

The Communicator

Royal Australian Signals Association (Queensland)



APRIL 2016

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PRESIDENTS REPORT



Good afternoon All, at the request of the editor I offer the following.

Anzac Day is approaching like a steam train on a downhill grade.

This year Rhonda and I will have Anzac Day here in Toowoomba. I am presently the Treasurer and I believe that it is reasonable that I be present for the event. Our Sons are scattered - one is in Perth with the SAS Regt - and the other is at Kapooka in his second year as a Recruit Instructor, both are looking at Their next promotion (SGT) shortly.

Two cute Grand Daughters please their Grand Mothers heart.

Life continues more or less evenly.

May I offer to all an enjoyable and satisfying Anzac Day and catch up with as many old friends as possible.

Regards,

Huey JAMES.

Certa Cito.

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Secretary/Treasurer Report

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER DESK Welcome to another new year. That means, of course, that I managed to survive the rigours of the job for the preceding 12 months. As I didn't hear that there were threats of revolts, mutinies or revolutions talked about so the waters remained calm and the year passed without major incident. Given that the ill wind isn't blowing very hard I would beg to suggest that another year will be successfully navigated.

The Christmas lunch went off well, whilst we were in an open room the 2 tables were set up for us and the staff very obliging. The buffet style meal meant you could eat what you wanted and leave the rest, I saw a few going back for seconds and maybe thirds.

All the best for now and hope to see many of you at Geebung 26th June 2016.

(Set aside Sunday November 27th for the end of year function - no venue yet)

Chris

Editor

Gooday all.

A reminder to all too please read the Anzac Day page for line up times and meeting place. Also don't forget that the rest of Australia is now back on Queensland time. I have posted on the RA Sigs sites ROML Site and others that if anyone knows of people wishing to join the association then please let them know to contact the persons listed below. For information regarding any of the mentioned reunions please use the web sites provided if for any reason you cannot then contact me with your query and I will see what I can do.

If members know members who do not receive a copy of this news letter and have PC capabilities please send me your / their E mail address this will ensure you / they receive up to date info and more, thanks.

Come on! As Chris mentioned (down further) we must have 30 takers for the midyear lunch it's not far away also don't forget to keep 27 November vacant for the end of year function.

Membership dues

Remember. It's only \$5 per year. You can post them to the treasurer at PO Box 3038 Chermside West Qld 4032 or a bank transfer to

Royal Australian Signals Association (Queensland) BSB 638-260 Acc No 11247649 S26

If you have already paid and are financial then skip this bit

Digger.



In World war 2 British soldiers got a ration of three sheets of toilet paper a day. Americans got 22.

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FYI

DVA. Snippets.

Certified Essential Medical Equipment

You can claim the Essential Medical Equipment Payment for each of the following eligible items of equipment (provided they are medically required):

- Home dialysis machine , home ventilator, home respirator, home parental or enteral feeding device
- Oxygen concentrator, heart pump, suction pump, infant apnoea monitor – when prescribed by a medical practitioner following apnoeic events
- Nebuliser – when used daily, positive airways pressure device, phototherapy equipment, airbed vibrator
- Electric wheelchair
- Insulin pump.

If the equipment has not been provided by a recognised DVA programme, for example through the Rehabilitation Appliances Program, proof will be required from a medical practitioner that the equipment is essential to manage the person's condition, and the person has been advised to use the equipment at home. This certification must be made using the Essential Medical Equipment Payment Medical Confirmation Form.

Certified medically required heating and/or cooling

To qualify for the Essential Medical Equipment Payment, a medical practitioner must certify, using the [Essential Medical Equipment Payment Medical Confirmation Form](#), that the person with medical needs meets the following criteria:

- the person has a specified medical condition (as outlined below)
- the person is unable to regulate his or her body temperature because of that medical condition and requires medical heating and/or cooling in their home and
- without medical heating and/or cooling, the person risks serious harm to his or her health.

The specified medical conditions are:

- Spinal cord injury at or above the T7 level, Stroke, Brain injury, neurodegenerative disorder
- The muscular dystrophies, Full thickness burns covering more than 20 per cent of the body surface area
- Rare disorders of sweating including congenital absence or mal-development of sweat glands
- Chronic Erythrodermas.

For more information about **household assistance supplements**, contact general enquiries on the [DVA contacts](#) page.

World War II, the youngest serviceman in the United States military was Calvin Graham age 12

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There was plenty of food and plenty of chat to be had at the Christmas lunch 2015 a great time was had by all.



2016. The midyear function will be held at the Geebung RSL on Sunday 26th June 2016 with the usual start around 1130 for a 1200 meal. Cost have risen and so we'll be asking for \$20 a head this time round for the alternative roast drop and the same for sweets. Rolls as well as tea and coffee included. We need 30 starters for this price too so let Bill and Ken know if you're able to make it by the Friday 17th June so I can get the catering sorted out.

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Taken from Australia's war 1939-1945

The lives of many Australian women changed dramatically between 1940 and 1945 when there was pressure for young women to participate in the war effort, particularly in the armed services.

A few hundred Australian nurses had served both during the Boer War and World War I – nursing being the only available service role for Australian women at that time. It was not until World War II that women were asked to serve in non-nursing roles.

During 1941, it became apparent that women would need to be employed in the armed services so that servicemen in non-combatant roles could be released to combat units. Brightly coloured recruitment posters encouraged young women to join up and more than 66,000 of them enlisted in the three services – just under 7% of the nearly 1 million Australians who served.

Thousands of young Australian women left home to join the new women's auxiliary services: the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF), the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) and the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS). Newly qualified, as well as experienced, nursing sisters joined the two new nursing services: the Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service (RAAFNS) and the Royal Australian Naval Nursing Service (RANNS) as well as the existing Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS). In December 1942, the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS) was established and members served as nursing aides alongside army nurses.

Air Force

Air Force

The **Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF)** was the first and the largest of the three women's services formed during War II and opened the way for the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) and the Women's Royal Australian Navy Service (WRANS).

Between 1941 and 1946, almost 27,000 women enlisted in the Air Force as members of either the Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service (RAAFNS) or the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF). A number of the recruits were already volunteers in the Women's Air Training Corps (WATC) and the Women's Emergency Signalling Corps (WESC) and they brought valuable skills with them to the new service. As in the other two services, women were paid less than the men doing equivalent jobs – often half or two thirds of the men's salaries.

The women in the WAAAF worked in more than 70 so-called 'musterings' alongside airmen in Air Force hangars, stores depots, radar and signals sections, operations rooms, kitchens, messes and offices. Members were posted to bases throughout Australia but unlike their nursing colleagues in the RAAF Nursing Service, they were never permitted to serve overseas. The WAAAF was disbanded in 1947 and reconstituted as the Women's Royal Australian Air Force (WRAAF) in 1951.

The Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service (RAAFNS) was established in July 1940 and during World War II had a total enlistment of about 600. RAAF nurses tended the sick and wounded airmen in RAAF hospitals in Australia and a small number flew with Medical Air Evacuation Transport Units, bringing patients from the front line in Papua New Guinea and the Indonesian archipelago to hospitals at home.

In 1977, the WRAAF and the RAAFNS were integrated into the RAAF.

The **Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS)** was formed in April 1941 and by the end of the war more than 3000 women had served with the WRANS. Approximately 60 women joined the Royal Australian Navy Nursing Service (RANNS).

The first women to be recruited into the WRANS were volunteers from the Women's Emergency Signalling Corps, (WESC) who were employed as telegraphists and based at naval stations around Australia. Others became signallers, coders, wireless transmitter operators, cipher clerks, telephonists, couriers, cooks, stewardesses and

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drivers. WRANS were not allowed to work either outside Australia or on ships at sea and their pay rates fluctuated during the war. Generally they received approximately two thirds of the amount paid to RAN personnel.

The service was disbanded at the end of World War II but manpower shortages in the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) led to the service being re-constituted in 1951. It was made a permanent part of the RAN in December 1959. WRANS personnel were gradually absorbed into the RAN during the early 1980s and in due course the service was disbanded. In 1983, women were permitted to serve in ships.

Army

Army

On 13 August 1941, the government authorised the formation of the [Australian Women's Army Service \(AWAS\)](#), the last of the women's auxiliary services to be formed. More than 24,000 eventually served in the AWAS, the only non-medical women's service to send personnel overseas during the war.

Initially the women performed essentially domestic or non-specialist tasks – like the WRANS and the WAAAFS – but they soon spread into other areas and served in signals and ordnance work. Almost 3600 AWAS members served with Royal Australian Artillery formations on searchlight, coastal defence and anti-aircraft batteries and they often worked in very isolated areas. The AWAS had probably the widest range of jobs of any of the women's services and in 1944, the Australian Government finally agreed to send about 500 AWAS personnel overseas to serve in New Guinea.

By 30 June 1947, all members of the AWAS had been demobilised but a severe manpower shortage four years later led to the formation of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) in April 1951. In the late 1970s female soldiers began to be integrated into the Army at large and the WRAAC was finally disbanded in 1984.

All in all, nearly 36,000 women enlisted in the three women's Army services during World War II. Nearly 3500 Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) sisters worked in Australian General Hospitals and Casualty Clearing Stations in every Australian theatre of war, suffering the highest casualty rate of any of the women's services. Seventy-two nursing sisters died when their ships were torpedoed by the Japanese or later on, as prisoners of war.

Approximately 8000 other women served with the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS) which grew out of the Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment. Members served as nursing aides alongside army nurses and worked both in Australia and overseas in the Middle East, New Guinea and the islands.

'other work'

It was not only the servicewomen who left home. Some of the women who joined the Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment worked on hospital ships and in convalescent hospitals. Others left home and joined the Australian Women's Land Army (AWLA). A number of other women joined either voluntary or salaried entertainment groups and travelled around performing for the troops both in Australia and overseas. Many women were unable to volunteer for the women's services. Some had young children, others were in what were considered 'essential' occupations such as munitions work. For these women organisations such as the Women's Australian National Services (WANS), the Women's Air Training Corps (WATC), the Women's Emergency Signalling Corps (WESC), the National Emergency Services (NES), the Red Cross and numerous other voluntary organisations, provided an outlet for their desire to do something for the war effort.



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REUNIONS AND EVENTS

LINEY GATHERING 2016 TOCUMWAL 20 ...22 MAY

Terry Docherty

Guy's for those that are unaware the reason for the gathering being in Tocumwal was twofold. 1st is self explanatory, a get together of old mates (or not mates, who care's life's too short to hold long grudges), and the other after a bit of a chat with a couple of fella's was to raise a bit of money for the Toc RSL by bar takings, as it's run by a few hardy older R A Sigs guys.

By all means I would like this one to be bigger and better than last year and we can always look at alternate venues for future gatherings.

Doc. Also on that note if members wish a change of Venue next year or whenever, remember it will need someone to put their hand up and take responsibility for the logistics and organising of the event.

Digger.

The RASIGS National Reunion 2016 will be held in the Yarra Valley from 9th to 14th Nov 2016. Reunion details can be found at rasigs.com and in the attached Format for National Reunion. If attending, the attached Reunion Attendance Slip should be sent to info@rasigs.com Any queries should be directed to Gavin Lee (President RASA Vic) - gavin.lee18@hotmail.com

104 Sig Sqn 28 - 30 May 2016 Sat –Mon 50th Anniversary

Twin Town Services Club

Full details at:

<http://2016.au104.org>

50th Anniversary of Long Tan Reunion 15th to 23rd Aug 2016 – Saigon, Vietnam.

See details at: http://www.buddhas-place.com/avietnam_2016_1admin.html

The 104 Sig Sqn 50th Anniversary Reunion Dinner on Sunday 29th May will be in the Abraham Club honouring Denis Abraham KIA on the 29th Sept 1968. 1CSR still has a Abraham Club in Darwin. It's time to enroll for the reunion. Don't miss out! No Shirt orders and reunion price increase after the 11 April.



reunion@au104.org

The RSL (Queensland Branch) 2016 Annual General Meeting will be held in Townsville from 24-26 June.

Sub Branches are encouraged to send a Delegate who will act in the Sub Branch's best interests and be an active part of the AGM discussions. Please contact your District Secretary in the first instance if you have any questions.

For further information please go to the RSL Qld branch web page.

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Nothing changed over the years poor old lineys.
These are too good not to share.



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THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD:
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING,
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

313627 Norman Linburg OLSEN
110 Signal Squadron South Vietnam 14/04/1971 - 19/01/1972

1200151 Wayne George (Bullrush) RUSH.
103 Signal Squadron South Vietnam 26/04/1966 - 04/05/1967

2800649 Captain (Retired) Gordon Bruce Phillips

36493 Malcolm James (Mal) STEVENS
110 Signal Squadron South Vietnam 11/03/1968 - 18/03/1969

Graeme Cornwall 104 Sig Sqn SVN 14/05/1969—14/05/1969

42215 Peter Alan Staples.

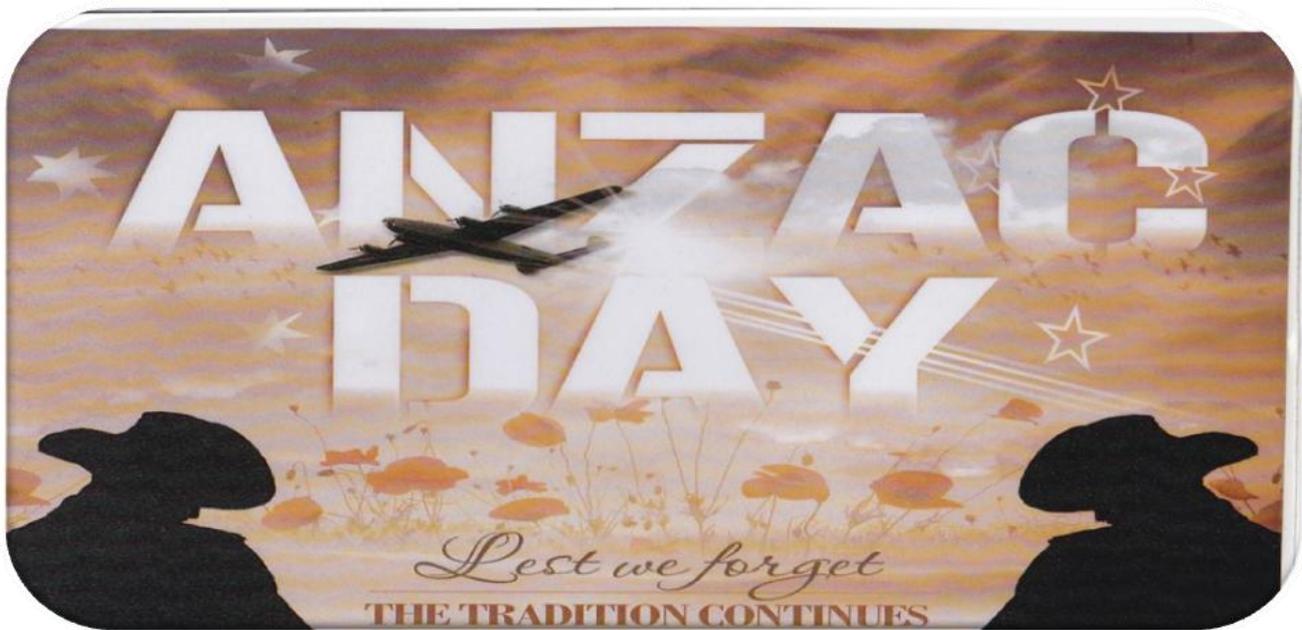
SGT (ret) Ted Douglas, 581 Signal Troop South Vietnam 22/09/1966 -
28/11/1966

3791029 Geoffrey Hugh (Geoff) McCarthy
110 Signal Squadron South Vietnam 08/01/1968 - 10/12/1968

An atheist was seated next to a little girl on an airplane and he turned to her and said, "Do you want to talk? Flights go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger."
The little girl, who had just started to read her book, replied to the total stranger, "What would you want to talk about?"
"Oh, I don't know," said the atheist. "How about why there is no God, or no Heaven or Hell, or no life after death?" as he smiled smugly.
"Okay," she said. "Those could be interesting topics but let me ask you a question first. A horse, a cow, and a deer all eat the same stuff - grass. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, but a horse produces clumps. Why do you suppose that is?"
The atheist, visibly surprised by the little girl's intelligence, thinks about it and says, "Hmmm, I have no idea." To which the little girl replies, "Do you really feel qualified to discuss God, Heaven and Hell, or life after death, when you don't know shit?"
And then she went back to reading her book.

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Our next major event is Anzac Day and whilst I have been dragged back off overseas just before the day, I have managed to secure our post march venue at the Orient Hotel yet again. The form up point will still be the same this year, however next year (2017) will be different. More details will be issued about the changes when they have more definition. (This will be because of the redevelopment works that will impact the area in the Queens Wharf redevelopment by the State Government and Casino.) Step off time is estimated to be around 1015 so I would suggest that you are in place well before that to sort yourselves out.

Look for the banner in George St again, we have been allocated number 86 this time but Army will be last in the parade. Remember to look neat and tidy and do the association proud. You might want a beer afterwards so head to the Orient Hotel again and the mine host is putting on a roast meal for \$10 again. Thanks Steve.

For those thinking of going to Enoggera for a dawn service, yes they will be on, however access will be harder due to increased security and you will have to vacate by 0730. To get easier access on the day you might want to visit the pass office a couple of days early next week and arrange a visitor pass.

Chris.

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March Protocols.

The wearing of fraudulent medals and awards are NOT permitted

Section 80B(1),(4) of the Defence Act 1903 makes it an offence for a person to wear a service decoration that they are not entitled to wear, or to falsely represent themselves as a person on whom a service decoration was conferred.

Veterans are to wear full size medals.

Those WW11 Veterans able to march the full distance of the Parade are welcome to Parade behind their Banner at the front of the parade with one carer or one person of discretionary age.

Large groups of Descendants wanting to march may only do so behind the banner "Descendants of Veterans All Conflicts" – Please check the Order of March for positioning.

Those disbanded Units/Ships or Squadrons wishing to Parade their Banner at the front of the Parade may only do so when they have gained approval from the ANZAC Day Combined Parade Committee without descendants – P O Box 45 New Farm Qld 4005

Pictures of deceased Veterans are NOT permitted to be carried on Parade

Any livestock, including Dogs MUST have approval from the ADCPC to enter any area of the ANZAC Day Parade – There is NO exception (WHS requirement).

Children being pushed in pushchairs or carried in slings are a potential OH&S risk and we ask that parents refrain from including them in the Parade.

Unit Leaders on Parade are responsible for the appearance of those marching with their associations and to stipulate the need to respect the March Protocols as set down by the ADCPC. Copies of the Protocol are available on Parade or prior by visiting www.anzacamarchbrisbane.com.au

Closed in footwear is a requirement on parade. Those marches that do not comply with this requirement do so at their own risk.

These protocols are designed to respect the dignity of the occasion.

Please note Kens new mail address

AL RSVPs TO: Ken North: ken1327linda@gmail.com
Bill Vanroosmalen on 3813 5040

SEE YA.



DIGGER

Veterans are men or women who not only served in warlike conditions, but served; they all at one point in their life wrote a blank check payable to their country for an amount up to and including their life.

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