



The Bosun's Call



Vol 15 No 11

Each for All—All for Each

December 2010

Veterans Seek Permanent Advisory Body

By Noel Towell

Chief Assembly Reporter

Key veterans groups have joined the ACT Opposition's call for a permanent advisory body for the ACT's returned soldiers, sailors and airmen.

And the Chief Minister has indicated the veterans' wishes may soon be granted.

The Veterans' Advisory Council was formed to provide advice on the centenary of the Gallipoli landings in 2015 but Canberra Liberals veterans' affairs spokesman Jeremy Hanson has been campaigning for a permanent voice for veterans.

"Other states, including Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia, have established permanent veterans' advisory councils and this would be an appropriate step for the ACT to take," Mr Hanson said.

"Veterans have an important role to play in our community and given the high percentage of ex- and current serving Defence Force personnel in Canberra it makes sense there be a permanent representation in the ACT."

The Liberal frontbencher, himself a former soldier, said a permanent Veterans' Advisory Council could provide advice and guidance for the government of the day on veterans' issues such as recognition of service, events and anniversaries of significance and other issues, including health care.

The president of the ACT branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia, John King, said he believed the board would soon be made permanent. "It's pretty much on board," he said

Mr King said veterans representative boards had proved useful for state governments.

"The board itself tends to be very useful to local governments and state governments because it can be a focal



From Left, Pat McCabe, John King and Peter Cooke-Russell with Jeremy Hansen Photo Gary Schafer

point for the veterans community to talk to the government of the day." He said.

"It reinforces the veterans position as part of the community and it has been found in other parts of the country that it's a good way of helping the state to dialogue with its federal counterpart about uniformity."

Mr Stanhope said he had already asked Mr King and his veterans' movement colleagues to begin to prepare a terms of reference document for a permanent body.

"The ACT Government acknowledges the part our veterans have played in our history, which is why last week I asked the president of the ACT branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia, Mr John King and the President of the Vietnam Veterans Federation [sic] ACT, Mr Peter Ryan, to put together a terms of reference for the establishment of a permanent Veterans Advisory Council." Mr Stanhope said.

Canberra Times 19 November 2010

Events coming up

Thursday 2 December Lunch at the Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club

Sunday 30 Jan 2011 Fish 'n' Chips 1700 –1900 CYC grounds

Next meeting Thursday 2 February 2011

Vikings Football Club Erindale commencing 1330



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the
Naval Association of Australia



Printed by The Sports Club Kaleen

Naval Association of Australia ACT Section

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

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President's Note

This is the last Newsletter for 2010 and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

2010 has been a busy one and it feels to me that there here has only been about six months between Christmases.

One achievement is the illumination of the Naval Memorial in ANZAC Parade. It has taken about six years to provide floodlighting to the Memorial to replace that which was taken down when the light poles in ANZAC Parade were replaced.

HMAS Harman held a ceremony at the Memorial at sunset on 10 November to mark the official turning on of the new flood lights.

The fountain part of the memorial operated at full pressure that evening and it looked very effective as the evening darkened. Unfortunately the memorial has reverted to its dry state since 12 November. This is mainly due to the fact that the fountain leaves a white deposit on the memorial's surface which is difficult to remove. The National Capital Authority is planning to coat the memorial in a finish that will resist the staining of the memorial and will also incorporate a filtration plant in the fountain system to keep the water clear of contaminants that collect through the memorial's very open design.

Best wishes to you all

Peter Cooke-Russell

Fresh faces, fresh ideas needed for the future, don't stand back and leave everything to somebody else

**Committee meeting
 Vikings Erindale
 1200 Thursday 3 February 2011**

General Meeting Dates and Locations

2 Dec Lunch Gungahlin Golf Club	1200	2 Jun Kaleen Sports Club	1330
2011		7 Jul Erindale	1330
3 Feb Erindale AGM	1330	4 Aug Kaleen Sports Club	1330
2 Mar <i>MV Southern Cross</i>	1930 Wed	1 Sep Erindale	1330
7 Apr Kaleen Sports Club	1330	5 Oct MV Southern Cross	1930 Wed
5 May Erindale	1330	3 Nov Kaleen Sports Club	1330
		1 Dec Lunch Venue to be advised	1200

NAA ACT Section Event/Social Diary

28 Nov Fish 'n' Chips Grounds Canberra Yacht Club 5.00—7.00 pm approx BYO drinks or buy at the CYC

2 Dec Christmas Lunch Venue Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club, commencing at 1200

30 Jan Fish 'n' Chip Canberra Yacht Club 5/00—7.00 approx BYO drinks or buy at the CYC

THANK YOU FROM JUDITH

Beverley and I would like to thank those members who supported the various social events throughout the year. I would also like to thank those who contributed items for the various raffles, as it is much appreciated. I wish you all a very Merry Xmas and hope to see you all again in the New Year.

