

# Australian Peacekeeper

WINTER 2016

MAGAZINE



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# Australian Peacekeeper

MAGAZINE

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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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# From the President's Desk

As we head into the cooler months of 2016, I would like to welcome back all our members and their families that are currently serving and those who have left the Australian Defence Force. Here we are again celebrating across the country and around the world; thousands paused on the 25 April 2016 to honour those ANZACs who first landed on the shores of Gallipoli and those who fought on the Western Front to commemorate the service and sacrifice of those who served in all conflicts whether it was on Warlike, Non-Warlike, Peacekeeping operations or those who have serviced in the Australian Defence Force.

It was extremely pleasing to see high a volume of people turnout at Services in Australia and overseas as Australians from all walks of life come together to honour and remember the original ANZACs and the brave men and women who have continued their legacy of service over the decades.

The APPVA have been avid supporters of the working group seeking a Royal Commission into DVA, so far members of the APPVA have gathered in Canberra, Tasmania, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to rally with further rallies in Townsville on the 5 June 2016 and then in South Australia at a date to be advised.

The DVA are currently going through some changes internally, process and functions of claims are now controlled by different states to help ease the burden of the backlog of claims, as it stands each delegate within the department are currently handling 300 plus claims which is significantly a high case-load, this impacts on the time taken to process claims for veterans.

Under the Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act (MRCA) of 2004 the process of getting benefits is long winded, once the department has accepted liability under the MRCA, the veteran then needs to go through the needs process while their claim undergoes further processing through the Permanent Impairment team which then decides the severity of the injury or disease based

on specialist reports generated through DVA Medical Impairment Assessment reports. This could take up to 3-6 months after liability has been accepted if a case manager feels that a specialist report does not meet the requirement, DVA will send the veteran off for further reports to the detriment of the veteran.

What DVA need to be aware of is the impact that this adversarial approach has on the veteran and his or her family, as the National President of the APPVA, I have a duty of care to ensure that processes that the department have in place are being adhered to by delegates handling claims. At present some of the issues surrounding veterans and their claims is the time taken to process claims, the approach some case managers have in over-riding medical specialist reports and requesting further reports from another specialist who have not even seen the veteran before, but are acting in the best interest of the DVA to denigrate the severity of the veterans' condition. This is why the APPVA are in support of the Working Group seeking a Royal Commission into DVA.

I wish to inform all members that I will be taking a leave of absence as I am running for a Federal Senate position in this year's election, I understand that the APPVA is an apolitical organisation and it is for these reasons alone that I will not make any further decision on behalf of the Association. I would like to thank you all for your support over the years and hope that my timing in running for a Senate position will put me in good stead in pushing further issues across in the Senate if elected. The Interim National President until such time when the APPVA AGM is held in October 2016 will be Mr Michael Quinn, the National Vice President who will care-take this role in my absence. If elected into Senate I will formally resign as your National President, once again thank you for your support over the years as your National President.

**Allan Thomas**





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# ANZAC Day 2016



## Spending on centenary is ignoring needs of recent veterans

John Bale  
The Australian  
April 25, 2016 12:00AM

We have expended more money and resources commemorating World War I than any other country. But has it been a wise spend? Have we missed an opportunity to engage the Australian community in creating a lasting legacy from the sacrifices of so long ago?

Right now, today, a generation of younger veterans from Afghanistan, Iraq, East Timor and a range of other conflicts are struggling to find their place in the ANZAC tradition. Worse, many veterans are not reintegrating into our community after these conflicts and some cannot shake off the trauma of what they experienced.

Most Australians feel that the ANZAC centenary is over with after last year's Gallipoli commemorations. They have paid their respects and they have moved on.

An apathy has grown around the continuing centenary of the WWI battles, and contemporary veterans and their families are the losers.

Most Australians feel some connection to the legend of Gallipoli and the part it plays in our national narrative.

The link to the Western Front campaigns of 1916-1918 is more tenuous. The chief effect of the expensive effort to reconnect us to those traumas of 100 years ago appears to be "commemoration fatigue".

Commemoration must be more than ceremony. Its real value lies in a renewed commitment to enduring values.

The best way to refocus the centenary of ANZAC is to link it to support for those who have most recently served.

Plainly, there is little point in vast expenditure to boost our knowledge of military history if we fail to support those who keep the ANZAC tradition alive today: the people who put on uniforms and still go out into danger.

It has been Soldier On's experience that there is a strong, unvoiced community desire to connect with and care for the young veterans of today. That instinct finds no answering voice in the way ANZAC centenary commemorations are conducted.

There is an obvious benefit in the two impulses being joined together, for the good of the commemorations as much as for the young veterans we seek to serve.

This point was articulated by the Prime Minister when he opened Soldier On's expanded Canberra centre for veterans and their families in late February.

"It is critical," Malcolm Turnbull said, "that we do not ever forget that we best honour the veterans of 1916 by caring for the veterans of 2016."

But we need to put those words more fully into action. Time

is running out. We need to connect our wider Australian community with the young veterans of today, as proof that we are honouring the memory of those who fought in the Great War and subsequent wars. This is how we ensure the true spirit of ANZAC lives on.

Young veterans today often feel isolated in their wider community. Job opportunities are often limited and restricted to stereotypical roles that emphasis brawn over all else.

In many cases, veterans are facing debilitating health effects from their service. Many thousands experience the insidious effects of post-traumatic stress disorder. An estimated 3000 young veterans are homeless. Most distressingly, they are taking their own lives in numbers that should shame us all.

All of this while we erect new memorials to World War I and spend millions upgrading those that exist.

We must use this centenary phase to generate unstoppable national momentum to look after our younger veterans. If we fail now, we may not get another chance. Worse still, those who have returned will feel more isolated, less cared for and much less honoured for their service.

Surely this is the absolutely opposite of what those original ANZACs who fought so bravely would have wanted.

John Bale is chief executive and co-founder of the charity Soldier On.

Retrieved from: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/ANZAC-day-2016-spending-on-centenary-is-ignoring-needs-of-recent-veterans/news-story/567f5107cc4dc2b8d5f442300fd2bf37> on 3 May 2016

### Editor's Note:

With the recent passing of ANZAC Day one may think that we may be losing the true meaning of the Dawn Service, The March and the Camaraderie thereafter. The main point of course is The March. Whilst I am guilty for not marching on ANZAC Day a couple of times, I have revisited the meaning of the March.

The intent is that mates who are still alive, who survived the war, conflict or Peacekeeping Operation, March in memory of their mates who didn't come home like they did. This also applies to those who have died whilst on service on our home soil. It also applies to those who have died as a result of their service - contracted wounds, injuries, illness or disease before and suffered after returning home.

They march because it is an important part of our national identity and culture, to ensure that the service, courage and sacrifice of those mates who have served this country are never forgotten. They march in memory of those mates who have since passed who served Australia.

They march for the families of our mates who endured the long absences due to service requirements; and later those families who have had to endure the continual legacy of the service that has affected their mother, father, brother,



sister, extended family member and mates for a lifetime.

Lastly they march in respect of the sacrifice of all those service personnel who died for freedom, peace, security and stability not only at home but also internationally; for those who have since passed and those who continue to suffer.

So, if you are a former or current-serving member of the Australian Defence Force, or any Force, March the March next ANZAC Day and enjoy a good cold beer with your mates.

I marched to remember the service of all these people, but importantly, the service of my father who died of war-caused illness 6 months ago; my grandfather who died as a POW on the Death Railway in 1943; and the service rendered by my mates to Australia.

**Paul Copeland**

## ANZAC Day: Commemoration and Reflection

**By Bob Lowry**

**While 101 years have passed since ANZAC troops landed in Gallipoli, ANZAC Day continues to be recognised as a significant aspect of the Australian story.**

Lieutenant Colonel George Matheson, Second Australian Imperial Force (2nd AIF), was killed in action at Princess Augusta Bay, Bougainville, on 30 January 1944 while seconded to the US Army.

When the Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, Major General Sir Philip Mitchell MC, was told of his death he recorded in his diary:

“... poor Matheson has been killed in action. Such a man, so intrepid and full of fight, had to be killed I suppose. But it is a very sad loss. DCM and MC in France last war, before he was 16, decorated by US in this he has been an inspiration to the 37th [Infantry Division, Ohio National Guard] and American Division and to all who knew him.”

Major General John Hodge, Commanding General of the American Division, still heavily engaged in battle on Bougainville, wrote to Matheson's wife:

“Matty joined the American Division before it went to its first combat at Guadalcanal and, except for a short absence, served with the division since that time. He was known, loved and respected by every man and officer from the division commander to the last joined recruit ... I feel entirely truthful in saying that Matty's loss to the division is felt more generally and deeply than that of any other individual could have been.

He was completely a man's man; brave without being foolhardy, and without any question one of the finest of nature's noblemen that I have ever met. He fitted perfectly into all situations and all conditions from the most formal official function to the most savage fighting against our arch enemy, the Japs. For his splendid action at Guadalcanal he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross ...

... Personally, I felt his loss more than that of any fellow officer in my entire service in two wars. I enjoyed his companionship, his splendid spirit, his fine sense of humor and high morale more than I have words to express. You may know without question that Matty's spirit will continue to live in this division so long as it remains an organized unit ...”

Matheson's story encompasses personal tragedy, our national story, and the policy and strategic complexities of war. He was born in NZ in 1904, made money gold mining in New Guinea in the 1920s and travelled to England and Japan and places in between. He came to Australia in 1931, married but had no issue and worked in the mining industry in Queensland, Western Australia, Malaya and Africa, ending up as a mine manager and government inspector of mines in WA. He was a natural leader and master of the technology of his day.

He enlisted as a private soldier in the AIF in April 1941 and by December he was a major commanding the 330-man Commando sent to New Caledonia as part of the outpost line placed across Australia's north after Japan entered the war. When the US decided to secure the southern island route to the Philippines via Tonga, Fiji, New Caledonia and Australia, Matheson's men played a major role in training the raw recruits of what became the American. When the Commando came home Matheson was seconded to them. He accompanied them to Guadalcanal, one of the epic battles of WWII, and went with them to rest and reconstitute in Fiji. There the British Governor employed him as the inspector general of the defences of Fiji before he shipped out to Bougainville where he was killed.

Although Matheson claimed to have fought with the NZ mining company in WWI, rising to the rank of second lieutenant and winning the military medal and military cross on the way, no evidence has been found to confirm that he ever served in WWI. It seems that he invented the persona in the mining camps in New Guinea as a young man and being in the mining industry could never escape the tales he spun. As a mature adult he was obviously the genuine article. Who knows how this weighed on his mind over the years, or whether it contributed to his death. Nonetheless, it is clear that he deserves his place in history.

In a broader sense, Matheson was at the cutting edge of the switch in Australian foreign and defence policy after the attack on Pearl Harbour. He was in Noumea during the delicate negotiations with the French colonial authorities; he greeted and worked with US forces when they arrived. He assisted with the training and preparation of the newly created Fiji Military Forces and died in Bougainville where Australian forces would eventually relieve the Americans as they marched north.

ANZAC Day is a time to commemorate the death and destruction of war and the grief inflicted on the families left behind, and those who suffer from its physical and mental scars. ANZAC Day has become more social as the grief of the world wars has faded, but even though fewer casualties were suffered in more recent wars we should not allow their sacrifice and service to be subsumed in the colour and historic origins of the day.

It is appropriate to reflect on what these people died for, whether or not we believe in the causes for which the government mobilised them. Have we done enough to shape the environment in which we live to minimise the likelihood of future conflict? Do we know enough about the peoples of the region and their ambitions for the future? Do we understand the likely impact of burgeoning populations, the rapidly rising consumption of natural resources, technological change, and climate change on our national security?

Matheson's life shows that our flaws can be outshone by our deeds. Like Matheson, Australia has its share of flaws but would he be impressed with our efforts to promote a prosperous, equitable and peaceful future for the country he died for?

*Bob Lowry is a Vietnam veteran, student of Indonesia politics and the military. He is a member of the AIIA ACT Branch. This article is published under a Creative Commons Licence and may be republished with attribution.*

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## ANZAC Day Commemorations in South Sudan

Members of Operation ASLAN deployed as part of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have commemorated the 101st Anniversary of ANZAC Day at Australia House in Juba.

The twenty-three Soldiers and Airmen of all ranks held a Dawn Service followed by a bacon and egg breakfast and games of cricket and Australian Rules, before ending the day with a Contingent dinner.

