

# THE FURPHY

*ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER*

*December 2023 Edition*



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**Ph: (08) 9497 1972**

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Website: [www.armadalersl.com.au](http://www.armadalersl.com.au)

Social media: [Facebook](#)

**General Meetings:**

**Second Sunday of the month at 1030hrs**

**Annual General Meeting:**

**Second Sunday of September**

## Committee Positions

<b>Armadale Sub-Branch Committee</b>	
President	Mr Ken Hepburn
Vice President	Mr Hans van de Velde
Secretary	Ms Carol King
Assistant Secretary	Mr Mike Fairweather
Treasurer	Mrs Cheryl Cowie
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
Warden	Mr Graeme Cowie
Warden	Mr Mick Quinn
Membership Officer	Mr Tom Rynn
Committee	Mr Bob Giles
Committee	Mr Keith Northcott
Committee	Mr Geoff Scott
Advocate / Welfare Officer	Mr Brent Errington
Bar Manager	Mr Mike Fairweather

## **ADVOCATE / WELFARE**

**Brent Errington “Erro” is available as follows:**

***Operating out of RAAFA on Mondays and Fridays***

***between 0900 – 1230hrs and also at***

***Armadale RSL Sub-Branch between 1000-1400hrs on Thursdays***

**Contact Details:    *Mobile:    0407 449 150***

***e-mail:    welfare2@armadalersl.com.au***

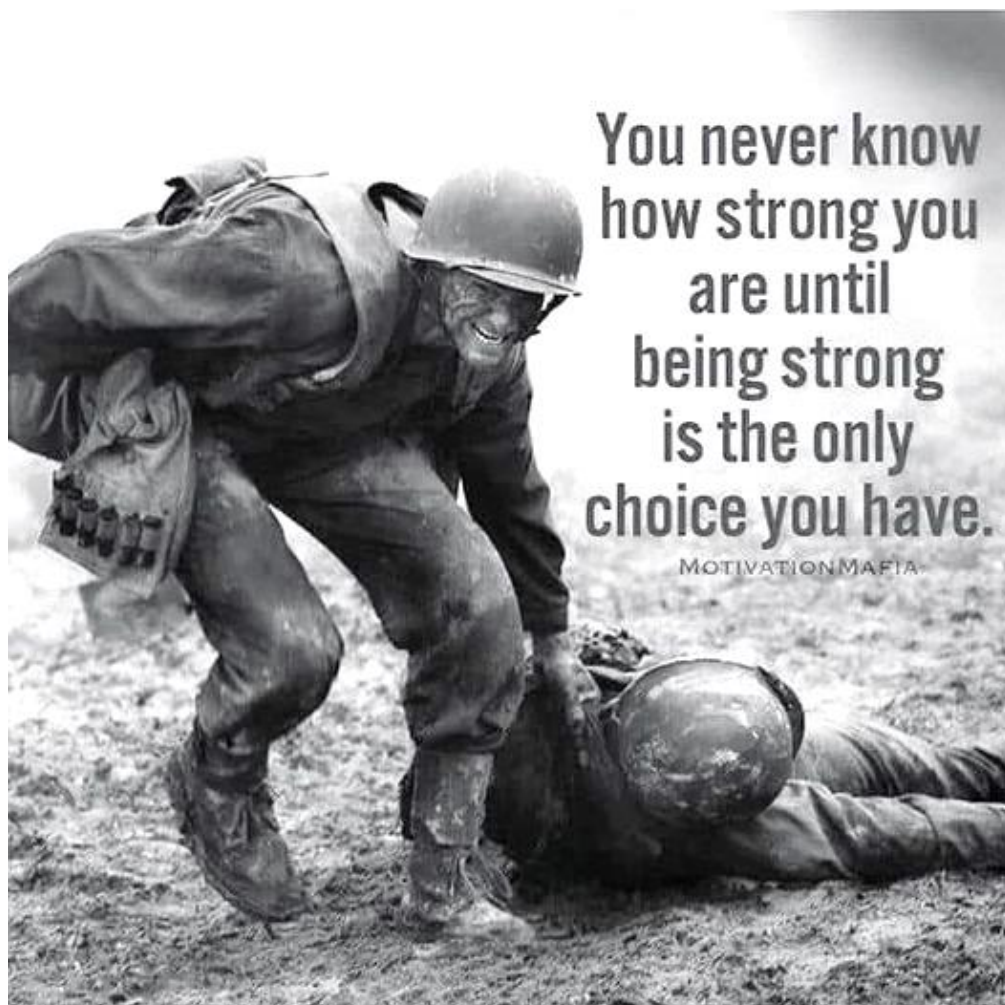
## Diary Dates for December

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Social Committee Meeting	1100
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Management Committee Meeting	1830
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting	1030



***Please bring a plate of food to share  
following the General Meeting on  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December***

***If you want your bird to be the main focus at Christmas, try cooking the neck and gizzards like this.....***



*The Carradine Choir*

*together with guests*

*Joshua Mitting and Midnight Velvet*

*Present*

*We Wish You Christmas*



7.00pm, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
Greendale Centre, Coombe Avenue, Armadale

Tickets \$20 (\$15 concession) including supper  
Available by calling 9390 8045 or pay at the door

More information available on our website: [carradinechoir.wixsite.com](http://carradinechoir.wixsite.com)

The Carradine Choir is affiliated with Voice Moves

# *Remembrance Day, 2023*





# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Folks,

The Remembrance Day Service, held in Armadale Memorial Park, on Saturday 11 November 2023 had a particularly good turnout and thanks to 52 Army Cadet Unit for providing the Catafalque Party.

There was a good turn out back at the RSL, after the Service and it was good to see Deputy Mayor John Keogh, Councillor Jiby Joy and Councillor Gary Smith attend the RSL and have a drink with our members.

I would like to thank the volunteers who sat at the tables in the four major shopping centres, over 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November, with merchandise and donation poppies available, to raise money for funds to assist our Service Members and their families.

There has been a good response to our Members Roast Lunch, which is being held, on Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December. Thanks to all those who put their name down and are attending.

There will be no General Meeting in January 2024 and the first General Meeting for 2024 will be on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

I would like to thank the Executive, Committee and Social Committee Members for all their contributions in helping to make Armadale RSL Sub-Branch a club that members and visitors like to attend and enjoy their time here and thank you for the work each one does throughout the year for the Sub-Branch.

I would like to wish every member a Happy New Year and all the best for 2024.

Merry Christmas everyone.

Regards,

*Ken Hepburn*

President

Returned Services League Armadale Sub-Branch  
Ph: (08) 9497 1972. M: 0428 001 949

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Website: [www.armadalersl.com.au](http://www.armadalersl.com.au)



# *Secretary's Notes*

*Hi Everyone,*

*The lead up to all-things Remembrance Day is always hectic, however we survived another one !!!*

*I must extend my sincere appreciation to all those members who supported us by helping with merchandise preparation and counting, manned the stalls and also assisted on Remembrance Day before, during and after the service.*

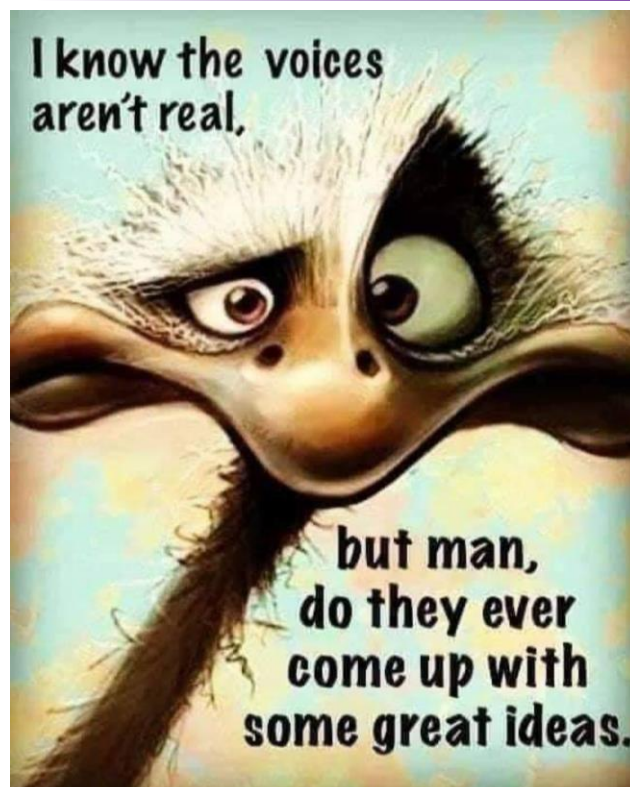
*The Donation tins raised \$905 for our Welfare account. The Sub-Branch banked \$8,570 from the sale and raffles of Merchandise. A huge effort from everyone involved. We can't hold these fundraising events without the dedication and commitment of our very loyal members. Thank you all.*

*We are holding our end of year Roast Lunch on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and Charlie Mezza will be entertaining us again from 1:30pm that afternoon. We hope you will support the Club by attending.*

*Best regards to all,*

*Carol King*

*Sub-Branch Secretary*



# Membership Update

*as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023*

**Service Members: 181**

**Affiliate Members: 52**

**Social Members: 82**

**Total: 315**

The past two months have seen a surge in Social Membership with a very small increase in Affiliates whilst Service numbers are rather static.

A reminder to all that membership lapses at 31st December so get in quick while you still have some Black Friday money left.

RSLWA will send out renewals to Service Members within the next fortnight so you can pay direct to Perth.

I will still take monies if you wish to pay via the Sub-Branch. All Affiliates and Social Members are to renew via the Sub-Branch.

