

September 2017

# SIGNAL NEWS



**CERTA CITO**

*A sincere Welcome to all participants in our Milestone  
(30<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary Reunion following the disbandment of  
146 Sig Sqn*

Official Journal of the Royal Australian Signals Association (Tas)



## SIGNAL NEWS

September 2017

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September & December 2017

### First Friday Functions 2017:-

6<sup>th</sup> Oct, 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov & 1<sup>st</sup> Dec.

### Annual General Meeting (71<sup>st</sup>):-

Friday October 2017.  
5<sup>pm</sup> at RAAF Memorial Centre

### Milestone Reunion 14/15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Disbandment of Tas Sqn

#### "Beaumaris Dinner",

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> 1830 for 1900 at Clarence Senior  
Citizens Club, 6 Alma St., Bellerive  
**Miniatures to be worn**

### Commemoration Day:-

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>  
**Service:** 11.45<sup>am</sup>.  
Anglesea Barracks Signals Memorial.  
**Medals to be worn**  
**Lunch:** RAAF Memorial Centre  
From 12.30<sup>pm</sup>.

### Remembrance Day:-

#### Association Luncheon

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017 Venue &  
Timing TBA. **Medals to be worn**

### Committee Meetings 2017:-

Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> at the RAAF Memorial Centre, at  
3.15<sup>pm</sup>

Printed by the Hon. Will Hodgman MP.

Liberal Member for Franklin

A much appreciated Community Service

### 3.

#### FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

Greetings for the third time this year. We are now moving into the busiest part of the year. The inspiration for this article was getting a friendly reminder from Secretary Dick to get into gear.

A few bits of news. We had a good turnout to our Annual Lunch in June and the Shoreline looked after us very well. A small selection and a good price. A very pleasant get together.

Another interstate member Geoff Webb recently passed away. He will be remembered as a member of the T Comd Sig Sqn in the mid-950s. Known to have a go at fixing anything. My personal condolences to the family.

At the First Friday in August we welcomed back Paul Hodgman from Victoria (unfortunately a North Melbourne Supporter) and a former operator of the Social Club). Great to see you Paul.

Another welcome back to our story teller Bob Geeves from his "holiday in the country". Great to see that he has recovered from his injuries and is almost back to normal with his sisters trying to keep him under control. .

The next major activity is our AGM on the first Friday in October. As you know we don't spend too much time with this activity and we will be having a special price drinks night to follow.

Then our **REUNION WEEKEND** on 14th and 15th of October . I extend a welcome to our visitors to this activity and look forward to catching up with current and former members.

Saturday night the 14th will be our "**Beumaris Dinner**" at the Clarence Senior Citizens Club in Alma Street, Bellerive and on Sunday 15th October our **ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE** at The Signals Memorial at Anglesea Barracks at 1145 hrs.( if you have forgotten what this means, it is a quarter to 12 noon). We then adjourn to the RAAF Memorial Centre for lunch and a little light refreshment. The "wheel" will operate. Details on these activities are included in this newsletter.

Another reminder; Friday the 10th November; Lunch at a venue yet to be decided. This is our Remembrance Luncheon. I will be getting names for this at the "First Friday" in November.

The Mobility Support Allowance scheme is working well. If you are "mobility challenged" and need transport to any of our activities, please contact Dick, myself, Dave Harcourt or Mick Farley so that we can arrange taxi support.

We are still keeping our numbers up on First Fridays although down a bit in mid-year. If you have not been in for a while come along and bring a mate. You will be very welcome to Greg and David as well as other "volunteers" behind the bar and Ray and Alf on the wheel, and of course everyone else. The ladies are also welcome and we can even serve tea and coffee.

The ladies members also bring out the hot pies etc.

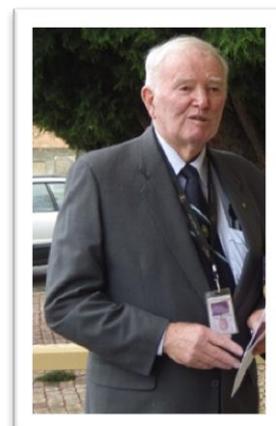
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That's about all I can remember for this issue.

Best wishes to all and keep healthy.

Yours in Signals

OWEN



4.

**SANDY THE “WALER” – A TRUE CHAMPION**

**“... the only one who came home”**

**(By Allan Barden)**

In World War 1 (WW1) 136,000 “Walers” (the name generally applied to Australia’s sturdy horses) were sent overseas for use by the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and the British and Indian governments. Of these horses 6,100 were earmarked for Gallipoli. However, very few of the animals were actually put ashore, as Lieutenant General Sir William Birdwood decided there was not room or a requirement for them on ANZAC Cove. On 5 May 1915 Birdwood sought and gained approval to send the majority of the horses back to Alexandria, Egypt.

The Anzacs’ Walers that were put ashore performed their difficult carrying tasks magnificently despite the stress of gunfire and lack of water at Gallipoli and were much loved mounts of the famous Light Horse regiments. Soldiers slept with their horse to stay warm on freezing nights in the desert and their steeds were often hungry enough to eat each other’s tails.

Some historians have fuelled the belief that almost all of the 9,000 horses left behind in Palestine by the Australian Light Horse at the end of WW1 were either shot or sold into slavery. Indeed, those aged over 12 years or in poor health were certainly destroyed; many by their own troopers. Yet, veterinary returns filed at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) indicate that approximately two-thirds of the horses were transferred to Imperial, mainly Indian Army cavalry, to continue their working lives. Another reason was because of the costs and quarantine difficulties involved in repatriation to Australia. Perhaps their fate was not as dreadful as we have been led to believe.

Despite the popular belief, there was actually one horse from all those sent away that did make it back to Australia and lived out a peaceful retirement in a paddock on Army land in Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Victoria. The horse’s name was “Sandy”.

Sandy, a 16 hands bay chestnut with a white blaze on his forehead, had been used as a working horse on the O’Donnell’s family farm in Tallangatta, North Eastern Victoria, to round up sheep and cattle and general riding for the family. He was such a docile and easy to manage horse that his owners, brothers Francis (‘Bonner’) and Jack donated him to the army.



On left  
Francis (Bonner)  
O'Donnell, son of  
Malachi and Anna  
O'Donnell well  
respected Tallangatta  
family. The owners  
of Sandy. This family  
donated their horse  
to the army for the  
Australian war efforts.



On right  
Older Francis with  
his daughter Mary

Photographs Jean Merbach

Francis (Bonner) O'Donnell

Francis and daughter Mary

5.

**“Sandy” (Cont.,)**

Sandy was one of three horses assigned to the commander of the Australian 1st Division, (and before WW1 the former commandant of Duntroon Military College), Major General Sir William Throsby Bridges. Sandy was chosen by Bridges as his own personal mount. The Australian 1st Division was the first ashore at Gallipoli.

**Maj Gen William Throsby Bridges**



On 15 May 1915 Major General Bridges went to Monash Gully at Anzac Cove to visit Colonel Harry Chauvel who was in command of the 1st Light Horse Regiment. Bridges had been warned previously about not exposing himself near the front lines, but apparently felt he should appear to be fearless to the troops and those around him.

Major General Bridges was shot in the thigh by a Turkish sniper, and nearly died on the spot from loss of blood. He was taken to the hospital ship the *Gascon*. [Coincidentally, a few days later John Simpson Kirkpatrick was shot and killed while leading his donkey at the same spot.] Bridges main hope was to have his leg amputated, but he was already too weak for this to happen. The *Gascon* left for Malta but before the ship docked Bridges had died from gangrene.

Major General Bridges was first buried at Alexandria, Egypt before he was exhumed and honoured with a state funeral in Melbourne. He was then re-buried at the Royal Military College at Duntroon, Canberra on the slopes of Mount Pleasant on 3 September 1915. Sandy was also shipped home from the AIF Mena camp in Egypt, and walked behind his coffin in the procession.

Sandy, who was presumed to be offshore at the time of Major General Bridge's death, was eventually shipped back to Alexandria in Egypt. It was the dying wish of Major General Bridges that Sandy should be returned to Melbourne at the end of WW1 and he was the only war horse to return to Australia of the 136,000 Walers sent to the battlefields of WW1.

In October 1917, Senator George Pearce, then Minister for Defence, called for Sandy to be returned to Australia for pasture at Duntroon. In May 1918 Sandy was sent from the Australian Veterinary Hospital at Calais to the Remount Depot at Swaythling in England. Private Archibald Jordon, who had been at the hospital since April 1917 and classed as permanently unfit for further active service, accompanied him. After three months of veterinary observation, Sandy was declared free of disease.

6.

*“Sandy” (Cont.,)*

From 1 August 1915 Sandy was in the care of Captain Leslie Whitfield, an Australian Army Veterinary Corps officer in Egypt where he remained until he and Whitfield were transferred to France in March 1916. Sandy’s tour of duty included Gallipoli, Egypt and France.



*Major General Sir William Throsby Bridges, KCB, CMG, Commander of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and of the 1st Australian Division in 1914-1915, holding the bridle of his favourite charger, Sandy. The horse is a 15.3 hands high bay gelding with a white star. They are standing in front of the tents of the 1st Australian Division at the Mena Camp, Egypt, prior to embarkation to Gallipoli.*

*(A good picture of “Sandy” but not so good of Gen Bridges!!)*

In September 1918 Sandy boarded the freighter Booral, from Liverpool, England arriving in Melbourne in November. After three months of veterinary observation, Sandy was declared free of disease.

Sandy saw out the rest of his days in a padded stall in the famous Fisher Stables at the Central Remount Depot (Remount Hill), a stretch of land in a bend of the Maribyrnong River in Melbourne Victoria, that was the staging point for horses bound for the wars. It was also the home and training ground of the Light Horse Brigade and where Army horses at the time were “pensioned off” or turned out to graze.

Although it was originally intended to send Sandy to Duntroon, his increasing blindness and debility prompted the decision in May 1923 to have him put down, “as a humane action”. When he eventually died, Sandy’s head was preserved and put on display in the case shown below at the AWM in Canberra. He became part of the AWM’s ‘A is for Animals’ exhibition. Sandy’s body was buried in the paddock at Remount Hill where he died.



Sandy was displayed for many years at the AWM, although he is currently not on exhibition owing to deterioration through age.

A legend among war horses, Sandy’s hooves were mounted and used as paperweights and inkwells at Duntroon House.

The exact spot of Sandy’s burial place remained unmarked and unknown for decades on the 127-hectare former explosives depot, which the Department of Defence is negotiating to sell to developers for housing development.

When sold the site will become one of Melbourne’s newest \$1 billion suburbs.

There has been much debate over the past 30 years or so about the need for another statue, a special monument in a special place for just one special animal.

Since the early 2000s, a group of Maribyrnong residents have conducted a “Friends of Sandy” campaign to have such a memorial created for the Walers on the Defence site. They have been striving to have the exact location of Sandy’s remains pinpointed ahead of any further redevelopment of the area.

**“Sandy” (Cont.,)**

The group now believe that the final resting place of Sandy’s body is in an area surrounded by a wooden fence, beside the famous racehorses Fisherman and Lantern.

“As the only horse to come back, he deserves a memorial. He stands as representative of all of Australia’s war horses” so say the ‘Friends of Sandy’ group and the Australian Light Horse Association.

Largely due to the lobbying efforts of the ‘Friends of Sandy’ group and with the earnest support of Opposition Leader MP Bill Shorten, the group received \$17,622 from the 2016 Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program to pay tribute to the contributions of Australia’s war horses.

Negotiations between the ‘Friends of Sandy’ group and the Department of Defence are ongoing, but the intention of the group is that Sandy will be remembered with a memorial garden at the former Department of Defence site, which will include white cypress trees, a horse statue, a post-and-rail fence and a heritage storyboard.

Despite being stalled throughout 2016 because they couldn’t gain access to the land due to decontamination works, the ‘Friends of Sandy’ group is working hard to have the garden built during 2017 at the heritage-protected Fishers Stables next to the former explosives factory, which was established as an army remount depot in 1912 supplying cavalry and artillery horses for WW1.

The idea of the memorial is a wonderful initiative and will be a credit to the hard work and dedication of the committed individuals who make up the ‘Friends of Sandy’ group. Once completed it will serve as a fitting reminder and make a valuable contribution to the memory of the superb animals that provided so much support and comfort to Australia’s soldiers during one of the most terrible and tragic of all wars. The memorial will be a must to visit and a joy, I am sure, to both young and old. What a wonderful story it is.

.....

**References/Acknowledgements:**

*Allan Barden (the author) – a former Swansea resident now living at Olinda Vic.*

*Pauline Ashton, President of the ‘Friends of Sandy’ Group, Australian War Memorial, Croydon Military History Group, Victoria, Military History and Heritage, Victoria and The Great Oyster Bay Newsletter Editor, Bill Fry.*

**BITING OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW**

Butch was out walking his Great Dane when he passed a pub and decided to go in and quench his thirst. He tied the dog up to a pole first.

About an hour later a little guy came running into the pub shouting, “Who owns the Great Dane outside?” “I do” said Butch, “What’s the matter?” “Well you’d better get out here fast, my Chihuahua is killing him.” Butch fell about with laughter, “You’re crazy mate, and how could a little Chihuahua kill a Great Dane?”

“Easy,” said the little guy, “it’s stuck in his throat.” **(Geeves)**

**BRAGGIN !**

A German lorry driver in a pub in Newcastle is gobbing off how lazy British truck drivers are. He's bragging that he drives his load from Hamburg, goes through Holland, Belgium up to Newcastle and back to Hamburg in just two days.

This old Geordie man mutters up, "Ah, way ay I used to pick up me load in Newcastle, drop off in Hamburg and be back in Newcastle for a fish and chip supper the same day".

The gobby German trucker says, " Oh yah, vot rig were you driving then?" After taking a long swig of his Pint of Newcastle Brown, the old fella replies....."A LANCASTER BOMBER!! **(Ta Bob - Gray)**

8.