Commander Operation ASLAN, Colonel John Carey said it was a privilege to be in South Sudan, on operations, to honour those Australians and New Zealanders – the



**Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs of UNMISS at the Dawn service (from right to left) WO1 Sean Ransome, WOFF Gavin Willmet, SGT Andrew Huxtable, SGT Graham Schnaars, SGT Andrew Ives, WO2 Peter Hall, WO1 Pete Kirkman**



**Members of Operation ASLAN deployed as part of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have commemorated the 101st Anniversary of ANZAC Day at Australia House in Juba.**

original ANZACs – landing at Gallipoli 101 years ago. ‘The ANZAC spirit inspires. It is a story of freedom, courage, compassion, initiative, endurance and standing up for others who cannot stand up for themselves.’

‘Being in South Sudan, in a country with so much violence, hunger and pain, you are quickly reminded just how important those values are in supporting humanity and promoting a strong and compassionate Australia,’ he said.

Captain Gabrielle Taylor works in the UNMISS operations centre and said it was very special being on her first operational deployment for ANZAC Day.

‘To commemorate ANZAC Day while on deployment in a place like South Sudan is a surreal and moving experience. The contrast of the expected morning chill at the Dawn Service and the warm and humid reality of Juba made it clear that we are a long way from home. It is a privilege to serve overseas on such a significant day for Australia, and it is what being in the Army is all about.’

Sergeant Andrew Ives is employed in the Force Headquarters as part of the operations team and participated in the day's activities.

‘It is just an amazing honor to be selected to serve my country in South Sudan as part of UNMISS. A unique experience as there is over 50 different countries involved with the mission.’

The ADF has contributed personnel to UNMISS since 2011. The commitment assists the UN to protect the people of the Republic of South Sudan by monitoring human rights and delivering humanitarian aid.

## Australians claim ANZAC Day

**25 Apr 2016 | Graeme Dobell**

*Today, 25th April 2016 is ANZAC Day, the 101st anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli.*

ANZAC Day has broadened its personal reach and become less overtly political or even geopolitical.

The annual moment of memory has evolved. And what we remember has changed.



My previous column noted that the Imperial element has faded from the commemoration of the Australian Imperial Force in the 1st and 2nd World Wars.

In the way the ANZACs are remembered today, you'd hardly know they served British commanders on a British mission. Now they're honoured as Australians embodying an Australian ethos.

The slouch hat mystique means today's Australian Defence Force inherits much from the ANZACs. But the public sees the ANZACs as having enlisted in the Australian Defence Force, not the AIF.

ANZAC Day has buried the British dimension. The idea of the Australian Briton has been interred along with the Empire.

To see the shift, come join me for a 1950s memory at the Carrum State School. Every Monday morning, we assembled for a rendition of God Save the Queen and recited the National Salute as Victorian State School kids had since 1901:

'I love God and my country,  
I honour the flag,  
I serve the Queen,

And cheerfully obey my parents, teachers and the law.'

We used to zoom through that final 'cheerfully obey' line like a bunch of staccato chooks.

The conception of Australian Britons echoed through my Monday assembly. Serving the Queen seemed a natural enough commitment to be grouped with God and flag and those obeyed with a smile.

Even as those sentiments were being affirmed to the kids, the Imperial settings had been blasted out of Oz geopolitics, rapidly evaporating as a force in Oz politics. The nation with its own continent could find all the identity it needed in the wide brown land.

We are a pragmatic people, quick to abandon what no longer works. As Britain's power waned, so did the once powerful characteristics of the Australian Briton.

ANZAC Day's exclusively Australian identity expanded to take the whole space of memory.

Date the final sunset moment for the Oz Briton as the moment Sir Robert Menzies retired as Prime Minister in 1966. He left not long after provoking mirth by proposing that when Oz abandoned pounds and shillings, the new note should be called the Royal.

The jest was that we adopted the dollar, not the Royal, to honour the replacement great-and-powerful ally.

Popular culture reflected the elevation of the Australian qualities and disowning of the Imperial mission.

In movies like *Breaker Morant* and *Gallipoli*, the British officer class was bludgeoned. Just recently, *The Water Diviner* portrays a Turkish commander at Gallipoli as a far more sympathetic character than the arrogant Pom officer who tries to thwart the hero's search for his dead ANZAC sons.

As a Vietnam-era movie, Gallipoli was also making a point about going to war on behalf of the great ally, new or old. An enduring continuity is the debate about the cost of serving the alliance.

The public usage today has many elements that would jar with the quasi-religious remembrance of earlier generations: ANZAC Day football would have been as sacrilegious as playing footy on a Sunday.

We still play two-up after The March, but much else of that society has gone. No memory now of the dry decades when the pubs closed at 6pm, a discipline imposed during WWI that persisted for 50 years as an emblem of Oz wowsersism.

In earlier eras, The March, as much as the 6 o'clock swill, was private men's business. Australia saluted ANZAC Day and then stood back as the returned comrades gathered to drink and commemorate and, for a moment, share the nightmares as well as the memories.

ANZAC Day mattered to my father in complex ways. With the 9th Division in WW2, he'd taken a bit of shrapnel in the head during El Alamein and been back on the line within a week. He went on to the 9th Division landings at Lae, Finschafen and Tarakan.

By Tarakan, he remembered, the veterans thought the war would never end. Not many of the original Division would be still going if they had to fight all the way to Tokyo.

My mother dreaded ANZAC Day. It meant the nightmares were likely to recur. Often it was the Japanese and the jungle.

The Vietnam veterans cracked the code of silence bequeathed by men from the AIF. Or, perhaps, the Australian society was ready to listen to the Vietnam vets in ways that they could not bear to hear from the AIF.

The change is reflected in the different tone of ANZAC Day—no longer secret blokes' business.

Because of the Vietnam vets, my father got a new and incredibly valuable benefit from Repat. He talked to a psychiatric counsellor about his nightmares and gained new insight into the demons he'd so successfully fought in a career as a great teacher and husband and father.

After that, Dad agreed to take out his medals occasionally and talk to groups of school children at the War Memorial.

It was the action of a born school teacher who served the Victorian Education Department with devotion equal to that he gave the 9th Division.

Those talks to kids at the War Memorial on the experience of war were a sign that the memories didn't come so harshly in the dark. Towards the end, my father managed to change the personal meaning of ANZAC Day. Just as Australia has reshaped its understanding of what we mark on 25 April.

Author

*Graeme Dobell is the ASPI journalist fellow.*

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# Centenary of ANZAC - Lone Pine Project

The words Lone Pine conjure images of ANZAC's fighting at Gallipoli in August 1915 and the iconic tree at the Australian War Memorial. As the Centenary of ANZAC approached in 2014, members of the Veterans & Families Garden Plot in Hobart looked for a project to contribute to the centenary commemorations. At the same time students at Rose Bay High School were planting a memorial garden and had difficulty obtaining a Lone Pine tree due to Tasmanian quarantine regulations. The school approached the Veterans Plot for assistance and the result was a joint Centenary of ANZAC and World War 1 project to grow a new generation of Lone Pine trees.

The Battle of Lone Pine derives its name from the solitary 'lone' pine tree on the ridgeline which didn't survive the battle. There were two sets of pine cones brought back from Lone Pine by Australian soldiers. Lance Corporal Benjamin Charles Smith of the 3rd Battalion collected several pine cones from the battlefield and sent them home to his mother who lived at Inverell in NSW. She left the seeds in a drawer for 13 years before sowing them. She successfully raised two trees, one was planted at Inverell and the second was planted at the Australian War Memorial in 1934 by His Royal Highness Prince Henry, the Duke of Gloucester.

The second pine cone was brought home by Sergeant Keith McDowell of the 23rd Battalion who claimed that he had collected it from the remains of that solitary tree on the battlefield. On his return from the war he gave it to his aunt Emma Gray who lived near Warrnambool in Victoria. Twelve years later she planted the seeds which resulted in the tree at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne and others in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens and The Sisters near Warrnambool.

The Tasmanian connection to Lone Pine comes about via Stephen Mucha, a Polish World War Two veteran who immigrated after the war. Sometime in the period 1972-1988 Stephan went to Canberra and harvested seeds from the Lone Pine growing at the Australian War Memorial. One of the trees grown by Stephan was then planted at the Cornelian Bay War Cemetery for the 75th anniversary of Hobart Legacy. That tree unfortunately had to be cut



Seedlings at one month

down in 2013, but before it was felled the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens collected approximately 300 seeds and placed them in their Seed Bank.

In July 2014 the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens released the seeds and students from Rose Bay High School and members of the Veterans Garden Plot each planted 100 seeds. The seedlings were progressively re-potted as they grew, and in February 2016 the seedlings were considered large enough to be planted out and were advertised for sale at a nominal price. This resulted in all 200 trees finding new homes across the state with the majority going to schools, serving ADF members and war memorials.

You may well ask what is the relevance of this to young veterans? On the 6th April 2016 members of the Veterans Garden Plot met at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens to begin distributing the seedlings. One of our members is a



Photo of parent tree, seed packet and seeds.





60cm high seedlings ready for distribution

Navy veteran of the first Gulf War with medical problems, and that morning they were diagnosed as requiring more surgery. After months of medical and other issues they had set a personal goal to attend and help that day. The need for more surgery was both a psychological and physical blow, but once they realised they wouldn't be able to join us they sent an email expressing what the Lone Pine project meant for them:

I didn't realise at the time of planting the seeds, but the project helped build a bridge between the ANZACS & Veterans of today - in particular myself. I thought I was simply helping the Lone Pine descendents carry on, & the

stories of the ANZACS to be shared with the community,

especially school children. But what happened was actually more significant. I realised my participation in ANZAC Days was no longer just about remembering the old boys - & women who were involved - those people from a different generation who put in the hard yards. It is OK for it to be about me too now. I started marching to keep the tradition alive - not because I had medals.

Just like I wanted to Keep these trees alive. I now recognise that I've participated in something truly bigger than myself, I'll March with a fuller heart and try to recognise the hard yards that my Mates & I have put in over the years, & some continue to put in. It does take a different kind of person to serve in the Military, and put your life on the line.

The Lone Pine project is now complete. It was not designed as a fund raising activity but the trees were sold for a nominal price with all proceeds going to the APPVA, Mates4Mates and the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. And in case you are wondering our fellow veteran underwent surgery the following week and has made a successful recovery.

**Mike Romalis**

Vice-President APPVA-Tas Branch

## ANZAC Day 2016: Reflections on the Past, Present and Future

This is an edited version of the Occasional Address delivered at the main ANZAC Day (2016) Service at Dunoon, NSW

In 2015 we commemorated the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing. In 1916 that landing was commemorated for the first time. 25 April 2016 is therefore the Centenary of ANZAC Day.

It seems appropriate, therefore, to look back over a century of remembrance, to see how it has changed and to ask what its future might be.

ANZAC Day itself is just one aspect of remembrance – an important part, possibly even the most important part, but it is just one part, nevertheless, and it happens on just one day of the year.

The Memorial Movement, on the other hand, was visible at all times. If ANZAC Day remains “the one day of the year”, the Memorial Movement, while it lasted, was the daily lived commitment to implementing ideals proclaimed on ANZAC Day.

The Memorial Movement resulted in an astonishing number of monuments all over the country varying in design and cost, from simple obelisks, to diggers of pillars, to elaborate shrines in the State and Territory capitals.

Shrine is the right word to describe these structures because remembrance took on the characteristics of a cult.

Many people therefore began to feel the need for another way of honouring the fallen and after the 2nd WW they often built practical things like halls, hospitals, swimming

bathes and the like as War Memorials.

In the late 50s a younger generation became critical of the whole enterprise. Alan Seymour's play, *The One Day of the Year*, gave voice to the disenchantment.

With the Vietnam War and Conscription came a virulent anti-militarism that manifested as open contempt for everything to do with ANZAC and there was a steep decline in participation in ANZAC day.

When Ken Inglis wrote his book *Sacred Places: The Memorial Movement in Australia*, he thought he was writing the obituary of a tradition in its last throes.

In 1990, however, Bob Hawke attended ANZAC Day at





Gallipoli. His status as a statesman helped turn the tide and ANZAC Day was back.

The resurgence of interest and participation, though welcome, changed the tone of ANZAC Day especially in the media.

Remembrance was transformed from a cult to a circus.

The amount of money that was made available for the Centenary of ANZAC was the last straw for new critics of ANZAC Day.

