great to see more and more tools appearing in our industry that are challenging the body in a far more intelligent manner. The end user is now demanding that new tools incorporate the “guiding principles” of movement to enhance the responses in the body required in everyday encounters.

Client movements need to mimic everyday life challenges throughout their training sessions for a successful outcome. Information in the past has focused primarily on the body’s “appearance” only and ignored what the body/brain really needs to be successful in life; happiness, wellness and movement!

The body/brain craves variation, gaining maximum stimulation in all responses when movements or exercises are constantly changing. Repetitive movements are what “dumb” the body and brain down and in many cases are the reasons for the pain and discomfort we have in our bodies. Most people train to get “better” but in fact are doing just the opposite!

Some of the “guiding principles” of movement required for an effective efficient body are;

1. Integrate the entire body making sure that the ankle, hips and thoracic spine work together.
2. Vector variation, the tissues require varying movements of force and direction
3. Load to unload, eccentric lengthening of the myofascial (muscle & connective tissue) system to concentric contraction.
4. Rhythm & Timing, stimulating the body to mitigate the stress effectively.
5. FUN, decreases stress and inflammation in the body caused through cortisol.

One manufacturer aware of the necessity of these “guiding principles” is Hyperwear. They produce many products but I want to focus on the brilliance of one, Sandbell and how it provides great outcomes for all people whom use it.

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Serving Young Veterans



From Iraq to Afghanistan

A Strathalbyn High School graduate of 1994, Major Russell Scutchings has returned home from a six-month deployment in Afghanistan and is looking forward to visiting his parents, Jenny and Bill Scutchings on their property in Langhorne Creek, South Australia.

His adolescent years, mostly spent outdoors in the wine-growing district, stood him in good stead for a career in the Australian Regular Army.

“When I joined I was seeking adventure, mateship and a different lifestyle and a lot of the things about the Army appealed to me. After graduating university I worked in environmental and adventure tourism and I wanted to continue that adventurous lifestyle,” he said.

Graduating Royal Military College, Duntroon in 2001 as an infantry officer he has had an interesting career that has led to numerous deployments, culminating in his recent role as Officer Commanding Mentoring Team - One in Deh Rawud District, Uruzgan province in Afghanistan.

“I went to Iraq in 2003 as the Platoon Commander of the Security Detachment, with Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. I also deployed to Dili, East Timor in 2006 in a staff role as a Battle Captain for the Joint Task Force Headquarters,” he said.

“Both my previous overseas deployments prepared me in different ways for this one. Cultural awareness was key

to all three deployments and it has really assisted in my mentoring role here.”

His mentoring role in Afghanistan is important in ensuring that Afghanistan National Security Forces can take the lead in the next 12-18 months.

“I have spent a lot of my time with Colonel Matine the Commander of 1st Kandak (Battalion) of the Afghanistan National Army. We have discussed Battalion level operations: targeting the enemy, logistics support, training and inter-operations with other security forces,” he said.

“I have had a very good relationship with Colonel Matine. He is very authoritative but still shows a lot of compassion for his soldiers. He really respects the level of training that Australian soldiers have and the cultural sensitivities we bring to a mission like this.”

Their strong relationship has brought great success.

“We have had great success on the ground in partnered operations with the Afghanistan National Army. We have disrupted enemy resources by finding large weapon caches and numerous improvised explosive devices in various areas around the district,” said Major Russell.

Major Russell has already made plans for his return home.

“I am really looking forward to getting home to my family, visiting friends and going to watch the Hawks at the local footy.”



Playing an important role in the Middle East

Able Seaman Thomas Sherrin, who grew up in Hobart, is currently on active duty in the Middle East as a member of the crew of the Royal Australian Navy frigate, HMAS *Anzac*.

Thomas plays an important role as one of the ship's communicators and is responsible for maintaining the ship's computer network, general voice communications systems, the satellite connection and communications with other ships.

"It's pretty rewarding when you have the knowledge that what you are doing is keeping the ship connected to the outside world so that we can fight and win in the maritime environment," Thomas said.

"I like it best when up on the bridge doing warfare manoeuvres with other naval ships via voice or Morse code light."

Thomas completed his schooling at St Virgil's High and Elizabeth College before joining the Navy in 2009.

"I joined because at the time three of my mates had been in for a while and I liked what I was hearing every time they came home on leave, cashed up and full of stories about their travels to places like Japan and America."

HMAS *Anzac* departed on 14 July, for a six-month deployment to the Middle East Area of Operation (MEAO) where the ship's company will conduct maritime security operations that include maritime interception operations as part of Operation Slipper.

The ship will support missions involving anti-terrorism, counter piracy and theatre security operations as part of the Australian Defence Force's contribution to operations in the MEAO.

Australian Soldier To Battle Bass Strait Challenge

For 32 year old James Prascevic of Lorne in Victoria, a medical discharge from the Army has seen him preparing to undertake a life risking challenge – all in the name of fund-raising for a mental health institute.

“I am proposing to drive my 4.55m aluminium Quintrex boat across the Bass Strait solo from Tasmania to Victoria without stopping or assistance,” said James, who has been diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder, major depression, anxiety and alcohol dependence.

“The purpose of this trip is to raise awareness of my condition which presents an opportunity to also profile the work of The Black Dog Institute and fundraise for this world leader in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mood disorders such as depression and bipolar disorder.

James served in Timor (2003), Iraq (2005/06) and Afghanistan (2007) with 1 RAR before undertaking Commando/Special Forces selection and training. It was a parachuting accident where he broke his leg that saw the end of his military career.

“I was medically discharged from the Army in September 2011, after serving nine and a half years, due to those mental health issues as well as severe arthritis in my left ankle, after breaking my leg in a training parachuting accident.”

The spiral down with mental health issues and the severe arthritis cost James his career and marriage, especially as he was reluctant to tell anyone out of concern for affecting his Army career.

“I didn’t want to tell anyone or speak about my problems as I thought I would appear to be weak and it would affect my career. Looking back now I wish I had spoken up as I have since lost my wife, my career and a lot more, including nearly my life,” he said.

It wasn’t until November 2010 James was medically diagnosed with the above conditions and put on sick leave until his medical discharge on the 13th September 2011.

“Since my discharge, I have purchased a boat and love the freedom of being on the open water, enjoying fishing,” said James.

“When I am fishing and in my boat the only thing that I worry about is the end of the rod tip. When I am in my boat I feel I can do anything and that I have nothing wrong with me mentally or physically. I am 110%. This is where I came up with my idea to transit Bass Strait.”

In taking on one of the roughest stretches of water in the world, James has engaged the assistance of Margaret Bowling (world record holding ocean rower), Andrew Johnson (Royal Air Force navigator and ocean rower) and Charlie Martell (ex British Army soldier/experienced ocean rower).

“I also have the endorsement of Victorian/Tasmanian Volunteer Coast Guard and Tasmanian Marine Safety, Victorian Water Police and Victorian Boat Safety.”

James will be renaming his boat, “*The Black Dog*” and

has applied careful planning for his fund-raising voyage – particularly as the stretch of water he is transiting is an area where tides, waves and weather from the Roaring 40’s come together in often stormy conditions.

Planned for late September or mid October, to take maximum advantage of daylight savings, James hopes to leave from Stanley or Smithton in Tasmania and contour the North West Coast to the western point of Tasmania.

“Once there I will go north to the southern tip of King Island, contour along King Island to the northern tip before heading north to Apollo Bay in Victoria,” James said.

“Once I get to Apollo Bay I will contour the coast east to Lorne to which is my finish point.”

At the time of writing this article, transport issues around bringing his boat and vehicle to Tasmania have set James on a different plan – with the intent of doing the voyage in reverse from Victoria to Tasmania. Shipping to the State is booked out for several months including on the Spirit of Tasmania.

Around the promotion for his voyage, James has one key message for anyone, particularly younger veterans, who feel they may be suffering from mental health issues.

“I want to show people that there is no shame in admitting you have a problem and that there are others feeling the same way, or worse than you, and there is support/help out there.”

“If signs and symptoms of these illnesses are recognized earlier they can be easier to treat.”

The Australian Peacekeeper magazine is supporting James in the promotional sense and strongly encourages all younger veterans and their families to support the voyage of *The Black Dog* across Bass Strait.

Please donate by visiting www.everydayhero.com.au/james_prascevic



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Learning EOD Skills

Afghan police in Uruzgan Province are being bolstered with the skills to dispose of life threatening explosive devices as they attend the Explosive Hazard Reduction Course (EHRC).

The EHRC, under way since June 2010, is a highly successful education program designed to give indigenous forces the capability to clear Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) independently.

The 21-day course is run all year around by Australian and Singaporean Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) experts, and qualified Afghan instructors.

The program now consistently caters for the Afghan National Police (ANP), whose freedom of movement is often hindered by IEDs and UXO near their checkpoints.

Course manager, Australian Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Shaun Elliott, said the EHRC helps curtail this problem.

“The ANP spend a lot of time at checkpoints and it’s very common that they find or have IEDs and suspicious items handed in to them. We are giving them the capability to deal with such hazards on site, rather than wait for Coalition forces or Afghan National Army (ANA) EOD to arrive and deal with the threat,” CPO Elliott said.

The graduation on 18 July 2012 congratulated a group of nine ANP and 18 ANA students who will eventually go on to mentor their own colleagues.

“Train the trainer is our end game, if we can get them to a point where they are successfully training their own personnel, we believe that they can operate independently around the province,” CPO Elliott said.

Local policeman Rafullah said the course is integral to enhancing the security situation and the transition process.

“I am very thankful of the instructors on this course; it is very important for the ANP and very important for our country. Our country needs this continual training before our allies leave and I am so proud of the ANP learning how to counter explosives and save innocent lives.”

“Before when we came across an IED we had lots of problems with it and had to call in for help, but now the ANP and ANA have the ability to do it. It is a very good feeling to make dangerous areas safe for local forces and my people,” Rafullah said.


ANA instructor Sergeant Abdul Rahmin, a former student of the EHRC, said the ANP were integrating well and learning the fundamentals very quickly.

“The work they are doing here is very good, they know how to find an IED on patrol, blast it and make the area safe. We are very proud of the ANP on this course, our country needs the ANP and ANA to be trained in this skill and practice it for many years in the future,” Sergeant Rahmin said.

The EHRC is run at the purpose built Counter IED compound to emulate a practical and realistic training environment.

“We educate them on all types of explosive hazards, respective threat levels, ways to counter different charges and ideal courses of action for each scenario. We do this in an environment similar to that outside the wire,” CPO Elliott said.

The EHRC instructors are attached to Combined Team Uruzgan (CTU), the headquarters responsible for commanding ISAF operations in Uruzgan. Australia will assume the lead of CTU later this year.



Chief Petty Officer Shaun Elliott from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Troop displays a length of detonator cord during the Explosives Hazard Reduction Course at Multi National Base Tarin Kot



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Fundraising Success for Memorial Project

The weekend of the 24th – 26th August saw the most significant fund-raising undertaken for the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project (APMP) with a formal dinner followed by an NRL game dedicated to peacekeepers.

Guests entering the ballroom of the Shangri La Hotel in Sydney for the dinner, found a surprise gift on each seat in the form of a Peacekeeping Bear. This was a fun start to a wonderful night of entertainment and recognition of the great service that Australia's peacekeepers from the military, police and civilian departments have performed around the world for almost 65 years.

The dinner, on the 24th of August, was one of a number of events leading up to the 65th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping on the 14th September 2012 when a Commemorative Service will be held on the allocated site on Anzac Parade in Canberra.

Coordinated by the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project Committee with the support of an Event Manager

in Sydney, the dinner was designed to raise the public profile of peacekeepers and to generate some of the funds needed to start construction of the Memorial.

As a black tie affair, guests from corporate Australia and individuals supporting our peacekeepers paid for the privilege of attending. The Guest of Honour was the Governor of New South Wales, Professor Marie Bashir, AC. CVO., who joined a range of other VIPs including politicians, current and former Service Chief, Police Commissioners, former Commanders of peacekeeping operations in addition to serving and retired Peacekeepers for a wonderful night of entertainment fine dining and acknowledgement of peacekeepers.