Judith



Vice Regal Tree Planting Sessions

Canberra—Forest of Remembrance—12 November 2010

On Friday 12 November 2010, the Chief Minister Jon Stanhope joined Governor-General Quentin Bryce AC, the President of the ACT Branch of the RSL Mr John King, and 99 representatives of the RSL and kindred organisations, in planting 102 Turkish pines in a new forest on Dairy Farmers Hill



Top View of Canberra from Dairy Farmers Hill
Above Some of the 99 veteran volunteers moving out to plant their own tree

in the National Arboretum Canberra.

The planting of the 102 Turkish pine, or *Pinus brutia*, commemorates the 102,814 service personnel who have sacrificed their lives while serving with Australian units in conflicts from 1860 to the present day.

In 2008 six direct descendants of the Gallipoli Lone Pine planted in 1932 at the Australian War memorial, were also planted on Dairy Farmers Hill

Right HE Quentin Bryce with John Stanhope (left) and John King (right) admiring the Governor General's pine tree



Sydney—Mount Annan Botanical Gardens Dedication of the Australian Defence Force Memorial Plantation 15 November

The Governor General planted a tree in the Mount Annan Botanical Gardens on 15 November 2010 as a part of the dedication ceremony of the Australian Defence Force Memorial Plantation of 45,000 trees which forms a part of the Remembrance Driveway between Canberra and Sydney. The ceremony in some ways marked, after 56 years, the completion of major projects within the Remembrance Driveway concept which originated in 1954.

In welcoming the government and Ex Service organisation representatives, Commodore Ian Callaway RAN Rtd, Chairman of the Remembrance Driveway Committee since 2000, related the history of the Driveway.

"After the Great War, the Australia people wanted to build stone monuments to those who had served their country. They built them in great numbers in towns and cities across the nation. However after the Second World War, there was opposition to the idea of erecting more of these monuments and Mrs Margaret Davis, founding President of the Garden Clubs of Australia suggested that a living memorial to those



who had served in the conflict would be more appropriate.

Margaret Davis's idea found widespread support and the concept of a Remembrance Driveway linking Sydney and Canberra was born.

The Remembrance Driveway Committee was formed in 1954. Its charter was to arrange for the planting of avenues of trees and the establishment of groves and memorial parks along the length of the Hume and Federal Highways between Sydney and Canberra.

In 1954 during her first visit to Australia, Her Majesty the Queen planted trees in Macquarie Place Sydney and at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra to mark the beginning and end of the Remembrance Driveway and the launching of the project.

The initial enthusiasm and widespread government and public support weakened. There were plans to build a new Hume Highway and little progress with the development of the Driveway was being made by 1990, many assumed that the project had shut down.



HE Quentin Bryce planting her tree

When I joined the Committee in the early 1990s, it was very apparent to me and the then new President, Major General Kevin Latchford, that the project had lost its credibility. Since this time much has been done.

The Committee decided to remove the uncertainty about the driveway's future by realigning it with the new Hume Highway and asked the NSW Road Traffic Authority to increase significantly the signage identifying the

new Remembrance Driveway.

Existing plantations were enhanced and a long avenue of spotted gums at Villawood was dedicated to those who served in the Vietnam War. The VC Rest Area programme was launched.

With financial assistance from the Federal Government, the RTA was able to accelerate the Rest Area Programme and now 22 of the 25 VC winners have been recognised with the dedication of a VC Rest

Area in their honour.

The Remembrance Park behind the Australia War Memorial was developed with significant help from the ACT Government. It contains four Victoria Cross memorials and a memorial stone, plaque and trees unveiled and planted by the then Governor General in 2002. The latter replaced the tree planted beside the Australian War Memorial by the Queen in 1954 which had died."

The Governor General opened her address to the gathering by saying;

"it is a special moment for me to join you here this morning along our country's Remembrance Driveway to dedicate this living memorial to some of our cherished men and women lost, returned and continuing in service, all of them alive in their families' hearts and in our nation's soul."

CDRE Ian Callaway with HE Quentin Bryce at the Mount Annan Dedication



Above Sydney end in Macquarie Place.