Those new critics are not long haired pot smoking hippies. They are insider: serving military officers and Other Ranks. The title of James Brown's book, ANZAC's long shadow – the cost of our national obsession, is a startlingly blunt headline exposing deep dissatisfaction among serving men and women with the fact that what has become the ANZAC Industry fails to address current needs and realities.

Instead, ANZAC is bogged down in nostalgia and reeks of sentimentality, nowhere better illustrated than by that infamous slogan from Woolworths, in 2015: Fresh in our memories.

### **The question is: can this be fixed?**

The answer is actually pretty simple: Commit to doing whatever it takes to ensure that, having won the war, we do not lose the peace. Because if we lose the peace, those who fell securing it will have died in vain. Do we want that on our watch?

Not losing the peace means focusing on whatever it is that most threatens the peace in our time and finding in

ourselves the same courage and commitment to deal with it that the ANZACs took to their fight. After all, there is no essential difference between them and subsequent generations.

They were ordinary folk just like us. What they had we have. It's now our turn to be courageous, resourceful and willing to lose what we have for the greater good.

### **But how might we lose the peace?**

Again the answer is so obvious that it's like the elephant in the room: We will lose the peace if we do not put an end to the shouting match between the culpably polarised sections of Australian society.

If forced far enough apart we could create the conditions for civil war. That would certainly be losing the peace.

But it doesn't have to be as total a failure as civil war to lose the peace. On five occasions in the past (not counting Cronulla 2005) Australians have been so deeply divided that rioting erupted with fatal consequences.

It doesn't even require physical violence to lose the peace, but merely the paralysis of the whole society. Consider the consequences of a prolonged era of one-term governments in Canberra.

That kind of failure would arise out of people in bunkers refusing to talk to each other – refusing to negotiate – holding out for an all or nothing win – despite knowing that an all or nothing stand off always ends in nothing for all.

There is a tremendous irony in the fact that the polarisation of our society is due in part to the Allies success in WWII. The allied victory produced two new political vectors that drove unprecedented change in the whole of the Western world.

The first of those vectors is our knowledge of and response to the Holocaust. The second vector is Decolonisation and how it changed us. Had the Axis powers won the war we would never have known what happened in the death camps and decolonisation as we know it would never have happened.

But the allies did win the war and when we found out about the Holocaust we responded by systematically and comprehensively questioning every assumption and certainty we have ever held and we began redefining our values and commitments.

The most compelling proof of this is that a century ago we went to war in support of an empire to preserve White Australia. And today we are a multicultural society that supports self-determination where ever it is possible in the world.

Decolonisation - self determination - enabled the overwhelming majority of people in the world to seize back their own voice, and that in turn became the opportunity for us in the West to redefine who we are – no longer masters but partners.

The Allied victory gave us the opportunity to transform ourselves but we failed to respond adequately to the opportunity that victory thrust upon us. Change of any kind can be hard to take. But the scale of change that occurred



in response to the Holocaust and Decolonisation eventually became confronting to some and led to shouting matches between mutually hostile camps consisting, on the one hand, of those who are accused of political correctness, and on the other, those who feel excluded by the way we are changing as a society.

Those who embraced change failed to take the whole country with them. Some were impatient for change and others reluctant to change at all. Both sides dug in. The result is verbal trench warfare of the present day. This is how we will lose the peace unless we remember that none have more at stake than we who know the cost of winning the peace. It is we who must call cease fire: we who must initiate the truce, unilaterally if necessary, that will allow this generation, like the Diggers and Mehmets on 24 May 1915, to meet one another in no-man's land, share smokes and tea, so to speak, and acknowledge one another's humanity.

### **So let's make this personal. How can I make a difference?**

If I think of the person opposing me, not as a cardboard cutout but as a fellow Australian, how can I insist that my opinion is right?

This doesn't mean that I should change what I believe, but that I should accept that it is OK and even necessary for people to hold different beliefs and make different choices.

When I accept that people rightly believe different things and rightly make different choices I can't have a shouting matches with them and I certainly can't shoot them – which, let's face it, is what we would do in a civil war.

What it comes down to is this: I tell myself that I no longer want the person opposing me to change. I am the one who can change, not by changing what I believe but by not insisting that you are wrong if you don't believe what I believe.

That not only makes it possible for me to talk to you when we disagree, it motivates me to do so, because I recognise that to get anything done I must talk to you – negotiate – compromise – achieve together what no one can achieve alone.

A whole nation of people talking to one another instead of shouting and sulking – that's where we need to head because to do otherwise will be to lose the peace, and those who fell securing the peace will have died in vain. They gave their lives. All we are asked to lose is our certainties.

### **So, how would ANZAC Day play a role in this?**

We would begin by recognising that it can't just be about what happened a century ago. Nostalgia and sentimentality will not sustain themselves let alone commitment to on-going change.

It should also about how what happened then enabled us to become who we are now: how we have changed; the trajectory of that change; and its vulnerability to a resurgence of the very things the Allied victory helped us to overcome.

ANZAC Day should not only be about honouring the fallen but pledging ourselves to recognise and give up whatever stands in the way of the greater good. We need to revive the Memorial Movement, not to build towers but to build bridges.

ANZAC Day, as the visible sign of what we do for the other 364 days of the year, would more effectively honour the fallen if it reflected not only on the sacrifices of our predecessors, but also on how we can contribute to the healing of our own society to ensure that those who fell will not have died in vain.

**Paul Smith**  
APPVA, MULLUMBIMBY, NSW

*Paul Smith served in Vietnam in 17 Construction Squadron RAE, July 1969 - July 1970. He graduated from James Cook University with Honours In History and was a teacher in Townsville before moving to Mullumbimby where he now runs an art gallery and volunteers at the Veterans' Outreach Centre in Alstonville. His consuming interest is the theory and practice of Remembrance.*



# South Sudan



Gaining independence from Sudan in July 2011, South Sudan descended into civil war in December 2013 amid a power struggle between President Salva Kiir and his former deputy, Riek Machar. Fighting between government troops and rebel groups escalated, reawakening ethnic tensions between the Dinka people and the Nuer.

Brutal and ongoing violence against civilians has killed thousands and caused widespread displacement. By the time an internationally-mediated peace deal was signed in August this year, more than 2.2 million people had fled their homes, with 1.6 million displaced internally and over 600,000 forced to seek refuge in neighbouring countries.

## ***“All Places were Dangerous”*: Civilian Voices from the South Sudan Frontline**

*Leer county in Unity State has been one of the regions hardest hit since conflict broke out again in December 2013. It is the birthplace of rebel leader Riek Machar, a former vice president, and home of the Dok clan of the Nuer ethnic group.*

Food security has deteriorated at an alarming rate, with 3.9 million people now facing severe hunger. In October, three UN agencies warned that 30,000 people in Unity State were on the brink of famine. Without access to markets, jobs, basic services or social mechanisms, those displaced are particularly vulnerable. Even for thousands sheltering inside UN camps, there is little access to food, water and medical care and facilities are hugely overcrowded.

Retrieved from: <http://newirin.irinnews.org/neglected-migration-crisis-listicle> on 13 January 2016.

## ***Originally published 23 June 2015. Picked by Amelia Long.***

The United Nations appears to have seized on its 70th anniversary this year to undertake a series of high-level reviews (previously noted here). Long awaited among them have been the outcomes of the High-level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations. Last week the chair, Jose Ramos-Horta, presented the final report (PDF) to the UN Secretary-General. As the most comprehensive review since the Brahimi Report in 2000, there have been high hopes for the report.

The challenges prompting the appointment of the panel

to undertake the review of UN peacekeeping and special political missions in June 2014 are immense. Recent decisions of the UN Security Council—decisions Australia supported as a non-permanent member—resulted in the deployment of a controversial force intervention brigade into the DRC, a robust stabilisation operation in Mali and another new mission to the Central African Republic. Pressure for the international community to respond without delay to protect civilians has meant that peacekeeping missions are increasingly deploying into environments where hostilities are ongoing, political dialogues (if any) are fragile and blue helmets are a direct target. And many missions still lack the capabilities authorised and budgeted for as part of their mandates.

The panel report recognises efforts to prevent and mediate conflict have been vastly under-resourced. Special political missions like those deployed in Libya, Iraq and Afghanistan have a much smaller footprint than many peacekeeping operations. They have traditionally lacked a political constituency like the one that drives dialogues among troop and police contributors on peacekeeping. This has often meant that political support and investment in prevention and mediation efforts has waned until a crisis breaks out. The role of those smaller missions in brokering political dialogues has become all the more important with concerns about violent extremism and state breakdown across North Africa and the Middle East.

That awkward and institutionally ingrained distinction between peacekeeping operations (largely military and police) and special political missions (primarily civilian) in the UN system has resulted in inflexible political, financial and operational approaches in the field. The report subsequently makes several recommendations to address these deficits, with a heavy emphasis on the need for the UN to invest more in prevention activities and political dialogues.

Among the most awaited recommendations, however, are likely to be the panel’s assessments on the direction of peacekeeping operations. These included reviving old ideas on the need for a rapidly deployable capacity, two-stage mandating process and greater accountability on conduct and discipline, highlighting ongoing deficits and gaps. Addressing political concerns about the limits and reach of UN peacekeeping operations, the panel report cautioned the Security Council from authorising peace operations in environments that the UN is ill-equipped to operate in (e.g. counterterrorism operations), but nonetheless noted the need for personnel to be prepared for these environments. Echoing statements by UN officials, the panel not surprisingly urged countries with higher capabilities to deploy to UN peacekeeping missions.

Like Europe, Australia was a likely target audience of that latter comment. Our contributions to UN peacekeeping have substantially declined and are at their lowest in nearly decade—and this is at a time when the UN is overstretched. With just over 40 personnel deployed to operations in South Sudan, Liberia, Cyprus and the Middle East, Australia is



ranked 86th from 121 peacekeeping contributors. While deployments of personnel and equipment aren't the only measure to demonstrate support for UN peacekeeping, it's still one of the most visible means for assessing a country's level of commitment. Key allies such as the United States are stepping up their engagement politically. President Barack Obama will chair a high level summit on UN peacekeeping in September. You can expect Australia will be approached to make commitments.

The release of the panel report and upcoming summit in September present an opportune time for Australia to consider its political and operational interests in supporting UN peace operations. This should include a more strategic and whole-of-government approach, which identifies policy priorities, opportunities for training and capacity-building programs, and missions where the government may consider deploying personnel and assets in the future.

As the government reflects on the recommendations in the panel's report, thought should be given to issues that Australia wishes to actively progress among the UN membership, including established priorities such as protection of civilians and policing. It should also include further consideration of niche, modest capabilities that Australia can deploy to missions that have an enabling effect, which may include strategic airlift, logistics, and counter-IED expertise.

As Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has noted, the conclusion of our two-year term on the UN Security Council has positioned Australia well to deliver support to strengthen the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping. We should utilise the momentum established with the release of this report to continue that work—and build on it

Retrieved from: <http://www.aspistrategist.org.au/editors-picks-for-2015-un-peace-operations-time-for-australia-to-take-a-more-strategic-approach/> on 7 January 2016 "The Strategist", Australian Strategic Policy Institute [ASPI].

#### *Editor Opinion Piece:*

*Australia has significantly increased troop contributions to Peacekeeping Operations from 1989 [UN Transition*

*Administration Group in Namibia (UNTAG)], through the pioneering days of ADF deployments from 1989, then the Gulf Maritime Interception Operations 1990-ongoing; Western Sahara 1991-1994; Cambodia 1991-1997; Somalia 1992 – 1995; Rwanda 1994-1995; and the MFO Sinai (recommenced 1992 – present). In 1999 another major spike in ADF Troop Contribution began firstly with Bougainville for the Peace Monitoring Group [PMG]; Solomon Islands; smaller deployments in Africa; the effort in East Timor now Timor Leste, which saw the contribution of tens of thousands of ADF members deploy from September 1999 until the withdrawal in late 2015.*

*Whilst amicably providing such troop contribution, particularly from the periods 1989-1995; and again in 1999-2015 to various Peacekeeping Operations; Australia must not lose focus on International Peace, Security and Stability. Western Sahara [MINURSO], looks like ramping up, with Australia potentially being requested by the UN to again provide communications specialists back into the Sahara.*

*Meanwhile, Africa is in need of significant Peacekeeping, Security and Stability Operations, which cannot be ignored by Western Troop contributors, such as Australia, as the African Continent provides a growth in breeding grounds for more Islamic Fundamentalist Terror groups.*

*The ADF continues to be the second largest contributor to the situation in the Middle East Region [MER], through NATO Operations in Afghanistan, mentoring and training in Iraq and RAAF bombing of ISIS targets in Syria. As a result of the Middle East crisis, the world has witnessed the largest exodus of people since World War 2, and yet, the UN cannot control the situation and there is reluctance from Allied Forces to commit, as Peace and Stability is not guaranteed for those running away from years of war in the Middle East Region.*

*Australia cannot rest on its laurels with the recent 2-year temporary membership of the UN Security Council. Clearly, more needs to be done to avert a rapidly descending security situation around the world.*





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## COST ESTIMATING OR COST GUESSING?

The most common problem faced by defence industry when it comes to preparing competitive, viable tenders is how to verify the cost estimates to ensure that bids are priced to win but are also accurate and profitable for each stakeholder in a project's supply chain. On the other side of the table, Defence has an equally difficult challenge in determining the broad capital costs associated with an acquisition and the value for money proposition.

In many large defence companies, bid processes rely on expert skill sets scattered around different parts of the organization. The tool of choice for cost estimates from beginning to end is typically Excel or is Excel-based. Each component of the WBS is estimated separately and then the results are combined for an estimate of the entire project. Consequently, it is difficult to accurately define cost targets upfront to ensure that project bids will be attractive to the Defence customer yet affordable for each stakeholder in the supply chains. Estimators working within a WBS-only environment generally have no requirements for cost-target compliancy, data versioning or data archiving. There is no good method to cross-check results or take full advantage of experiences from past projects. Risks of calculation errors, underestimating and overestimating are high. Budget-conscious customers are unlikely to consider project bids that are too expensive, while every company in a supply chain with a stake in the project wants their end of the business to be profitable.

The most obvious answer to this problem is to build a Cost Estimation Framework (CEF) that uses a top-down, parametric estimating system to set cost targets and then cross-checks estimators' bottom-up estimates (probably from Excel) based on a Work Breakdown Structure. However, in most instances, the vision of the cost engineering/estimating lead is for the CEF to not disrupt bid processes that were already familiar and comfortable to estimation teams, but rather to add better direction at the early stages of a project, improving data sharing, and verifying bottom-up estimates against pre-defined top-down cost targets.

The new CEF should therefore provide the tools and methods to enhance and integrate bid processes across estimating teams spread throughout an organisation whilst improving the accuracy and credibility of estimates, data sharing, collaboration, and competitive yet profitable bid pricing. Estimators can still follow their normal WBS-oriented bid processes using Rough Order of Magnitude estimates from the costing tool (such as PRICE TruePlanning) as a guide and for comparison at the start of their nominal consolidation process of bottom-up estimating. This type of crosschecking at the project and work package levels exposes any gaps in estimates that may exist, so they can be investigated and corrected long before a formal bid (or bid/no-bid decision).

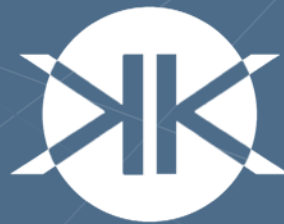
Once an enhanced Cost Estimation Framework has been implemented:

- Bid Managers will gain better insights to evaluate risks, react to issues, and make better business decisions.
- Work Package Delivery managers will operate with more confidence in estimated budget, scheduling and their ability to meet target completion dates.
- Reliable and robust bids can be priced to win and profitably delivered with stronger project control from beginning to end.
- Senior management have a way to validate estimates so that bids proposed to a customer will be more accurate, credible and verifiable

For more information on designing, implementing and updating a Cost Estimation Framework, including the powerful range of software tools available to assist this process, email RubiKon at [info@rubikon.com.au](mailto:info@rubikon.com.au) or visit our website at [www.rubikon.com.au](http://www.rubikon.com.au).



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# International Day of UN Peacekeepers 29 May



Contingent of Nepalese Peacekeepers Arrives in Juba from Haiti. UN Photo/Isaac Billy

"On this International Day of International Day of UN Peacekeepers, we honour our heroes – the more than one million men and women who have served under the UN flag with pride, distinction and courage since the first deployment in 1948. And we pay our highest tribute to the more than 3,400 peacekeepers who have lost their lives while in service during that period." — UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon

## 2016 Theme: "Honouring Our Heroes"

The theme for the 2016 International Day of UN Peacekeepers is "Honouring our Heroes." The Day offers a chance to pay tribute to the Blue Helmets' invaluable contribution to the work of the Organization and to honour more than 3,400 peacekeepers who have lost their lives serving under the UN flag since 1948, including 128 last year.

Today, more than 124,000 military, police and civilian personnel are deployed in 16 peacekeeping operations on four continents.

In a message to mark the Day, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said: "They manifest the best attributes of global solidarity, courageously serving in dangerous environments to provide security to some of the world's most vulnerable."

Since its beginning in 1948, United Nations peacekeeping has evolved into one of the main tools used by the international community to manage complex crises that threaten international peace and security. In this period a total of 71 peacekeeping operations have been established. More than one million military, police and civilian personnel have served as UN peacekeepers.

Over the past year, UN peacekeeping has faced many challenges. It has proven to be dynamic and flexible in its approach which has resulted in protecting populations at risk and advancing peace processes.

In South Sudan, more than 200,000 civilians, who feared for their lives, sought shelter at UN bases. In the Central African Republic, peacekeepers successfully supported landmark presidential and legislative elections that have set the once deeply troubled country on a path to peace and stability. In Mali, our "Blue Helmets" have suffered grave losses that have not deterred them from implementing their mandate. In many countries, peacekeepers have addressed the problems of landmines and explosive remnants of war.

Currently, UN peacekeeping operations receive contributions of military and police personnel from 123 Member States. This impressive number reflects strong global confidence in the value of UN peacekeeping.

While the official International Day of United Nations Peacekeeper's Day is on 29 May, UN Headquarters in New York will celebrate on 19 May. The Secretary-General will preside over a wreath-laying ceremony in honour of all peacekeepers who have lost their lives while serving under the UN flag. In addition, the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal will be awarded posthumously to the peacekeepers who fell while serving in the cause of peace, during 2015. And the Secretary-General will preside over the inaugural ceremony for the 'Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage.'

Retrieved from: <http://www.un.org/en/events/peacekeepersday/> on 29 May 2016.

# UN Peacekeepers' Day brings recognition for WA soldiers' service



LTCOL Stuart Ellis, a decorated veteran of the UN Peacekeeping mission in Somalia.

Two former Australian Army veterans will be honoured for the first time publicly in WA, as they take part in a service to mark UN Peacekeepers' Day.

Laying a wreath to mark the occasion in King's Park will be two men who served their country in UN peacekeeping missions which may not have been 'war zones' as we think of them, but who faced conflict, death, disease, and conditions of terror on a daily basis.

Former Warrant Officer Class 1, Kevin O'Halloran, a thirty year veteran of the ADF, will be joined by former Sapper Peter McNeill as they honour their 30,000 Aussie comrades from more than 50 peacekeeping operations undertaken since 1947 around the world.



Kings Park Memorial WA

With a total of 14 Australians killed while on peacekeeping duties with the UN (12 military and two police), Mr O'Halloran, who served in Rwanda, says it's "vital" to remember "...you don't have to be in active conflict to serve your country.

"There's no difference between serving on a peacekeeping mission to serving in Afghanistan, or as an ANZAC", Mr O'Halloran said.

"These places may not necessarily be designated 'active conflict zones', but we were in danger every day... and we were there because we wanted to serve."

Retrieved from: <http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/western-australia/un-peacekeepers-day-brings-recognition-for-wa-soldiers-service/news-story/b62a141c432a2e0df16440f7efb6a2> on 29 May 2016-05-29

*Editor comment: The APPVA estimates that Australia has contributed more than 66,000 Defence Force and Police personnel to at least 70 Peacekeeping Operations since 14 September 1947. The figure of 30,000 Peacekeepers is in need of updating and is sourced from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. There have been 25 Australian UN Peacekeepers killed on UN Operations from 30 July 1953 (UNKMAC) to the present day. Four of those were Police officers; and one a female Army Officer, Major Susan Felche who died in an aircraft crash in the Western Sahara (MINURSO) on 21 June 1993.*

## Peacekeepers celebrated in Brisbane UN march

by Toby Crockford



The Governor's Representative Luke O'Brien lays a wreath for those lost at war after the UN Peacekeepers march. Photo: Bradley Kanaris

Peacekeepers travel to world's war-ravaged regions without guns, without armour, but with the courage to put their lives on the line.

Major Peter Williams of Brisbane knows the perils well, having travelled to South Sudan as a peacekeeper in 2010. He said the public knows very little about peacekeepers' work.

"The wider public doesn't necessarily know what (peacekeepers) do on missions and don't understand the conditions under which they live," Major Williams said.

"We don't have rifles, we're unarmed, we don't have body armour and we go into situations at times where there are angry people with guns.

"It really is about understanding the situation you're getting into and how you go about it, because quite rapidly issues can escalate and become very dangerous in a very short space of time."





Major Peter Williams speaks after the UN Peacekeepers march. Photo: Bradley Kanaris

On Saturday, the Brisbane CBD played host to the march of the light blue berets as the United Nations Peacekeepers March and Service took place in ANZAC Square as part of international celebrations.

The event recognises the work and courage of peacekeepers both present and past, with 129 having lost their lives this year, including three Queenslanders.

“This is the second year where we have had representatives from our community groups from those overseas countries in which Australian peacekeepers have served,” said Clem Campbell, President of the Queensland UN Association of Australia.

“The beauty of that is that they’re saying thank you to the Australians who actually helped bring peace to their country.”

Over 60,000 Australians have served in UN peacekeeping operations across 36 countries since 1947 and there is not a UN mission, which Australians have not participated in.

Australian UN Peacekeepers are currently serving in Sinai, Congo and Cyprus.

Retrieved from: <http://www.watoday.com.au/queensland/peacekeepers-celebrated-in-brisbane-un-march-20160528-gp66n5.html> on 29 May 2016.

*Editor Comment: Australian UN Peacekeeping is not being served in The Sinai or The Congo. The Australian Contingent to the Multinational Force & Observers Sinai (MFO) is a 26-person commitment to OP MAZURKA. Australia has ADF personnel serving in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the Middle East (UNTSO). The UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) is an Australian Federal Police commitment. The comment about “... there is not a UN Mission that Australians have not participated in...” is factually incorrect.*

*It is also incorrect to state the Peacekeepers deploy into a country un-armed and without body armour. Whilst this has occurred on some Non-warlike Peacekeeping Operations, there has been robust Rules of Engagement in order to protect civilians, enforce the peace under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, and in particular with sizeable Peacekeeping Force Elements that Australia has and continues to deploy. Body Armour, weapon carriage and Counter Insurgency Warfare has been conducted by Peacekeepers. Each Peacekeeping Operation that Australia contributes troops toward are never exactly the same, they differ as to how*

*the security threat has been assessed and Mandated accordingly.*

*On the morning of the 29th of May, upon discovery that the UN International Day of UN Peacekeepers was not recognised by the Turnbull Government, in particular the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs [Dan Tehan, MP], a request was sent seeking such recognition to a unique group of Australian Veterans that successive Governments continue to ignore, under-value and under-recognise. The following Email was transmitted on Sunday, 29 May 2016, to which it is now Tuesday 31 May 2016 and no response whatsoever has been provided, not even an acknowledgement of receipt:*

Dear Minister,

I am not sure if I am being over-zealous, however I have noted that there is no recognition for Australia’s Contribution to International Peace, Security and Stability from your office today. I do however note that you have sent a Media Release for today announcing the Repatriation of soldier’s remains from the SVN War. Our veterans would be most grateful if your Government is to recognise the courage, service and sacrifice of over 66,000 ADF and Police Peacekeepers for the UN International Day of the UN Peacekeeper [29 May 1948], of which the theme this year is “Honouring our Heroes”.

It was so designated by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/129, on December 11, 2002, after an official request of the Ukrainian Peacekeepers Association and the Government of Ukraine to the UN General Assembly and first celebrated in 2003. The date, May 29, marks the anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in 1948 to monitor the ceasefire after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, which was the first ever UN peacekeeping mission, according to the United Nations; however the Australian War Memorial has identified that the world’s first Peacekeepers deployed into the field, which was four ADF Officers, who were UN Military Observers [UNMO] observing the Ceasefire in Batavia, the former Dutch East Indies, now modern Indonesia. They made Australian Military History as not only our first deployed UN Troops in the field, but the world’s first [as I alluded to earlier], on the 14th of September 1947.