The evening started with the National Anthem played by the RAN Band and sung by Kamahl and followed by a welcoming video by the APMP Patron in Chief, HE Mrs Quentin Bryce AC, the Governor General of Australia. During the evening there was entertainment by Doc Neeson and the Angels, Prinnie Stevens, Deni Hines, Adam Harvey and Comedian Brian Doyle.



Videos showing peacekeepers on overseas operations were screened throughout the evening.

There were two excellent speeches by General Peter Cosgrove AC MC and the Hon Kevin Rudd, MP – both noting the effectiveness of Australian peacekeepers, military, civilian and police in missions around the world and stressing the importance of building as soon as possible the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial to acknowledge their service past, present and future.

The evening also provided an opportunity for attendees to bid for some great prizes and tourist experiences donated by Australian industry, the Australian Defence Force, the Australian Federal Police, NSW Police and local companies.

Two days later Souths Rugby League Club dedicated their home match at ANZ Stadium to those ADF members on many operations around the world. The NRL Club also agreed free entry for all ADF personnel and their families and a collection for the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project could be made at the match. In support Defence delivered the match ball to the Vice Chief of the Defence Force by RAN Seahawk helicopter, and provided the RAN Band for pre-match entertainment and the national Anthem.

ADF peacekeepers also joined other younger veterans and families in undertaking the collection.

In a great afternoon, Souths members saw a video from the CDF and messages of support from peacekeepers around the globe and VCDF spoke on the great job our peacekeepers, military, civilian and police, have been doing over the years and the need to build the Peacekeeping Memorial before the Centenary of Anzac day in 2015.

To top off the afternoon the Rabbitohs won well against the Parramatta Eels and strengthened their position leading into the finals.

Souths and the NSW “Origin Legends” has also attended and supported the Peacekeeping Dinner held in Sydney on Friday 24th August. In response to the strong support given by the South Sydney Rugby League Club to the Peacekeepers and the APMP, they have now been given the Status of “APMP Partner of Peacekeeping”.

Fundraising for the APMP is continuing – visit the website: <http://www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au> and become a Mate of the Memorial.

Opposite: RAN members group with Rabbitohs supporters while collecting donations for the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial at ANZ Stadium, Sydney Olympic Park.

Below: Collecting Donations At Rabbitoh's Game



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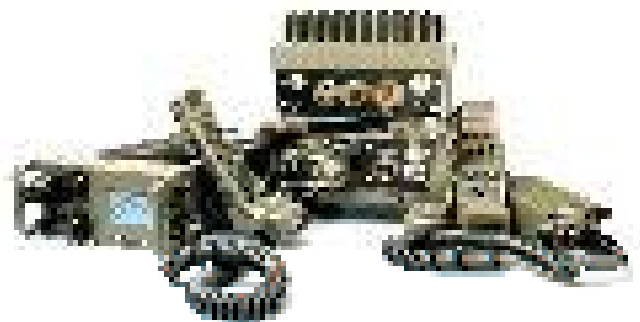


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The initial peacekeeping operations developed LAN based communications and Barrett Communications was tasked with providing HF communications that were interoperable with the existing system. The Barrett 2050 HF base station and vehicle mounted systems were installed together with the Barrett 2020 email and data system and the 977 Vehicle tracking system. This system was configured to enable peacekeeping operations to track each individual vehicle from multiple base station tracking sites across East Timor. The short distances, less than 200 km, and mountainous terrain can cause limitations for a typical HF system with a typical whip antenna, as "dead zones" can make it difficult to receive signals. For this operation the Barrett 910 NVIS whip antenna was ideal as it overcomes the dead zones, by directing the dominant radiation pattern directly towards the ionosphere and is fundamentally NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave). More recently Barrett have supplied the operation with the Barrett 2018 mobile magnetic loop antenna, a roof rack mounted NVIS based system, and have received positive feedback on their reliable operation and effective use with HF communications.

A significant component of the contract was to ensure effective training was provided. Although Barrett radio systems are renowned for their ease of use and intuitive design, the provision of tailored and environment specific training enables

operators to gain maximum benefit from the radio's features. Multiple training sessions were conducted in East Timor by the Barrett Communications International Support Manager and were designed to train NGO staff and technicians who will on-train their colleagues. The Peacekeepers who took part in each session were of different nationalities, often where English is their second language, and with a variety of skill and education levels. The practical hands on nature of the training breaks down the language barrier and allows additional one-to-one specific training should it be needed.

Ben Jackson, International Support Manager commented ***"it is great to see our equipment being used to its full potential...the 2020 email gateway is constantly sending and receiving emails from remote locations that don't have any other communication bearers and 977 vehicle tracking systems are being used to track each individual vehicle from multiple base station tracking sites in very difficult HF conditions."*** Typically HF is used to communicate from medium to long distances, and is often overlooked for reliable short distance or mountainous communication systems. However incorporating the NVIS antenna's into the HF system, reliable coverage in mountainous terrain can be achieved, as demonstrated in the success of this operation.

HF communication solutions are ideal in humanitarian and peace keeping operations where there is no infrastructure and reliable communications are essential to maintain the operation. The initial setup costs are very competitive and there are no ongoing service or call costs. Barrett Communications have provided HF communication equipment to peace keeping operations in Africa, Asia, South America and the Middle East since 1997.

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Departing on Asian Assignment

Air Force dental technician/supervisor Sergeant Rachel Dudgeon has found a way to escape the winter cold by volunteering for duty on an Asian assignment.

The 38-year-old Windsor woman is one of 41 Australian Defence Force personnel serving in south-east Asia aboard the enormous US Navy hospital ship USNS Mercy during Pacific Partnership 2012 (PP12).

Created as an ongoing commitment to south-east Asia and the south-west Pacific after the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami, PP12 is an annual US Navy Pacific Fleet-led activity that conducts free medical, surgical, dental, veterinary and engineering civic aid projects for disadvantaged people.

Sergeant Dudgeon's first assignment ashore was on the remote equatorial island of Siau in Indonesia's North Sulawesi Province, where she was part of a nine-person dental team that brought pain relief to more than 240 patients over a four-day period.

"Every single patient we saw was in some sort of pain," she said.

"Some of them had been living with the pain of toothache for five years, and most had never seen a dentist before in their entire life."

Sergeant Dudgeon, who is from 3rd Expeditionary Health Squadron an RAAF Richmond, said the best part of the island stopover was being able to work with children.

"Being in the RAAF I usually work with adults," she said.

"I really enjoyed having the children come into our clinic. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills and provide dental care to children as young as two.

"We also did a lot of oral hygiene education with the children, showing them how to brush correctly and take better care of their teeth."

After completing their two-week mission in Indonesia, Sergeant Dudgeon and her colleagues are now steaming towards Samar in the Philippines to continue the ship's humanitarian relief work.

"I wanted to come on Pacific Partnership for a new experience, and it's certainly been eye opening," she said.

"I've been exposed to cases that I would never see at home, and it has also helped me to remember the important things in life, like family, and to be grateful that we live in a community where health care is provided to all."

With a busy schedule and more than 1000 crew and staff aboard the Mercy, there is not a lot of time and room for relaxation when at sea.

"I'm looking forward to seeing my family and sharing my experiences with them," Dudgeon said.

"One thing I'm particularly looking forward to is my bed - I still have not got used to sleeping on a Navy rack!"



(L to R) Sergeant Rachel Dudgeon, the Dental Supervisor at No. 3 Expeditionary Support Hospital at RAAF Richmond, Sydney, sorts and counts dental equipment with Respiratory Therapist David Melina, United States Army, and Maren Bishop from the Later Day Saints Charities during a Medical Civil Action Program activity on the island of Siau in Indonesia.



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Catholic education a firm favourite for families

Fair play: Everybody gets involved at the annual Immaculate Heart Catholic Primary School, Leichhardt school fete

WITH places in Catholic schools quickly being filled as more families choose a Catholic education, now is the time for parents to think about enrolling for 2013.

A historic 68,000 students filled classrooms at the beginning of 2012, building on a 35 per cent growth over the past 10 years in 134 schools run by Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) across Brisbane archdiocese, which covers metropolitan Brisbane, the Gold and Sunshine coasts, west through Ipswich and the Lockyer and Brisbane valleys and the South Burnett district and north to Childers.

Executive Director of Catholic Education David Hutton said with Catholic schools now educating almost one in five Queensland children, BCE's community of schools were well placed to meet the challenges ahead, including the roll out of the new Prep – Year 10 Australian Curriculum across our schools.

He said Catholic schools recognised that Prep was about establishing strong foundations for success in life-long learning and empowering students to make transitions throughout their schooling and into the world of work.

"Children in the early years of schooling are provided with a holistic, outcomes based curriculum that is responsive to each child's diverse and unique spiritual, social, emotional learning and developmental needs and circumstances," he said.

During the Early Years of schooling Catholic school students have access to continuity in their learning.

This is enhanced through the establishment and maintenance of effective, collaborative partnerships within the learning community and learning experiences that are relevant and meaningful and activity based.

Students are seen as active participants in the learning

process and their spiritual, physical, emotional, and social development were of equal importance with teachers aware of the wide variation within any one group of students in their development.

Pastoral care also is a distinguishing feature in Catholic schools with students gaining a sense of identity, purpose, success and wellbeing within the context of a Catholic community.

BCE is responding to the changing demographics of the Brisbane Archdiocese through the location of its newest school - Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School at Springfield Lakes, to open in 2013.

Mr Hutton said the provision of Catholic education in the new growth areas of the archdiocese was always at the service of the evangelising mission of the Catholic Church.

"While we seek to bring high quality education to all the students in our schools, it is always within the context of the message of Jesus Christ and the mission of the Church, the community of believers, which proclaims, teaches, challenges and transforms the world," Mr Hutton said.

Catholic schools offer single-sex and co-educational secondary institutions that provide a wide selection of curriculum offerings in an affordable manner.

As welcoming communities, those of different cultural backgrounds and faith traditions are made to feel at home and every student is given the opportunity to experience success by reaching their full potential in all aspects of school life.

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Hang Out No Result on DFRDB Issue

An Opinion piece by David Jamison Defence Force Welfare Association

There is a range of issues the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) has been representing to governments over many years.

Some we have been able influence the government of the day on and others where, despite the obvious justness of our objectives, governments including the present one, have simply refused to address.

The reasons for non-action have invariably been “cost of implementation”. Unfortunately the so-called costs produced by the Department of Finance have invariably been grossly exaggerated and in our opinion, calculated to scare governments into inaction.

Military Superannuation Pensions (or retired pay if you like) have been targeted in this way and our objective on indexation which is simply to get the Government to honour a condition of service has been stonewalled by this and previous governments since 1997 when the Howard Government changed the method of indexing the Aged and Service Pensions from CPI to a combination of CPI and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE).

The present Government further extended this formula to include the “Pensioner and Beneficiaries Living Cost Index” to keep pace with increase in prices. The Bureau of Statistics acknowledges CPI is not a measure of living costs but an inflationary measure - which is not the same. Military Retirement and Invalidity Pensions now stand out as being more harshly treated than almost every other long-term Commonwealth payment that is subject to regular indexing to maintain its value.

In July the OurSay people arranged an internet broadcast “Hang Out with the PM” which was meant to be

The reasons for non-action have invariably been “cost of implementation”. Unfortunately the so-called costs produced by the Department of Finance have invariably been grossly exaggerated and in our opinion, calculated to scare governments into inaction.

a discussion on questions lodged and voted on by the general public. We lodged a question about fair indexation of military superannuation, attracting the second highest number of votes (or highest if you include duplicated questions).

In the “Hang Out” I was able ask the PM why Her Government refused to implement fair indexation and to ask also as a matter of fairness and equity, would she reconsider the Government’s refusal to act. Her answer comprised in the main, the well-worn clichés we have all heard before and yet again used an exaggerated cost figure (\$6Bn) to justify a refusal to act.