Middle Plaque at Canberra End

Right Canberra end overlooking the Australian War Memorial



Current objectives of the Remembrance Driveway Committee are to:

- Remain on the lookout for any developments which might enable the dedication of VC Rest Areas for Edward Kenna VC, Keith Payne VC or Mark Donaldson VC.
- Maintain a watching brief on RTA intentions for a major car/truck rest area for the northbound carriageway of the Hume Highway, at Varroville, south of Camden Valley Way. This site seems likely to meet the need for a VC Rest Area.
- Maintain the Remembrance Driveway website.
- Complete the inventory of Remembrance Driveway assets and the process for Heritage Listing upon the S 170 Register is about to be-

gin. The Committee should ensure that the heritage listing process proceeds to conclusion.

- Attempt to increase interest in the maintenance of Winsor Park, on the corner of Bruncker Rd and Hume Highway, Chullora, with a view to bringing it to the standard of other Remembrance Driveway plantations.
- Progress the maintenance of trees in the Chullora and some Bass Hill sections of the Driveway.
- Oversee the maintenance of existing VC Memorial Rest Areas to ensure that they are maintained at the required standard.

Encourage the improvement of existing plantations and the development of new ones.



HMS Endymian 1905

Up Spirits

drinking their allowance of rum in drams, and often at once, is attended with many fatal effects to their morals as well as their health ... besides the ill consequences of stupefying [sic] their rational qualities ... You are hereby required and directed ... that the respective daily allowance ... be every day mixed with the proportion of a quart of water to a half pint of rum, to be mixed in a scuttled butt kept for that purpose, and to be done upon the deck, and in the presence of the Lieutenant of the Watch who is to take particular care to see that the men are not defrauded in having their full allowance of rum... and let those that are good husbands receive extra lime juice and sugar that it be made more palatable to them."

Pusser's Folklore

The rum and its daily issue had its own litany around which colorful terms and ritual evolved over the more than 300 years that rum was issued in the navy. Some are noted below.

And the name Pusser's? Nothing more than a corruption of the name purser after the officer on board ship who was responsible for the daily issue of rum. Thus the name *Pusser's Rum*.

Black Tot Day – The issue of grog to Officers ended in 1881, to Warrant Officers in 1918 and, on 31 July 1970, the last pipe of "Up spirits" in the Royal Navy was heard and referred to as "Black Tot Day" - a rather touchy subject with the old and bold!

Grog - This most traditional of all rum drinks is a rich part of the early history of Pusser's Rum. There was an Admiral by the name of Vernon who was the hero of the Battle of Porto Bello and the Commander-in-Chief, West Indies Station, the prime area for Spanish trade in the Caribbean. He had selected Porto Bello for attack because he learned that a large assignment of gold and silver had been sent there from Panama. The remarkable sequel, which followed the town's capture, was Vernon's decision that all public money found was to be divided fairly as prize money among those British crews which took part in the engagement. This was a brave step, in defiance of the regulations, but general delight at home in England over the victory caused it to be overlooked. No act could have done more to win the sailors' hearts than on most occasions received nothing. The men had affectionately nicknamed Vernon "Old Grog" on account of the old grogram cloak (a rough hewn fabric of mohair and silk) that he often wore when the weather was bad.

Thus Admiral Vernon issued his infamous Order to Captains No. 349 on August 21, 1740. His order refers to the

"unanimous opinion of both Captains and Surgeons that the pernicious custom of the seamen

In Vernon's time, the men received one-half pint of rum a day. Thus there was a lot of drunkenness and disobedience on board for which many of the men were brutally disciplined. He was much concerned with what he called, "the swinish vice of drunkenness". He believed that if the rum was diluted with water its effects on the senses would be reduced – even though the men were to receive the same amount of rum.

Extra rum rations were provided for special occasions like Trafalgar Day or the celebration of a birthday. At noon, the boatswain's mate piped "Muster for rum". The Petty Officers were served first, and entitled to take their rum undiluted. The ratings drank their grog, diluted 2:1 with water (3:1 until WW2) in one long gulp when they finished

Admiral
Edward Vernon

1684-1757

their work around noon.

The men were incensed that he should have ordered that their rum be diluted, and named it contemptuously *grog* from the name they had given him. Thus real grog is Pusser's Rum with water, limejuice and brown cane sugar. Unwittingly, Vernon had created the world's first cocktail - *grog!*

The temperance movements of the late 19th century began to change the attitude toward drink and the days of grog slowly came to an end. In 1850 the size of the tot was halved to a quarter of a pint per day.