The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon has recognised today and devoted the theme of the UN International Day of the UN Peacekeeper for 2016 as “Honouring Our Heroes”.

It would be equally appreciated if the Australian Government recognises the significant troop contribution of our country to International Peace, Security and Stability; along with the courage, service and sacrifice of our serving men and women of the Defence Force and Federal Police Force. It is estimated that Australia has contributed over 66,000 Peacekeepers to these UN Peacekeeping Operations.

Unfortunately, Australia has lost 25 men, including one woman on UN Peacekeeping Operations, since the 30th of July 1953 (UN Command Korea - Military Armistice Commission [UNCKMAC]). Three of those who were killed were seconded to the Australian Federal Police to the UN Force in Cyprus; and one died whilst serving with the UN Mission in Timor Leste [UNMIT].

Over 1.4 Million UN Peacekeepers have served on UN Peacekeeping Operations since 29 May 1948, with over 3,400 being killed whilst on UN Peacekeeping Duty.

*The Peacekeeper Mental Health Study, which was released by Senator Michael Ronaldson, found some highly disturbing outcomes of the cohort who deployed on UN PKO from 1989 [UNTAG - Namibia, S.W. Africa], to 1995 [UNOSOM II, Somalia]. Peacekeepers had significantly higher 12-month prevalence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (16.8%), Major Depressive Episode (7%), Generalised Anxiety Disorder (4.7%), alcohol misuse (12%), alcohol dependence (11.3%), and suicidal ideation (10.7%) when compared with the civilian comparator. The presence of these psychiatric disorders was most strongly and consistently associated with Potential Traumatic Events [PTE]. Whilst on Duty...*

*Veteran peacekeepers had significant levels of psychiatric mobility. Their needs, alongside those of combat veterans, should be recognised within military mental health initiatives. (Forbes et al, doi: 10.1192/bjpo.bp.115.001321).*

*It has been our experience that Australian Peacekeeper Veterans are the most mis-understood, under-represented and under-recognised group of veterans that Australia has seen, which surpasses that of the Viet Nam Veteran cohort.*

Our proud history is that Australia was the first country ever, to deploy UN Troops into the field, that being four ADF Officers, who were UN Military Observers [UNMO] observing the Ceasefire in Batavia, the former Dutch East Indies, now modern Indonesia, during the Colonial War between the Dutch Colonialists and the Indonesian Nationalists. They made Australian Military History as not only our first deployed UN Troops in the field, but the world's first [as I alluded to earlier], on the 14th of September 1947. A fact that Australia should be proud of.

The UN uses the date of 29 May 1948, as it was the first major Deployment of UN Troops in the Middle East, following the conflict of Palestine, where the UN Truce Supervision Organisation [UNTSO] was established. Australia has committed 12-15 Army Officers to UNTSO non-stop since 1956 - our longest ever Military Commitment, that continues to the present day. Australia has provided two Force Commanders [also known as Chiefs of Staffs] to UNTSO, have been the following:

Colonel Keith D. Howard, Commander September to December 1975;  
Major General Tim Ford, AO (Retired), Commander, April 1998 to March 2000; and  
Major General Ian Gordon, AO (Retired), Commander November 2006 to February 2008.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/peacekeepersday/>

It would be most gratefully appreciated if the Australian Government recognises Australian Defence and Police Forces contribution to UN Peacekeeping Operations, in the spirit of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/129 on 11 December 2002.

Also, if you are able to mention in your Media Release (if you decide to send one), for the general public to contribute funds to the Australian Peacekeeping

Memorial Project Committee [APMPC] on link: <http://www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au/>

I look forward to your assistance toward this matter.

Yours sincerely,  
Paul Copeland, OAM, JP.

*By ignoring the service of Peacekeepers and Younger Veterans, the Government, their Bureaucrats and and their Advisors only serve to further alienate a highly vulnerable group of veterans. It is clear that there is a long way to go in terms of providing adequate recognition for what tens of thousands of Australians have provided such noble service since the 14th of September 1947 and continues to this day and will do so well into the future. The significance of the Military achievements alone on these UN Peacekeeping Operations by the Australian Defence Force has held International accolades for decades.*

*The APPVA has been in existence for almost 20 years. It is quite clear that the service, courage and sacrifice of Peacekeeping Veterans is an uphill battle for the appropriate recognition that they have been seeking for many decades. This is a national shame, as various countries, particularly Canada, a fellow Commonwealth Nation, has far more respect, recognition and acknowledgement toward their Peacekeeper Veterans than does Australia. Until then, the outcomes of the Peacekeeper Mental Health Study and the Rwanda Health Study will continue to shock Academics and be ignored by successive Governments and their Bureaucrats. Not one comment of commitment to rectify the outcomes of the noted Health Studies has been announced or even attempted to outreach to a demoralised group of veterans who served their country with pride in some of the most dangerous places on earth, particularly from 1989 to 2002.*

*The Government clearly needs to better understand Peacekeeper Veterans and work with these veterans to resolve many long outstanding issues, that will simply not go away.*

Paul Copeland.







## The new Blackmagic Micro Cinema Camera is the first Super 16 digital film camera designed for remote use!

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[www.blackmagicdesign.com/au](http://www.blackmagicdesign.com/au)

Lens and accessories shown are not included.



Royal Australian Navy personnel in front of Royal Navy ship RFA Cardigan Bay prior to embarking her on Exercise International Mine Counter Counter Measure Exercise 2016 (IMCMEX 2016) from the Port of Muscat in Oman.





# Navy personnel participate in international mine exercise

For the first time, Australia is leading a task force as part of the International Mine Countermeasure Exercise (IMCMEX 16) over the period 10-23 April.

A team of 10 Royal Australian Navy (RAN) personnel joined the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) ship Cardigan Bay, in Oman and is working alongside personnel from Oman, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Commander Max Muller, Commander of the Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving Task Group (MCDTG) based in Sydney, is commanding Task Force 523 which includes multiple ships and three diving units operating in the Red Sea and the Central Arabian Gulf.

"This major international exercise is run every 18 months and Australia has been a major part of it since its inception in 2012," CMDR Muller said.

The nerve centre of the task force is the operations room onboard Cardigan Bay, which currently houses a significant amount of Australian deployable command and control equipment, all designed to seek out and counter the threat mines pose to shipping.

"Over 30 training mines have been deployed in the Gulf of Oman and it will be the job of the mine countermeasures units within TF 523 to find and deal with them," CMDR Muller said.

"My role as the Task Force 523 Commander is essentially to gain situational awareness within my assigned exercise theatre from onboard RFA Cardigan Bay and help facilitate the freedom of navigation for shipping transiting through the Gulf of Oman, which has a very high density of maritime traffic," he said.

Full freedom of navigation will be achieved when TF 523 ships have cleared the exercise area of sea mines and dealt with an opposing force from a fictitious non-state terrorist group called 'The Movement', whose key aim is to disrupt commercial trade throughout the region.

LS Brooke Callaghan is a Combat Systems Operator, Mine Warfare, on this exercise.

"I'll be working as a battlewatch assistant operating the command and control system to give our command team situational awareness," LS Callaghan said.

"I'll update tactical information as it comes through and I'll monitor all of the voice and other communications channels and send updates back to the exercise control headquarters in Bahrain."

LS Callaghan is looking forward to working with sailors from other nations.

"I've worked with US Navy personnel before during Operation Render Safe in 2013," she said.

"The US Navy Chief I'm working with in the operations

room is a mine warfare specialist also.

"By us working together it will develop our personal skills, revealing how each of us operates in the mine warfare space."

Maintaining responsibility for establishing and operating communications within the multinational operations room on Cardigan Bay is PO Benjamin Sherrin, also from MCDTG.

"I'm the lead communicator for MCDTG at home and on this exercise I'm the lead communicator and comms planner for Task Force 523," PO Sherrin said.

"During the exercise I'll be providing CMDR Muller a detailed picture of our task force and our communications capabilities and limitations.

"One of my roles will be to established communications to exercise headquarters in Bahrain as well as to other ships in the task group and the overall task force."

This is not his first time on this exercise; he was the deputy communicator in 2014.

"This time the exercise will be a lot different," he said.

"This time I'm a one man communications cell for our Combined Task Force and I've had to plan and set up most of the communications network myself, whereas the last time I worked with another communicator."

**Leading Seaman Brooke Callaghan at the Port of Muscat.**



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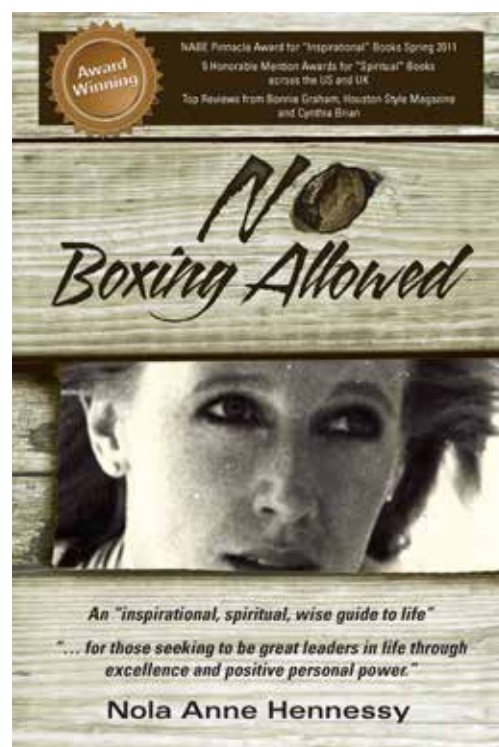
## PREVENTION FOCUSED EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE PEACE

As long as history has been recorded human beings have been fighting, so to ponder a world without conflict and war would see us achieve something that our forefathers have been unable to. Peace would, no doubt, be an outstandingly 'good' and sensible outcome now that we are already well into the 21st Century, and especially so since senseless violence, mass shootings, and power and control struggles seem to be on the rise.

Serenidad means "serenity" in Spanish. In creating a global organisation founded on such a powerful word, that invokes a sense of calm and accomplishment, Nola Hennessy's intention was always to create a wave of change that would never cease. An outcome of global peace is achievable, but it must remain the light, in everyone's eyes, in order to be sustainable – a perpetual goal.

To get there and stay there, it will take education and empowerment of every individual, sustained by an enduring focus on prevention-based strategies; education for everyone at every layer in society. While people stay oblivious and resistant to positive change, and a shift to healthy, open, constructive and empowering relationships, they will remain "stuck" believing that peace in their relationships is not possible. Peace in any relationship, anywhere, is possible - it's all about choice.

As you choose and as you decide, so your life will be formed (Ref: No Boxing Allowed)





# Army Clerks Help Keep Task Group Afghanistan on Track

WO2 Andrew Hetherington

Army administration clerks Warrant Officer Class 2 Megan White and Private Nicholas Farallo are helping to administer all ADF personnel deployed to Afghanistan.

The two clerks are working in the busy Australian Task Group Afghanistan headquarters at Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul.

WO2 White is the chief administration clerk and has been in the Army for 24 years.

"I look after the day-to-day administration of all ADF personnel in Afghanistan and manage two clerks here in Kabul and one at Qargha," WO2 White said.

"Some of the tasks I do are compiling the daily personnel statistics of where all ADF personnel are in Afghanistan, organise NATO Base passes for all personnel arriving into Kabul and ensure entitled personnel are awarded the NATO medal for their operational service."

Her last deployment was in 2000 to Dili in Timor Leste as a private clerk. For this deployment it took at least a month to settle into her job.

"I found it a little difficult when I first got here as my last deployment in 2000 was working with Army units," she said.

"Working with other nations has its challenges; however it is ultimately a very enriching experience to work with people from different service backgrounds and cultures."

For WO2 White the best part of working in Afghanistan is enabling the other personnel to perform their roles.

"By doing my job I'm ensuring everyone else here can do their job well, so they don't have to worry about looking after their own administration," she said.

"It's daunting for some people when they arrive here and if I can make the experience less of a shock for them then I've achieved my goal."

Pte Nicholas Farallo is on his first overseas deployment.

The 22 year-old clerk will have been in the Army four years in July. At Kabul he works in the operations cell.

"I'm the operations clerk and one of my main tasks is to manage the rotary wing transport bookings within the Kabul, which is the preferred mode of travel," Pte Farallo said.

"I provide personnel with their departure timings, assist with their transport to and from the helicopters and keep track of everyone coming in and out of locations.

"This ensures new march-ins get to their units, people get away on leave and return to Australia as quickly as possible and the movement around Kabul in support of mission critical travel is conducted efficiently."

Pte Farallo also assists with the communication between units in Afghanistan and other Middle East region units.

"I also manage the internal and external correspondence registry through all of the different units in the Middle East region," he said.

"This has me as the conduit for all formal correspondence for our headquarters, logging in and out minutes and other letters."

His job also has him working with most of the people in Australian headquarters in Kabul.

"I get to work with almost everyone here and I have contact with others all the way back to Camp Baird," he said.

"I'm busy most of the time, so the days go really fast and it's hard to believe I'm nearly half-way through my deployment," he said.

"It's also a professional environment, everyone's so personable and friendly, which made me feel comfortable."

This being his first deployment he's had to learn his new job fast.

"From the beginning I've had to learn a whole new role, as I've never booked rotary wing transport before and I had to learn a new computer program to book it.

"I've also quickly learnt how to appropriately communicate with star ranked officers and to be better organised to complete a large number of new tasks and processes I hadn't experienced prior to my deployment."



**Australian Army soldiers Warrant Officer Class Two Megan White and Private Nicholas Farallo**

# Royal Australian Corps of Military Police celebrate Corps Centenary in Kabul

Soldiers and officers from the Australian Corps of Military Police (RACMP) deployed to the Middle East region, gathered to celebrate the centenary of their Corps on April 3 at the Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA).

The 15 military police participated in a parade and afterwards attended a barbecue and the cutting of a birthday cake.

Event organiser, Commander of Task Group Afghanistan and RACMP Head of Corps Brig Cheryl Pearce said it was a great opportunity as Head of Corps to bring together all deployed military police members to commemorate such an event.

“In Australia I was planning the centenary parade, which was held in Canberra at the Australian War Memorial and then was provided the opportunity to deploy on operations,” Brig Pearce said.

“For me it was an honour to be the commander here and from a head of corps perspective I’ve certainly looked for ways to bring together the 14 other MPs working in different

roles in the AO to celebrate our centenary.”

During the parade Brig Pearce said all members of the corps should feel proud to be a part of an organisation 100 years-old.

“All of you on parade are a representation of our corps today and why our capability remains operationally focussed,” she said.

“Since the formation of our corps in 1916, our officers and soldiers have served in distinction in all major wars and conflicts since world war one, to our present day operations in Afghanistan.”

Parade participant, Pte James Buggy is a community policeman at HKIA and has only been in the Army for four years.

He said it was a bonus being on his first operational deployment when his corps turned 100.

“It’s a bit surreal really, as I just wanted to deploy on operations and I didn’t mind when I did,” Pte Buggy said.





“When I got here I found out about the centenary and we missed out on the big celebrations in Canberra.

“I didn’t mind though, as I’d rather be doing my job in Afghanistan.”

The Royal Australian Corps of Military Police was previously known as the Australian Army Provost Corps. It was formed on April 3, 1916 and known then as the ANZAC Provost Corps.



## Close Personal Protection Operators working in the Middle East region

A little known capability of Army’s Military Police Corps is the Close Personal Protection Operator (CPPO).

In the Middle East region there are two such personnel whose job it is to protect the Commander of Task Group Afghanistan and Commander of Joint Task Force (JTF) 633.

Cpl Rohan Watson and Cpl Joel Robertson work long hours in their CPPO body guard role to ensure the safety of the commanders they protect, as they go to and from work each day and to destinations they travel to.

Cpl Watson is the CPPO for Commander JTF 633 AVM Tim Innes.

“The 10 week CPPO course was physically and mentally demanding,” Cpl Watson said.

“In the early stages of the course we do a lot of weapons and physical training, then later we plan and do full profile personal protection missions.”

This is his second deployment in this role, previously he had worked in Kandahar in 2014.

“I love the job itself, with the responsibility which goes with the role knowing the VIP I am protecting has their life in my hands,” he said.

“I’m the one looking after him ensuring he returns home safe.

“I like liaising with the different nations and people of different rank, also having the freedom to do my job properly compared to working on an exercise at home.”

Cpl Joel Robertson’s job is to protect Commander Task Group Afghanistan Brig Cheryl Pearce.

“I like the responsibility while I’m deployed of providing specialised security to one person,” Cpl Robertson said.

“Part of this job involves the challenge of planning for the unanticipated events which could occur to the person I’m protecting.

“I’ve always got to be prepared for the worst case scenario while I’m working and then know what I am going to do prevent these events.”



**Pte Jessica Pollard is an MP with the International Military Police at HKIA. Pte Pollard participated in the RACMP centenary celebrations.**

“It’s an honour to be here on operations celebrating our corps’ 100th birthday. Not every corps in our Army has reached the milestone. I’ve been in the Army for two years and my Australian unit is Delta Company at 1MP Battalion. In my job here I work in a general duties military police role, dealing with speeding, misbehaviour and keeping the other soldiers in check. I’ve been busy and the job and this has made time go really quickly. It’s great working here in Afghanistan, as we are actually doing our job, putting into practice what we’ve learnt back home. Here we get the backing of our commanders and I’m happy to be an MP, working in such a great team here in Afghanistan.”



Above: Royal Australian Air Force Airfield Defence Guard, Leading Aircraftman Michael Skinner, patrols the flight line area at Australia's main air operating base in the Middle East region.

Below: Royal Australian Air Force Military Working Dog (MWD) Handler, Leading Aircraftman David McKay (right), conducts MWD training with a United States Air Force K9 section member at Australia's main air operating base in the Middle East region.





# Combat Support to the Air Task Group

Combat Support Unit Rotation 14 (CSU14) has completed a highly successful six-month deployment in support of Australian forces in the Middle East Region (MER), including the Air Task Group (ATG) at Australia's main air operating base.

The detachment in support of the ATG provided a range of services to help sustain Australian air power in both Iraq and Syria, including medical, security, logistics, airfield engineering and host nation liaison.

Commanding Officer of Combat Support Unit 14, Wing Commander Iain Carty, said that the unit has been critical for the delivery of airbase and aviation operations in the MER.

"The men and women of the unit have remained focused on the core business by being brilliant at the basics and identifying opportunities across the board to improve the manner in which they deliver and support capability," Wing Commander Carty said.

"The focus on safety, governance and standards provided a solid and effective foundation for the conduct of airbase and aviation support operations.

"Recent safety and logistic governance reviews identified no significant issues and are a clear indication of the combined efforts that CSU14 have made in this area."

Wing Commander Carty said that all elements of CSU14 had achieved their mission to provide sustained and

integrated airbase operations and aviation operational support.

"The application of technical mastery has resulted in a significant improvement to physical security and mandated security governance at Australian bases in the region," he said.

"The team supporting the ATG demonstrated initiative and resourcefulness to facilitate the relocation of strike maintenance as well as identify a suitable site and gain approval for the construction of a temporary aircraft shelter at our main air operating base.

"In both cases CSU14 directly contributed to the generation of airpower through airbase support.

"Collectively the Host Nation Liaison teams and Visa Coordination Team have provided sustained and mission critical support to a range of complex and sensitive basing, immigration and strategic issues.

"Overall, as a unit, CSU14 have clearly demonstrated that the Combat Support Unit delivers much more than garrison support.

"The members of CSU14 have well and truly achieved their mission and should be understandably proud of both their individual and collective achievements."

**Leading Aircraftman Joel Anderson, prepares to refuel an Australian F/A-18A Hornet fighter aircraft prior to conducting a sortie over the Middle East.**





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# Report from the Chair of the Royal Commission Working Group

To date we have conducted awareness rallies in:

Parliament House Canberra 2 Mar 2016,  
Parliament House Hobart 24 Mar 2016,  
Parliament House Melbourne 17 Apr 2016,  
Parliament House Sydney 1 May 2016, and  
ANZAC Square Brisbane 22 May 2016.

The rallies have been varied in numbers; however the majority of veterans and families that have been attending are those that have been affected by the maladministration and adversarial practises of the DVA. The working group has been contacted by many veterans who are just not capable of attending such events due to the nature of ongoing psychiatric conditions or physical condition.

One of the big issues that have been driven home to the working group is that the major problems with the Department started with the introduction of the MRCA 2004. Those under this act and those unlucky enough to come under the 2 previous legislations and the MRCA 2004 are the invalided veterans that are most effected.

We now have over 12,000 signatures in support of the Royal Commission. To date we have support from The Jacqui Lambie Network, Nick Xenophon Team and Glen Lazarus. The Labor Party have indicated they may support a Senate inquiry but have not put this solid in any manner. Peter Whish-Wilson from the Greens took the issue back to the party. We have yet to hear anything back from the Greens.

Dan Tehan, The Minister for Veteran Affairs, Liberal Party would not even entertain the concept. I can only conclude from this that the major parties are happy with

commemoration but want to continue to cut Veteran's Repatriation Entitlements. The Greens; Senator Peter Whish-Wilson was very supportive of veterans and the call to fix up a broken DVA system. I note we have managed to Champion other issues to success with the assistance of the Greens and other minor parties in the past.

I must put out a special thanks to Jacqui Lambie and the JLN. Jacqui made a commitment to the call for a Royal Commission in the early days and has attended every rally except one. She has also put Senate candidates at each of the rallies in a hope to further champion the call. Glen Lazarus provided a heart felt speech at the rally in Canberra and Nick Xenophon provided a speech to be read out due to illness. This support is extremely valuable to call for a Royal Commission.

Our next rally is in Townville on the Sunday 5 June. The campaign will continue and may take a long time to get the results required. I remain hopeful that the DVA will engage the working group and work through the problems of the DVA. If the DVA is fixed we wont need a Royal Commission; but at this point that thought is only a dream as the Department has sent adversarial letters to 4 members of the working group to date.

But this is about our most vulnerable within the Veteran community and the RCWG is there to make sure they are looked after by a Department, which has been given this charter.

*By: Michael Quinn, Chairman,  
The Veteran Working Group for a Royal Commission  
[RCWG] into DVA.*



Rally Group at ANZAC Square in Brisbane

# Air Task Group Wedgetail Achieves 100% Mission Success Rate in the Middle East

The Australian Air Task Group E-7A Wedgetail command and control aircraft has achieved a record 100% mission success rate in Coalition operations against Daesh in the Middle East. The record is attributed to the current rotation, Rotation 5, of aircrew and maintenance personnel that operated the aircraft over the last four months.

Commander of the Air Task Group, Air Commodore Antony Martin, said that the men and women of the E-7A detachment should all be immensely proud of their efforts.

“They’ve all set the bar exceptionally high, especially achieving 100% mission completion – a fantastic effort,” said Air Commodore Martin.

“Such success speaks volumes about what the whole team has achieved in the past few months.

“The take-away for Rotation 5 is that their role and that of the E-7A Wedgetail in facilitating combat airpower capability in the Middle East is first class.”

Rotation 5 Detachment Commander, Squadron Leader David, explained that the record was the first time that an E-7A Rotation in the Middle East had successfully conducted every single mission they were assigned over the period of their deployment - in this case all 36 missions.

“I’m very proud of what our rotation has achieved over the four months that we’ve been deployed to the Middle East,” said Squadron Leader David.

“While 36 missions may not sound like a lot, when you consider that each mission lasts upwards of 12 hours, and we only have one aircraft, that’s nearly 500 hours of flying and a lot of maintenance.

“The Wedgetail is a very technically advanced and complicated aircraft, so under normal circumstances we expect to have to cancel the occasional mission due to a maintenance requirement or perhaps crewing issue.

“While luck might play a small role, it’s above all a credit to the Rotation 5 maintenance team that has dedicated themselves to making sure the aircraft is always ready, and that they are prepared for all practical contingencies.”

Senior Engineering Officer and head of Rotation 5 maintenance, Flight Sergeant Barry Damsma, said that he was really proud of his workforce for achieving the record.

“It doesn’t sound like much, but it’s really hard to get a 100% mission success rate,” said Flight Sergeant Damsma.

“It’s the first time I’ve seen it achieved in 23 years and I’ve worked on a number of different aircraft.”

Flight Sergeant Damsma attributed the team’s success to three key factors: logistics arrangements, maintenance practices, and personnel management.

“We’ve been pro-active, rather than re-active; looking forward into the future,” said Flight Sergeant Damsma.

