



# SIGNAL NEWS



**CERTA CITO**

**MARCH 2021**

Official Journal of the Royal Australian Signals Association (Tas)

This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
continuous production of our newsletter



2.

**SIGNAL NEWS**

**March 2021**

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**Signal News Distribution:**

March, June, September, December

**Editor:** Dick Goodwin

**All 2021 “1st Friday’s” of the Month (excludes January) Social Functions** are held at the RAAF Memorial Centre, 61 Davey Street, Hobart. (*Enter via the door in the rear car park*). Starting from 4.15<sup>pm</sup>)

**Autumn Luncheon:-** Wednesday  
10<sup>th</sup> Mar 2020 at “The Globe”  
Hotel, 12<sup>n</sup> for 12.30<sup>pm</sup>

**Anzac Day:-** Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Apr 2020

No Hobart March of public Cenotaph Service. Lunch at “The Globe” Hotel 12<sup>n</sup> for 12.30<sup>pm</sup> **Medals to be worn.**

Any further information to be advised at the April 1<sup>st</sup> Friday function

**Annual Luncheon:**

Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> Jun 2020.  
Venue/timing TBA

**Annual General Meeting (75<sup>th</sup>):-**

Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.  
5<sup>pm</sup> at RAAF Memorial Centre

**Commemoration Day:** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Service:** 11.45<sup>am</sup> at Anglesea  
Barracks Signals Memorial  
**Medals to be worn**

**Lunch:** RAAF Memorial Centre  
from 12.30<sup>pm</sup>.

**Remembrance Day Lunch:**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Nov.** Timing & Venue  
TBA. **Medals may be worn**

**Committee Meetings 2021:-**

Meetings start at RAAF Memorial Centre at 3.00<sup>pm</sup> on first Friday of Mar, Jun, Sep & Nov.

**Printed by Mr Nic Street MP,  
Member for Franklin**

**A much-appreciated Community Service**

### 3.

#### **From the President.**

Greetings to all for 2021. If you are reading this you have survived another Christmas and New Year and hopefully look forward to a great 2021.

In writing this it is hard to sometimes develop some interesting items. However, Dick looks after that side and I hope everyone tries to make an effort to give him some interesting information for future editions of Signal News which has been published for the past 70 years. I understand his “stocks” are running low!

Each year your Committee try's to maintain a standard programme so you should not forget what is on. We are open to any suggestions in the department of social activities so if you have any ideas discuss them with the Committee members.

We have had our First Friday function in February to start the year and obviously with good communications we still had the normal roll up. The winning group from the Eastern Shore turned up to collect their normal ration of “wheel” prizes. It is a good job we had a carton for their spoils.

We are normally operational on ‘First Fridays’ from 1615 hrs (4 15pm) – enter through the door at the rear of the RAAF Memorial Centre building a 61 Davey Street.

Don't forget our MOBILITY SUPPORT programme. If you have limited mobility and would like to attend an activity, contact Dick, myself, Mick or Denise by the day before and we will arrange pickup and return transport for you.

David Harcourt is a little down at the moment. We wish him all the best and look forward to his return.

A social item. Our first lunch this year will be at ‘The Globe’ Hotel on Wednesday the 10th of March, gathering at 1200. A pleasant gathering to start the year so make an effort to be there. Recent meals at this venue have been of a high standard and prices are most reasonable.

As the Hobart ANZAC DAY MARCH has been cancelled, we have no deliberate programme organised. Our lunch booking for ANZAC DAY is also at ‘The Globe’ hotel at the corner of Davey and Antill Street's. This will be confirmed at the ‘First Friday’ function in April.

Support your local RSL if they have ANZAC DAY activities.

Well, that's enough from me for this month so keep on signalling (in various ways) and I look forward to your company sometime throughout the year.

Yours in Signals

**Owen**

### 4.

## A LONE PINE TRIBUTE

A century ago, when this nation first came together to honour our war dead the focus was on the horrific losses inflicted on the ANZAC troops at Gallipoli, and rightly so, for there was rarely a family, village, town or community in Australia that had not suffered some loss or had troops taking part in the campaign, but as the Great war increased in scale and ranged across Europe, it is often overlooked that the fighting continued in the Middle East and other theatres of war and especially on the Gallipoli peninsula.

105 years ago, in August 1915 ANZAC troops launched into a diversionary tactic to capture a hill called Chunuk Bair and Hill 971, later to be known as the Battle of Lone Pine, with losses of almost three thousand in the combined effort, like Gallipoli few communities avoided the sad news of the tragic loss of a loved one at the Battle for Lone Pine, and many had one of their number serving and fighting in the battle.

A grieving mother in Warrnambool was sent a pine cone from the battlefield after her son was killed at Lone Pine, a precious memento of her son, buried in the battlefield faraway it was placed in her dressing table drawer as a daily reminder of both her own and the nation's loss. After almost 13 years in 1928, 5 seeds fell from the cone and an attempt was made to grow the seeds, 4 germinated 1 was planted in the town of her son's birth, one in Warrnambool's Memorial Garden, one to the Shrine of Remembrance Garden in Melbourne and one to the then newly created Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

It is from the tree in Canberra that the gardeners of the Governor General's residence Yarralumla were able to collect and grow seeds and the Swansea RSL Women's Auxiliary with the assistance of Colonel Nick Wilson of Cranbrook were able to obtain a Lone Pine to place here in Swansea to remind us of those who served not only in the great war, but all wars not only at Gallipoli and Lone Pine but also the western front in Europe.