The Grog Tub - Sailors had a way of embellishing their surroundings during their long stints at sea. The scuttled butt in Vernon's orders was a simple

cask with a lid. Soon after he issued his orders, the entire British Fleet adopted his procedures for watering the rum. Eventually, the scuttled butt gave way to the Grog Tub, an oak cask banded with polished brass or copper hoops and covered with a fancy lid. On the side of the cask were the brass letters THE KING GOD BLESS HIM, the daily toast at noon when the rum or grog was issued. The grog tub was naturally the daily gathering place. While the men stood in line for their grog, rumours were exchanged so that in time the word *scuttlebutt* became synonymous with the word *gossip*.

Gulpers / Sippers / Sandy Bottoms - At sea, rum was a kind of currency, just like money. To offer a shipmate a portion of one's tot, no matter how small, was deemed to be the apotheosis of generosity. The men purchased articles from one another using rum as the currency; they played cards and other games of chance for it, and it was used to repay favors. Rum had a value, and like money, it came in different denominations defined by how much one might take or be given from another's tot. A wet was just enough on the lips to cover them thoroughly with rum. A sipper, a gentlemanly sip when offered; a gulper, one, but only one, big swallow (usually given as a favor), and Sandy Bottoms ... a rare privilege (in some cases, a settlement of a debt) involving drinking the entire contents of another's tot. The currency of the tot went like this:

3 'wets' (a tiny, tiny sip) equalled 1 sip.

3 sips equalled one gulp.

3 gulps equalled one tot.



"Splice the Mainbrace"

A PRECAUTIONARY ODE TO CHRISTMAS

(Light-hearted but true)

Veteran, dear veteran, you worry me so,
I feel I must tell you things you should know.
That belly of yours gets bigger each year.
We think it reveals too much holiday cheer.

Don't wait for tomorrow, get healthy today.
The longer you wait, the more you will pay.
Your doctor will help, but it's your ticker;
Too much soft living will make you sicker.
Try walking or running; it all should be fun,
But remember it's slip, slop when out in the sun.

A glass of red wine may be good for you,
But a bottle or two simply won't do.
Your liver and brain can't stand the strain
And in the end, there is no gain, just pain.

So much for turkey, plum pud and cold beer;
You should only do this but once a year.
Look in the mirror and what do you see?
That image you see, cannot be me!

Veterans and war widows, let's join in the fight.
The schedule is to do what is healthy and right.
So shed a few pounds; veteran what do you say?
We all want you back to enjoy next Christmas day.

(With thanks to Dr Graeme Killer AO, DVA Principal Medical Adviser)



NAA ACT Section

Nomination Form

2011 Committee Elections

Position

Nominee

Proposer: Name (Block Letters)

Signature

Seconder: Name (Block Letters)

Signature.....

Date:.....

Endorsement by Nominee

Nominations are to be delivered to

The Secretary,
NAA ACT Section

not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting to take place; ie by 7.30 pm Thursday 27 January 2011

Subscription and Records Update 2011

Annual Subscription for 2011 \$25.00 (Due now)

Surname.....

Given Names

Signature

Please complete any of the following details if there has been a change in the last 12 months

Preferred Title.....Post Nominals.....

Home Address.....

Town/Suburb.....State/Territory.....

Post Code.....

Telephoner (H)

Fax

Email

Spouse/Partner Given Name

Note

When completed please return this form together with your payment to; The Membership Registrar, either at a General meeting or by post to

3 Peake Place, CURTIN ACT 2605

Reunions

HMAS *Arunta* Association Reunion.

28 November 2010, HMAS *Cerberus*, Westernport Bay Vic. 70th anniversary of the launching of HMAS *Arunta*. Transport (most likely bus) will be provided for those needing assistance and will leave and return to a central point in Melbourne. For further information contact Bruce Robertson, Secretary HMAS *Arunta* Association (secretary@arunta-assoc.com or 03 9764 0336).

HMAS QUIBERON Reunion 2011

Penrith NSW 7—9 October 2011

Contact Dean Sando 02 4732 3083
Email quiberon2011@optusnet.com.au

RAN Communications Branch Association

Adelaide SA
23 – 26 April 2011

NAA (ACT Branch) Social Calendar 2010

November

Sunday 28th Fish & Chips in the grounds of the Yacht Club. Yarralumla. 1700—1900

December

Thursday 2 December Christmas Lunch at the Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club From 1200.

No Fish'n' Chips in December

2011

January

Sunday 30th Fish & Chips in the grounds of the Yacht Club. Yarralumla. 1700 –1900.

The Alzheimers ACT

Contact details are as follows.

Location: 159 Maribynong Avenue, Kaleen.

Mail: PO Box 7100 Kaleen, ACT 2617

Telephone: (02) 6255 0722

Facsimile: (02) 6255 0499

Helpline: 1800 100 500.