This figure is unrelated to the question asked of the PM and is the figure trotted out by the Finance Minister to counter the Coalition’s promise to implement fair indexation of DFRB/DFRDB superannuation payments for those over the age of 55. Even in this context it bears no examination as it is an accrual accounting based figure for a liability over a 45 year period which includes for example \$520M for “notional interest”. In other words it is pure fantasy! I was unable to ask a follow up question; a courtesy allowed the other questioners. This has been seen as an affront to the

ex-service community even though the moderator genuinely didn’t hear my attempt to follow up.

I have since visited the PM’s office to ask for a meeting between her and all the ADSO leaders which would allow the affront to be erased and allow us to reinforce the depth of feeling felt by both serving and former ADF members on the discriminatory provisions of the DFRB/DFRDB and MSBS schemes.

Although we have yet to see action on the indexation issue, there is some hope that we will see movement with the Coalition pledging to partly fix the matter if it wins the next election and an increasing push within Government ranks to “find a fix”.

Indexation has hit the headlines but there are a number of other major policies which we are actively pursuing. These include erosion of the value of the Veterans’ Disability Pension; ADF pay and allowances; the proposed military court; MBLs for MSBS members; taxation of DFRB/DFRDB & MSBS; commutation of DFRDB; access to MSBS employer benefits; and release of service records.

I believe the “Fair Go” Campaign which is an ADSO initiative, has been successful bringing a number of our major policy issues into prominence within parliament, the serving and ex-serving communities in a way that will help have them addressed in a serious way.

David Jamison AM.

National President Defence Force Welfare Association and spokesman for the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO)

Australia's credibility as an ally at risk after defence cuts, says US

Peter Hartcher

Sydney Morning Herald political and international editor

THE US fears Australia's credibility as a military ally is at risk because of the big spending cuts announced in the federal budget.

US officials have raised their concern privately with Australian counterparts at multiple levels in recent weeks in Washington and in Canberra.

The cuts announced by the Gillard government in May would reduce Australia's defence budget from the equivalent of 1.8 per cent of GDP last year to 1.56 per cent.

This is the smallest since 1938, the eve of World War II, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute said.

The US is also cutting its defence spending, but this year will nonetheless spend the equivalent of 3.5 per cent of GDP.

Concern has been registered by the Obama administration, and a former top official of the Bush administration has accused Australia of seeking a "free ride" on the US, marking it as a bipartisan complaint about the cuts to Australian defence.

"Australia's defence budget is inadequate," said Richard Armitage, deputy secretary of state in the Bush administration.

"It's about Australia's ability to work as an ally of the US. I would say you've got to look at 2 per cent of GDP," which implies an extra \$6 billion in spending annually. Planned spending is \$24 billion this year.

"A large island nation like Australia, rich in resources, needs a robust military capability," Mr Armitage told the *Herald* during the Australian American Leadership Dialogue in Washington.

The commander of the US Pacific Command, Admiral Samuel Locklear, told reporters in Canberra last week that Australia's spending had fallen below the level the US expected of its European allies. He said the standard that Washington expected of its NATO allies was 2.5 per cent of GDP.

An official in the Obama administration told the *Herald* that the Australian cuts were especially jarring because they were occurring in one of the fastest-growing economies in the developed world.

Yet another administration official said Washington suspected the Gillard government was taking advantage of the US decision to deploy up to 2500 Marines south of Darwin, which was announced last November.

The rotating deployment provided a level of assurance that gave the government an excuse to cut the Australian defence outlay. But the US deployment was no substitute

for Australia's own defence capability, he said, at a time of rapid military build-up in Asia.

Mr Armitage, who now runs a consultancy and sits on the board of the energy firm ConocoPhillips, said: "To be a credible ally, you have to be credible in your own defence, and you have to be seen to be credible by friendly and unfriendly alike."

The Gillard government cut defence more heavily than any other portfolio in its effort to return the budget to surplus.

Reprinted with full acknowledgement to the Sydney Morning Herald 18 July 2012

Female veterans earn war medals but they're 'invisible' back home

by: Callie Watson – Adelaide

July 11, 2012

AUSTRALIA'S female veterans have demanding jobs in war-torn nations, but battle for recognition at home, a study suggests.

Australian National University researcher Dr Samantha Cromptvoets conducted a three-year study into the health and wellbeing of female veterans, interviewing women aged between 23 and 75 who had returned from conflicts in Vietnam and Afghanistan.

Dr Cromptvoets, who will speak at a Repat Foundation morning tea in Adelaide today, said one of the main findings was the struggle many women had in being recognised as "authentic" veterans.

"There's not much visibility of female veterans," she said.

"When you think of a veteran it's generally an older male and that is reflected in the broader community.

"A lot of women talked about having a white card (for healthcare) that veterans can receive and being questioned as to whether it actually belonged to their husband."

A spokeswoman for the Department of Veteran Affairs, which has received a copy of the report, said the research will help "better target support services for female veterans".

Other findings highlight how women want greater flexibility in the Australian Defence Force with their careers and the struggle of mixing motherhood with force deployment.

Heidi Antal, 37, was deployed 13 times during her 19-year career with the Australian Army. She was medically discharged last August and now works as a civilian in administration at Keswick Barracks.

She agreed with Ms Cromptvoet's findings.

"When a lot of people see me with my medals they ask 'are they really yours'," she said.

"I've also had a lot of questioning when I try to use a white card. I'd like to see more awareness, that women do go overseas and fight these wars."

RSL state president Brigadier Tim Hanna said he was unaware of any particular issues facing female veterans.

“But, it’s fair to say throughout our history we’ve had times when veterans weren’t recognised as well as they should have,” he said.

A veteran is defined as a “current member of the Australian Defence Force who has been on operational service”.

Veteran Affairs department figures show in March there were 586 female veterans in SA who either received a pension/allowance or held a treatment pharmaceutical card.

Used with acknowledgement to the Adelaide Advertiser July 11 2012

Editor’s Note: A Department of Veterans’ Affairs spokesperson told *The Australian Peacekeeper* that as of June 2012, there are approximately 9,900 Australian post-Vietnam female veterans who are DVA clients.



Veteran Heidi Antal, at the Anzac Highway Memorial, says she is often questioned on the ownership of her service medals. Picture: Tait Schmaal Source: AdelaideNow

Veterans’ Community Gardens Australia

Veterans’ Community Gardens Australia (VCGA) is a grass roots [pun intended] project being progressed by a collaboration of Korean, East Timor and Afghanistan Veterans.

Local community gardens have established a reputation for developing community spirit while teaching self sustainment skills and healthy eating and living habits. Gardening has been identified as an activity which can assist some troubled Veterans. For some gardening allows them to reorientate using the simple rhythms of nature. For others the physical work followed by the fulfilment of the harvest re-establishes their self-worth and ability to contribute. For yet others the simple act of shared work in a community garden re-establishes the rapport and camaraderie which allows them to talk and share their problems. Another way of looking at the gardens is to think of them as Men’s Sheds without the shed.

The Tasmanian Branch of the APPVA has teamed together with gardening guru Peter Cundall to conduct two gardening workshops as Veterans Health Week

activities this October. The first workshop will be held in Launceston on the 22nd of October and the second at the Royal Tasmania Botanic Gardens in Hobart on the 24th of October. The workshops are sponsored by APPVA but will be open for all Veterans, War Widows, Serving and Police members. Bookings for both workshops can be made by contacting Mike Romalis in Hobart on mobile 0408 002892 or email: taspres@peacekeepers.asn.au

On the NSW Central Coast a young Veteran is trying to establish a Veterans’ Community Garden with the Gosford RSL Sub-Branch. Luke Grogan’s vision is for not only a community garden, but to have adjoining sensory and memorial gardens where Veterans can relax in a safe environment to re-connect with nature. Peter Cundall is also supporting Luke’s project, along with Angus Stewart, another TV gardening expert. Luke is looking for support and expressions of interest in his project, and he will be having an information stand at the Gosford RSL Veterans’ Family Fun Day on Sunday the 28th October. Luke can be contacted on Mobile: 0421 750 341 or email: luke.grogan76@gmail.com

Another proposed Veterans’ Community Garden project is being established at Caloundra RSL Sub-Branch on the Queensland Sunshine Coast. The Sub-Branch has a disused bowling green which they intend to convert into a productive garden.

If you are interested in joining in one of these projects or would like to start your own then please contact Mike or Luke.



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Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project

The Peacekeepers

Australian military, police and civilians have been undertaking peace operations for over 60 years. Over 90,000 Australians have served in more than 60 peacekeeping missions around the world. Reflecting the commitment and sacrifice of past, present and future peacekeepers, the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial will be a living memorial on ANZAC Parade. This will be the first Australian National Peacekeeping Memorial.



The Memorial - a Design and a Site

We have the design. The Memorial will be an enduring landmark. The design encompasses a glowing passage of light that is the powerful entry for the Memorial. The passage is between two massive monoliths, raised slightly off the ground in a stone courtyard. The lit interior will evoke the Australian Peacekeepers' role and their help to local populations.

We have the site

The Canberra National Memorials Committee has approved a site for the Memorial on ANZAC Parade in Canberra. The Memorial will be a focal point for national parades and remembrance ceremonies in recognition of Australian peacekeeping on occasions such as ANZAC Day, UN International Day of Peacekeepers, Australian Peacekeepers' and Peacemakers' Day and United Nations Day.

The Management

A voluntary Committee of peacekeeping veterans includes representatives from the Australian Defence Force, the Australian Federal Police, the United Nations Association of Australia, the United Nations Police Association of Australia, the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association and the National Headquarters of the Returned and Services League of Australia.

The Support

Patrons, Champions, Partners, Friends and Mates

We have wide ranging support. Our Patron-in-Chief is Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and our Patrons are John Sanderson AC, Geraldine Doogue AO, and Tony Negus APM. Our Champions have donated \$100,000 or more and are The Department of Veterans' Affairs and PDL Toll. Our Partners have made donations of \$25,000 or more and our Friends have made donations of \$5,000 or more.

Mates of Peacekeeping are individuals who support the Memorial Project by making regular contributions using their credit card or by direct deposit from a bank account.

The Target

Our funding target is \$3.5m. We have raised over \$600,000 to date and have spend part of those funds on the Memorial design and prototyping. We feel that we need to raise a further \$2m to bring the project to completion. We need your help.

Communications

You can visit our website at <http://www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au> You can subscribe to our Newsletter by sending a note to secretariat@peacekeepingmemorial.org.au

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**Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs**

The MRCA Arrangements Review – An APPVA Interpretation

By Paul Copeland
National Advisor APPVA

When the Government announced a Review to the MRCA Arrangements in April 2009, the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) saw this as an opportunity where finally, the problems encountered with *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) and the complex Multiple Eligibility provisions would be resolved by the Government for a better deal for our veterans.

The Review was chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Mr Ian Campbell; with a representative from the Australian Defence Force; Department of Treasury; Department of Finance and Deregulation; Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; and Peter Sutherland, visiting fellow to the Australian National University College of Law.

This has been regarded as a non-impartial review conducted by departmental bureaucrats with any chance of a fair and balanced hearing being diminished as there was no ex-service representation. It wasn't until the Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) complained at the lack of ESO consultation within this Steering Committee, that representation was selected.

Michael Quinn, who also had the representative responsibility for the Viet Nam Veterans' Association of Australia (VVAA), Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) and the Injured Service Persons Association (ISPA), represented the APPVA. With considerable experience as a Level 4 Advocate in the complex multi-eligibility Legislation, including COMSUPER affects to Veteran Compensation, we're fortunate to have Michael in this position.

The APPVA has been involved with consulting with the Government through lodging of submissions and representation at various Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (DFAT) forums for a range of Compensation and Veteran Entitlements since 2002.

A member of the ESO Working Group for the MRCA during 2003-2004; the APPVA holds a great deal of subject matter expertise, particularly when it comes to complex multiple eligibility legislation and the Review did give the APPVA the opportunity to respond and consult at the Review of the Recommendations.