## A JOB IN INDIA WITH TELSTRA

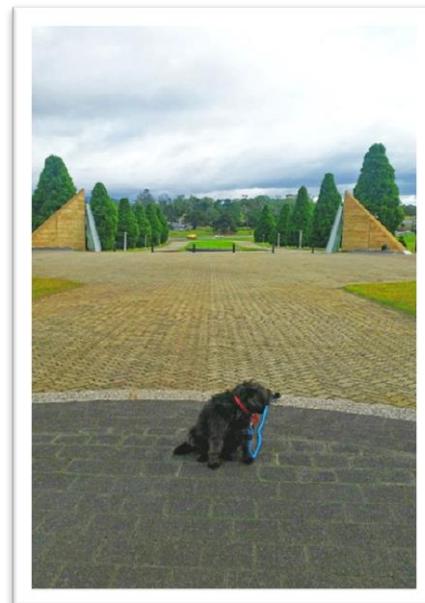
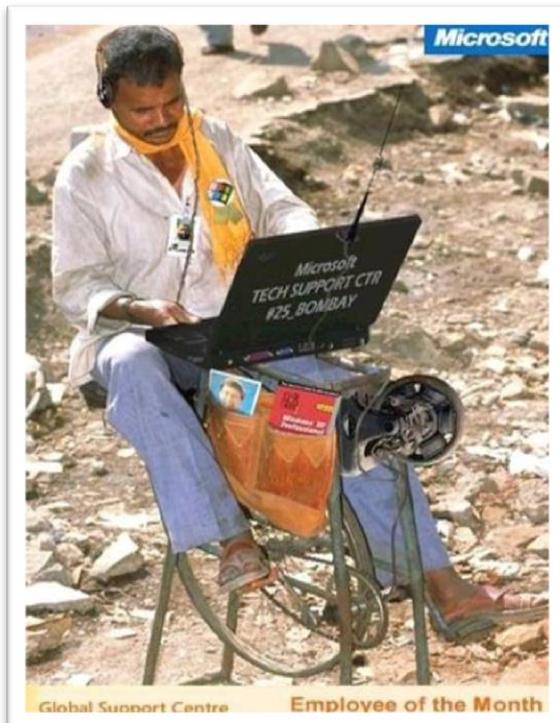
Mujibar was trying to get a job in India. The Personnel Manager said, 'Mujibar, you have passed all the tests, except one. Unless you pass it, you cannot qualify for this job.' Mujibar said, 'I am ready.' The Manager said, 'Make a sentence using the words **Yellow, Pink, and Green.**' Mujibar said, 'The telephone goes **green, green,** and I **pink** it up, and say, **Yellow, this is Mujibar.**'

Mujibar now works at the Telstra-Clear Call Centre. No doubt you have spoken to him? I have!

*(Author: Anon!)*

*(And here he is – on the job!)*

*“Maggie” Davis*



*“Maggie” holds her lead she pays tribute to the fallen at Hobart cenotaph. This poignant photo was captured by “Maggie’s”, owner, renowned Bruny photographer, Fran Davis’ spouse of Reg – Ex Telstra) during their monthly visit to Hobart.*

## ADVICE FROM A DRUNK

A drunk was walking home from the pub, and because he was running late decided to take a short cut through the cemetery. As the paths were wet from some recent rain, plus he'd had a skin full of beer, he slipped and fell into a new open grave.

He tried to crawl up the 6 foot hole, but each time he would slide back down again. Finally he fell asleep and woke up later frozen stiff and began to moan with cold and despair.

Just then another drunk came staggering along in the opposite direction and, hearing the moans from the open grave peeped over the edge. “What’s the matter mate? “I’m cold, I’m bloody freezing cold.” Said the first one.

“It’s no wonder you silly bugger, you’ve kicked all your bloody dirt off!” **(Geeves)**

## MENSA INVITATIONAL (From Geeves - Look out - He's back from Hospital and as risqué as ever!!)

*Here are the winners of this year's Mensa Invitational which once again asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition:*

1. **Cashtration** (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.
2. **Ignoranus:** A person who is both stupid and an asshole.
3. **Intaxication:** Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
4. **Reintarnation:** Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
5. **Bozone** (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stop bright ideas from penetrating the bozone layer unfortunately shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
6. **Foreploy:** Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.
7. **Giraffiti:** Vandalism spray-painted very, very high
8. **Sarchasm:** The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
9. **Inoculate:** To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
10. **Osteopornosis:** A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)
11. **Karmageddon:** It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
12. **Decafalon** (n.): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
13. **Glibido:** All talk and no action.
14. **Dopeler Effect:** The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
15. **Arachnoleptic Fit:** The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.
16. **Beelzebug** (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
17. **Caterpallor** (n.): The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.

*ALSO* here are the winning submissions to its yearly contest in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words. And the winners are:

1. **Coffee** </B>, n. The person upon whom one coughs.
2. **Flabbergasted**, adj. Appalled by discovering how much weight one has gained.
3. **Abdicate**, v. To give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. **Esplanade**, v. To attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. **Willy-nilly**, adj. Impotent.
6. **Negligent**, adj. Absentmindedly answering the door when wearing only a nightgown.
7. **Lymph**, v. To walk with a lisp.
8. **Gargoyle**, n. Olive-flavored mouthwash.
9. **Flatulence**, n... Emergency vehicle that picks up someone who has been run over by a steamroller.
10. **Balderdash**, n. A rapidly receding hairline.
11. **Testicle**, n. A humorous question on an exam.
12. **Rectitude**, n. The formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.
13. **Pokemon**, n. A Rastafarian proctologist.
14. **Oyster**, n. A person who sprinkles his conversation with yiddishisms.
15. **Frisbeetarianism**, n. The belief that, after death, the soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.
16. **Circumvent**, n. An opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men.

### CENTRELINK!

This morning I went to Centrelink to sign my dogs up for benefits. The lady said, "Dogs are not eligible to draw benefits."

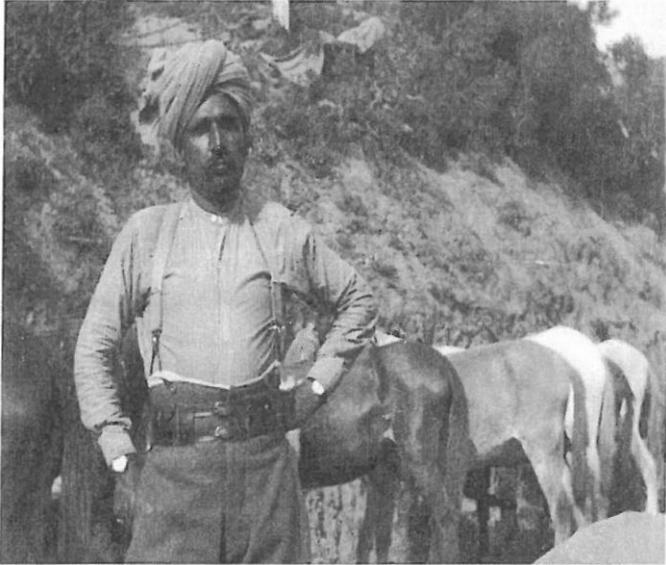
So, I explained to her that my dogs are coloured, unemployed and bone lazy, can't speak English and have no clue who their Dads are. They expect me to feed them, provide them with housing and medical care. So she looked in her policy book to see what it takes to qualify.

My dogs get their first cheques next Friday. "Yippee", this is a great country we live in. (*Geeves*)

## 10.

### Anzac Day 2015: Up to 15,000 'forgotten' Indian Soldiers fought alongside Anzacs

Up to 15,000 Indians fought with allied troops at Gallipoli, but their contribution remains relatively unknown and unrecognized in Australia and their homeland, research has found.



*A Sergeant Major of the Indian Mule Corps at Saba Tepe, Gallipoli, in 1915.*

"The average Indian is almost ignorant about Gallipoli as a campaign in World War I," retired Indian Air Force Wing Commander Rana Chhina said. Historians believe almost 1,400 Indians died at Gallipoli and up to 3,500 were wounded.

Unlike many of the Australian troops, all the Indians who fought were professional soldiers. "We had an Indian infantry brigade, the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade. We had a mountain artillery brigade and, of course, the mule transport," Mr Chhina said.

The Mule Corps comprised of 650 men and more than 1,000 mules to transport supplies to troops on the peninsula where motor transport was impossible.

Historians say the Mule Corps established themselves in an area known as Mule Gully, which came under constant sniper and machine gun fire during the day. As a result, most transport took place at night.

"The Mule Corps were the unsung heroes of Gallipoli. If it hadn't been for them, the Anzacs and the rest wouldn't have been able to hold on in the manner that they did," Mr Chhina said.

**(Thanks to the TPI Assn., Tas, for sharing this article)**

Indians & Australians were friends on the battlefield. Photographs and sketches from the time show Indian & Australian soldiers spending time together — sometimes sharing food rations.

"You would find Anzacs coming and sharing the Indian soldiers' rations because their roti and daal was far more palatable than the salted bully beef and biscuits," Mr Chhina said.

"The relationship between the Indians and the Australians and New Zealanders was actually very good, by all accounts. The Anzacs recognized that the Indians were Professional soldiers. They developed a very healthy respect for them."

Mr Chhina said there was some evidence that friendships were formed on the battlefield between soldiers from the two countries.

"There are also various Australian and New Zealand accounts — in soldiers' diaries or in photographs that they've sent back home — where they refer to 'my Indian friend' or 'my Gurkha friend'," he said.

### 'The forgotten soldiers of history'

Many of the Indians who fought at Gallipoli were from the Punjab, but few records remain about their contribution to the war effort there.

When the British divided India in 1947 and the nation of Pakistan was created, millions of people — including many Punjabis — fled in different directions across the newly-created border.



*Australian and Indian troops pose for a photograph at Gallipoli*

## THE SECRETARY SAYS

Great to hear again from former 124 Sig Sqn Line Tp Comd **Paul Such** living in retirement with his spouse and 2 x teenage children in Victor Harbor SA. It's terrific to be able to report that all prior reports of his demise were grossly exaggerated! Also a former 146 Sig Sqn member in **Joe Susnja**. Hope we can sign you up as an Association member Joe.

Welcome to new member **Simon Cooper** (Mel's elder son) who was a Lt Rad Det Comd in 146 Sig Sqn and is now a prominent local Magistrate and State Coroner. Also a recent very welcome "signing" of **John Tomlinson** a former Lcpl Radio Op with the 124 Sqn – great to have you on board John.

Another very nice donation was recently received from **John Harland**, former Sqn Tp Comd and son of our late Padre Fred. We much appreciate your continued valuable support John.

Also some lengthy membership Subs contributions received from former Cadre Sgt Chief Clerk in **John Doering** (recently retired from the State Service), **Dennis "Sapper" and Virginia Turner** from "the wilds of Orielton" (Ex Sqn SSM, Sapper is a regular teller of long stories on Chris Wisbey's ABC Hobart radio shows; tells a great yarn!) and **Brian Marriott** (ex Tech Elec and IT wiz, now at Franklin). Mick much appreciated your support folks.

**Bob Geeves'** has made a miraculous recovery from a smashed pelvis and is now home and has sorted through his "In Box". He fronted for August "First Friday" with Sisters Ros and Denise and received a great reception. Another who received a great welcome "home" in August was **Paul Hodgman** from Werribee Vic – over for the footy and to catch up with his relatives.

News from **Ken Walsh** was not so good with both he and Ros suffering some medical issues. Ken had a bad fall just before their annual trip to Qld - badly damaged a shoulder and was on a long wait for surgery with severe swelling and bleeding impeding progress.

**LOOKING FOR -** *If any readers can assist us with contacts for the following former Sqn members that would be much appreciated:-*

*Peter Arrowsmith, Julie Austin, Roscoe Bailey, Ian Beadle (somewhere in Montrose?), Dave Beresford, Mick Boyd, Mark Camm, Brian Carlson, Doug Cartwright, Phil Charlesworth, Jan Colegrave, Graeme Conley, Katrina Cooper, Alan Cowan, Paul Davidson, Dave Defreitas, Leigh Donoghue, Gail Edmunds, Doug Edwards (Ex ARA), Alison Gallahar, Wayne Grincals Dave Harper, Rod & Selena Hayes, Peter Hrasky, Phil Hughes, Laurie Jillett, Dennis Keats (somewhere in Howrah?), Pene King, Greg Krushka (Ex ARA), Sandra Langford, Glen Leatherbarrow, Terry Lutz, John Maltman, Liz Matar, Bill McCall, Geoff McCord, Fred McDermott, Bob McKenner (Ex ARA), Tania Meredith, Peter Moscatt, Terry Parkes, David Parr, Chris Petraitas, John Pinder, Chris Plaister, Wayne Ramsey, Laurie Ringrose, John Ryan, Andrew Saveliev, Liz Schell, Bill Shaw (Ex ARA), Raschpaal Sindhu, Peter Skinner, Neville Smith, Liz Smart, Yvonne Spooner, Dave Stephens, Charles Stingel, Dallas Stow (Ex ARA), Mick Sward, Ian Tacey, Jo Tomac, Richard (Dicky) Travers, Richard Trethewie, Alison Walker, Tony Wheeler (Ex ARA), Mark Whittle, John Williams, Graeme Woodfield (Ex ARA) & Andy Zeitzon(now ARA ??).*

(These are just a few of the former Squadron personnel we have lost touch with in recent times. (there are, of course plenty of others we would like you to tell us about too!)

*Should hardly be a challenge for all you bright "communicators" out there!!*

**FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT ATTEND OUR MILESTONE OCTOBER REUNION BUT WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEND AN APOLOGY OR MESSAGE (We will read them out at the dinner) - PLEASE EMAIL OR POST THEM TO THE SECRETARY – addresses at Page 2 of this Newsletter.**

## SOME HUMOUR FROM OUR 'REGULARS'

**BINGO!** A man goes into a doctor's office feeling a little ill. The doctor checks him over and says, 'Sorry, I have some bad news, you have Yellow 24, a really nasty virus.'

It's called Yellow 24 because it turns your blood yellow and you usually only have 24 hours to live.

There's no known cure so just go home and enjoy your final precious moments on earth. So he trudges home to his wife and breaks the news.

Distraught, she asks him to go to the bingo with her that evening as he's never been there with her before. They arrive at the bingo and with his first card he gets four corners and wins £35. Then, with the same card, he gets a line and wins £320. Then he gets the full house and wins £5000. Then the National Game comes up and he wins that too getting £780,000.

The bingo caller gets him up on stage and says, 'Son, I've been here 20 years and I've never seen anyone win four corners, a line, the full-house and the National Game on the same card. You must be the luckiest bastard on Earth!' 'Lucky?' he screamed. 'Lucky? I'll have you know I've got Yellow 24'. 'Buggar me,' says the caller. 'You've won the meat raffle as well!!' (*Geeves*)

## TECH ADVICE

**Dear Tech Support,**

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a distinct slowdown in overall system performance, particularly in the flower and jewelry applications, which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as: Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5, and then installed undesirable programs such as: AFL 5.0, NRL 3.0 and Golf Clubs 4.1. Conversation 8.0 no longer runs, and House cleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system. Please note that I have tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail.

What can I do?

Signed,

*Desperate*

**Dear Desperate,**

"First keep in mind, Boyfriend 5.0 is an Entertainment Package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system. Please enter command: I thought you loved me.html and try to download Tears 6.2 and do not forget to install the Guilt 3.0 update. If that application works as designed, Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewelry 2.0 and Flowers 3.5.

However, remember, overuse of the above application can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0 or Beer 6.1. Please note that Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will download the Farting and Snoring Loudly Beta.

Whatever you do, DO NOT, under any circumstances, install Mother-In-Law 1.0 (it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources.)

In addition, please, do not attempt to re-install the Boyfriend 5.0 program. These are unsupported applications and will crash Husband 1.0.

In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. We recommend: Cooking 3.0 and Hot Lingerie 7.7.

Good Luck!'

*(The Padre)*

13.

## THE INDIANS INVENTED ON-LINE SALES YEARS AGO (Here's the Proof!)



### HARD OF HEARING!

A 92 year old man went to his Doctor to get a physical. A few days later the Doctor saw the man walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.

At his follow-up visit the Doctor talked to the old man and said "You're really doing great, aren't you?" The old man replied, "Just doing what you said Doctor. 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful'."

The Doctor said, "I didn't say that. I said you have got a heart murmur and be careful."

### LOOK TO THE FUTURE

An old Italian man in Brooklyn is dying. He calls his grandson to his bedside. "Guido, I wan' you lissina me. I wan' you to take-a my chrome plated 38 revolver so you will always remember me."

"But grandpa, I really don't like guns. How about you leave me your Rolex watch instead?"

"You lissina me, boy! Somma day you gonna be runna da business, you gonna have a beautiful wife, lotsa money, a big-a home and maybe a couple of bambinos. Then one-a day you gonna comea home and maybe finda you wife inna bed with another man. Whatta you gonna do then? Pointa to you watch and say, 'Times up!' " (*'Tanks' Baz!*)



**CAN YA HELP MY FRIEND ??**

I'm reaching out on behalf of a friend of mine who needs some help WHO wishes to remain anonymous. His wife told him to go out and get some of those pills that would help him get an erection. When he came back, he handed her diet pills. ANYWAY, he's looking for a place to live. CAN YOU HELP HIM ?

*SOME PICS FROM THE PAST*

*Ken Moy and Ben Baker –on ‘Course’, circa 1970 – both retain membership of the Association and regularly attend our functions.*

*(Check-out Benny’s “poofy” glass & the “Courage Beer”!!!)*



*After a tough day of ‘Civvy Support’ the troops enjoy a “Cleansing Ale” – L-R:- (excluding 3 ‘civvies’, the late Chris Roberts, Sandra Langford, Denise Geeves, Paul Such, the late Greg ‘O’Malley’ McNamara, Sean Kelly, Al Nunn, Julie Austin and Gail Edmunds (seated). Venue – Unknown but looks like the old Mt Nelson Tavern (?Ed.)*

## IRISH FIRE INSURANCE

A man and his wife moved back home to Cork, from London. The wife had a wooden leg and to insure it in Britain was £ 2000.00 a year!

When they arrived in Cork, they went to an insurance agency to see how much it would cost to insure her wooden leg. The agent looked it up on the computer and said to the couple, '£39.00.' The husband was shocked and asked why it was so cheap here in Ireland to insure because it cost him £ 2000.00 in England!

The agent turned his computer screen and back to the couple and said, 'Well, here it is on the screen. It says: "*Any wooden structure, with a sprinkler system over it, is 39.00 pounds*".

I always did find Irish logic far superior to most others! *(Hodgy)*

## A GOOD IRISH LOVE STORY *(From Basil McClymont)*

She came home early and found her husband in their bedroom making love to a very attractive young woman. And she was VERY upset. "You are a disrespectful pig!" she cried. "How dare you do this to me, a faithful wife, and the mother of your children? I'm leaving you. I want a divorce straight away!" And Paddy replied: "Hang on just a minute luv, so at least I can tell you what happened." "Fine, go ahead", she sobbed, "but they'll be the last words you'll say to me!"

And Paddy began: "Well, I was getting into the car to drive home and this young lady here asked me for a lift. She looked so down and out and defenseless that I took pity on her and let her into the car. I noticed that she was very thin, not well dressed and very dirty. She told me that she hadn't eaten for three days! So, in my compassion, I brought her home and warmed up the stew I made for you last night, the one you wouldn't eat because you're afraid you'll put on weight. The poor thing devoured it in moments. Since she needed a good clean-up I suggested a shower and while she was doing that I noticed her clothes were dirty and full of holes, so I threw them away. Then, as she needed clothes, I gave her the designer jeans that you have had for a few years, but don't wear because you say they are too tight, and I also gave her the underwear that was your anniversary present, which you don't wear because I don't have good taste.

I found the sexy blouse my sister gave you for Christmas that you don't wear just to annoy her and I also donated those boots you bought at the expensive boutique and don't wear because someone at work has a pair just like them."

Here Paddy took a quick breath and continued: "She was so grateful for my understanding and help and as I walked her to the door she turned to me with tears in her eyes and said, "Please do you have anything else that your wife doesn't use?"

## PUTTING A STOP TO IT!

I couldn't help but over hear two guys in their mid-twenties while sitting at the bar last night. One of the guys says to his buddy: "Man you look tired." His buddy says, "Man I'm exhausted. My girlfriend and I have sex all the time. She's after me 3 and 4 times a day; I just don't know what to do."

A fellow about my age (60+), sitting a couple of stools down, also overheard the conversation. He looked over at the two young men and with the wisdom of years says:

**"Marry her. That'll put a stop to that shit." *(You guessed it – Geeves!)***

**VALE: 6703511 GEOFFREY EDWIN WEBB 26 October 1935 - 12 June 2017**

Geoff Webb was one of our “men in the mountains”, in the high country of Victoria. He lived most of his later years around Woods Point and Mansfield and members may recall him writing articles for “Sig News” on his recollections about Radio Training Courses during his National/CMF Service in the 1950’s.

Geoff Webb was born at Apsley (Tas) and was educated at Kempton Primary and Hobart Tech. He grew up and learned many of his wide range of skills on the local farm. He was to marry twice and had three children to both wives. Shirley had Geoffrey, Lynnette & Sharron, after which Pat had Brendan, Phillip & Fiona.

As a 17 year old Geoff was the sole witness or a fatal accident near the Apsley farm which influenced him to join the St John Ambulance as a volunteer. Later he was to train with his unit on Civil Defence (the equivalent of the SES today) exercises. He was awarded Medallion Level in First Aid with St John. He also worked in the HEC Ambulance Service whilst employed as a Motor Mechanic with the Commission.

In his early adult years, Geoff was a Foreman/Supervisor on the Tasmanian Hydro Electric schemes. Geoff was qualified as a Fitter and Turner, Motor Mechanic, HEC Communications and Radio/Electronic Technician. He relocated to Victoria in 1970.

A keen bushwalker, wood-worker and very active Community Services volunteer (Fire Brigade, SES and Ambulance Officer), Geoff was to undertake lengthy management roles in each of those emergency services units and the various associated boards for his area.

Prior to his retirement, Geoff was the sole proprietor of a motor mechanical and agricultural business.

Geoff enlisted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 1954 National Service draft and served with T Comd Signal Squadron as a Cpl and was acting as a Sgt at the time of his discharge in 1959. President Owen recalls Geoff as a being a very competent tradesman.

Only a few years ago, Geoff paid his last visit to a “First Friday” at the Hobart RAAF Memorial Centre and spoke most fondly about his days serving with the local Squadron. We were really very pleased to have such a loyal interstate member as Geoff.

**Our condolences are extended to spouse Pat and the extended Webb family. R.I.P. Geoff**

**Intending to Attend a Reunion Function ?? Paying Fees ?? - use Direct Debit**

***Direct Debit Facility - Make deposits direct to our CBA Account:-***

***“ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION “ BSB No. 067-000. Account No. 28033880***

***Include Name of depositor and word “Reunion”***

.....  
**Subs Arrears: - Only a ‘handful’ are behind now, so those who are will find their amount in the “oval” below! We will appreciate a prompt update payment, please.**

**O**



## 2017 SIGNALS REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

The Reunion commences on **Saturday night, the 14<sup>th</sup>**, with the formal "**Beaumaris Dinner**" to be held **Clarence Senior Citizens Centre, 17 Alma Street, Bellerive, 6.30pm for 7.00pm**. A 3 course meal will be served. Dress: Gents - Lounge suit or jacket and tie (no denim). Ladies - after five wear. *Miniatures to be worn please*. There is plenty of parking available at the rear of the Centre.

**At 11.45 am on Sunday 15th**, a short **Corps Commemorative Service** will be conducted by our Padre at the RA Sigs Memorial at Anglesea Barracks (off East side of Parade Ground). *Medals to be worn please*. Enter the Barracks via the main Davey Street entrance – parking is available on the Parade Ground. We have a wet weather venue should one be needed. Seek advice from the Barracks Gate Attendant.

**The service will be followed by a "Farewell Lunch" at the RAAF Memorial Centre, 68 Davey Street (a short downhill stroll from the Memorial) at approximately 12.30pm**. A smorgasbord with refreshments will be served. (The RAAF Centre is the current home of the Association. There is plenty of free parking in the streets near the RAAF Centre). Access the Centre via the laneway and enter through the rear door.

Please fill in and detach the following slip and return it with a Cheque/Money Order, (make payable to the RA Sigs Association) to the Association Treasurer, **Mick (Skippy) Farley at 170 Molesworth Road, MOLESWORTH 7140 by 24 September 2017** **OR make a direct deposit to the Association Account**.

*Bank: CBA, BSB No. : 067-000, Account No. : 28033880, Account Name: Royal Australian Signals Association (please endorse your Deposit with the words "Reunion" and your "Surname").*

We will be pleased to welcome you and your partner/adult family members to each of the events. **General enquiries to Association Secretary, Dick Goodwin (03/62 296 124) or email [dickieg19@hotmail.com](mailto:dickieg19@hotmail.com). Make your bookings early – don't miss out!**

..... (Detach here)

Family Name.....Given Name.....

Family Name.....Given Name.....	<u>Cover Charge</u>	<u>No. in Party</u>	<u>\$</u>
I/We will be attending the "Beaumaris Dinner" on Saturday 14 Oct.	**\$45	....	\$.....
I/We will be attending the Sunday Commem. Service on 15 Oct	None	Nil	Seats required? Yes/No
I/We will be present at the Sunday "Farewell Lunch" on 15 Oct	**\$20	....	\$....

(All charges are per person attending)                      \*\* A Free drink from bar at both meals

Cheque/Money Order (made payable to the RA Sigs Assn) enclosed OR Direct Deposit made)      Total \$ .....

**COMPLETE SIGNALS WEEKEND FOR JUST \$65 - WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN.** Anyone wishing to send an apology or message (**we will read them out at the Dinner**) forward an email message or letter to Secretary, Dick. Address details above or at Page 2 of "Sig News".