From someone who as a soldier gave his life for our country, whose mother was sent a cone to remind her of a son buried half a world away. One of the more than 60,000 who gave their life for this country & for us, this tree & its memorial now serves as a part of our local, state & national commemoration. Their actions are still remembered & commemorated in this tree. *(Thanks to the author Noel Stanley, Swansea for permission to reprint his article. Ed)*



**e Lone Pine Cemetery as it stands today**

**T  
h**

## THE WISDOM OF GANDHI

When Mahatma Gandhi was studying law at the University College of London, a professor by the name of Peters disliked him intensely & always displayed animosity towards him. Because Gandhi never lowered his head when addressing him, as he expected, there were always "arguments" & confrontations.

One day Mr Peters was having lunch at the University dining room when Gandhi came along with his tray & sat next to him. The professor said, "Mr. Gandhi, you do not understand. A pig & a bird do not sit together to eat. Gandhi looked at him as a parent would a rude child & calmly replied, "You do not worry, professor, I'll fly away," & he went and sat at another table.

Peters, red with rage, decided to take revenge on the next test paper, but Gandhi responded brilliantly to all questions. Unhappy & frustrated, Mr. Peters asked him the following question: "Mr Gandhi, if you were walking down the street & found a package, & within was a bag of wisdom & another bag with a lot of money, which one would you take?" Without hesitating, Gandhi responded, "The one with the money, of course." Mr Peters, smiling sarcastically, said, "I, in your place, would have taken the wisdom." Gandhi shrugged indifferently & responded, "Each one takes what he doesn't have".

Mr Peters, by this time, was fit to be tied, so great was his anger that he wrote on Gandhi's exam sheet the word "idiot" & handed it back to him. Gandhi took the exam sheet & sat down at his desk, trying hard to remain calm while he contemplated his next move. A few minutes later, Gandhi got up, went to the professor & said to him in a dignified but sarcastically polite tone, "Mr Peters, you autographed the sheet, but you did not give me a grade."

*(Al & Marg King)*

## THE 'UP' WORD

A reminder that 1 word in the English language that can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb & preposition. 'UP'  
Read until the end ... you'll laugh.

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is 'UP.' It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv.], [prep.], [adj.], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for a while, things dry UP.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now . . . my time is UP!

Oh . . . one more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night?

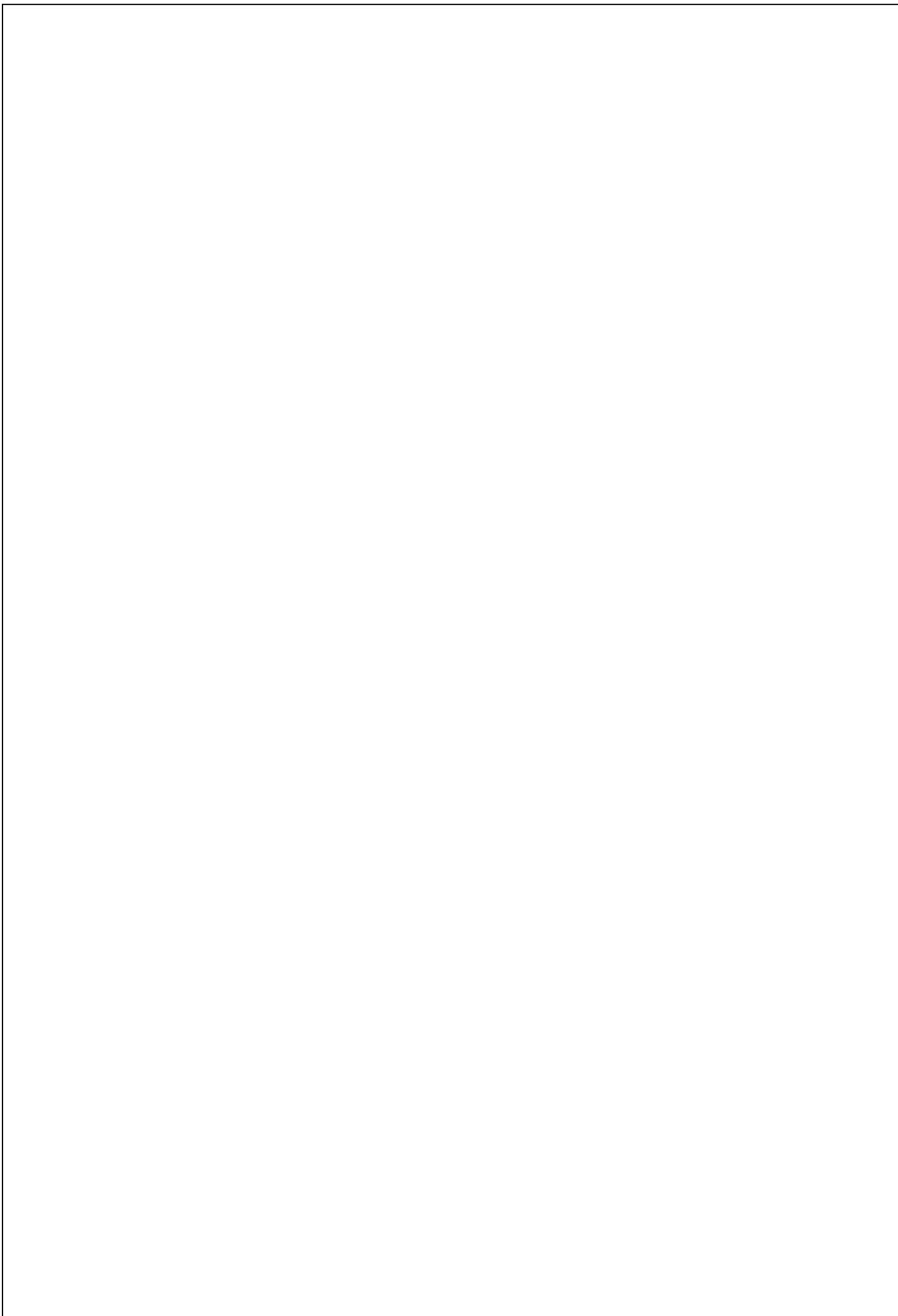
'U P' Did that one crack you UP?

Don't screw UP.

Send this on to everyone you look UP in your address book . . . or not . . . it's UP to you.

**Now I'll shut UP!**

*(Bob Gray) – suspect this is a case of one UP-manship ! (Ed)*



## 6.

### ‘HEAZELWORDS’

Aboriginil	Tally of Tasmanian full-bloods
Banzac	A pacifist
Blushranger	A sensitive new age roving criminal
Dilleroo	Inept female roustabout
Dodgeridoo	Souvenir of Australia made in China
Echidnap	Abduction technique, usually fatal, practised by spiny anteaters on small insects
E-dreamtime	Virtual unreality
Ethylacine	Organic radical with stripes on top and a pouch beneath
Fanzac	An Army groupie
Flatypus	What was it doing on the road anyway?
Kooria	Indigenous guide or messenger
Marsoupial	Primordial creature that emerged before they got the components sorted out
Packeroo	A newspaper hack
Qwallaby	Small carnivorous kangaroo, result of an experiment in genetic manipulation aimed at preserving Australian pasture
Shylacine	Tasmanian marsupial prudently maintaining a low profile
Tasmafia	A family of two-headed criminals based on the southern island
Tasmaniac	A person with two heads, both of them deranged
Willybag	Aboriginal equivalent of the Scot’s sporrán
Wowsir	A man knighted for disservice to propriety
Zuluru	Name coined by the tabloid press for an African tribe’s bizarre claims to one of Australia’s sacred sites. Considered offensive
Bushwanker	Proactive individual who targets the non-urban environment for recreation perambulation, prioritizing the of enhanced bodily wellbeing and spiritual renewal

*(Thanks to the “Lady of Latrobe”; Anne Heazlewood, for these thought-provoking family “ponderizations”)*

### A QUICKIE FROM THE PADRE

This bloke walks into a bar and the bartender asks him "What'll you have?" .He answers, "A whisky, please". The bartender hands him the drink, and says "That'll be five dollars", to which he replies "What are you talking about? I don't owe you anything for this". A lawyer, sitting nearby and overhearing the conversation, then says to the bartender, "You know, he's got you there. In the original offer, which constitutes a binding contract upon acceptance, there was no stipulation of remuneration". The bartender's not impressed, but says to the man, "Okay, you beat me for a drink. But don't ever let me catch you in here again".

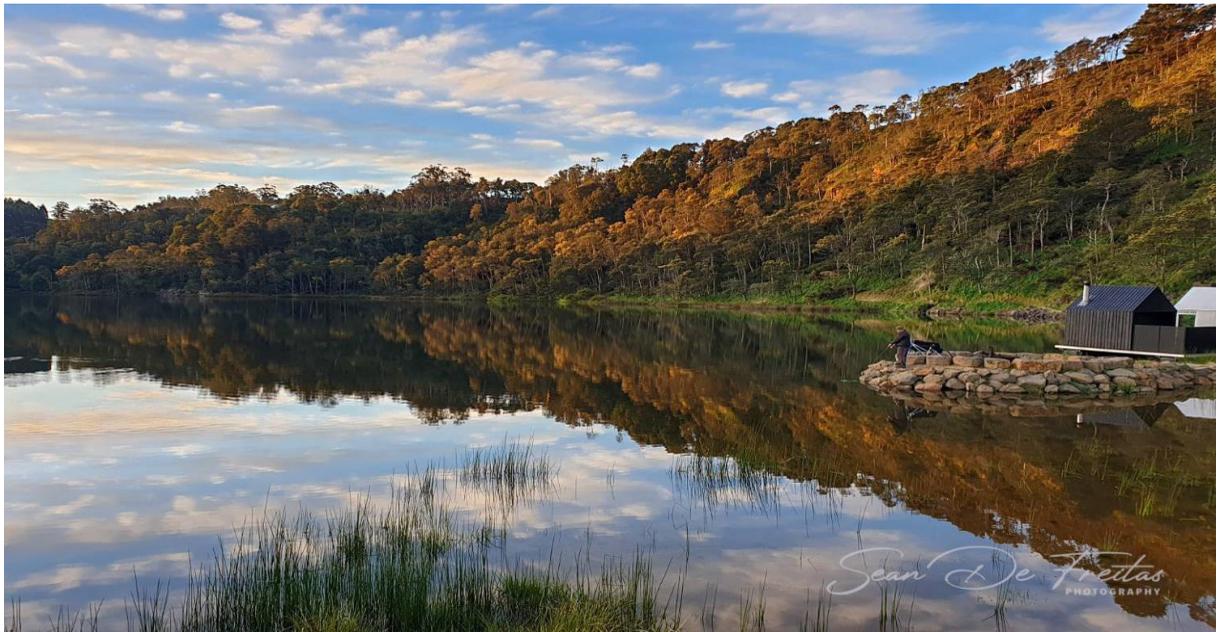
The next day, the same bloke walks into the bar. Bartender says, "What the hell are you doing in here? I can't believe you've got the audacity to comeback!".

The bloke says "What are you talking about? I've never been in this place in my life", to which the bartender replies "I'm very sorry, but this is uncanny. You must have a double."

To which he responds, "Don't mind if I do. Make mine a whisky." (*David Lewis*)

7.

*Another of Sean De Freitas' great photos – this time of Lake Derby, NE Tas*



*(Sean continues to receive almost weekly awards for his photos, many of which are taken from his drone)*



*Kim Murray's great photo of sunrise in Melbourne last Xmas Day – made "lock-down" a bit more acceptable.*

#### **LOST BOOKS**

In a library, a man asks where he might find books on suicide. "Second row on the left and down 2 sets of shelves," replied the assistant. The man proceeded to the shelf but couldn't find what he was looking for, so returned to the desk he explained, "I've had a good look, but can't find anything on suicide." "I didn't think you would," the assistant replied knowingly. "They never bring them back." (*Geeves*)

## HISTORICAL HONOURS & AWARDS TO SIGNALS PERSONNEL

Sir Charles William Clanan MARR was born on 23 March 1880 at Petersham, Sydney, son of a Hobart born boot manufacturer and his Irish wife. He was educated at Fort St School Newington College and Sydney Technical College and played cricket, rugby and baseball for Petersham. He joined the NSW Public Service in 1896 and was appointed junior assistant in November 1899 in the Postmaster General's Department transferring in 1901 to the Commonwealth. Charles supervised the erection in 1912 of the first of Australia's chain of wireless telegraphy stations at Pennant Hills. After seven years in school cadets, Charles had joined the volunteer forces in 1908 and served in an electrical company. In 1912 he commanded a signals troop and by 1914 was a Lieutenant with the Royal Australian Navy Wireless Radio Service. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in the Australian and New Zealand Wireless Signals Squadron in April 1916 and in May embarked for Mesopotamia where he was acting commander and Major from September until the end of the campaign. The difficulties he had with the Arabs, *'the meanest, dirtiest, most treacherous lot'* strengthened his convictions of racial superiority.

Twice mentioned in dispatches, he was awarded the Military Cross (1917) and the Distinguished Service Order (1918). He remained in the Militia after the war, commanding the signals of the First Cavalry Division.

After his return to Australia in mid-1918, Charles won the Federal seat of Parkes as a Nationalist in December 1919. He was Government Whip (1921-22) and Parliamentary Secretary to the Nationalists in 1921-25.

In the Bruce-Page government he was Honorary Minister (1925-27) and Minister for Home and Territories (1927-28). He was again Honorary Minister from 1928 until the defeat of October 1929. At the head of the Australian delegation to the League of Nations in Geneva at the time, Charles made frantic but unsuccessful efforts to return for the election campaign, even seeking the assistance of (Sir) Charles Kingsford Smith to fly back. (Sir) Edward McTiernan defeated him, but after he was appointed to the High Court of Australia, Charles won the by-election in January 1931, campaigning against the financial policies of the Scullin and Lang governments. He was Vice-President in 1924-25 and 1929-31 of the National Association of NSW and Vice-President of the Australian National Federation in 1928-31. In the Lyons United Australia Party government, Charles in 1932-34 held the portfolios of health, repatriation and territories. Having served on the committees that organized the visits of the Prince of Wales (1920) and the Duke and Duchess of York (1927), he was given charge of the Duke of Gloucester's tour in 1934 and was appointed KCVO in 1935, when he was dropped from the ministry. In 1941-42 he was Deputy Chairman of the joint committee on broadcasting. He was defeated in 1943 when a heart ailment restricted his campaigning.

Sir Charles was a tenacious watchdog over the development of Canberra where he lived after 1927. An enthusiastic supporter of the territories of Papua and New Guinea, Sir Charles saw them as 'definitely white man's country', denying he had seen 'even one mosquito' during a visit to Rabaul. He hoped Papua would 'become one of the bright jewels in the Empire which the creator intended it to be'. He promoted the New Guinea Legislative Council personally opening it in May 1933. Substantial land holdings he bought near Madang were acquired in 1929 by Amalgamated Coffee Plantations (New Guinea) Ltd a company he founded with (Sir) Walter Carpenter and others. Sir Charles held several company director-ships, including Tatau Gold, New Zealand Forest Products Ltd, Papuan, Apinaipi Petroleum Co. Ltd and W.R. Carpenter & Co. Ltd, and he was chairman of Mineral Development Ltd and Gold Development Ltd.

Sir Charles Marr died on 20 October 1960 at Pymble and was cremated after a state funeral at the Methodist Church, Gordon. Charlie Marr's amiability and ability were widely admired among politicians; Lang described him as 'highly personable - an energetic local member and popular with all sections of the community, leaving politics aside'.



Taken about 1916 before heading to war as a Lt.



At the end of the war in 1918 as a Major DSO, MC, MIL

9.

**CANCEL YOUR CREDIT CARDS PRIOR TO YOUR DEMISE!!**

*Be sure and cancel your credit cards before you die! This is so priceless and so easy to see happening - customer service, being what it is today!*

A lady died this past January, and her bank billed her for February and March for their annual service charges on her credit card, and then added late fees and interest on the monthly charge. The balance had been \$0.00, now is somewhere around \$60.00.

A family member placed a call to the Bank:

**Family Member:**

'I am calling to tell you that she died in January.'

**Bank:**

'The account was never closed and the late fees and charges still apply.'

**Family Member:**

'Maybe, you should turn it over to collections.'

**Bank:**

'Since it is two months past due, it already has been.'

**Family Member:**

So, what will they do when they find out she is dead?'

**Bank:**

'Either report her account to the frauds division or report her to the credit bureau, maybe both!'

**Family Member:**

'Do you think God will be mad at her?'

**Bank:**

'Excuse me?'

**Family Member:**

'Did you just get what I was telling you - The part about her being dead?'

**Bank:**

'Sir, you'll have to speak to my supervisor.' Supervisor gets on the phone: 'Can I help you?'

**Family Member:**

'I'm calling to tell you, she died in January.'

**Bank:**

'The account was never closed and the late fees and charges still apply.'

**Family Member:**

'You mean you want to collect from her estate?'

**Bank:**

(Stammer) 'Are you her lawyer?'

**Family Member:**

'No, I'm her great nephew.' (Lawyer info given)

**Bank:**

'Could you fax us a certificate of death?'

**Family Member:**

'Sure.'

( fax number is given )

After they get the fax:

**Bank:**

'Our system just isn't set up for death. I don't know what more I can do to help.'

**Family Member:**

'Well, if you figure it out, great! If not, you could just keep billing her. I don't think she will care.'

**Bank:**

'Well, the late fees and charges do still apply.'

**Family Member:**

'Would you like her new billing address?'

**Bank:**

'That might help.'

**Family Member:**

'Rookwood Memorial Cemetery , 1249 Centenary Rd, Sydney Plot Number 1049.'

**Bank:**

'Sir, that's a cemetery!'

**Family Member:**

'Well, what the HELL do you do with dead people on your planet?'

*(Sound advice it seems ? – Geeves)*

**YOUR SECRETARY SAYS**

Treasurer Mick reports receiving generous donations recently from former Unit 2IC and Association Auditor, **Graeme Boscoe**. Also, from former Sqn Tp Comd, **Ian Rose**. Both gentlemen are now residing in Victoria.

Treasurer, **Mick Farley** wishes to thank the many members who have recently renewed their memberships following the reminder in our last edition of "Sig News" Your 'Subs' go a long way towards meeting the costs of production and delivery of your newsletters.

I have had recent contact with former CMF Op Rad Lcpl from the early 1970's, **Wayne Ramsey**. Wayne is now retired and living in Melbourne. Great to hear from you again "W.P."

Also had a call from **Dallas Stow** recently. Dallas was a former Cadre Training Sgt at the Sqn who now resides in Canberra. He will be visiting Tasmania in April and is looking forward to renewing some old acquaintances should circumstances permit.

Welcome back to **Peter Johnson** who resides at Bellerive. Pete was a member in 2010. Good to have you back "on board" Peter.

Ran into our East Coast member **Tony "Rocky" Johnstone**, on the golf course at Swansea recently. Rocky was the Sqn Transport NCO for several years. He is 'semi-retired', enjoys golf and fishing and lives at Dolphin Sands.

Our Tas Signals history records project is drawing to a close after suffering some lengthy setbacks with the Covid pandemic. It's now hoped to be able to report the availability of copies of the "collection" later in this year.

Latest news from Shirley Watson on **Brian "Captain Kilowatt" Watson's** health has been most positive. The couple were intending to travel to Hobart for the Anzac Day activities, however, with the uncertainty of our situation with COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to advise them of our position at this time. So, it's wait and see folks – we will keep you informed.

Had some further contact with member **Basil McClymont**, a former Sqn ARES Rad Operator and a former Tas Police Officer. Bas resides Tiaro, Qld and has been a regular source of information. As have other members, former Sqn OKR & C Sgt **Pete Gibson** (also ex Tas Police) who is at Donnybrook Qld & **Julie Paul** (*JP's 'better half'*) who 'removed' to Forest Beach, Qld last year. Good to hear from all of you again.

**MOISHE'S CHANGE OF LUCK**

Moishe sits at the bar staring at his drink when a large, trouble-making bkie steps up next to him, grabs his drink, gulps it down in one swig, and menacingly says "Thanks, Jew boy. Whatcha gonna do about it?"

Moishe burst into tears. "Come on, man" the bkie says, "I didn't think you'd CRY. I can't stand to see a man crying. What's your problem?"

"This is the worst day of my life" Moishe says. "I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car had been stolen and I don't have any insurance. I left my wallet in the cab I took home. I found my wife in bed with the postman, and then my dog bit me. So, I come to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all. I buy a drink; drop a capsule in, and sit here watching the poison dissolve; then *you* show up and drink the whole thing! But enough about me, how's *your* day going?" (**Bob Gray**)

**CENTRELINK VISIT**

A woman walks into the Centrelink office trailed by 15 kids. Wow, the social worker exclaimed, "Are they all yours?" "Yep, they're all mine" the flustered mother sighs having heard that question a thousand times before. She says "Sit down Terry" and all the children rush to find seats.

"Well", says the social worker, "you must be here to apply for a benefit, I'll need all you're your children's names." "To keep it simple, the boys are all named Terry and the girls are all named Terri." said the woman.

In disbelief, the social worker says "Are you serious? They're all named Terry?" Their mother replied "Yes, it makes it easier. When it's time to get them out of bed and ready for school, I yell Terry and when it's time for dinner I just yell Terry and they all come running. If I need to stop the kid who's running into the street, I just yell Terry and all of them stop. It's the smartest idea I ever had, naming them all Terry."

The social worker thinks this over for a bit then wrinkles her forehead and says tentatively, "But what if you just want one kid to come and not the whole bunch?" "Then I just call them by their surnames..." said the mother. (**Bob Gray**)

11.

Former Cadre Staff Sgt at 146 Sig Sqn Terry Binyon with his “Xmas present” RA Sigs flag



Is this “Geeves’ new mobility scooter ?

### A FEW MORE OF BOB’S ‘QUICKIES’

My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God, and I didn't.

Marriage is a three-ring circus: engagement ring, wedding ring, and suffering.

For Sale: Wedding dress, size 8. Worn once by mistake.

Why is it normal for hurricanes to be named after women? Because when they arrive, they're wet and wild, but when they go, they take your house and car.

## GOD'S PLAN FOR AGING

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach & stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

### Nine Important Facts to Remember as We Grow Older

#9 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.

#8 Life is sexually transmitted.

#7 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

#6 Men have 2 motivations: hunger and sex, and they can't tell them apart. If you see an old man with a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.

#5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years unless you give them your email address.

#4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.

#3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

#2 In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

#1 Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do here, today, may be a burning issue somewhere else, tomorrow.

Please share this wisdom with others while I go to the bathroom. (*Al & Marg King*)

### **WHOOPS!**

A man whose wife was about to have a baby couldn't stand the thought of being at the hospital, so he thought he would stay in his office and wait.

He rang the hospital after a little while and the nurse said, "It's a girl, but hang on as there is another one on the way." He rang a little later and was told it was another girl, "But hang on as there is yet another on the way." Ten minutes later he rang again: "It's a boy this time, but hang on as there is yet another one on the way."

By now the father was getting nervous, so he went home and got drunk. He got to the stage where he needed to know if a fourth had arrived, so he nervously dialled, but misdialled & got the sports line by mistake. "How many did we get mate?" he asked nervously.

The reply was: "198 all out.... But the last one was a duck!" (*Geeves*)

## BARNEY HINES

*What a man!*



*2296 Pte John (Barney) Hines of the Australian Imperial Force, 45th Battalion. 27 September 1917.*

'Barney' Hines was also a kleptomaniac who became known in the trenches as the "Souvenir King". But he was one of the bravest soldiers at the front and would have been decorated many times had it not been for his lack of military discipline.

He earned his nickname because of his incurable habit of hijacking medals, badges, rifles, helmets and watches from the bodies of the German dead - and, in some cases, of those he captured.

He brought the Kaiser's wrath down upon his head when a photographer took a picture of him on September 27, 1917, showing him surrounded by some of his loot after the Third Battle of Ypres. Prints were circulated among the Diggers and inevitably some fell into the hands of German soldiers - from whence they made their way to the infuriated Kaiser.

Born in Liverpool, England, in 1873, Barney Hines was always a rebel. Of Irish descent, he ran away to enlist in the army at the age of 14 but was dragged home by his mother.

Two years later he joined the Royal Navy and saw action during the Boxer Rebellion when he served on a gunboat chasing pirates in the China Sea.

Discharged the following year, he went gold seeking around the world and was in South Africa when the Boer War broke out. He served throughout it as a scout with various British units.

His lust for gold continued and he searched for it in the US, South America and New Zealand. But he was working in a sawmill in Australia when World War I broke out in August 1914. Despite being in his early 40s, he immediately tried to enlist but was turned down on medical grounds. Undeterred, he haunted recruiting centres until he was accepted to serve in France in 1916 as part of a reinforcement for the 45th Battalion. And, once in France, the legend of this huge, powerful man who never showed fear, began.

He generally disdained conventional weapons such as his .303 rifle, preferring to go into action with two sandbags packed with Mills bombs.

His commanding officer had a brain wave and gave him a Lewis gun, which was an immediate success. Hines was entranced by its spraying effect and announced in his broad Liverpool accent: "This thing'll do me. You can hose the bastards down."

Another nickname he earned was Wild Eyes and at a later date the commanding officer was heard to say: "I always felt secure when Wild Eyes was about. He was a tower of strength in the line- I don't think he knew what fear was and he naturally inspired confidence in officers and men."

One of Hines' pastimes was prowling around collecting prisoners and loot with enthusiasm.

On one occasion, annoyed at the sniper fire from a German pill-box, he ran straight at it, leapt on its roof and performed a war dance while taunting the Germans to come out. When they failed to comply, Hines lobbed a couple of Mills bombs through the gun port. A few minutes later the 63 Germans who had survived staggered out with their hands above their heads. Hines collected his "souvenirs" before herding his prisoners back to the Australian lines.

Another time he came across a battered German dressing station. Creeping in he found the surgeon standing over the operating table and, on tapping him on the shoulder, Hines was amazed to watch him topple over - dead from a shell splinter in the heart. Only one man had survived - ironically a wounded Tommy who was on a stretcher on the floor out of the blast. Picking the man up as if he were an infant, Hines carried him towards safety but he died before reaching allied lines. Hines lowered him gently to the ground - then returned to the loot in the dressing room.

His booty wasn't confined to portable keepsakes. At Villers-Bretonneux he liberated a piano which he managed to keep for several days until he was persuaded to give it away.

## 14.

*(Barney Hines cont.,)*

On another occasion he scored a grandfather clock which he carried back to the trenches. But, after its hourly chimes were found to attract German fire, his mates blew it up with - what else? - a Mills bomb.

In Armentieres he came across a keg of Bass which he started to roll towards the battalion. He was stopped by military police and told not to go any further with it. Unfazed, Hines left the keg and went ahead to round up fellow Diggers who returned to drink it on the spot.

When the AIF reached Amiens, they found the beautiful cathedral city deserted. It was too much for Hines. He disappeared and was finally sprung by British military police in the vaults of the Bank of France where he had already squirrelled away millions of francs, packed neatly in suitcases.

He was hauled off for questioning by the British who, nonplussed on what to do with the reprobate, returned him to his unit. Later he was to boast that the escapade had cost him no more than 14 days' pay and that he had been allowed to keep the banknotes he had stuffed into his pockets.

But for all his incorrigibility, he was an outstanding, if unpredictable soldier who managed to capture 10 German soldiers single-handed.

There were some near misses, too. At Passchendaele he was the only survivor of a direct hit on the Lewis gun nest. Blasted 20ms. and with the soles of his boots blown off, he crawled back, got the gun working and continued firing until he fainted from wounds in his legs.

Hines was also renowned for the party he held at Villers-Bretonneux after he found a cache of 1870 champagne and tinned delicacies. His mates were all decked out in top hats and dress suits which he had also acquired.

It was to be his last party for some time. Just after it ended, he scored a bullet wound over his eye, another in his leg and a whiff of gas. Despite protests, he was hospitalized at Etaples, being almost blinded. A few nights later the Germans bombed the hospital, causing 3000 casualties. Hines hauled himself out of bed, found a broom which he used as a crutch and spent all night carrying the wounded and dying to safety.

After that he was invalided home and, in the ensuing years, despite his wounds, he worked as a drover, shearer, prospector and timber cutter. He volunteered for World War II and, when he was turned down - he was now in his 60s - he stowed away on a troop ship. He was caught before the vessel got through the Heads and put ashore.

After a colorful life, Barney Hines died, penniless, in the Concord Repatriation Hospital, Sydney, aged 84 on January 30, 1958. If a little of the above is true of Barney he should have been awarded every military medal in the book. *(Al King)*

### **PLUCK A DUCK (Or Tall Tales & True ??)**

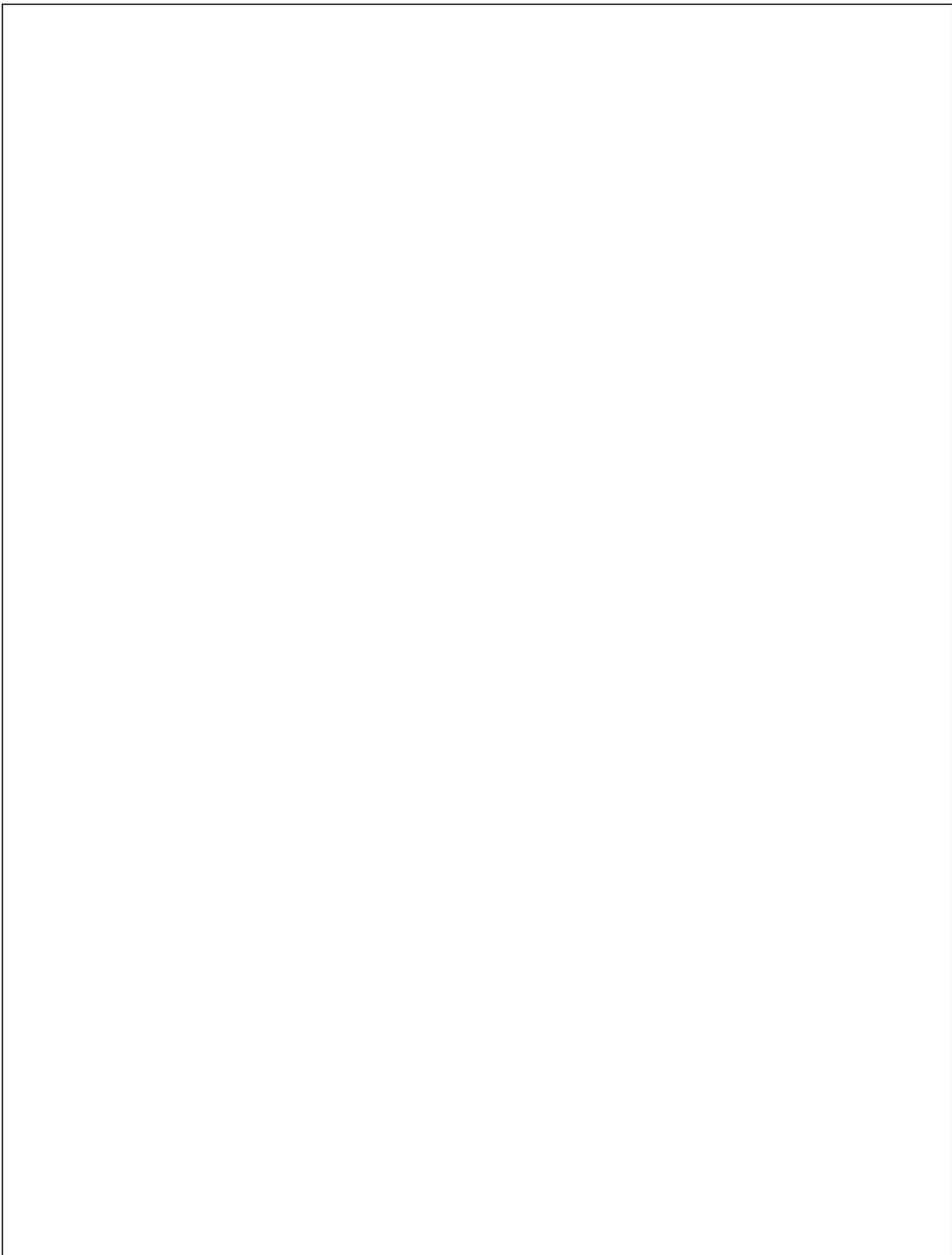
Years ago, Alby Purcell (*our late Line Section Sgt*) told us he was out duck shooting with his mate Keith Price (*Line Section Rigger Cpl*) up at Lower Marshes in the Tas Midlands and disturbed a huge flock of ducks and they flew away. They blotted out the sun and darkened the sky as they went. As there were so many, the sky couldn't fit them all, so some just had to resort to walking away. However, I digress.

While they were there they camped near a party of fisherman, who were using an illegal method to fish. They had a cross-line, which is a line from one side of the stream anchored to a shrub one end and a tree the other. It had a series of baited hooks hanging from it. The ducks who'd walked, came across the stream, noticed the line with a few fish hanging off the hooks and the easy pickings of the prawn baits.

The ducks had a feast, but were disturbed by Alby and Keith so started to fly away, but the hooks got stuck in their craws and ripped the small shrub from the ground. Alby grabbed the shrub and was launched into the air. "Shoot the ducks" Alby screamed. But it was too dangerous for Keith to do that, so Alby just pulled the line and caught one duck at a time, wrung its neck, removed the hook, dropped the ducks to Keith and eventually he, in an undignified manner landed back on the ground.

They plucked, cleaned the ducks and cracked a tinny.

*(Geeves - The gullible ex Tech Elec!)*





15.

**VALE - 2216 8767 CLIFF AUTON 23.4.1931-4.1.2021**

Cliff was born & attended school in Northern England. He enlisted at Catterick (Yorkshire) for National Service post-World War 2.

As a National Serviceman he was posted to Cloughoge for Trade Training. He was then posted to 12 Wireless Squadron (British Troops Austria) & was discharged early as he was a volunteer enlistee.

Cliff emigrated to Australia in 1956 arriving in Western Australia before moving to Melbourne Vic over a then unsealed Nullarbor Highway. He then moved to Tasmania where his main work was as a Television and electrical appliances repairer. His company was Ace Electrical Repairs.

Cliff spent the remainder of his working life in Tasmania, eventually retiring to Kingston Beach.

Cliff was a bird fancier, breeder, gardener & a keen bushwalker. He was also a very strong supporter of Kingston Probus Club.

He was married to Lyn & they had 3 sons & a daughter. Their family includes 8 grandchildren & 1 great-grand child.

Cliff regularly attended RASA (Tas) functions until mid-2020 when he fell ill. He passed away in Hobart.

Our condolences have been passed to Lyn & the extended family.

***R.I.P. Cliff***

**VALE - SX21529 STANLEY RONALD "BLUEY" COULTER 31.8.1921-21.2.2021**

*Stan's son Grant gave us the sad news of "Bluey's" passing on 22 February. It was particularly sad as we were looking forward to Stan becoming our second centenarian member in the past year.*

Stan Coultter was born at Brompton, South Australia and was educated at Flinders Park and Hindmarsh schools, leaving at 14 years of age.

He joined the CMF in 1941 and joined up in the 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF a year later. Stan was a member of the 24 Australian Line Section, the Signals Unit to which many of our RASA Tasmania past members were posted. They undertook their active service in New Guinea including the Kokoda Trail and at Wewak.

Stan returned to South Australia after discharge in late 1945 and worked at various authorities and firms in that State until his retirement.

Stan married Edna in 1955 and they had two children. At the time of his passing the couple had 3 grandchildren and 2 great grand-children.

Our condolences have been passed to Stan's family.

***R.I.P. Stan***

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CORPS SIGNALS ASSOCIATION.

(Tasmanian Branch).

This 1951 Newsletter is the earliest one that can be located.  
The Committee first suggested a Newsletter in 1949

Hon. Secretary,  
2 Woodlands Avenue,  
NEW TOWN.

N E W S L E T T E R .

OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING AND SOCIAL WILL BE HELD AT THE R.S.L. ROOMS

ON FRIDAY, 26TH OCTOBER, 1951, at 8.00 P.M.

This will cancel the evening programmed for Friday, 14th September.  
No further notice of the function on Friday, 26th October, will be sent to members. SO PLEASE REMEMBER THE DATE, PLACE AND TIME, AND BE THERE.

BRING A GUEST AND COME PREPARED FOR A GRAND EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

YOUR  
MEMBERS  
AD.

FOR ALL  
BUILDERS HARDWARE, HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES,  
ELECTRICAL GOODS ETC.

RING -- REX JOHNSTON

GLENORCHY 191 or call at 349A Main Road, GLENORCHY.

NEWSLETTER  
SPECIAL  
SERVICE  
SECTION

Members of the Signal Unit of the A.M.F. in Hobart will be our guests on Friday, 26th October. So be there to give them a real welcome.

Our final function for the year and our Annual Meeting will be held at the R.S.L. Rooms on Friday, 7th December, 1951, at 8.00 p.m.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

YOUR  
MEMBERS  
AD.

WATSON'S WIRELESS SHOP IN THE CITY  
109 Collins Street.

Prompt repairs to Wireless and Electrical Goods.  
BUY WISELY - DON'T PASS WATSON'S BY - TEL. 3540.

NEWSLETTER  
SPECIAL  
SERVICE

So that souvenirs of particular interest to our members may be preserved and when we obtain a room displayed, "Trevor Taplin is collecting photographs, newspaper cuttings etc." - If you have any to add to the collection, bring them along on Friday, 26th October.

LISTEN TO THE "ON SERVICE" BROADCAST SESSION FROM 7.H.O. EACH SUNDAY. When we have news of interest to members, we submit it for broadcasting.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

YOUR  
MEMBERS  
AD.

LOOK FOR THE SIGN "NATIONAL PIES"  
WHEN YOU BUY PIES OR PASTIES.  
"NATIONAL PIES" -- HOBART'S LEADING SUPPLIERS,  
75 Macquarie Street.

MEET THE PROPRIETOR - LANCE BAYNTON.  
TELEPHONE YOUR ORDERS, 6664.

NEWSLETTER  
SPECIAL  
SERVICE.

Members in business on their own account -- remember the more Ads. we receive, the bigger the "Newsletter" and the bigger the "Newsletter", the greater the circulation. -- IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE THE SIGNALS WAY.

JOHN E. MARRIOTT,  
Hon. Secretary.