Public hearings hosted by the Review Steering Committee were conducted across Australia from November 2009 to April 2010, with hearings also held on ADF Bases across Australia. The transcripts for the Public Hearings were made available; however those for the ADF Bases were not. Therefore, we could not analyse the responses from the serving members of the ADF as to what they thought toward some of the key issues of the MRCA.

The Steering Committee and the Government rejected the key points raised by the APPVA. That is, equality for Peacetime Permanent Impairment to be equal to the premium amounts for Warlike or Non-Warlike service. The harsh offsetting provisions for the Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP), which is 60 cents in every dollar, received of COMSUPER from the 100% of General Rate to the Special Rate amount was retained and not removed.

There were however some good outcomes, that were going to be cost neutral, if not, saving the Government money. However those savings appear not to be transferred to other key areas that require resolution. Having said this, the Government has stated that the accepted changes will cost \$17.4wM to implement the package over four years.

A good outcome was that VEA Specific Treatment Entitlement Cards (STEC aka "White Card") will be available to those who have liability for treatment under the *Safety Rehabilitation Compensation Act 1988* (SRCA).

The Government has stated in releasing the report to the public the following:

"The report concluded that the objectives of the MRCA are sound. It also confirmed that the unique nature of military service justified rehabilitation and compensation arrangements specific to the needs of the military. However, not unexpectedly given the relative complexity and period of operation of the MRCA (five years before the start of the Review), the Review found opportunities for improvements. It made 108 recommendations ranging from retaining the status quo, support for current initiatives, clarification of policy, further work and monitoring, to legislative change. Of the 108 recommendations, eight comprise four pairs of recommendations where the Committee had divergent views. The subject of these pairs of recommendations are issues that are also significant in the veteran and Defence community:

- *Permanent impairment compensation – service differential;*
- *Compensation following death – service differential;*
- *Permanent impairment compensation across multiple acts; and*
- *Non-liability health care for certain psychiatric conditions."*

The APPVA as described previously supports the need to remove the Service Differential and the offsetting provisions of the SRDP.

We do not support the Service Differential for Death and it is interesting that the Government raised this, when the ESO and Public had not raised the matter. In any case we oppose any Service Differential in the Death of an ADF member. A death is a death and the Senate Legislative

Hearing Committee agreed this in 2004.

Permanent Impairment across the multiple Acts remains a key area of concern. There needs to be equality under the MRCA that has been previously afforded under the *Veteran's Entitlement Act 1986* (VEA). The methodology of this is to simply retain the VEA Guide to the Assessment of Rates of Veterans' Pensions (GARP) and lose the GARP M. In terms of SRCA, a simple assessment under VEA GARP should allow for the Combined Values to make an equitable Permanent Impairment score from MRCA.

One major area of concern is the Government not transferring or providing non-liability health care for certain psychiatric conditions into the MRCA. This not only diminishes this entitlement under the VEA, but also will have potentially a devastating effect to our veterans.

A case at the time of writing this article is that a former Northern Territory Indigenous NORFORCE soldier who served Australia for 18 years, was severely injured in the course of his duty has since been assessed as being highly anxious with suicidal thoughts. The Veteran Psychiatric Unit at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital has refused admission to this soldier who served Australia, because there was a question over his service being Reserve and not being technically a veteran.

Regardless if this ex-soldier is a Reservist or not, he evidently needs significant psychiatric treatment as was strongly recommended by his treating psychiatrist for such urgent treatment.

The system and the outcome of the MRCA Review have

failed this ex-soldier. It appears the Government has forgotten its accepted commitment to the Dunt Review into the suicide of ADF and former ADF members by providing such resources and providing a pro-active approach in seeking intervention strategies for mentally ill current and ex-serving ADF members.

Yet, we keep hearing from Government Leaders how they are in debt to our ADF personnel for not only serving overseas, but for also protecting Australia, as this soldier was doing at the time of his demise. Let us hope that this madness is rectified and that this soldier's life is valued as being more important than saving dollars.

The APPVA has responded to the Government Outcomes expressing our concerns, along with welcoming and accepting a number of the accepted or rejected points. This Document will be available for APPVA members online, along with our previous submissions.

In conclusion, we have concerns that senior Public Servants, particularly from Treasury and Finance, conducted such an important and much needed Review. We have to question that advised the Government and wrote the reply for the Government, if it wasn't an Executive from DVA?

It is evident that this Review failed to address the key areas in equality in Permanent Impairment – regardless of service type (The Service Differential); and the failure to remove the prohibitive and unfair offsetting requirements for the SRDP against COMSUPER recipients; and the ridiculous situation with non-liability psychiatric care, remain outstanding issues that we have and continue to represent.

Operational Service Medal A Positive Step Forward

By Paul Copeland
National Advisor - APPVA

Readers will be surprised to hear that, as a result of the Defence Honours, Awards and Commendations Policy Review in 2008, a new medal has been approved by the Queen on 22 May 2012.

It is the Australian Operational Service Medal (AOSM), of which new future ADF operations will be recognised by this singular medal. It will not be awarded for operations that have already been recognised with an Australian award.

The medal, which will be the same cast design, is to have a separate ribbon for each operation a member serves on. Separately designed ribbons will represent the different operations. There will also be a device similar to the United Nations numeral system to recognise multiple tours.

A positive feature of the AOSM is that it does not discriminate between Warlike Service and Non-warlike Service. While Conditions of Service have in the past influenced the type of medal to be awarded, for example the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) for warlike

service; or the Australian Service Medal for non-warlike service – the Medal will be specific in ribbon design for that particular Operation.

he medal is to also have a distinct civilian ribbon for those civilians who have served on a range of operations as sworn members of the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982 (DFDA). This will be specific to civilians with clasps of service similar to the AASM/ASM system.

We have recently seen the appropriate recognition of Border Protection Operations by the ADF with the Determination of the AOSM – Border Protection, dated 18 July 2012. This medal will be awarded to those who have been force assigned to a range of Border Security Operations. This is an overdue, but welcome recognition for various operations dating back to 1997. I am sure those who served on these operations will be justifiably proud and they are congratulated and thanked for their service

The APPVA would like to see this retrospectivity go back further to when the ADF commenced such Security patrols through RAN Patrol Boats protecting Australian waters; RAAF Maritime Surveillance Patrols; and the establishment of the Army Regional Forces Surveillance Units.

The APPVA submitted a significant submission to this Review of which the Policy for Civilian recognition was precisely what we had sought. In 2008, the APPVA wrote to the PM and lobbied other Politicians seeking support toward medallic recognition of Border Protection. There was support toward a submission from an interested party who drafted a significant Border Protection Medal Paper, along with discussions with the Nature of Service Review. It was late November 2008 when I received a phone call from the former Director of the Nature of Service Review, indicating that an ASM or medal was on the way for such service.

While this medallic recognition outcome is extremely positive, we have been unable to see reclassification for beneficial veteran entitlements for such Border Protection operations.

The website for the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette of the AOSM is: <http://www.defence.gov.au/medals/Content/+030%20Current%20Issues%20and%20News/Operational%20Service%20Medal%20%28OSM%29/S%202067.pdf>

For information on the AOSM – Border Security: http://www.defence.gov.au/medals/Content/+030%20Current%20Issues%20and%20News/Operational%20Service%20Medal%20%28OSM%29/OSMdeclaration_18Jul12.pdf



Small Commemoration for NSW Peacekeepers

Without a central commemorative service, APPVA NSW members were encouraged to privately or as a group commemorate the day locally at an appropriate venue.

NSW State President, Andrew Johnstone, is a local in Lismore and went to the Lismore War Memorial for informal service with fellow peacekeeper, Dale Saville.

“It was a short service where a wreath was laid, a poem and the Ode read,” said Andrew.

Our special thoughts were particularly with Capt Mark Bingley and Tpr Joshua Porter who were killed during Operation Quick-step off the coast of Fiji in 2006.”

“We also recognised all Australian Peacekeepers killed whilst serving their country and the injustices of Peacekeeping recognition to those not engaged in ‘warlike’ service.”

The State Vice President, Milan Nikolic, also held a private service with his family in Woy Woy and Andrew thanked other NSW APPVA members who attended both formal and informal events to mark Australian Peacekeepers Day.

At present, arrangements are being made to hold a Commemorative Service next year in Sydney with a march planned, followed by a service and then luncheon.

“As we grow as a State Branch and, with better communication methods to be out in place over the coming year, I am certain that Saturday 14 September 2013 will be an enormous success and strongly supported by the public,” said Andrew.



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Australian Peacekeepers Day Commemorated in Wodonga

Australian Peacekeepers are perhaps the most misunderstood and under-represented group of veterans that this country has ever seen, according to former APPVA National President, Paul Copeland in his Australian Peacekeeper's Day address at Wodonga .

"They do not get the recognition that they so richly deserve," said Paul to the gathering of around 100 attendees including several senior politicians.

"While Government bickers over the tax-deductibility and cost of our National Peacekeeping Memorial in Canberra and deniability to appropriate medallic recognition is an ongoing issue, our peacekeepers do not come out in the high numbers that exist and participate on ANZAC Day or within the Veteran Community."

"A large number of our Peacekeepers, who were killed on peacekeeping operations, are not allowed to have their names on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour, because of antiquated views. Instead, it is in a locked cabinet in a book, placed in an obscure location."

Since 1947, when the first Australian peacekeepers were deployed to the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia), over 70,000 ADF members have been committed to more than 60 countries non-stop.

"This is a significant military milestone, being today the 65th Anniversary of our humble beginnings," said Paul.

He highlighted that one operation which has been ongoing since 1956 - the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), in the Middle East.

"Whilst it continues to this day, it is irrefutably Australia's longest ever single military commitment to a given operation."

"Serving on 12 month tours, Australian Army UN Military Observers, along with other contributing nations, monitor the various ceasefires from the Arab/Israeli conflicts, which has at times erupted into full-scale war, as it did in July 2006, with the then Captain Matina Jewell (nee Stanfield), who now lives in this region, right in the middle of it."

Such is the nature of peacekeeping it can transform from the mundane into full violence, killing and even war in a flash."

"Our peacekeepers have served in some of the most dangerous places on earth. The threats by belligerents to intimidate peacekeepers have ranged from aiming weapons at our personnel to firing at them, mortar, artillery strikes, land mine action and kidnapping."

For 45 members of the First Australian Contingent to the UN Operation in Western Sahara in 1991, a little known fact is about their detention in Morocco even before their mission started. Jet fighters from the Moroccan Air Force buzzed the Australian's transport aircraft and forced them to land in Morocco and not their intended destination of Sahara.

The horror of genocide, witnessed by peacekeepers in

Rwanda during the infamous Kibeho incident, which a small Australian Army Casualty Clearing Post witnessed the massacre of over 8,000 men, women and children by the Rwandan Patriotic Army in 1995 stays with them until this day.

"Whilst today is not a day for politics, it is important for the public to know what we have done for our country and where our recognition falls short."

Paul reflected on the other losses on the home front, where many have died as a result of their service related conditions.

"A number have taken their own lives, living with the daily horror and re-experiencing their trauma it has just been too much for them to bear. Many have died too early in life to watch their children grow," he said, reflecting on a Force Communications Unit Cambodia veteran who died 10 years ago, and an East Timor veteran, who died suddenly as a result of his heavy drinking after returning home.

Also attending the Wodonga service were two Middle East veterans – their presence appreciated by their peacekeeping brethren.



The veteran contingent at the Wodonga Memorial



Paul Copeland delivers his speech as Matt Burke (right) looks on.

Island State Branch Continues

With the onset of a very cold winter, the Tasmanian branch of the APPVA largely went into hibernation but continued to see members trained in welfare and advocacy.

APPVA State President, Mike Romalis, said a significant milestone in 'Looking after Our Own' had been achieved in that the branch sponsored a SRCA Training weekend in Hobart on the 18th and 19th of August.