“From a logistics point of view, we’ve focused on establishing a more long-term supply of spares and more solid supply chain management.

“While the earlier focus was more on critical items, we’ve looked ahead at what might become critical in the future, and tried to make sure it never reaches that stage.

“As for maintenance practices, we’ve developed policy that is more sustainable and we’ve tried to mirror the practices we do back home.

“That means for example moving from working with toolboxes, to putting everything on tool-boards.

“When it comes to people, it’s important that they are happy, motivated and have the resources to achieve what they want.

“If people are motivated they will come into the workshop during their spare time and try to fix problems that they’ve been working on.”

Aviation Technician, Sergeant Andrew Green, acknowledges that luck played a bit of a role, but he notes that luck and hard work seem to often go hand-in-hand.



Airborne command and control aircraft to depart from Australia’s main logistics base for ADF operations in the Middle East region. This was the final flight for the current rotation (Rotation Five) of E-7A aircrew and maintenance personnel before the end of their deployment.





The current rotation (Rotation Five) of E-7A maintenance personnel in front of a RAAF E-7A Wedgetail airborne command and control aircraft ground crew, at Australia's main logistics base for ADF operations in the Middle East region.

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# RAAF Family Deployment

**By Sergeant William Guthrie**

A unique family reunion between two Royal Australian Air Force members is taking place in the Middle East region

Warrant Officer Ron Reid is deployed to Australia's main air operating base in the Middle East, as part of the Combat Support Unit 15 Logistics Section supporting the Operation OKRA Air Task Group.

His eldest daughter, Corporal Teighan Reid, is likewise deployed to the Middle East, working a short drive away at Australia's main support base in the region.

When they're home in Australia, the family are similarly split between two different Air Force bases.

Warrant Officer Reid, his wife Jenny, and youngest daughter Brooke, live near RAAF Base Williamtown near Newcastle while Corporal Teighan Reid lives close to RAAF Base Richmond in Sydney's outer suburbs.

The deployed pair arrived in the Middle East separately in March 2016 where they are working as Suppliers.

Warrant Officer Reid said having his daughter in the logistics trade is a good thing.

"As a Warrant Officer I need to know what is going on at all levels, and by discussing work matters with Teighan at her level, it helps me to better understand my job," Warrant Officer Reid said.

"Things have changed a lot since I was a Corporal, so it helps to be able to ask her certain work-related questions without the fear of being made to look silly."

Corporal Reid agreed that it was great having her Dad also deployed on the same Operation, albeit at a different base.

"I often ring up my Dad and ask him for some Warrant Officer-ly advice," Corporal Reid joked.

"We catch up on the phone often and discuss family matters - particularly about what mum and Brooke are doing back home."

Warrant Officer Reid is on his fourth deployment and Corporal Reid her second. This plays heavily on Jenny Reid's mind having half her family so far away from home.

"Both Ron and Teighan will miss Brooke's 21st birthday this year which is saddening, but it can't be helped," Jenny Reid said.

"We catch up regularly via Skype and Facebook, so I'm sure we'll be able to do something like that for her birthday."

Both deployed family members have plans to make it up to the younger family member by returning to Australia simultaneously for their mid-term deployment leave.

"We won't be back in Australia for Brooke's actual birthday, but surprising her a few weeks prior is better than missing the occasion all together - we'll still make it special for her," Warrant Officer Reid said.

"It will be a long time away, but when we get back home the reunion will be all the more special for our family.

"I know there are a lot of families in a similar situation, and the fact that I have one my daughters over here with me makes it a little easier."



Royal Australian Air Force Suppliers, Warrant Officer Ron Reid and his eldest daughter Corporal Teighan Reid, catch up at Australia's main air operating base in the Middle East region.

The ATG of Operation OKRA is operating at the request of the Iraqi Government within a US-led international coalition assembled to disrupt and degrade Daesh operations in the Middle East Region (MER). The ATG comprises six RAAF F/A-18A Hornet fighter aircraft, an E-7A Wedgetail airborne command and control aircraft, and a KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport air-to-air refuelling aircraft. Additionally, the ATG has personnel working in the Combined Air and Space Operations Centre, and embedded with the 'KingPin' US tactical Command and Control Unit.

The ATG is directly supported by elements of Operation ACCORDIAN including the Theatre Communications Group, Air Mobility Task Group, and the Combat Support Unit, whose mission is to provide continuous combat support to sustain air operations in the MER. There are up to 350 personnel deployed, at any one time, as part of, or in direct support of the ATG



# Women's Leadership Forum

By Ben Dempster

On a recent evening in March, a Women's Leadership forum was hosted by the US-led international coalition at Australia's main air operating base in the Middle East region.

A panel of seven female military members led the forum, with Australia represented on the panel by RAAF Flight Lieutenant (FLTLT) Robyn Kidd.

FLTLT Kidd, one of three female RAAF Chaplains, joined the Air Force in 2010 and is currently enjoying her first deployment.

"I got very excited during the lead up to this deployment to the Middle East, and now that I'm here, I'm making the most of every opportunity," said Chaplain Kidd.

"One of the great things I'm getting involved in is discussing women's issues in the military environment, and the Women's Leadership Forum was a great platform for this topic."

The panel of seven female military members leading the forum held a wide range of ranks, and over 70 years combined military service. They each presented a short story to a crowd of male and female Australian and American military personnel. Each member of the panel talked about the position they held, the challenges they faced, and what it means for them to be a female in the military.

Chaplain Kidd said that she saw the forum as a great opportunity to share her own experiences; however, she was just as enthusiastic to hear from United States Air Force female personnel.

"The Australian and United States Air Force are world leaders in diversity and equality, and this forum was a great opportunity to inspire future leaders and help with the continued advancement of women in the Military," said Chaplain Kidd.

"I was interested to hear if their stories and experiences were similar to ours."

Chaplain Kidd was impressed with the turn out for the forum and equally impressed with the level of involvement from the crowd.

"I was really impressed with how many men and women attended the forum and how many people asked some really great questions," said Chaplain Kidd.

"No matter what your gender or role within the military, it's always important for everyone to achieve the best possible results.

"As we share our experiences with one another, the more we will all learn and benefit."

The Australian Air Task Group (ATG) of Operation OKRA is operating at the request of the Iraqi Government within a US-led international coalition assembled to disrupt and degrade Daesh operations in the Middle East Region (MER).

The ATG is comprised of around 350 personnel, six RAAF F/A-18A Hornet fighter aircraft, an E-7A Wedgetail airborne command and control aircraft, and a KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport air-to-air refueling aircraft. Additionally, the ATG has personnel working in the Combined Air and Space Operations Centre, and embedded with the 'KingPin' US tactical Command and Control Unit.

The ATG is directly supported by the Combat Support Unit of Operation ACCORDION, whose mission is to provide continuous combat support to sustain air operations in the MER.

**RAAF Chaplain, Flight Lieutenant Robyn Kidd, discusses her military career to Australia's main air operating base in the Middle East region during a Women's Leadership Forum.**





# HONOURING OUR HEROES



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# Martyrs' Day Soccer Match in Kabul

Australian and Turkish soldiers in Afghanistan competed in an impromptu game of soccer to mark the 101st anniversary of Martyrs' Day on March 18.

Members of Task Group Afghanistan hit the pitch with soldiers from the Turkish Army who are responsible for base security at Kabul International Airport.

Sport and camaraderie were the winners in the fast-paced game with powerful kicks, but the Turks proved to be the better players from the result seen on the scoreboard.

Martyrs' Day commemorates the Ottoman forces defeating a naval attack by Allied forces in the Gallipoli Campaign during World War I on March 18, 1915.

The Çanakkale Battles or the Gallipoli Campaign was one of Turkey's greatest victories during the WWI and Martyrs' Day is held in remembrance of all Turkish soldiers who fell in action.

The Battle of Gelibolu (Gallipoli) restored the Turkish Army's prestige in the world and established a milestone of the Turkish nation's struggle for independence.

Lieutenant Patrick Hoare, Commander Force Protection Platoon, said another soccer game was played with the Turkish soldiers for ANZAC Day.

"During my deployment I have made great friends with the Turks on base and we thought it would be a good idea to commemorate the Gallipoli Campaign, especially as 101 years ago we were at war with each other," he said.

"It was good to see the other soldiers come to support the game and the players put a lot of effort into the match.

"The Turks were skilled players, obviously they had better skills than us, but the game was about building relationships between our countries."

The final score for the match was 5-2 after a close call of 2-2 at half time.

The Australian Defence Force's (ADF) commitment to Afghanistan is known as Operation Highroad and is fulfilled by personnel serving with Task Group Afghanistan.

Close to 270 ADF members from the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army, the Royal Australian Air Force and Defence civilians are deployed to support the NATO-led train, advise and assist mission, Resolute Support.

Australian Army soldier Private Liam Finlay (left), of Task Group Afghanistan, tackles the ball from a Turkish soldier during the Australian and Turkish soccer game at Kabul International Airport on March 18 to commemorate Martyrs' Day and The Battle of Gelibolu (Gallipoli).



# Baking in the MER

**By Corporal Nicci Freeman**

Baking ANZAC biscuit has brought together Australian and American personnel in the Middle East during the lead up to ANZAC Day.

In the kitchen of Australia's main air operating base in the Middle East region, the stifling heat wasn't the main challenge of the day, as both nations discovered.

Invited to assist the Australians in baking the traditional ANZAC biscuits was Chief Master Sergeant (CMSgt) Jason Tiek, who is the Acting Command CMSgt for the United States Air Force's 380th Air Expeditionary Wing.

CMSgt Tiek was surprised at the effort involved in sourcing the correct ingredients.

"I have been looking at the recipe and the biscuits look really delicious," CMSgt Tiek said.

"I am looking forward to seeing the difference that your Golden Syrup makes, and am definitely thinking about baking some myself. I can't wait to try the recipe out."

Flight Lieutenant Carlie-Maree Sutherland, a Logistics Officer with Australia's Air Task Group 630 (ATG630), sourced the ingredients for the biscuits.

"When baking ANZAC biscuits, it is important that we get the right ingredients and not settle for substitutes," Flight Lieutenant Sutherland said.

"It took some time sourcing the Golden Syrup, but the choices available to us just weren't an option. I wasn't prepared to compromise on quality as it would affect the taste."

Warrant Officer Adam McDonald, deployed as the ATG630 Warrant Officer, set about mixing ingredients, it was very clear that the pressure was on.

"Timing is imperative - if the cooking time isn't right it could be the difference between a crunchy biscuit and a chewy one," Warrant Officer McDonald said.

"The Padre is making sure we get it right."

The ATG630 Chaplain, Squadron Leader Robyn Kidd, was on hand to assist in quality control as biscuits came out of the oven.

The bake off brainchild behind the idea was that of the Commander Task Unit 630.1, Group Captain Brendan Rogers.

"Having invited our Coalition partners to attend our ANZAC Day dawn service, I thought it would be a fantastic idea to afford them the opportunity to indulge in our famous traditional ANZAC treat," Group Captain Rogers said.

"Not too many of us have much experience in baking, so we thought it appropriate to have a small practice run the week before."

"This would allow us to fine-tune our baking skills before making enough for some 400 invited guests'.

"The biscuits were a fabulous success, enjoyed by all. At

the close of the day the only evidence of our mammoth efforts was the few crumbs left on the table in the Air Task Group brew room."

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Commander Task Unit 630, Group Captain Brendan Rogers, prepares the ANZAC biscuit mix ready for baking in the kitchen of Australia's main air operating base in the Middle East region.



# Kiddies Care Sending Biscuits to the MER

Delicious homemade ANZAC biscuits were a pleasant surprise for personnel deployed to Australia's main air operating base in the Middle East region.

Supported by the Defence Community Organisation, the ANZAC Biscuits were lovingly baked by the Year 5 and 6 students of Casuarina Street Primary School in Katherine, Northern Territory.

On ANZAC Day, they were received by personnel deployed to the Air Task Group Strike Element, deployed on Operation OKRA in the Middle East.

In a letter that accompanied the biscuits, School Principal, Mr John Cleary, explained the reasoning behind the children's efforts.

"Last year we had a large amount of children experience deployment for the first time, with many parents a part of 75 Squadron and being a part of Operation OKRA," wrote Mr Cleary.

"This year for ANZAC Day, we wanted to show our support for the members who are doing their part for Operation OKRA.

"We hope that you all have a great ANZAC Day and know that you are in our thoughts. "We thank you for all that you do to support our country."

The Commanding Officer of the Task Group's Strike Element said that he and his deployed members were very appreciative of the biscuits.

"It was a great surprise to have so many delicious hand-made ANZAC biscuits turn up in the post," he said.

"The gift from Casuarina Street Primary School was particularly special as it was clear the kids had put so much time into the painting and making the biscuits.

"All signs of support from home are always welcome – especially if they're edible."

Packed in boxes kindly donated by the Tindal Post Office, the 480 biscuits, enough for some 120 defence personnel, arrived in the Middle East along with photos and a hand painted banner of the school's family tree.

Each branch of the banner represented a class, and all the staff had placed their finger prints on the trunk. The bottom of the banner was lined with fingerprints from students of the two pre-school classes.

The ANZAC biscuits were shared between members of the Strike Element and all other personnel working with, and in support of, the Air Task Group in the days leading up to and following the ANZAC Day activities.

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**By Corporal Nicci Freeman**

**Operation OKRA, The RAAF KC-30A Multi Role Tanker Transport provides air-to-air refuelling support to international coalition aircraft in the skies over Iraq as part of Task Group 630. On 27 April 2016**



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# Army Warrant Officer Alex Barnes Builds his own Armour while on Deployment.

## WO2 Andrew Hetherington

It's extremely rare for an Australian Army Soldier to deploy on operations with their own personal set of armour.

However, this was exactly what Warrant Officer Class Two (WO2) Alex Barnes did when he recently deployed to the Middle East region.

Although Alex's amour isn't exactly something you would wear on a modern battlefield, think more medieval combat.

"It's called riveted chain mail and it's taken me nine years to get it to this point," WO2 Barnes said.

"I began building it during a deployment to Iraq in 2007, after buying the tools from a fellow enthusiast I met in Belgium."

WO2 Barnes recently spent 2 months working as the Finance Officer at Task Group Afghanistan in Kabul and as the Cash Office Operator at Camp Baird. In his spare time WO2 Barnes enjoys making his own clothing, armour and camping equipment and is the President of the Australasian Living History Federation.

"I've been doing this for 18 years, as I've always had an interest in history," he said.

"It expanded from reading about knights and castles into experimenting with what I could do now using modern material and techniques.

"I build my own camping equipment, tents, shields, knives and make clothes for myself and my family and I build my own armour."

The chain mail process has WO2 Barnes painstakingly cutting wire he's coiled himself.

"Before I deployed I heated the wire to soften it, on deployment I flattened

it with a hammer and punched a hole through the overlap," he said.

"In the hole I set a rivet and then interlink it with others to make the construct the armour.

"The suit has 12,000 links in it and I'm only half way."

His goal is to wear the suit during living historical re-enactments.

WO2 Barnes interest in history isn't confined to the medieval period, his passion as ignited after he and his family travelled to Belgium last year to the 200th anniversary of the battle of Waterloo.

"I participated in battle re-enactments as a Corporal in the British 95th Rifles, we lived in authentic tents on one of the farms on the battlefield.

"I was one of 5,000 participants at the event; it was a very surreal experience battling it out while 50,000 spectators watched on.

"It was a great experience, I made many new friends and learnt what other re-enactment groups do."

To get involved with living history re-enactments visit the Australasian Living History Federation website <http://www.alhf.org.au>



Australian Army soldier, Warrant Officer Class Two Alex Barnes with his own chain mail armour he continued to make during in his spare time during his deployment as a Royal Australian Army Pay Corps Warrant Officer to Camp Baird in the Middle East region.





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# Support Staff Help Make Bersama Shield 16 a Success

Capt Anna Rosendahl

While aircraft and ships conducted exercises in the South China Sea, a team of people worked behind the scenes back at Royal Malaysian Air Force Base Butterworth, to help make Exercise Bersama Shield 16 a success.

Commander of the Australian Contingent Wing Commander Paul Webb said Australian Defence Force and locally employed civilian support personnel worked tirelessly to assist those deployed on the exercise from 18-29 April 2016.

“The tasks and nature of duties for the exercise are wide reaching, particularly here on RMAF Butterworth. We have a catering team, communications and security staff, medical support, air mover’s, refuellers, maintainers and clerical support staff,” he said.

“They are a vitally important part of the exercise and aircraft can’t fly without them,”

“Furthermore, the food is terrific here in Malaysia and our cooks do a great job providing meals for around 150 to 200 personnel daily.”

No. 19 Squadron catering cook, Leading Aircraftwoman Angela Chin said she has enjoyed working at Butterworth

with the local Malaysian chefs.

“It’s fun to get on the tools and see what other people are doing, there’s always something to learn from other people,” she said.

“These guys have pretty much been running the shop.

Some of them have been cooking here for 20 – 30 years.”

Like locally employed chef supervisor Rajagopal Govindasam who started working at RMAF Butterworth over three decades ago.

“Since my age was 19 I was working with the Australians, now I’m 55,” he said.

“For many years I’m working with them, very good to work with the Australians.”

19 ADF personnel were deployed to RMAF Butterworth in support roles for the exercise, joining around 50 Australians already posted to the base.

Exercise Bersama Shield is an annual multilateral training exercise that aims to enhance the interoperability of the Five Power Defence Arrangements nations – Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.



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## Peacekeepers represented at RSL Tasmania State Congress

APPVA-Tas had representation at the recent RSL State Congress held at the Launceston Country Club Casino recently. APPVA Tasmanian President Graeme Barnett (right) representing the Launceston RSL sub-branch and Phil Pyke (left) representing the New Norfolk sub-branch. Graeme and Phil first met when they were deployed together on Op BASTILLE in 2003 but the links go back even further with Graeme graduating with Phil's father in 1968 from Officer Cadet Training Unit Course 1. The representation within the RSL and the support of RSL Tasmania in veteran issues means State Congress 2017 will be presented with motions focusing on younger veteran issues.



## From the APPVA Victorian Branch Chaplain, Carla Evans.

Everyone has a story of an experience in life. Sometimes these experiences are good and others, well, not so good.

Some wise people have said that a burden shared is a burden halved. Some experiences of life while on active service may not have been too pleasant. However, using the above motto, I am willing to chat with you, over the phone, skype, email, here in my home with a cuppa, and listen as you may care to share your experience with me.

What ever you say will be confidential and when I have completed recording your article, it is yours to do with as you will and want.

I have, over the years, learnt that this is a blessing two fold; It helps the person sharing their experience to get it off their chest a bit, in a non threatening environment and it also helps for the family of the veteran to read what their veteran has endured. This gives them added information to understand just a little bit more of why a veteran acts the way he does at times. Plus, I have even had a Vietnam veteran contact me some time after sharing his story and asked if he could give it to DVA, as they were looking for proof of his war caused PTSD. So guess that makes it a three fold blessing!

So here is your invitation! My postal address is Box 601 Drysdale Vic, 3222, phone number 03 52513440 email; vetministry@gmail.com, skype address is same as email.

Just for your reference, I have been writing for some years now about veterans and experiences of war, all involving the good, the bad and the ugly. I have laughed and cried with many veterans.

Hoping to hear from you.  
God bless  
Chaplain Carla Evans



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# Last Z Special Unit member who fought in Pacific passes on



Service of Rededication of the graves of Private John Hayes Whitworth and McFerran-Rogers, of Z Special Unit at Bomana War Cemetery, Papua New Guinea who died on operation Raven behind enemy lines. Mr Henry Fawkes a member of Z force pays tribute to his fallen mates, he was the last to see them alive.

JOSEPH Henry Fawkes spent his war behind enemy lines, under fire, under pressure and under orders to keep the deeds of his crack commando team top secret.

Corporal Fawkes was a courageous hero and the last surviving member of Z unit — Australia's most feared and respected commando team who raided, ambushed and wrought havoc behind Japanese lines in the Pacific during WWII.

He lived in Penrith and was all his life dedicated to the mates who fought and made the ultimate sacrifice alongside him. He died aged 94 on April 6.

Today Mr Fawkes is remembered at a funeral service at the War Veterans Chapel in Narrabeen.

In 1943 when Mr Fawkes, then 21, volunteered for the Z Special Unit comprising between eight and 16 soldiers, the recruiting major had only one thing to promise: A wooden cross.

Undeterred Mr Fawkes, who had joined the army aged 18, signed up. He soon found himself enroute to Japanese-controlled Indonesia on his first mission: Operation Magpie. His job was to retrieve a doctor from a small island between Celebes (now Sulawesi) and Morotai Island.

Japanese soldiers spotted Fawkes and his mates and started shooting.

Mr Fawkes and his group fought back. Then Mr Fawkes and his unit paddled back to their PT boat.

"At one stage we were paddling with one hand and shooting with the other," he said. He got out alive.

But in 1945 he was back in Indonesia — sent to Celebes Island on Operation Raven II. The Japanese ambush came while he was waiting for a seaplane ride to safety.

"The lieutenant was shot, I raced out of my cover to pull him in," Mr Fawkes said.

"Lt McFerran-Rogers died in

my arms."

In November 2012, Mr Fawkes fulfilled a lifelong wish to visit his comrade's graves.

He travelled to Port Moresby as a guest of the federal government to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Kokoda. In 2012 Mr Fawkes told the Penrith Press the visit to the graves meant closure to him.

Mr Fawkes's daughter Janyce Schmidt said her father was sworn to secrecy over what he and his Z unit had done during World War II, daughter.

"I went with dad to New Guinea for the rededication ceremony (2012) for the Z Special Unit, and he really started to talk about it then," she said.

"Dad was the last surviving member of the Z Special Unit. He was very well thought of by his friends."

Mrs Schmidt said her father had been an active member of the community and was a Penrith Citizen of the Year and worked with charities, Masonic lodges and collected money for hospitals.

Mrs Schmidt said Mr Fawkes's great-granddaughter, Isabella Schmidt, had been invited to read a poem at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Narrabeen RSL.

Major Jack Thurgar, National Secretary of the Australian Commando Association, will give an eulogy. The funeral service is at 2pm at the chapel at the RSL Narrabeen

Retrieved from: <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/west/last-z-special-unit-member-who-fought-in-pacific-passes-on/news-story/5ca13179b34b92ee04c6163eb9b60922> on 2 May 2016.



# Hero Rats



A rat is used to clear a line marked for clearing

## **The Heroic Bomb-Sniffing Rats Of Africa That Are Helping Save Thousands of Lives...**

A Belgian NGO called APOPO has developed a way to train African pouched rats (named for the storage pouch in their cheeks) to sniff out bombs quickly and safely.

Throughout the world, places that have been involved in war and/or civil strife often have large minefields that require clearing, so that the repatriated population are able to move freely on the land. In 2013, it was estimated that there was a global average of around nine mine-related deaths every day. The situation is especially dire in Africa.

Typically, clearing a minefield involves men in body armour walking in very precise lines with metal detectors. Anything (from a rusty nail to an old ammo cartridge) that sets the detectors off must be investigated before moving on. A new

method of bomb detection using rats, however, is flipping this process on its head.

They use this particular rat because it has an incredibly fine-tuned sense of smell and a long lifespan (8-9 years) to yield returns on the nine months of training they undergo.

They're called "Hero Rats", and not one has died in the line of duty since the program started in 1997. The average mine requires 5 kg (roughly 11 pounds) of weight to trigger an explosion, but even the biggest of these rats are only around 1.5 kg (3.3 pounds).

The "Hero Rats" are trained to sniff out explosives exclusively, they aren't distracted by other metal objects the way human minesweepers are. The Rats can effectively search 200 square meters in less than 20 minutes. A team of humans would need around 25 hours to do the same job.

Interestingly, these Rats operate for long periods in the African sun, so in order to protect these furry mine detectors, the Hero Rats get sunscreen to keep them cancer free. If a rat is diagnosed with cancer, it receives full medical treatment!

The rats are "paid" in avocados, peanuts, bananas and other tasty, healthy treats. After about 4-5 years on the job (or whenever they lose interest in working), they're allowed to retire.

Retirement consists of eating all the tasty fruit their little hero hearts desire.

Retrieved from: <https://www.apopo.org/en/> on 29 May 2016.

*Editor: I have confirmed the authenticity and effectiveness of these Hero Rats with an Soldiers of Peace International Association (SPIA) colleague of mine, Yuri Donskoy [Ukraine], who has been involved in The UN Mine Action Service. Yuri advised me that these rats are highly effective with Un-exploded Ordnance (UXO), Anti-Personnel Landmines (APL) and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) detection and clearance.*



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