Email: admin@alzheimersact.asn.au

808 NAVAL AIR SQUADRON 808 Squadron seeking past members.

The RAN will recommission 808 Naval Air Squadron in January 2011 with new MRH90 helicopters at Nowra NSW.

Past squadron members are requested to contact LCDR Col Cook on 02 4424 1940 or colin.cook@defence.gov.au

HMAS HOBART Biennial Reunion 2011

Where: Canberra ACT

When: 10 – 13 November 2011

Contact: Mike Taylor on 02 6288 3393 or mbt@netspeed.com.au

Website:

<http://www.hmashobartassn.com/reunion.html>

JUST AN IDIOT

When my husband and I arrived at a car dealers to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked.

"Hey," I announced to the technician, "its open!"

His reply, "I know - I already done that side."

FORD dealership in Dubbo.

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

If you are able to assist with the following please contact Warwick Lutterell at email address:

vvaataspres@aussiebroadband.com.au

Looking for **Edwin Michel PAYNE** R62465 ex-RAN Birdie.

While posted to HMAS DERWENT visiting Sasebo Japan in May 1967, met Bob Suckerman, former PH3 USNR-R - USS AJAX

Bob would like to make contact.

Warwick Luttrell

DFRDB Fair Indexation Bill tabled in the Senate

Mr Stuart Robert MP

Shadow Minister for Defence Science,
Technology and Personnel | Federal
Member for Fadden

Senator the Hon. Michael
Ronaldson

Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs | Liberal
Senator for Victoria

Joint Media Release

The Coalition will take action on military superannuation reform.

On behalf of the Coalition's spokesperson on military superannuation, Mr Stuart Robert MP, the Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, will tomorrow table a Bill in the Senate to index DFRDB pensions in line with the Coalition's 27 June 2010 commitment.

The *Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2010*, will enable DFRDB superannuants aged 55 and over from 1 July 2011 to have their pensions indexed at the higher rate of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) or the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI).

Mr Robert said the introduction of this Bill confirms the Coalition's resolve in taking the crucial first step towards reforming military superannuation arrangements.

"The Coalition made a commitment to veterans and ex-service personnel and we are going to see that commitment through", Mr Robert said.

"I call on those independent members who have previously voiced their support for the provisions

The DFRDB Fair Indexation Bill was introduced into the Senate on 18 November 2010 by Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson.

Copy of the speech at the Second reading in the Senate and the text of the Bill may be brought up on the Australian Parliament House website www.aph.gov.au

contained within this legislation to support this Bill and to support those veterans and ex-service personnel who have given so much to their country.

The Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson, said that he had listened to the considered views put forward by the veteran and ex-service community and was pleased to be able to introduce the Bill on behalf of the Coalition.

"The issue of military superannuation reform has been raised with me during every meeting I have held with veterans and ex-service personnel. With this Bill, the Coalition meets our election commitment to change DFRDB indexation arrangements and to help support our veterans and ex-service personnel", Senator Ronaldson said.

"This is in stark contrast to the Gillard Labor Government, which promised much to those in the veteran community but has repeatedly failed to deliver due to their own self interest and poll driven policy paralysis.

Wednesday, 17 November 2010

robett.hardie@aph.gov.au

Five Minute Quiz

1. Who headed Nazi Germany's Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda?
2. Custer's Last Stand took place in which US State?
3. What common learning disorder is responsible for spelling difficulties?
4. Other than a musical instrument, what is a piccolo?
5. In legal terms, what is the Latin for "guilty mind"?
6. Where is the only place in Europe that monkeys live in the wild?
7. What is the value of pi to two decimal places?
8. How many lines are there in a cinquain poem?
9. What bone in the human body is the calcaneus?
10. Paneer is a popular South Asian variety of what?

Answers on Page 11



Rivers Dining

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(sponsoring the printing of Bosun's Call)

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next Function**

ITEMS FOR SALE

NAA Ties	\$15.00
NAA Name Badges	\$15.00
NAA Key Ring	\$ 5.00
RAN Key Ring	\$ 5.00

See Secretary Peter 02 6282 2475



A Happy Birthday to you all.

Ian Deas, David Evans, Sturat McDowell, Bill Owen and Frank Reid.



The NAA ACT Section is very grateful for the support provided by the Canberra Southern Cross Club

*1. Joseph Goebels; 2. Montana; 3. Dyslexia;
4. Small champagne bottle; 5. Mens rea;
6. Gibraltar; 7. 3, 14; 8. Five; 9. Heel bone;
10. Cheese.*

Answers to Five Minute Quiz: