

# The Combined Servicemen

A publication: FOR PAST & PRESENT, MEN & WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA'S ARMED FORCES

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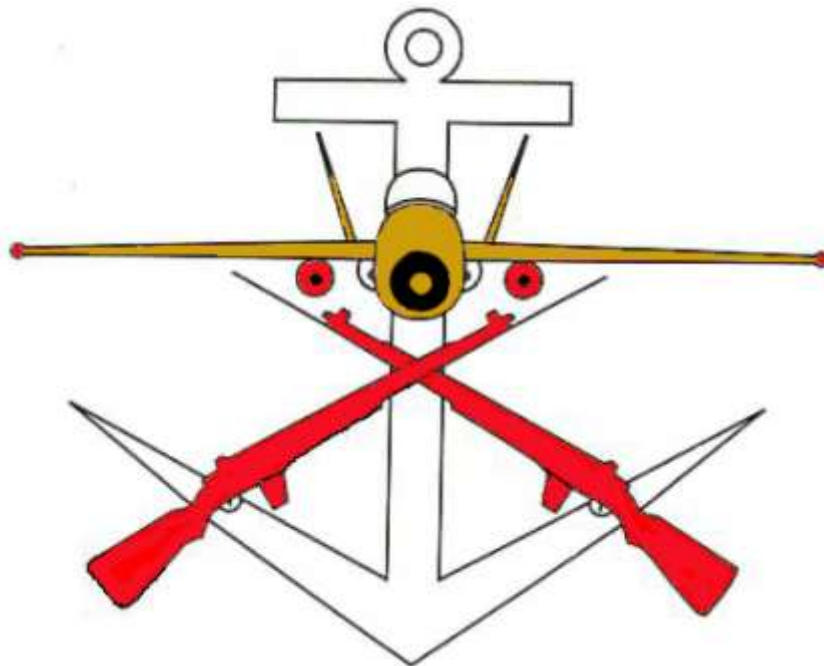
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**Official newsletter of the National Service and Combined Forces Association of Australia Inc.**

# Branch Directory

<p><b>Canberra</b> All mail to, <i>The Secretary</i> <b>2 Leonard Close</b> <b>Dunlop ACT 2615</b></p> <p>President: Wal Beckhouse Phone: 02 62923964</p> <p>Sec: Kevin Benson Phone: 02 6258 1727</p> <p><b>Meets: 3rd Sunday of the month at the Southern Cross Club, Woden at 10:30 am</b></p>	<p><b>Newcastle.</b> All mail to, <i>The Secretary</i> <b>69 Janet St</b> <b>Jesmond NSW 2299</b></p> <p>President: Robert Owen Phone: 02 49823059</p> <p>Secretary: Robert Oliver Phone: 02 49526243 Fax: 02 49526243</p> <p><b>Meets: Last Sunday of the Month at Newcastle Diggers Club; 58 Hanbury St Mayfield. at 10:15 am</b></p>	<p><b>Leeton</b> All mail to, <i>The Secretary</i> <b>P.O. Box. 13</b> <b>Leeton NSW 2705.</b></p> <p>V/Pres: George Roulston Phone: 02 69533074</p> <p>Secretary: Les Dunne Phone: 0450 480955</p> <p><b>Meets 1st Monday of the month @ Leeton Services Club @ 7:30pm</b></p>
<p><b>Griffith</b> All mail to, <i>The Secretary</i> <b>14 Chilvers Pl</b> <b>Griffith NSW 2680</b></p> <p>President: Jim McGann Phone: 02 69621022</p> <p>Secretary: Kevin McIntyre Phone: Mob 0427 262651</p>	<p><b>Hay</b> All mail to, <i>The Secretary</i> <b>227 Pine St</b> <b>Hay NSW 2711</b></p> <p>President: Col Ashcroft Phone: 02 69932042 Secretary: Beth Ashcroft Phone: 02 69932042 Or Mob: 0419 932049</p> <p><b>Meets 2nd Monday of the month @ RSL Rooms in the Library Building @ 3pm</b></p>	<p><b>Nelson Bay</b> All mail to, <i>The Secretary</i> <b>P.O. Box. 47</b> <b>Salamander Bay NSW 2317</b></p> <p>President: John Redman Phone: 02 02 49964180</p> <p>Secretary: Esmá Kane Phone: 02 49843095</p> <p><b>Meets 2nd Sunday of the month at Wests Diggers</b></p>
<p><b>Maitland.</b> All mail to, <i>The Secretary</i> <b>P.O. Box 327</b> <b>East Maitland NSW 2323</b></p> <p>President: Bruce Mears Phone:</p> <p>Secretary: Colin Shapland Phone: 02 63378378</p> <p><b>Meets: East Maitland RSL Sub Branch Hall on the 4th Thursday of the month at 10:00 am.</b></p>		

## Editors Notes

Welcome to the September issue.

There are quite a few changes in our advertising in this issue. We have secured a number of new sponsors, their names and ads also appear on our website under "SPONSORS" in the left column on the front page. Some ads had to be changed due to changes in ownership.

All branches have submitted annual reports at the AGM held in Goulburn and they also appear on the web site.

The AGM went off without a hitch and all participants had an enjoyable evening meal at the Goulburn Services Club.



## National Executive

Title	Name	Address	Phone
President:	Wal Beckhouse	10 Steffanoni Cct Monash ACT 2904	02 6292 3964
V/President:	Laz Csibi	9 Stuart St Queanbeyan NSW 2620	0409 979 108
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P/ Officer:	Alan Williams	10 Balsillie Cres Monash ACT 2904	02 6292 5244



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## Ted Plunkett was both National and Branch treasurer in the early years of our association.



THE man affectionately dubbed the mayor of Macgregor has been recognised for his service to the community in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours.

His family was presented with his Medal of the Order of Australia at a ceremony on Monday.

Edward "Ted" Plunkett, who passed away in July last year, was a senior firefighter in the ACT Fire Brigade and devoted the final years of his life to protecting the history of the service.

Wife Yvonne said she had been stunned to receive the news of her late husband's award.

She said while Ted would probably have been quite embarrassed by the attention "in the words of the grand-children; he'd be stoked".

Mrs Plunkett said her husband had been a well known face in Canberra, recognised as the man with the black and white dog, or the fireman who delivered Santa to community fetes on the back of a fire truck.

He was also affectionately called the mayor of Macgregor for flying the Australian flag from their home.

"[He was] very well known, a bit embarrassing at times," Mrs Plunkett said.

"He loved selling poppies and badges for the RSL, knew everyone and chatted everyone up - he just enjoyed people."

Mr Plunkett was born in Casino, NSW. After completing his national service in the Air Force he became a volunteer firefighter before being accepted into the NSW Fire Brigade.

He served in NSW before bringing the first turntable ladders to Canberra in 1968. When the ACT Fire Brigade became separate from its NSW counter part the family was offered the choice of moving back to Sydney - in a flat above the Kings Cross fire station - or staying in Canberra. Mrs Plunkett said - with six young children it wasn't a

difficult decision and they stayed in the nation's capital.

During his time as a firefighter, Mr Plunkett covered major events like the Queanbeyan Leagues Club fire and the Sydney Buckingham fire.

He retired from the service in 1993 after the death of one of their children.

"We lost a son to an accident and Ted found it very difficult to go to road accidents after that," Mrs Plunkett said.

In his post-fire brigade life, Mr Plunkett worked for the RSL and was the director of the West Belconnen Rugby League Club.



National volunteer firefighter Ted Plunkett, wearing his 1953 NSW Fire Brigade uniform, shows Arnelia Service, Laura Service, and Cobden Cookson, around the Canberra Fire Museum in May, 2006. Picture: Retired Fireman

He also became the longtime president of the ACT's Fire Brigade Historical Society and was involved in the Canberra Fire Museum.

"He found his love in the fire museum and the old machines, because he had trained as a mechanic," Mrs Plunkett said.

Mr Plunkett restored the old fire trucks and kept them on the road, taking them out to functions and community events. Mrs Plunkett said he was a stickler for dressing up in the uniform to match the fire truck's era.

His old brass helmet became a well-known sight throughout the territory.

"He was very keen to promote the museum, he even worked there the day he took sick," Mrs Plunkett said.

She said the family were still coming to terms with the fact Ted would receive an OAM.

"I'm very upset that he's not here to accept it, or even to know he'd been nominated would have been great, because I'm told he was nominated well before he died," Mrs Plunkett said.

"It's been difficult keeping it (the secret) because we found out in April and you want to tell everyone."

Sourced From "The Chronicle June 14, 2011"

## Presentation by Hay Branch



National Servicemen generously donate to our school library

Pictured this week are our captains Grace Christensen and Nathaniel Martin, along with Stage I students, Iona Cullenward and Ben Caughey with members of the Hay Branch of the National Service and Combined Forces Association of Australia who made a presentation to our school library at assembly last Friday. The school enjoys strong ties with our local community and this is a great example of just how supportive the various organisations are in their generous donations to the school. Thank you to Mr Ashcroft and Mr Beissel for coming along to make the presentation. The books can be found in the school library and are available to borrow.

*Sourced from the school magazine in Hay*

### Items Resolved at the 2011 AGM

#### **Prayer of the National Service and Combined Forces Association of Australia**

Almighty God, Our heavenly Father,  
we remember with thanksgiving those who made the supreme sacrifice for us during their periods of National Service.  
We pray the offering of their lives may not have been in vain.  
Dear Lord in your wisdom, bless and keep safe, our own and other serving and ex-serving members of the Defence Forces.  
We pray also for our associate members who so willingly give their time in support of our association.  
May your grace enable us this day to dedicate ourselves to the cause of justice, freedom and peace.  
and give us wisdom and strength to build a better world.  
For the honor of your name through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
AMEN

#### PROTOCOL RE THE WEARING OF HEAD WEAR

**WHAT WE HAVE TO REMEMBER IS THAT WE ARE WEARING ASSOCIATION DRESS, NOT A UNIFORM, THEREFORE WE SHOULD ACT AS CIVILIANS**

- 1-This is a matter of courtesy and these simple rules are set down as a **CIVILIAN** courtesy.
- 2-The head wear should be **REMOVED** during the following the playing of the **NATIONAL ANTHEM**
- 3-The playing of the **LAST POST**, throughout the silence during the **ROUSE**  
During the raising and lowering of **FLAGS**
- 4-At a **MARCH PAST** as a form of salute

#### **LAYING OF A WREATH**

The person laying the wreath walks/marches up to the memorial with the head wear on, lays the wreath, takes one pace back, removes the head wear, bows the head for a moment, turns about, replaces the head wear and smartly walks/marches away.

#### **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS CAN NOW VOTE**

The Annual General Meeting also approved to give our associate members who are financial, the right to vote within their branch. If an associate member is elected as a delegate to the National Meeting they also have the right to have a say and most importantly, vote. This is seen as an important step in forward thinking that will prolong the life of the association. The delegates at Goulburn were also very pleased to be able to pass a motion that saw the inclusion of associates and our non nasho members included in the prayer of the National Service and Combined Forces Association and to rename it as such.



See Griffith Branch report

Submissions for the Next Edition close on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011

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# Enjoy the good times!

# 2011 AGM Reports

## Hay Branch



Well another year has come and gone my how time flies. I hope everyone is well and healthy.

Our branch is having our wood raffle now that the weather has got a little

cooler and when it gets a bit warmer we raffle open orders anywhere in town and at any shop

Our Branch had a wonderful Christmas Party at the South Hay Hotel; we had CAN-ASSIST do the catering they provided a beautiful meal. We invited Branch members from Leeton and Griffith we also invited Col Jean Walker. We also gave donations to the following; CAN--ASSIST, Royal Far West and the Happy Wanderers. We raffled a beautiful decorated Christmas cake and one of our members Ral Beissel won the cake. We also drew the Christmas raffle we had been running for a few weeks; everyone had a most enjoyable time.

The next thing on our agenda was Nasho's Day Service at the Hay War Memorial High School. The Mayor of Hay gave a wonderful speech; he had done some research into National Servicemen, how long they had been running and when they were recognized, also a young lad who was selected to go to France gave a wonderful talk of his travels and what he had encountered. We then went to the Hay Services Club for lunch; we invited the Headmaster and the School Captains from the school.

The next to come up was our Branch Annual General meeting which was held on Monday 14th March 2011,

there was no change in the positions they are the same as last year. Our branch members still go out to the war graves at the cemetery each and every Saturday when we can to weed water and rake and generally clean up.

Our branch joined up with the R.S.L. for ANZAC day and this year and it had great meaning to Beth and Colin Ashcroft. The guest speaker Brigadier Peter Daniel who is the head of the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps as his father was the best man at our wedding. It was great catching up with him and asking him about his mother, as his father had died a few years ago.

Each and every year our branch gives books to the three schools, this year we made a change in the Public and Hay Convent schools. We gave them small reader books for kinder classes, as they use them for learning to read.

Earlier in the year our Branch was invited to Leeton for their barbecue, Colin and Beth Ashcroft went and we had a most enjoyable time. The food was wonderful, Leeton you did your Branch proud! Come on Griffith we cannot wait to see what you can do.

We would like to thank the National Branch Executive for their years of hard work and their help and for keeping all branches informed all the time. We are looking forward to the Annual General meeting in Goulburn and seeing all our friends.

We wish all branches the best for the coming year.

Yours sincerely

Beth Ashcroft Hon. Secretary

## GRIFFITH BRANCH



Our year has been very quiet with reasonable numbers of members attending meetings.

Our numbers have remained about the same with the passing of two members during the year, John Farrell and Jim Calabria. Both John and Jim had been ill

for some time. We had our first funeral service for the year with the passing of Jim.

We welcomed two new members, Nick Hutchins and Ken Harris.

We attended a BBQ in Leeton with members from Hay joining us and it was a great day of camaraderie, with a few drinks and a lot of stories.

Hay branch held a dedication service during the year. A car load of our members made the 200 mile journey for the day.

We have a BBQ planned for the warmer months to return Leeton's hospitality. It will be held at one of our wineries. We have plenty to pick from.

**Our members sold 'poppies' outside the shopping centre** this year to help out the RSL as their numbers are dwindling.

**We planted a 'Lone Pine' tree near the cenotaph and it is** doing well. Vandals have not touched it.

The branch invited the wives and partners to become asso-

ciate members. At this time, we have had no response.

We held our annual meeting with the old executive being returned, except for the position of Vice President. This was filled by Renso Rovere.

ANZAC Day. We attended the dawn service in Griffith, then marched at the 11am. Service. We then loaded the bus after lunch and drove to Goolgowi (30 miles) for their service in the afternoon.

Goolgowi would have a very small service without the addition of our help. The service was followed by a scrumptious afternoon tea supplied by the CWA members and the club put on a few drinks. Everyone had a great afternoon before returning to Griffith.

Our Christmas party was a joint venture with our members joining with the Men's Shed and all enjoyed a Chinese Banquet.

We were invited to Hay for their Christmas party, four members made the trip.

We erected our Citrus Sculpture again this year for the Garden festival. Griffith is the only city outside France that has these sculptures. They consist of a steel frame of various shapes with netting over them and oranges are attached to the structure with special rubber bands. Our sculpture was a big teddy bear standing ten foot high.

That's about all the doings for this year.

K.J. McIntyre. Hon. Sec.

## Nelson Bay



Meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month, we strive for camaraderie, getting our guys and girls involved in everyday activities. Our branch is blessed in that facilities are made available to us by the 'Wests Newcastle Group' who are patron owners of Nelson Bay Diggers. This is a magnificent

facility where our ladies have their coffee morning get-together and the Nashos meet in a separate room. Tables, chairs and air-conditioned room provided. A very strong part of our branch is our associate ladies, who at their coffee morning, have a 'gold' coin donation which is used for flowers etc. for any of our members on the sick list. This is one of our strong points that now sees the club in excess of 100 members and associates. Our club was represented at the National Service Weekend held in Gloucester in March 2011. A presentation was made to the Gloucester High School and I was guest speaker on the night. Some 120 people attended and heard a 'Personal Presentation of my time spent in Vietnam'. With the goal of always helping our members, we take part at the selling of 'Rotary International' raffle tickets to assist in our cause. Our A.G.M. this year saw the President John Kelly and Secretary Brian Spurway stand down after 10 years on the job. A JOB WELL DONE. A new Executive and Committee were elected with the most pleasing part being, the election of associate ladies to Secretary and Treasurer - may the force be with you but, it's our ladies who bring us through and 1 congratulate them all.

Our branch is built on friendship. BBQs are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month with a small raffle to help funds. Comrades we have lost due to their ill health, have

their partners still participating in our activities.

Members: Merv Tracy, 1952 Nasho 19<sup>th</sup> Batt.

Padre Tony Humpbries, 1956 Nasho C Coy

Jim Robertson, 1957-60 19<sup>th</sup> Batt.

Bruce Terry, 1951-56 Nasho 12<sup>th</sup> Batt.

Much loved members, have passed on, these members are still in our hearts and forever will be. ANZAC Day in Nelson Bay was a great day, some 3000 people cheered our members on. This year, the R.S.L. Sub. Branch invited all non-member Nashos' to their luncheon - Great!

On the day, presentations were made to our local schools, as always.

Over the last 18 months we have joined with Newcastle Branch on several coach trips. A big *thankyou* must go to both the President Rob Owen and wife Brenda for their magnificent organisational skills and cooking which made the trips a true success. How lucky are we to have our own 'Chaplin' Revd. Frank Duffy as a member, on call to cheer up our not so well members. He does a wonderful job. And furthermore how lucky are we to have a 'Membership Liaison Officer' who is a Retired Chief Superintendent of Police. This man, Rick Kane, does a great job along with his wife. Esma, our madam Secretary. To celebrate achieving 100 members and associates, we had a special Port produced, This proved very successful. Thanks to our Foundation member, Dave Sessions and wife Pat.

Good health is something we take little notice of until we haven't got it. It doesn't matter how much money you have, you can't buy it.

To all, thank you and I wish you all good health, now and for the future.

John Redman, President.

## Leeton Branch



It gives me great pleasure to write this report on behalf of members of Leeton branch. I have only been president since march 2011 but was one of two vice presidents since 2009 along with John Dunbar,

President Col Walker and his wife Jean attended the dedication & unveiling

of the national memorial in Canberra and the dinner. They gave a report on the day as well as the AGM at our October meeting, then at our November meeting he resigned. He was thanked for his time as president.

I took the chair at our December meeting. We have had very good attendances at all our meetings and outings. Our raffle sellers all come out to help when it's time to start selling for our Christmas raffle. Which was a great success. Our Christmas party was also a huge success and enjoyed by all, everyone won a prize of some sort.

I would like to thank the associate members in our branch for their outstanding help at all times; without them we would not have our joint BBQ. with Griffith and Hay, or our Christmas party or raffles.

Our nasho day was very well attended and enjoyed by all. ANZAC day dawn service and 10am service saw a big turnout of members, we also received invitations from Leeton high school and Yanco agriculture high school to attend their ANZAC day services which are run by the students themselves. They do a very good job and it looks well for this generation to keep the tradition alive.

So far this year we have had good attendances at all our meetings, which is good for this time of year when it is very cold.

Our representatives here today are our, Vice pres, John Dunbar, treasurer Geoff Walsh and our secretary Les Dunne, observer Pat Dunbar. We hope the AGM is a great success.

George Roulston. President

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## VALE.

### **DAVID (DAVE.) ALFRED SESSIONS.**

24<sup>th</sup> Feb., 1936 – 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2011.



L to R, Pat Sessions, John Redman, Dave Sessions.  
Pat Sessions, Colleen Redman.  
Head in front Francis Webb

**D**ave is survived by his wife Pat, Daughters/Son-in-laws, Mandy and Harvey, Kelly and Gregg, and his pride and joy, grand-daughters and Grandson, Jade, Amy, Bronte and Great Grandson Nate.

Dave worked at Lowes in the 1960's, met his lovely wife Pat, who at the time was an office girl for Marcus Clarkes. He went on to work in the wine industry for McQuigan and later opened his own Bottle Shop in Cessnock before retiring and settling at Shoal Bay, Port Stephens.

Give Dave a fishing rod and he was happy, he loved his mates, he loved a laugh and he loved his league. As a young man he played league with

North Newcastle and to this day, was an ardent supporter of the Newcastle Knights.

Dave was a foundation member of Nelson Bay National Service and Combined Forces Association and was always on the job, looking for ways to make a contribution to better the Association. He was our Raffle man, always out to tease the ladies.

It was Dave's idea to have a Commerative Port struck to celebrate the Club achieving 100 members. He will be sadly missed but will forever remain in our hearts.

"It is said that angels come from Heaven, but I have met a fair share of them right here on earth".

"Forever a friend"

John Redman.

President Nelson Bay branch NSCFAA



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Hi and welcome to everyone attending the AGM in Goulburn this year especially those attending the National Annual General Meeting for the first time. Combined with Nelson Bay Branch we had a very busy time on several coach trips during the past year. With the

**funds provided by a DVA Grant' many good friendships** were formed between the 2 branches. Enjoyable times were had visiting areas like Harrington, Laurieton, Sydney for Christmas shopping and the Woodlands Horse Stud at Denman, the breeding ground of many of Australia's best racing horses.

During the year we held Bi-monthly members BBQs at Stockton near the Surf Club, enjoying the scenery, watching the large coal ships come and go and on the alternate month all you can eat lunch at our host club Newcastle Diggers who look after us very well.

Also we have been busy with our fundraising activities doing BBQs out the front of Woolworths Mayfield and selling ANZAC Day badges and assisting the Ulysses Motor Cycle Club with the parking of bikes for their AGM which was held in Newcastle. This year everyone of us was taken aback by the bikes and the cost of some of them. Also the trailers they towed along behind them with some members even traveling from WA to attend. This year we have donated \$500 to the Hunter Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, \$500 to Hunter Medical Research Institute and \$500 to Calvary Mater Hospice for terminally ill patients

We have had a representative at all the ex-service ceremonies held in Newcastle Area in the past year with our branch being represented at 7 ANZAC Day Services starting with dawn services at Nobbys Beach in Newcastle. 7000 people attended and just as the service finished in time with the sun rising over Nobbys Beach the 6 inch guns fired from Fort Scratchley. These were the only guns to fire in anger on the east coast in the 2nd World War and as always was very touching and the reason so many people attend the service.

We held our own National Service Day Parade and service in Civic Park in February with both politicians and the Lord Mayor of Newcastle in attendance lead by Army Band Newcastle. A big thank you to them for giving up there free time to do so and to the Cadets from both the Army and Navy. Our members along with Maitland branch attended the Newcastle Region National Servicemen's Day Service held in March at Maitland Park with a great attendance from our branch. Newcastle Branch was represented at no less than 12 ex-service ceremonies during the year in Newcastle. Last weekend Newcastle branch members along with Nelson Bay branch members attended the Reserve Forces Day Service in Civic Park Newcastle with the salute being taken by Air Commodore Richard Owen from RAAF Williamtown. **Some of the members' wives were awarded a RECOGNITION OF YOUR SUPPORT TO RE-**

ERVE FORCES MEDALLION and some of our ladies are wearing them today at our meeting.

On Sunday some of our members backed up and attended the Reserve Forces Day Service in Sydney with the salute being taken by the Governor of NSW Professor Marie Bashir; Premier of New South Wales Barry O'Farrell was also in attendance.

At our Annual General Meeting in February the members elected two new Life Members to the Newcastle branch - Associate Member Brenda Owen for all her hard work and Brenda was very pleased and taken aback with being awarded life membership and President Robert was also awarded Life Membership and was very pleased to see the members appreciate the hard work they both do for the Newcastle Branch. In closing it would be remiss of me not to say sorry to everyone who has lost someone close to them in the past year and fellow members let us not forget our former National Secretary Ken Platt.

Yours in National Service

Robert Owen JP. President

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## Maitland Branch



Since the last National AGM Maitland branch has continued to be active and increased its membership and attendance at its meetings. The past twelve months has seen an average attendance of 31 members at its monthly meetings compared to 25 average attendances in the previous twelve

months. Our membership is currently 70 members and application forms have been sought for more potential members. An invitation was sent to members of Lower Hunter branch to join us after their branch closed and four took up the offer. Last September a bus load of our members visited Canberra for the AGM and the National Service Memorial dedication and an enjoyable time was had by all especially as the weather was very kind. It is a policy of the branch to send representatives for all invitations received, if received in sufficient time. Our own events are planned well in advance especially after some near disasters occurring due to short notices of the events. These near disasters, however, resulted in being a success but with less numbers than predicted. Apart from the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies the branch has participated in a trip to Victoria Barracks, where we were guests of the Sergeant's Mess; a bus trip to Timbertown and a picnic day at Walka Water Works which ended up at the Lintott's home due to the cold and very windy weather. A large number of members attended the Reserve Forces Day parade in Newcastle where some of the spouses received a commemorative medallion for their support. The branch's next event is a 'Xmas in July' luncheon where some local NSCFAA branches will be attending for a jovial day of fun and eating. Maitland will be holding its annual Christmas luncheon on the last Saturday in November after the huge success of the 2010 luncheon. We were entertained by the 'Maitland Tenors' with some song renditions by the Patrons and a wholesome Christmas fare was also enjoyed. The branch is now registered for the Premier's Senior Concerts held in Sydney and looks forward to attending. During the year there have been fund-raising activities performed where the sale of raffle tickets enabled us to make a donation of \$1200.00 to the Maitland Palliative Care Unit. The money is being used to purchase some equipment to make their patients' lives more comfortable. This year the raffle ticket sales have been put on the backburner and after the success of our sausage sandwich stall in support of the Veterans' Support Group garage sale, the branch

is lodging an application to participate in the Bunnings BBQ program. Because our members wanted more social activities, the local RSL and Vietnam Veteran organisations were approached to participate with us socially and after receiving support from them the branch has lodged an application for a DVA VRC Grant which, if successful, will provide subsidised coach trips to areas such as Moree/Lightning Ridge and Sydney to celebrate the 70<sup>x</sup> anniversary of the submarine attack on Sydney Harbour. Also the Branch has lodged an application for a grant with FAHSCIA for some equipment to help us with our activities. To help with selecting the social activities a Social Survey Form was sent out to all our members to indicate preferences for some activities. A good response was received and these results will help the committee to program the activities and were also a help in selecting the destinations for the DVA Grant application. As pointed out at the start of this report the branch attendance is consistent despite age catching up with all of us with specialist appointments meaning some missed meetings by some members. Following each meeting there is a social get-together with a cuppa and sandwiches, etc. Also it has been found that the branch newsletter has helped to create more input into the meetings and it is pleasing to report it also attracted new members. Each member attending is also given a copy of the previous month's minutes and a meeting agenda which allows the meeting to move along smoothly and quickly. It was a sad moment when the branch was advised of the passing of Ken Platt and we wish the new secretary Max Bunter the very best in replacing Ken. To all branches who have lost members, please accept our condolences. Following the NSW elections Maitland has lost one Patron but gained a new one in Robyn Parker. The branch does have a mystery member who turns up on the odd occasion when least expected. This person has not paid any membership fees and first appeared at the Maitland National AGM and last year she appeared again in Canberra. For some reason she is attracted to our Director of S.E.X. popular Jack Allen and has been tolerated by his wife, Mavis. This femme fatale has become known as 'Fifi la Tarte' and is wanted to obtain her dues. All branches are being asked to look out for her and if possible detain her so that fees can be sought from her. A photo of her is on the back of this report, so your help would be appreciated in detaining or identifying her.

Colin Shapland

Secretary



From Sun Herald July 10 2011

LELIEVRE

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO 2011 AGM



Good morning all, what a show we saw last September at the Australian War Memorial. We, as an association, be it small, can be very proud of our part in making it all possible. Financially we, as they say

now 'punched above our weight' in fact well above.

The memorabilia produced for the event was extremely good and I for one was most happy to have some of it to hand down to the grandchildren.

I take this opportunity to formally introduce Max Bunter our National Secretary to all present. We are very lucky indeed to have Max on the National Team. Welcome and thanks mate.

You will see a little later that the National branch is in a very sound financial position and for this we owe a thank you to Mrs Soucila Tompsett. We will hear from

her soon.

The time has come for us to implement some changes and we can do this today. Formally recognizing the part that our associate members play in not only our branches but at National level as well will be a big step forward. Also including our non Nasho folk is very important. Let's make this meeting one to remember as we take that important step into the future.

Our National Patron Maj. Gen. Adrian Clunies-Ross sends his regards to us all for a fruitful, harmonious meeting and trusts that the time we spend together will have been worthwhile and that we can all leave here tonight knowing we have done our best for the future of the association.

Thank you  
Wal Beckhouse.

### Canberra Branch



Well everybody, it is that time of the year when the National Body has their Annual General Meeting. I hope that everything goes well and that all delegates at the meeting have a constructive and enjoyable time. As I said in the

last report, a cheque was presented to the Snowy Hydro Southcare Helicopter Service. This organisation does a very valuable service to the local community, plus all the south coast and southern tablelands. Their most memorable rescue must have been during the disastrous Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race when many yachts and lives were lost. We are now at the age when we never know when we ourselves may need to use this service. Donations also went off to the Salvation Army Red Shield Defence Services and the Salvation Army Drug Rehab. Services. Our Cadet Tri-Service Shield will again be contested this year.

During the last few months, this branch suffered a few blows. Our much loved Nat. Secretary and Branch Vice President Ken Platt passed away, another of our members, Alan Buckthorpe lost his battle with cancer in Western Australia. Rob Byrne a member of many years also left us, along with Nola Chisholm (wife of John Chisholm) but there was more. A headline in the 'Canberra Times' told us that we had lost Jim Murphy, owner of Jim Murphy Market Cellars. Jim was a big man in all respects, he had a long standing full page colour advertisement in the Combined Servicemen magazine and gave this branch a wonderful gift of three telescopic flag poles for our memorial in Tugger-

among Park. Every year Jim donated a basket of wine complete with wine glasses and a recipe book for our Christmas raffle. He will be very much missed by this branch and many more organisations in Canberra. The branch was well represented at his funeral.

The Reserve Forces Day Parade will be held on Saturday, 9 July. This will clash with the AGM, so local representation may be down a bit as compared to previous years. Branch numbers are holding up well, in fact there has been an increase since Christmas. It was nice to welcome back to the fold, both Wal Beckhouse and Laz Csibi after their extended and not so extended holidays.

Our Christmas raffles will start on Saturday, 8 October and we are all hoping for a record year so we can donate even more to our chosen organisations.

We take this chance to wish all branches the best for the balance of the year and may next year be happy and fruitful.

Alan Williams

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## Leeton Quarterly report

Well here we are again and the year is half **over already; it's been very quiet here with** not much doing.

July 3rd saw two of our members and their wives travelling to Wagga Wagga for the Reserve Forces Day March and Medallion Presentation at a service after the march. Bob and Mary Tasker and Neville and Phyllis Hunt, (all four said it was a fantastic day). They were seated in the front row and were among the first to receive their Medallions of Recognition, Bob has been a member of our branch for many years and did his National Service from April 1952– July 1952, then joined the C.M.F. 30th July 1952 - April 1957 then again 8th Nov 1959 - Sept 1978 and reached the rank of WO2 and was awarded the BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL, AUST DEFENCE MEDAL, EFFICIENCY MEDAL, THE 50th ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL SERVICE MEDAL, through all those years Mary has kept the family going. She was presented with her



recognition medal by BRIGADIER WAYNE DUNBAR. Mary said she was very proud to receive the medallion.

Neville Hunt has also been a staunch member of our branch. He joined the reserves in 1948 and served in the N.S.W. SCOTTISH REGIMENT, Infantry & Pipe Band till 1951, Phyllis was presented with her medal by THE FEDERAL MEMBER FOR RIVERINA MICHAEL MC CORMACK. **Phyllis said "it meant a lot to her to be recognised for standing by her husband while he served his country, it is an**

honour, Neville was one of the original reservists **and they had the Pipe Band play at their wedding".** The 18 Ladies were presented with their medallions, alternatively by BRIGADIER DUNBAR & MICHEAL MC CORMACK M.P. After the service they all adjourned for lunch.

July 9th four of our Executive committee travelled to Goulburn for the annual A.G.M. which from all accounts went off very well and enjoyed their time meeting with other branch members. Les our new secretary was very impressed with the running of the meeting and enjoyed meeting other branch members. Pat, John and Geoff are old hands having been to the A.G.M. a few times so were able to fill Les in on how it all worked.

Our Christmas Party Luncheon is to be held on 4th December 2011 at Leeton Soldiers Club. We are hoping Griffith & Hay branch members might like to join us for a two course meal, DRINKS ARE ON US, (beer, wine, juice). We have a continuous raf-

fle. The main prize is a bottle of SPECIAL RESERVE BOURBON WHISKY, plus everyone gets a gift. We will be starting our selling of Christmas raffle tickets on 27th October, drawing date is Wednesday 14th December.

We think of all those on the sick list & hope they are **soon on the road to good health. That's all the news** for this time.

Shirley Roulston.

Age is slowly catching up with us all, especially the men with some of the members having treatment for prostate problems. As reported in the last Combined Servicemen Frank Howell had been hospitalised and it is pleasing to find that



he returned to the July meeting. He fought strongly to defeat death and won the battle. Jack Allen is now on the mend too but restricted in some ways.

Our meetings

are still being well attended and the branch has been participating in quite a few activities despite the cold weather. The cold weather saw our delegates and their wives at Goulburn for the AGM which was quite successful especially amongst such jovial company.

June 22nd was a windy and cold day which meant the picnic day had to be moved to somewhere warmer and Jim Lintott volunteered his place. Seventeen members enjoyed a BBQ

lunch and raised \$85 on the day.

July 2nd found our members attending the Reserve Forces Day parade in Newcastle where some of their wives re-



ceived a medallion recognising their contributions while their spouses were away training. Among the recipients were Johanna McDonald, Noreen Morris, Hilary Kelly, Noelle Thomas, Denese Hume and June Webber.

The annual Xmas In July luncheon was again held at the Billabongs Restaurant where 66 people were fed and enter-

tained. 'Fifi la Tarte' did not turn up but Mary Christmas arrived in her place, hoping to have a break away from Santa Claus. Unfortunately for her he turned up and misbehaved something terrible while they were handing



out the many prizes on offer. (see photographs of the event). Again our past president, Graham Ellicott donated the lucky door prizes and Bruce & Eileen provided orchids



for the ladies and some table decorations. Mavis and Bev greeted the guests upon arrival and extracted money from them to help boost our coffers. During

the luncheon one of our members, Fred Goode, who is the President of the Hunter Region Reserve Forces Council, presented Reserve Forces Medallions to four lady guests who included our Margaret Lintott and the Lady Mayoress (Robyn Blackmore).

Several of our members attended the Hunter region inaugural commemorative service for the Korean War campaign. The combined nasho group meeting is being well attended with



the August meeting held on 12th August hosted by the Newcastle NSCFAA. Maitland will be hosting the November meeting.

The local RSLs and Vietnam Veteran Associations along with us are funding a student from the surrounding high schools to be sent to Gallipoli in 2015. One small high school has already nearly raised its share of the funds for the trip.

Social activities over the coming months will be a picnic in Maitland Park in September, a day trip by train and river cat from Maitland to Parramatta and return in October, the annual Christmas luncheon at the end of November and we are currently organising a trip to historic Hill End in March.

In between these activities the branch is accepting an invitation from Newcastle for a BBQ at Stockton.

Our condolences go out to Nelson Bay for the loss of David Sessions who passed away on the day of our Xmas in July luncheon.

Our branch wishes to thank the National branch for the entertaining meeting and social dinner enjoyed in Goulburn. It was great meeting up with such happy people and renewing our friendships.

Colin Shapland



## Newcastle Quarterly report

Report from secretary Newcastle branch for 'The Combined Servicemen'. Once again we have been busy cooking BBQ's in front of Woolworths Mayfield and meeting once every second month for all you can eat lunch at our host club 'Newcastle Diggers'. The other outings were a BBQ at Stockton Beach. The highlight of June was a trip to Victoria Barracks in Sydney by bus where we were escorted by their guides around the historic buildings of the barracks which proved very interesting, especially the old chapel and the rooms where they still hold court martials. One group was lucky enough to be standing on the verandah of the officer's mess out of the rain when the waiter in charge invited us in to inspect the dining room, lounge and bar area. Our ladies were very impressed indeed. We then went over the road where our president Robert had arranged lunch at Paddo RSL. The Bus load was welcomed at the door and their entrance was announced



by the doorman as they entered the club to have a very appetising meal.

In the afternoon we inspected the police horses at Redfern and their stables. This proved an eye opener and I can recommend this part of the trip to any group.

Another day out last month was to have a BBQ lunch at the Newcastle Helicopter Base where our President Robert presented a cheque for \$510 to the base.

Twenty two of our members accepted a wonderful Xmas in July invitation put on by Maitland branch. The entertainment was excellent, the all you can eat food was great and so were the prizes given out by a young Santa and his good looking helper. Our recently engaged members Brenda Small and John McDonald won first prize of a hamper. All our ladies went home with orchids from the tables. Congratulations Maitland.

Regards to all.

Bob Oliver, Secretary.

Submissions for the Next Edition close on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011

# The 39th Annual Malkara Model Railway & Scale Model Exhibition

The Malkara Model Railway and Scale Model Exhibition was held at Malkara Special School on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> August 2011. Some members of the Canberra branch of the NS&CFAA and the navy cadets from TS Canberra assisted the Malkara P&C on the BBQ and hotdog stalls. The weather on Saturday was overcast until mid-morning and then the rain started. We had to use four large umbrellas to

cover the workers who were doing the cooking on the BBQ so that we were able to feed the long queue of customers who were waiting to be served. Sunday morning was foggy but cleared to become a lovely sunny day enabling the public to enjoy both the inside exhibits and also the outdoor attractions. Norm Barty.

## The Australian War Memorial

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 10.00am there is the first National Observance at the National Service Memorial at the Australian War Memorial. Wal Beckhouse (NSCFAA National President) was invited to lay a wreath to mark the ties between all National Servicemen at the memorial we all built. Wal was also invited to deliver the farewell address on the day. MEDALS TO BE WORN

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 10.15am The Royal Australian Air Force Association has invited us to the 'Battle of Britain' Commemoration Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial in the Western Courtyard too. This is the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of this great battle. Morning tea will be held in the Western Courtyard Gallery after the ceremony. MEDALS TO BE WORN

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00am 'The Battle for Australia' committee are holding a commemoration service in the Western Courtyard also at the Australian War Memorial. As we all know a lot of time and energy go into these parades and giving our support is one way to thank the organisers. MEDALS TO BE WORN



### BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE

The committee wishes to express their thanks to all the Canberra members that were able to help on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August at Fyshwick Bunnings (See photo above) We had a continuous turn up of folk and gee, didn't we need them. The takings for the day exceeded all expectations and extra supplies were purchased to keep things rolling.

It turned out to be the best day's takings since we have started this venture (some four years back). Our thanks must go to Sheryl Mc Culloch of Bunnings Fyshwick for allowing us the opportunity to raise money to enable us to continue our charter to raise funds for worthy causes in the district.

We support a number of very worthy causes including Snowy-hydro SouthCare Helicopter, Salvation Army Red Shield Defence Services, Salvation Army Drug Rehab locally and of course TS Canberra Navy Cadets. Once again thanks to everyone concerned on the day.

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## REMEMBERING VIETNAM VETERANS

Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Minister for Veterans' Affairs Warren Snowdon today said Vietnam Veterans' Day was an opportunity to reflect on the service of the men and women who served during the Vietnam War.

Some 60,000 Australians including ground troops, air force and navy personnel served in Vietnam for over a decade from 1962.

As a result of this war, 521 Australians died paying the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Ceremonies held around Australia today will honour the service and sacrifice of these brave men and women.

Vietnam Veterans' Day is commemorated each year on the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, one of the most significant Australian actions of the Vietnam War.

On 18 August 1966, 18 service personnel were killed and 24 were wounded at Long Tan when Delta company of the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, engaged a much larger force of North Vietnamese army regulars.

The Battle of Long Tan demonstrated the courage, determination and teamwork of our Australian soldiers in the face of overwhelming adversity.

A unit citation of gallantry was awarded by the Governor-General to the Delta Company 6RAR at a ceremony at Enoggera today.

The Vietnam War caused the greatest social and political unrest in Australia since the First World War and for many veterans, the treatment they received on their return to Australia left enduring scars.

For the 47,000 surviving veterans, time has not always healed the physical and psychological scars, which have often been shared by loving family members.

Today, we recognise and honour these fine Australians and their families.

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Submissions for the Next Edition close on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011

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