"The weekend requested last year was cancelled due to low numbers, and while we only had 3 members nominated this time, 5 nominations from other ESO allowed the course to go ahead," said Mike.

"Since then we have had members nominate for more e-learning courses which will expand the range of skills and expertise we can provide."

The Memorial Service for Australian Peacekeepers Day in Anglesea Barracks had over 60 attend with the Honourable Julie Collins MP Minister for Community Services, State Minister for Veterans' Affairs, other state and local politicians and Commissioner Darren Hine present.

"The Official Speaker at the service was Mr David Brill, war correspondent and presenter on the SBS Dateline program," said Mike.

"The service was followed with a morning tea in the nearby Navy Club, and that evening we had a family friendly dinner at a local hotel."

APPVA Tasmania has arranged for Peter Cundall, of ABC Gardening Australia fame in addition to being a Korean veteran, to conduct two gardening workshops as Veterans Health Week activities.

The first workshop will be held in Launceston on the 22nd of October and the second in Hobart on the 24th of October. These are sponsored by APPVA Tasmania Branch but will be open for all veterans, war widows, serving and police members.

ABC local radio and the Gardening Australia TV program and the associated magazine will be providing state and national coverage of the events.

In November the branch is planning a fund raising BBQ on both days of the Midlands Military Meet & Rendezvous (MMMR). The MMMR is a biannual weekend for military collectors and re-enactors held at the Campbell Town Showgrounds in central Tasmania, attracting military exhibitors from all over the world.



Left: Guest speaker David Brill

Above: APPVA TAS President Mike Romalis and State Veterans' Affairs Minister, Mr Scott Bacon.

Top: Tasmania Police contingent – from left Inspector Laurie Huxley, Adrian Loring and Brian Bick (Retired Police Association) Commissioner Darren Hine, Senior Sergeant Robbie Dunn, Randolph Wieringa (Police Association)

Images courtesy of Galena Romalis



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Five Australian soldiers killed on operations in Afghanistan in late August, have made their way home after being farewelled by their comrades in Tarin Kot, Afghanistan.

The moving ceremony was also attended by senior Australian Defence Force, ISAF and Afghan National Security Force Commanders.

Lance Corporal Stjepan 'Rick' Milosevic, Sapper James Martin and Private Robert Poate from the 3 RAR Task Group were killed and two of their comrades wounded following an insider attack at Patrol Base Wahab in the Baluchi Valley region of Uruzgan on the evening of 29 August 2012.

In a separate and unrelated incident, Lance Corporal Mervyn McDonald and Private Nathanael Gallagher from the Special Operations Task Group died when an ISAF helicopter crashed in Helmand Province in the early hours of 30 August 2012.

The poignant refrain of a lone piper playing a lament for the fallen set the solemn tone as many of those assembled were moved to tears.

At the ceremony, commanders paid homage and soldiers remembered fallen mates with heartfelt words.

Paying his respects, Commanding Officer of 3 RAR Task Group, Lieutenant Colonel Trent Scott reached out to family and friends in their time of loss.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families, loved ones and mates of these three professional and committed soldiers who tragically died doing the job that they loved," Lieutenant Colonel Scott said.

"We will honour our fallen mates through quiet professionalism and commitment to our mission here in Afghanistan and we will mourn them in the traditional Australian way when we get home," he said.

Commanding Officer of the Special Operations Task Group, Lieutenant Colonel I, praised his fallen.

"For these men, their contribution will live on in the memory of our lives, their spirit and achievements always in our hearts and minds."

"Tell others – tell them what these men did. History will not remember what we say here today. History will remember however, what these men did."

Commander of Australian Forces in the Middle East, Major General Stuart Smith said the loss was deeply felt by all ranks in theatre.

Tarin Kot Ramp Ceremony for Five Fallen



“Today we farewelled our five brave soldiers who were killed in action while conducting security operations in Afghanistan,” Major General Smith said.

“This ramp ceremony has been our dignified salute to their service,” he said.

“We grieve as a Defence family, but we now place aside our pain to offer our thoughts and prayers to the families of each of these men.”

Australian soldiers and their coalition partners lined the route and saluted as a slow moving convoy of five Long Range Patrol Vehicles carried the soldiers to the Royal Australian Air Force C-130 Hercules for their final journey home.

Previous: The fallen Australian soldiers are carried aboard a RAAF C-130 as they begin their last journey home Afghanistan.

Below left: The caskets of the three members are escorted through the honour guard during a Ramp Ceremony at RAAF Base Amberley for Lance Corporal Stjepan ‘Rick’ Milosevic from the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment, Sapper James Martin from the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment and Private Robert Poate from the 6th Battalion.

Below right: Coalition and Afghan National Security Force personnel gathered in strength to farewell five Australian soldiers during the Memorial Service in Tarin Kot, Afghanistan.



Private Robert Hugh Frederick Poate

Private Robert Poate was a member of the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment Task Group and was from the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6 RAR), based in Brisbane, Queensland.

He is survived by his parents Hugh and Janny, and his sister, Nicola.

Private Poate was born in Canberra in 1988 and enlisted in the Army in 2009. On completion of his basic and initial employment training, he was posted as a rifleman to 6 RAR. Private Poate was a highly qualified soldier, having completed specialist training as a Protected Mobility Vehicle Driver in 2010 and Protected Mobility Vehicle Commander in 2011.

Private Poate was known for having outstanding leadership

potential, which led to him completing a promotion course for Corporal in 2011. He will be fondly remembered by his ‘Brothers by Choice’ in 6 RAR as a larrikin and an incredibly professional soldier and had a reputation for creating mischief without getting caught.

He was proud of his family, his military service, his Canberran origins, and his red hair, which he vehemently defended as being ‘strawberry blonde’.

Private Poate has been awarded the following honours and awards:

- Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp ICAT
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal
- Australian Defence Medal
- NATO Non Article 5 Medal with Clasp ISAF
- Infantry Combat Badge

During Private Poate’s service in the Australian Army he deployed on the following operation:

- Operation SLIPPER (Afghanistan) June – August 2012





Sapper James Thomas Martin

Sapper James Thomas Martin was on his first operational deployment as part of the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment Task Group. He was a Sapper from the Brisbane-based 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment.

He is survived by his mother Suzanne Thomas, his younger brother and sister Angus and Holly, and his grandparents Lucille and Ralph Thomas.

Sapper Martin was born in Perth, Western Australia on 1 June 1991 and enlisted into the Australian Regular Army on 24 January 2011, completing recruit training at the 1st Recruit Training Battalion in Wagga Wagga in April 2011, where he was allocated to the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers.

In May 2011, Sapper Martin attended the School of Military Engineering in Sydney and began his Initial Employment Training as a Combat Engineer. On completion of his Combat Engineer course in August 2011, he was posted to the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment in Brisbane.

On his arrival at the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment, Sapper Martin became a member of the 7th Combat Engineer Squadron. He completed a number of additional courses including Combat Engineer High Threat Search, Communications and Weapon courses. Along with the rest of his Squadron, Sapper Martin Force Concentrated in Townsville with the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment in early 2012, in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan.

Sapper Martin was an intellectual soldier who was a quick learner and adapted well to the Army environment. He was respected by his mates and was considered a loyal friend and comrade. A musically talented individual, he often played his base guitar for his mates. He was also an avid follower of Aussie Rules.

Sapper Martin has been awarded the following honours and awards:

- Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp ICAT
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal
- Australian Defence Medal
- NATO Non Article 5 Medal with Clasp ISAF
- Army Combat Badge

During Sapper Martin's service in the Australian Army, he deployed on the following operations:

- Operation SLIPPER (Afghanistan) June– August 2012

Statement on behalf of the family of Sapper James Martin

Defence releases the following statement on behalf of the family of Sapper James Martin.

James was a very loving son, brother and grandson, who even as he matured remained very affectionate to those

he loved. He was a fantastic big brother and role model to Angus, whom he took to from birth and spent much time together with as they were growing up. He had a witty sense of humour and a great sense of fun.

James took pleasure in playing the guitar, he liked to read books regularly and was also an avid gamer. He enjoyed playing cricket growing up and liked to watch a game of AFL with friends or family.

He was very thoughtful, caring and considerate of others. This really showed when selecting gifts for family members on special occasions. James always seemed to be able to choose something perfect, even if it was something totally unexpected by the recipient at the time. The family's bookshelves are peppered with books gifted by James; and Holly's iPod filled with music selected by him.

James was a great communicator and he used every opportunity to transfer new skills and facts on to his family and friends. He never shied away from an intellectual discussion and when opinions were in conflict, he ended up being right most of the time. But he made you like him in the process.

Once James had made his decision to enlist in the Army as a Combat Engineer, he remained very determined and focused on this goal. He researched his new job and the training required meticulously, raising his level of fitness whilst waiting to attend basic training. In his first letter home from Kapooka, when some of his section mates were homesick and discussing pulling out of the training, James wrote to his family, saying "I would not give up this opportunity for anything" and that "I will be an Australian Soldier".

James was a wonderful person and he will be sorely missed by his family and anyone who knew him.

We would like to thank everyone who has and will provide support to our family during this difficult time.





Lance Corporal Stjepan 'Rick' Milosevic

Lance Corporal Milosevic, known as Rick to his family and Milo to his comrades, deployed to Afghanistan with the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment Task Group and was from the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment, Queensland Mounted Infantry (2/14 LHR (QMI)) based in Brisbane, Queensland.

Born in Penrith, New South Wales, in 1972, Lance Corporal Milosevic enlisted in the Army in 2008 and was posted as a Cavalryman to the 2/14 LHR (QMI) in Brisbane in 2009 on completion of his basic training and initial employment training. His potential was quickly identified and he achieved outstanding course results in a short period of time; being promoted to Lance Corporal in 2011 and becoming a light armoured vehicle (ASLAV) crew commander. He was a highly-qualified soldier with a strong future.

He was a much liked and respected member of the Regiment. His leadership and professional abilities stood out in the unit, on the rugby field and on operations. He was also a devoted family man. He will be sorely missed by his family and comrades and is survived by his wife and two children.

Lance Corporal Milosevic has been awarded the following honours and awards:

- Australian Active Service Medal with Clasps IRAQ 2003 and ICAT
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal
- Iraq Campaign Medal
- Australian Defence Medal
- NATO Non Article 5 Medal with Clasp ISAF
- Army Combat Badge
- Return from Active Service Badge

During Lance Corporal Milosevic's service in the Australian Army, he deployed on the following operations:

- Operation SLIPPER (Afghanistan) June – August 2012
- Operation KRUGER (Iraq) June – September 2010

Statement on behalf of the family of Lance Corporal Stjepan 'Rick' Milosevic

Defence releases the following statement of behalf of the family of Lance Corporal Stjepan 'Rick' Milosevic.

Rick was a courageous, committed, immensely proud soldier. His desire to serve his country and honour his family saw him join the army at thirty-six.

At Kapooka, Rick was awarded Most Outstanding Soldier, and during his Junior Leaders Course, he was presented with the award for the Trainee of Merit.

His passion and commitment saw him rapidly promoted to Lance Corporal.

In his four short years of service he would serve honourably in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Rick was a typical Australian bloke, friendly, with a dry sense of humour and a natural charm. He had a comfortable ease. He would show respect to everyone he met.

We are all proud of what Rick was able to achieve – not only as a soldier, but as a loving partner, devoted father, son and brother.

Our family is now united by grief as we try to come to terms with the loss of Rick.

We thank everyone for their heartfelt wishes and messages of condolences, but this is our private time to grieve and we would like our privacy, especially that of Rick's children, to be respected.

Rick is survived by his partner, Kelly, daughters, Sarah (8) and Kate (6), mother, brothers and sisters.



Private Nathanael John Aubrey Galagher

Private Galagher was serving with the Special Operations Task Group in Afghanistan when he was tragically killed in a helicopter crash on 30 August 2012 (local time Afghanistan).

Private Galagher is survived by his partner Jessie, parents Wayne and Sally and sister Elanor.

Twenty-three year old Private Galagher was born in Wee Waa, New South Wales in 1989. He joined the Army on 22 October 2007 and was posted to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR). On completion of his Selection and Training Course and Reinforcement Cycle, Private Galagher was posted to the 2nd Commando Regiment in November 2011. Private Galagher was on his second tour to Afghanistan

Private Galagher always put in 110% in every thing he did. He had a 'can-do' attitude, always wanting to get the job done and taking everything in his stride. He was an enthusiastic, young soldier who was very well respected by his mates from the Regiment.

Private Galagher has been awarded the following honours and awards:

- Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp ICAT
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal
- Australian Defence Medal
- NATO non article 5 Medal with Clasp ISAF and the Multiple Tour Indicator (2)
- Infantry Combat Badge
- Returned from Active Service Badge

During Private Galagher's service in the Australian Army he deployed on the following Operations;

- Operation Slipper (Afghanistan) Jul – Aug 2012
- Operation Slipper (Afghanistan) Sep 2009 – Feb 2010



Lance Corporal Mervyn John McDonald

Lance Corporal McDonald was serving with the Special Operations Task Group in Afghanistan when he was tragically killed in a helicopter crash on 30 August 2012 (local time Afghanistan).

Lance Corporal McDonald is survived by his fiancée Rachael, his mother Myrna and stepfather Bernie, and brothers Percy, Roger and Gary.

Thirty-year old Lance Corporal McDonald was born in Carnarvon, Western Australia in 1982 and joined the Army on 31 May 1999, being posted to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR). On completion of his Selection and Training Course and Reinforcement Cycle, Lance Corporal McDonald was posted to the then 4th Battalion (Commando), The Royal Australian Regiment, now the 2nd Commando Regiment, in August 2008. Lance Corporal McDonald was on his sixth tour to Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal McDonald was quick witted and brought a positive energy to both his unit comrades and all those who served with him. A dedicated and enthusiastic professional soldier, he was always willing to come forward with ideas and solutions. He was a highly professional soldier, but his quiet nature and humility meant he always deflected credit back on to fellow members of his Company.

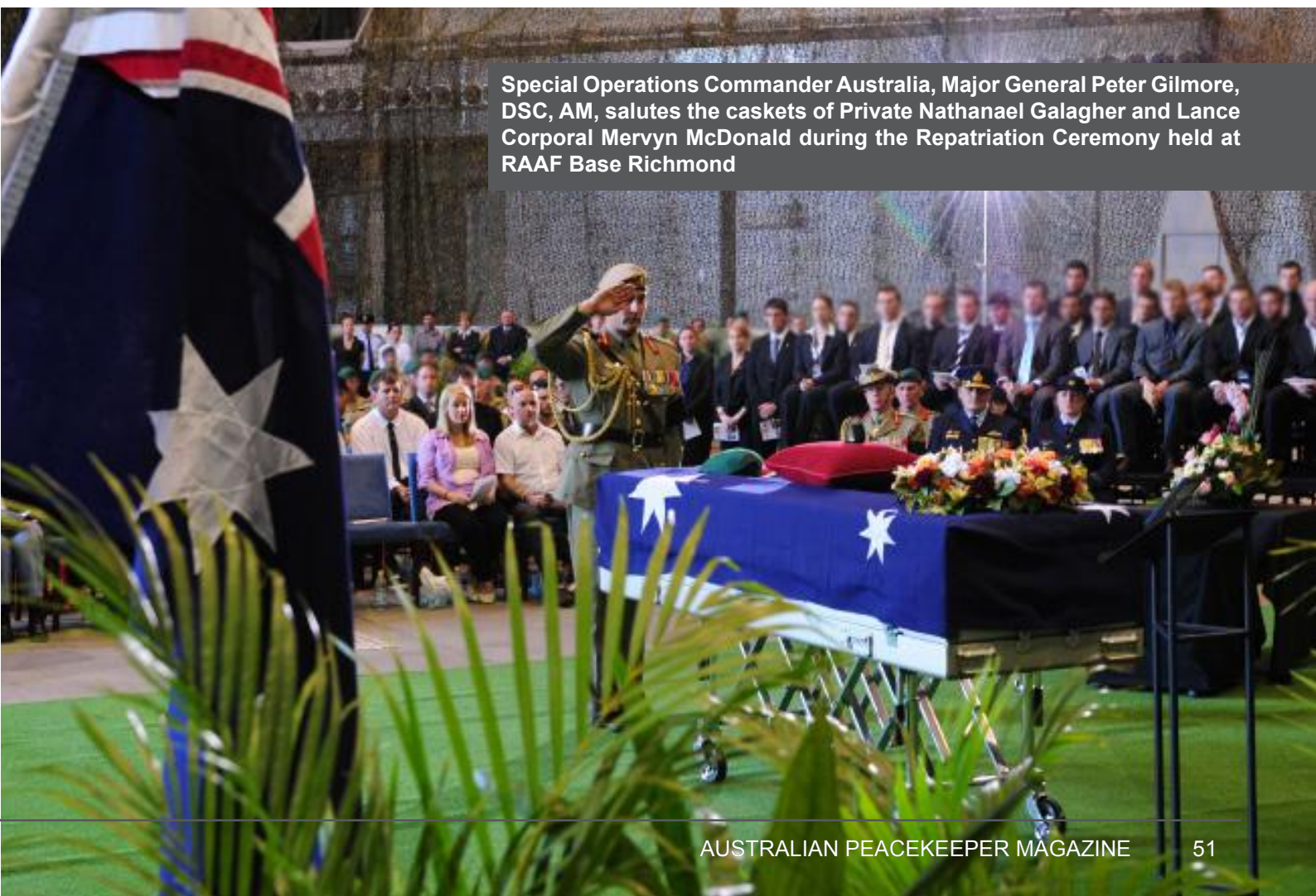
Lance Corporal McDonald has been awarded the following honours and awards:

- Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp East Timor and ICAT
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal
- the Australian Service Medal with Clasp East Timor, Timor Leste and CT/SR
- Australian Defence Medal
- United Nations Mission in Support of East Timor Medal
- Timor Leste Solidarity Medal
- NATO non article 5 Medal with Clasp ISAF and Multiple Tour Indicator (2)
- Commander 1st Division Commendation
- Infantry Combat Badge
- Returned from Active Service Badge

During Lance Corporal McDonald's service in the Australian Army, he deployed on the following Operations;

- Operation Slipper (Afghanistan) Jul – Aug 2012
- Operation Norwich (Australia) Nov 2011
- Operation Slipper (Afghanistan) Jul – Aug 2011
- Operation Slipper (Afghanistan) Apr – May 2011
- Operation Slipper (Afghanistan) Feb – Mar 2011
- Operation Slipper (Afghanistan) Mar – Jun 2010
- Operation Slipper (Afghanistan) Mar – Jul 2009
- Operation Astute (Timor-Leste) Mar – Jun 2007
- Operation Astute (Timor-Leste) May – Sep 2006
- Operation Citadel (East Timor) May – Oct 2003
- Operation Tanager (East Timor) Oct 2000 – Apr 2001

Special Operations Commander Australia, Major General Peter Gilmore, DSC, AM, salutes the caskets of Private Nathanael Galagher and Lance Corporal Mervyn McDonald during the Repatriation Ceremony held at RAAF Base Richmond



Sergeant Blaine Flower Diddams

Killed Afghanistan 2nd July 2012



Sergeant Blaine Diddams was killed during an engagement with insurgents on operations in Afghanistan on 2 July 2012. He was on a mission, targeting an insurgent commander who was known to be in the Chorah region at the time.

Sergeant Diddams was a very experienced member of the Special Operations Task Group and was from the Perth-based Special Air Service Regiment (SASR). He was employed as a SASR Patrol Commander.

He is survived by his wife Toni-Ann, their daughter Elle-Lou and son Henry, his parents Peter and Cate, and siblings Nikki, Sian, Christian and Luke.

Sergeant Diddams was born in Canberra, ACT, in 1971 and enlisted in the Army on 24 April 1990 and after completing his initial employment training for infantry was posted to the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in Townsville, Queensland on 2 November 1990. Sergeant Diddams successfully completed his SASR selection course and was posted to the Regiment in 1995.

This was his seventh tour to Afghanistan since 2001, although he had deployed previously on four occasions to Somalia, East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

Sergeant Diddams, 'Didds' to his mates, was a devoted family man and a dedicated professional soldier. Known for his outwards personality and quirky sense of humour, he was held in the highest regard by his mates and comrades alike.

Sergeant Diddams has been awarded the following honours and awards:

- Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp Somalia, Clasp East Timor, Clasp ICAT
- International Forces East Timor (INTERFET) Medal
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal
- Australian Service Medal with Clasp Solomon Islands, Clasp 'CT/SR'
- Defence Long Service Medal
- Australian Defence Medal
- NATO ISAF Medal
- Meritorious Unit Citation
- Infantry Combat Badge, and
- Returned from Active Service Badge.

During Sergeant Diddams' service in the Australian Army he deployed on the following Operations:

- Operation Solace (Somalia) – Jan – May 1993
- Operation Warden (East Timor) – Jan – Feb 2000
- Operation Tanager (East Timor) – February – May 2000
- Operation Trek (Solomon Islands) – 2002
- Operation Slipper (Afghanistan) – Nov 2001 – Apr 2002
- Operation Slipper (Afghanistan) – May – Oct 2007
- Operation Slipper (Afghanistan) – Jan – April 2008



Above: Troops from Multi-National Base Tarin Kot line the route to pay their respects to Sergeant Diddams as members of the Special Operations Task Group and military dignitaries accompany his casket to the awaiting aircraft

Opposite: Sgt Diddams

- Operation Slipper (Afghanistan) – May – July 2008
- Operation Slipper (Afghanistan) – Jun – Nov 2009
- Operation Slipper (Afghanistan) – Jan – Jul 2011
- Operation Amulet (CHOGM Perth) – 2011

Operation Slipper (Afghanistan) – Feb 2012 – April 2012.

The members of the Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) farewelled Sergeant Diddams several days later in a moving Memorial Service at Camp Russell.

SOTG Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel J, paid tribute to a well-respected and highly experienced Special Forces soldier during the service in Tarin Kot, Afghanistan.

“Today we farewelled a husband and father, a mate and brother who will be forever missed but never forgotten,” Lieutenant Colonel J said.

“He died doing what he loved in the only way he knew how - to lead his men from the front. Blaine was the relaxed professional whose quick wit and sense of humour could turn a smile in even the worst of situations.

“Blaine endeared himself to everyone who knew him due to his quirky sense of humour and love of a joke.

“He was a devoted father and husband who lived life to the fullest. He thrived on adventure and time with his mates and he was the type of person that if you were in trouble or on a winning streak, you wanted to share the experience with,” he said.

The Memorial Service was held in Camp Russell at Multi-National Base – Tarin Kot, before his casket was moved to a waiting Australian C-130 Hercules aircraft.

Soldiers from SOTG along with Australian, Afghan and coalition forces personnel lined the route to salute their comrade.

The Commander of Australian Defence Forces in the Middle East, Major General Stuart Smith, said the loss of Sergeant Diddams was deeply felt by all ranks.

“Sergeant Diddams was an elite soldier, working with a professional team, on a vital mission to support security and safety for the people of Uruzgan,” Major General Smith said.

“As a military family we mourn his loss, but we put aside our grief to continue on important work in Afghanistan as our tribute to his dedication and sacrifice.”

Darwin

MILITARY

Museum

The Defence of Darwin Experience at Darwin Military Museum provides visitors with an immersive, interactive, multimedia experience: the story of Darwin's role in World War II.

The exhibition space includes the Bombing of Darwin Gallery, iconic objects from that time, firsthand accounts and multimedia presentations.

The new Experience is surrounded by the other buildings and artifacts of the Darwin Military Museum: artillery pieces; vehicles, uniforms, firearms, models and paintings and much more. A fully air-conditioned cafe and shop complement this presentation of Australia's north at war.

Opening Hours: 9:30am - 5pm, 7 days a week.

After hours by appointment. The Museum and its grounds are available for a range of functions, both large and small.

Closed: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day & Good Friday.

Admission prices:

- Adults.....\$14.00
- Child under 15yrs\$5.50
- Child under 5yrs Free
- Family (2 Adults 2 Child).....\$35.00
- Seniors/Pensioners: (Non Territorian).....\$11.00
- Seniors/Pensioners: (Territorian).....Free
- School Groups.....Free

T: (08) 8981 8981

F: (08) 8981 3135

www.darwinmilitarymuseum.com.au

E: info@darwinmilitarymuseum.com.au





Darwin Families Have Their Voices Heard

Darwin families joined family representatives and ADF members from around Australia attending Defence Community Organisation's Defence Family Forum in Sydney in April and May this year.

The Forum provided a great networking opportunity to meet and hear from people around Australia. Most importantly, participants were able to reinforce to Defence that ADF members and their families already play an important role in the wider Australian community. Acknowledgement and internal support for our own unique Defence community remains necessary and its continuation is of concern to many. Ways in which this can be improved need to be further explored. Defence Families of Australia will monitor action items arising from the Forum.

Darwin families are continuing to benefit from one new Federal Government initiative to reduce costs of healthcare for dependants of ADF members.

The trial started in various locations around Australia in 2009. In late 2011 the ADF completed an evaluation of the ADF Family Health Trial and presented its findings to the Commonwealth Government. However, in order to implement a national program, a procurement activity for a claims system so the Government has extended the Trial period for one year to allow for this process.

It is now anticipated that the families of all full-time ADF members will receive free basic healthcare from 1 July 2013.

With many Darwin-based ADF members away from home on overseas deployments, families have warmly greeted the news that the Federal Government will design and

distribute an ADF Family Pin. Requests for a pin of this nature have been sought by many families for many years, and in April the Prime Minister announced a concrete proposal.

Defence Families of Australia has been involved in the design of the pin and has delivered feedback on how best it might be distributed. It is hoped the ADF Family Pin will be presented to families before the end of the year.

Defence Families in Darwin continue to have a large range of activities at the four marvelous community houses and through the work of the Top Ender magazine. Larrakeyah House, Billeroy Centre, the Robertson Barracks Family Group and Coonawarra Community House are the first port of call for many families. The wonderful work of these community houses relies on attracting enthusiastic coordinators and passionate volunteers, often from a mobile group of families.

Defence Families of Australia

Defence Families of Australia celebrated 25 years of representing Defence Families in Government and Defence forums during 2011. Laura Simpson-Helman is the NT's new National Delegate. She meets with DHA, TOLL, DCO and the DRHM (Defence Relocations and Housing Manager), as well as local Commanders on a regular basis to represent the views of Defence Families. Laura can assist serving members and their families or advocate on an issue affecting many families.

You can email Laura at nt@dfa.org.au. You can visit the DFA website at www.dfa.org.au and Like DFA at www.facebook.com/DefenceFamiliesofAustralia.

If you like things Hot, Noisy and very very Dirty, than the Northern Territory has just the Sport for You: Mud Racing the craziest Motor Sport in the Top End.

Mud Racing originated from the efforts of various local Top End 4WD clubs who got together in 1998 and formed a Mud Larks club and excavated a track. They based the format of the track and event on those held for many years in the American Deep South. (Must be something to do with Crocodiles and Alligators that brings out the crazy in people). From these humble beginnings Mud Racing has grown to be the Top Ends foremost wet season Motor Sporting event.

The only time an event is cancelled is during a Cyclone watch and for any meeting you can confidently expect something like 2500 spectators to attend, each keen to experience being showered with muddy water and of course to enjoy the general aroma that bubbles up once the racing starts.

There is something very special about the smell of rancid mud. It's a combination of slime, grime, unknown gases that ferment under the surface and possibly a few dead animals that fell in and never managed to climb out.

This bubbling morass of fermenting mire plays host to a wide variety of vehicles and an even wider variety of drivers from juniors to senior citizens.

Mud Racing has to be one of the filthiest and at the same time friendliest forms of motorsport, where everyone involved mucks in (literally).

With a minimum 50 to 60 competitors driving anything from VW Beetles to purpose built high powered Top Gun vehicles, this extreme sport is not for those who like to see the competitors or the spectators clean.

The way that Mud racing works is this. In the same way as special stages for the Rally Championship might be held in an arena, two cars start off on opposing identical tracks and race over 700 meters against each other and the clock. The winner is the car and driver with the fastest time. After 4 rounds the four fastest competitors in each class meet in the finals for a head to head, back to back, match up for the top 3 places. Every driver gets a chance to race on each track and the winner is the driver with the best overall time. There may not be any overtaking, but that's not to say the excitement level is any less as the skill comes from managing to keep heading forwards into water, mud, ruts in the track and of course overcome the tendency of the engine to stop running when totally immersed in 100 per cent humidity.

The 'Top End Mud Racing Association' (TEMRA) boasts the only permanent twin track facility in Australia. The amenities for spectators are superior, with track side food and beverages (including a Bar), toilet facilities including disabled toilets and plenty of room to spread out and enjoy the night. Racing is in the wet season from October to March with dates and other information available on the web site, www.mudracing.asn.au

The following is a firsthand account of what is like to be in the passenger seat of one of these high powered monsters – he is still alive and well – we think....:

My introduction to the sport gave me the privilege of taking the navigator's seat in Chris Lovewell's (The TEMRA President) HiLux and with a borrowed pair of overalls and some very tight strapping down of the safety harness he fired up the 350 Chev motor and we aimed at the track.

Loud! Mud racing is very loud. Even wearing a crash helmet it's loud. It's also muddy and wet. Did I mention mud before? Well with Chris pressing for all his worth on the loud pedal of the 'Tonka Truck' (his very own PRO Modified Class Vehicle) I can

see pressure jets of muddy water forcing themselves through holes in the floor pan like a turbocharged Gerni working on double time. Sometimes I can see the track, other times all I can see is muddy water cascading up and over the bonnet and totally covering the windscreen.

Visibility in mud racing for the competitors is obviously something you can manage without. Even three windscreen wipers and three wiper pumps that run full time and dump 15 litres of clean water on the screen every two minutes can't keep pace with the brown stuff that pours over and into the racer. And, yes, you've guessed it, the smell comes with it.

And talking of the smell, this isn't casual marsh gas bubbling up from the depths, this is now super stirred and pressurised pong that has its temperature raised to that of a steam bath as it passes by the Chev 350 in some vain attempt at heat transfer to keep the engine from boiling and blowing its head off the block.

Cooling can be a challenge and Chris runs three additional cooling fans, one on the auto transmission cooler and two to the radiator where one pushes and one sucks in order to dissipate the heat that builds up during the race.

Mud racing does have its moments of interest and as we start our run Chris mentions that if we turn over there is a process of how to get out of the safety harness, climb out through the side window (or where the glass used to be) and generally surface through the water. Any exit from an upturned mud racer that has come to a halt upside down in one metre of muddy slop is going to be interesting. I've been there, done that in rally cars but this might be a little trickier.

Off and running and we're into the first bend and we plough nose first into a hidden bog hole, only to surface like a rampaging Rhino shedding hundreds of litres of that brown slimy stuff. Chris works out a plan of where the track is and where we should be on it and we're off again, bucking and bouncing as the tyres scabble for grip. There's a memorable moment when the brown slimy stuff comes in by the bucket load through the open side window and hits me fair in the face (Well, I shouldn't have been looking that way, must have been my fault) and we're into it again.

Chris may not look particularly athletic but he's twirling at the wheel like a discus thrower on steroids, all the time with a strange grin on his face. This is obviously something he loves to do.

From mud hole to hump and we launch skywards before gravity resumes control and pulls us back down into yet another splash of the brown slimy stuff. Cornering is a bit of an artform as the diff is welded in a fully closed position making all those sun wheel and planetary pinion thingies somewhat redundant. The closed diff gives you great straight line grip but when you hit the corners you have to sort of slide into the bend in order to reduce the amount of stress that builds up.

Some of the corner is accomplished on two wheels and with nothing else to think about in the passenger seat I ponder on the recovery technique if we continue with the G-Forces and flop over onto my side. Just how long can I hold my breath underwater?

A milli-second of lifting off the loud pedal brings the ute back down on all four wheels and we rocket ahead again to an accompanying roar from the Chev into the main straight. More mud, more heat, more noise and more bumpy bits and then, just when I am getting used to the concept, we're off the course and up on the bank where a high pressure hose clears the mud from the radiator and anything else that is just about to overheat.

WHAT MOTOR SPORT IS UNIQUE TO THE TOP END AND ONLY COMES OUT TO PLAY WHEN THE RAIN STARTS?

THE ANSWER IS... ONE OF THE MOST UNUSUAL FORMS OF MOTOR RACING EVER INVENTED -

MUD RACING

Top End Mud Racing

Downs Park,
Hidden Valley Motor
Sports Complex

Ph: 0417 797 388

E: chris@abpnt.com.au



SPONSORS

It's loud, it's fast, it's exciting and it's very, very, very, DIRTY (at least for the competitors).

From it's beginnings in the American deep south swamp lands, this sport (yes they do call this a sport) made it's way to the Top End in 1986, when a bunch of 4 Wheel Drive enthusiasts inspired by the idea of getting down and dirty made a mud track and started playing.

Today Mud Racing is the foremost Motor Sporting event of the NT Wet Season calendar. Its family friendly and an adrenalin junkies dream. We race from October to March in the wet season and hold all of our events at night.

With a minimum 40 to 50 competitors driving anything from V W Beetles to purpose built high powered Top Gun vehicles, this extreme sport is not for those who like to see the competitors close.

Two cars at a time meet on opposing tracks; they race over 700 metres against each other and the clock. After 4 rounds the four fastest competitors in each class meet in the final for a

head to head, back to back, match up for the top 3 places. Every driver gets a chance to race on each track and the winner is the driver with the best overall time.

The 'Top End Mud Racing Association' (TEMRA) boasts the only permanent twin track facility in Australia. The amenities for spectators are superior, with track side food and beverages (including a Bar), toilet facilities including disabled toilets and plenty of room to spread out and enjoy the night.

NT Titles 2012 - 2013 Season
23 March 2013

2012 - 2013 Season Race Dates

Round 1 Season start October 27th 2012
Round 2 November 24th 2012
Round 3 December 15th 2012
Round 4 Australian Day Extravaganza January 26th 2013
Round 5 February 23rd 2013
Round 6 NT Titles 23rd March 2013



Exercise Pitch Black 12 takes off in Northern Territory

Up to 100 military aircraft were in the Northern Territory from July 27 until August 17 as the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) hosts international partners for Exercise Pitch Black 12.

With 2200 participants coming from across Australia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, New Zealand and the United States, Exercise Pitch Black will be held from RAAF Bases Darwin and Tindal.

Air Commander Australia, Air Vice Marshal Mel Hupfeld, said the biennial exercise would this year feature a mix of first-time and returning participants, making it the most advanced in the event's 22-year history.

"For the first time at Exercise Pitch Black, Australia will be fielding the Super Hornet, Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft, and KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport," he said.

"The Indonesian Air Force will make its debut appearance at Exercise Pitch Black 12, and we're very excited to see it attend with its Sukhoi Flanker fighter aircraft.

"Singapore has been a regular participant and will this year bring its F-15SG Eagle and Gulfstream G550 Conformal Airborne Early Warning aircraft," AVM Hupfeld said.

Participants at Exercise Pitch Black 12 will utilise massive military training areas near Bradshaw and Delamere to practice offensive counter air and offensive air support operations with large formations of foreign aircraft.

"Regionally and geographically, the Northern Territory is ideally placed for exercise participants to bring together large formations of aircraft to conduct complex operations," AVM Hupfeld said.

"Conducting Exercise Pitch Black 12 is a massive undertaking, not just for aircrews and maintainers but also for the planning that is involved."

During Exercise Pitch Black 12, Air Force will conduct a handling display with an F/A-18 'Classic' Hornet over Mindil Beach Markets on August 9. An Open Day at RAAF Base Darwin will be held on August 11 for the Darwin community.

"Air Force has a deep bond with the Northern Territory extending back to 1938, and holding these events is our way of extending a sincere thank you to the public for its support," AVM Hupfeld said.

Top: Flight Lieutenant Ben Goring is at the controls of the C-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport during a Pitch Black mission to provide air to air refuelling capability to F/A-18 Classic Hornets.

Below: During a Pitch Black flying sortie, a F/A-18 Classic Hornet replenishes its fuel supply from a No. 33 Squadron KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport.



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Mission Australia Early Learning is pleased to have been chosen as the new provider of childcare and before and after school services at 22 defence force sites around the country.

Mission Australia has a long history providing care and support to young children and families.

In addition to the Defence Childcare Centres it operates a further 26 centres and two integrated children's services on school sites around the country.

In the Northern Territory, Mission Australia operates an early learning centre at Stuart Park and an integrated children's service at Wulagi.

The centres attached to defence bases Mission Australia will manage in the Territory are located in Conawarra, Palmerston and Tindal.

The National Director of Mission Australia Early Learning Services, Marie Howard, said the organisation was looking forward to delivering high quality care to more than 900 Defence Force families across the country.

"It's extremely exciting to be working in these centres. We are grateful to have inherited a passionate and well-regarded group of Educators with close ties to the families who use their services and the communities in which they're based," said Ms Howard.

"It really is an exciting time for us. We are now placed to deliver long day care, kindergarten, out-of-school hours and vacation care at 50 locations around Australia.

"We acknowledge that defence force families face their own set of unique challenges and are committed to working closely with parents in recognition of that fact.

"Our vision is to provide a nurturing and natural environment where each child feels valued and safe to explore, create and communicate.

"Our philosophy is about being child-centric, family-focussed, community-minded and proud of our people.

"We particularly place a great deal of emphasis on providing natural spaces for play and learning so children can gain confidence from their experience of nature.

"As young children aged up to five years are at their most important stage of development, their learning environment, both indoors and outdoors, is critical in shaping their future health, learning and social ability.

"Giving children a closer experience with nature – allowing them to engage in spontaneity, risk-taking, exploration and discovery – contributes to them being well-prepared with a bank of skills and knowledge when they make the transition to school.

"Over the past few years we've been putting resources towards the gradual transformation of the environments in the centres we took over from ABC Learning.

"We look forward to working with our new and expanded team to deliver pathways to strong families and healthy, happy children and to further grow and develop our high-quality early learning services," said Ms Howard.

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My name is Kirby Starr-Thomas and I am your local Personal Travel Manager in the Darwin Area.

Travel Managers Australia is a fully accredited, licenced Travel Agent, and is a member of the Australia Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA). As a member of Travel Managers Australia, I offer very competitive prices and great value holidays, for both domestic and international travel.

As a Personal Travel Manager, I will save you the time and hassle associated with planning your next holiday. Allowing you to get on with the more important things in life, as I understand that time is precious.

I have 10 year's experience as a travel consultant, and specialise in RLLT travel arrangements for Defence Personnel and their families. As a defence spouse, I have firsthand experience with the yearly entitlements that are available to Defence members and their families.

Should you be indulging in retirement, you will find that Travel Managers has a world of options available for you to explore. I would only be too happy to assist you with creating holidays that will give you ever lasting memories.

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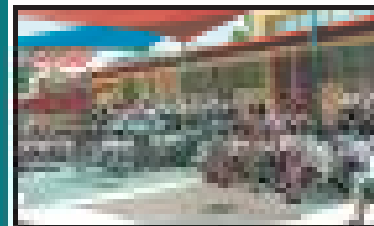


Area outside College catering for all

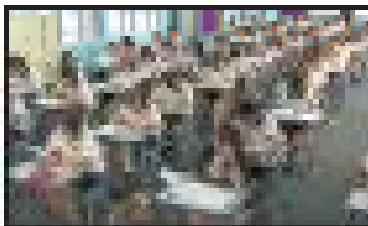
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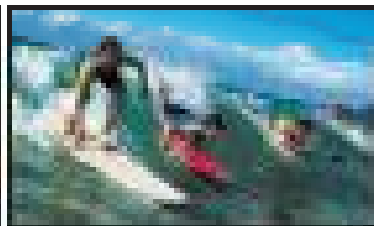
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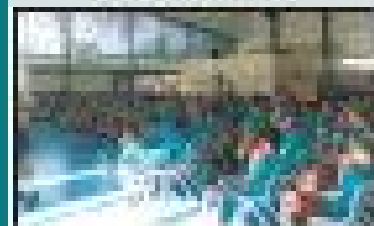
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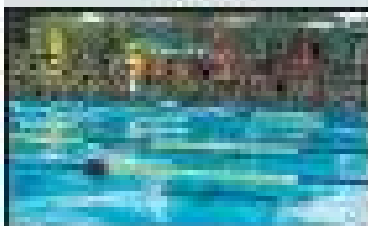
Year 12 PE Bowling, Fun Marguerite



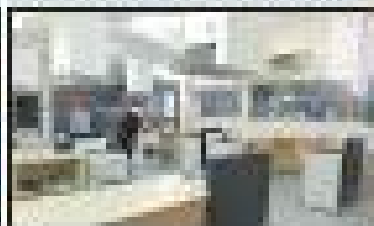
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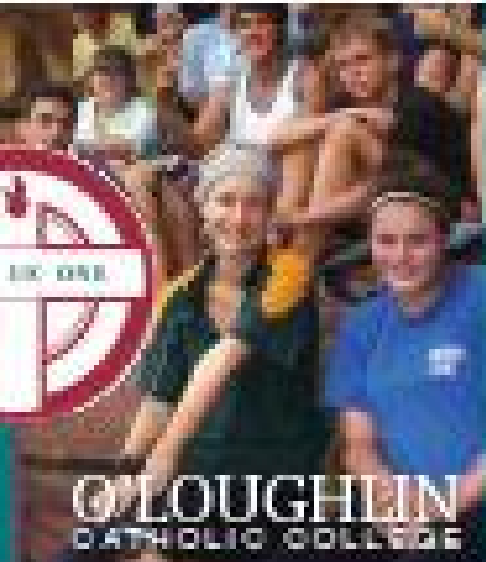
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Flying Officer Michael Jones controls the ground space at RAAF Base Tindal in his role as a Joint Battlefield Airspace Controller JBAC. Exercise Pitch Black is a major multi-national biennial exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force, involving Offensive Counter Air and Offensive Air Support missions being flown at training ranges across the Northern Territory. Exercise Pitch Black 12 will be held from 27 July to 17 August 2012, and involve 2200 personnel and up to 94 aircraft from Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, New Zealand and the United States.

THE EASY DAY WAS YESTERDAY

The extreme life of an SAS soldier



A FASCINATING READ

My SAS selection course instructor, was as hard as nails. At the start of each day's training, he would say, 'Well, the easy day was yesterday.'

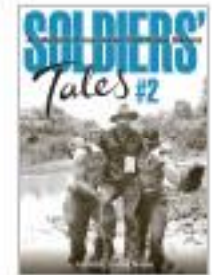
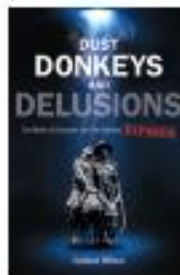
From his cage in a public, overcrowded Indian jail, author Paul Jordan reflects on a life lived on the edge and curses the intellectualism that robbed him of his freedom.

An ex-member of the elite SAS, he had survived deployment to the jungles of Ait and the horrors of genocide in Rwanda before leaving the army to embark on a career as a security adviser.

His new life sees him pursuing gun-fighting bandits in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon, protecting CNN newsmen in Baghdad at the outbreak of the Iraq War, and facing death in the devastated Indonesian town of Banda Aceh.

Loaded with dark humour this is a fast paced, brutally honest story of a tough and hardened fighter.

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The Defence Community
Organisation offers a broad
range of programs and
services to help Defence
families manage the
military way of life.

To access these services call the
Defence Family Helpline on
1800 624 608

Visit www.defence.gov.au/dco
for more information

Supporting Defence families

On behalf of Navy, Army and Air Force, Defence Community Organisation offers a broad range of programs and services to help Defence families make the most of the challenges and opportunities of the military way of life.

Services provided by DCO include support from a social worker, assistance for partners' education and employment, help with childcare, assistance for dependants with special needs, support for Defence community groups, help for families during crisis and emergency, education support for children, and assistance for members leaving the ADF.

DCO also provides support and resources to help families turn times of deployment, family member absence and relocation into manageable, positive and strengthening experiences.

The best way to access these support services is to contact the all-hours Defence Family Helpline at DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au or on 1800 624 608.

Visit the DCO website at www.defence.gov.au/dco to find out more about the services on offer.

Girls perform better at single-sex schools

Girls who attend a single-sex school will perform better in science and mathematics than their cohorts in co-educational facilities, according to research conducted by British academic, Alice Sullivan. Sullivan also concluded, "women who had attended single-sex schools were more likely than co-educated women to gain their highest qualification by age 33 in a male-dominated field" (Sullivan, Joshi & Leonard, 2010, p. 25). Sullivan concluded, "this confirms the view that single-sex environments can actually reduce the tendency of students to behave according to gender-typical stereotypes or norms".

"Put simply, girls in single-sex environments are not afraid to test scientific waters," St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School Principal Karen Spiller said.

"Fewer than 10 percent of engineers in Australia are women, however St Aidan's is bucking this trend. We are putting our time and money into programs designed to get our girls interested in pursuing a career in maths or science.

"For example, the School's national and international reputation in science and engineering is bolstered through continued student participation in the annual *Australian Space Design Competition*. The team from St Aidan's this year scooped first place for the second time. Six St Aidan's students represented Australia at the *International Space Settlement Design Competition* in the United States last month."

Mrs Spiller invites Defence Force personnel who are relocating their families to Amberley to visit St Aidan's and meet with her and support staff.

"The team at St Aidan's will be only too happy to show you the incredible facilities we have on offer to educate your girls," she said.

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Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

Contact Details

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr (Rank) Address

Last Name City

Given Name(s) State Post Code

Date of Birth...../...../..... Country.....

Name of Parent/Partner/Child Email.....
(Complete only for Affiliate Membership)

Phone Mobile.....

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Missions *(Attach separate sheet if necessary)*

Service (Navy, Army, Air Force, AFP etc) Operation name..... Country.....

Service Regt Number Dates deployed to

Current / Former Rank..... Operation name..... Country

Post Nominal Date deployed to

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Persons applying for membership as a member or ex-member of an Armed Force, Police Force or, as a Defence Civilian meeting the above criteria for Full or Associate Membership, are required to complete the Service Details above. Persons applying for Affiliate Membership as a Parent, Partner or Child of a current APPVA member are required to complete the "Parent / Partner / Child" section in the Contact Details area above, to confirm the membership of the APPVA Member.

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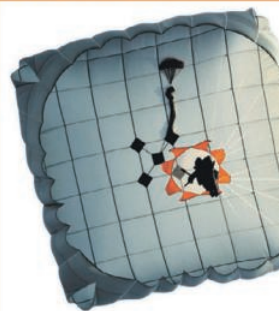
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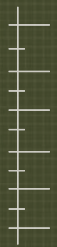


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Better ideas. Better innovations. And better implementation to suit the needs of those in the field. Whether creating advanced expeditionary energy efficiency solutions, redefining precision with cutting-edge aerial delivery systems, protecting troops with the world's finest personnel parachute systems or conquering the elements with industry-leading



In the battle of brains vs. brawn, we opted to take both sides.

shelters, HDT pairs the brightest minds in the business with experts experienced in the field. Then, we position them conveniently across the globe – in places like our new Melbourne office. The end result is products that are as smart and strong as those who rely on them day after day.

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