Best wishes to all for the Festive Season, take care your families and each other and I will see you in 2024.

*Tom Rynn*

Tel: 0439 934 285

E-mail: [tomrynn@bigpond.com](mailto:tomrynn@bigpond.com)

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*Attorney: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?*

*Witness: Yes*

*Attorney: And in what way does it affect your memory?*

*Witness: I forget*

*Attorney: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?*

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2024

Please leave your details and payment in a sealed envelope and place in the Membership Box under the main Notice Board

In most cases your receipt will be available for collection the same week from the bar staff

**Affiliate and Social Members - please make any cheques payable to Armadale RSL Sub-Branch**

Service Members pay direct to State RSL unless agreed by the Membership Officer to send in bulk via the Sub-Branch

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact No: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>AFFILIATE</b>	<b>SOCIAL</b>
\$40	\$40	\$20
Service No.	N <sup>o</sup> (If Known)	

### Any Change Of Address and/or Contact Details Since Last Renewal

Name: .....

New Details: .....

Post Code:.....

Telephone:.....Mobile:.....

E-Mail:.....

# HAPPY Birthday

## December Service Members:

Counce	Mr	Bernard	08/12	Clark	Mrs	Karen	12/12
Craige	Mr	Graham	29/12	Edhouse	Mr	Jason	20/12
Errington	Mrs	Deborah	01/12	Kelly	Mr	Brendon	22/12
Legg	Mr	James	01/12	Lucas	Mr	Alan	21/12
McNeill	Mr	Peter	17/12	Milner	Mr	Alwyn	27/12
Oates	Mr	Thomas	07/12	O'Brien	Mr	Walter	09/12
Parry	Mr	Edward	05/12	Tryde	Mr	Geoff	04/12
Van Opijnen	Mr	Terry	10/12				

## December Affiliate Members:

Cowie	Mrs	Sandra	13/12
Delaney	Ms	Jeanette	16/12

## December Social Members:

Allan	Mrs	Yvonne	03/12	Brokas	Mr	Peter	06/12
Day	Ms	Leanne	18/12	Houkamau	Mrs	Anne Marie	22/12
McNamara	Mr	Paul	17/12				

*If anyone has been missed off the list, please advise  
Tom Rynn (Membership Officer)*

*These members may collect a free drink of their choice  
during the month*

*We hope you have a very special Birthday*

# *Bar Manager's Report*

G'day All,

Again another successful month for the bar, with Remembrance Day, Charlie Mezza music and the Metconnx people visiting our club which I hope carries on for the duration of the rail transformation. We are having a lot of trouble getting Cascade kegs at the moment.

*Stormy....*



**If at first you don't  
succeed, try doing  
it the way your wife  
told you to in the  
beginning.**

- What did our parents do to kill boredom before the internet? I asked my 26 brothers and sisters and they didn't know either.
- Today, I melted an ice cube with my mind just by staring at it. It took a lot longer than I thought it would.
- Struggling to get your wife's attention? Just sit down and look comfortable.
- Just sold my homing pigeon on eBay for the 22nd time.
- I grew up with Bob Hope, Steve Jobs, and Johnny Cash. Now there's no jobs, no cash, and no hope. Please don't let anything happen to Kevin Bacon.
- Shout out to everyone who can still remember their childhood phone number but can't remember the password they created yesterday. You are my people.
- One minute you're young and fun. And next, you're turning down the stereo in your car to see better.
- Think you're old and you will be old. Think you are young, and you will be delusional.

# Byford Rail Extension - Update



///METRONET



**Shutdown but... NOT  
SWITCHED OFF.**

Commencing Monday 20 November 2023, there will be no train services between Armadale/Thornlie and Victoria Park, ***however the electricity will continue to run in the rail corridor.***

The Armadale Line Transformation will include major works on the METRONET Byford Rail Extension, Victoria Park-Canning Level Crossing Removal and Thornlie-Cockburn Link projects.

***Please be advised that entering restricted areas without authorisation is both dangerous and illegal.***

***Avoid these zones for your safety and compliance.***

Trains will continue to operate between Victoria Park and Perth stations from Thursday, 23 November 2023, with seven new and five enhanced bus routes introduced to the bus network to support existing timetabled services.



*Destroyer Escort USS Fiske broken in two and sinking in the North Atlantic after being torpedoed by German submarine U-804, 2 Aug 1944*



# Season's Greetings

*The Armadale RSL Sub-Branch Executive and Committee wish all our Members a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year*



TRADITIONAL  
POMME AUSSIE  
**FAT BELLIES**

FISH & CHIPS

EST 1973

**OPEN**

**WED, THUR, FRI, SAT**

**4:30 - 8:00 PM**

**SUNDAY**

**12:00 - 2:00 PM**

**&**

**4:30 - 8:00 PM**

*Now Open Sunday Lunch time .....*

# ARMADALE RSL

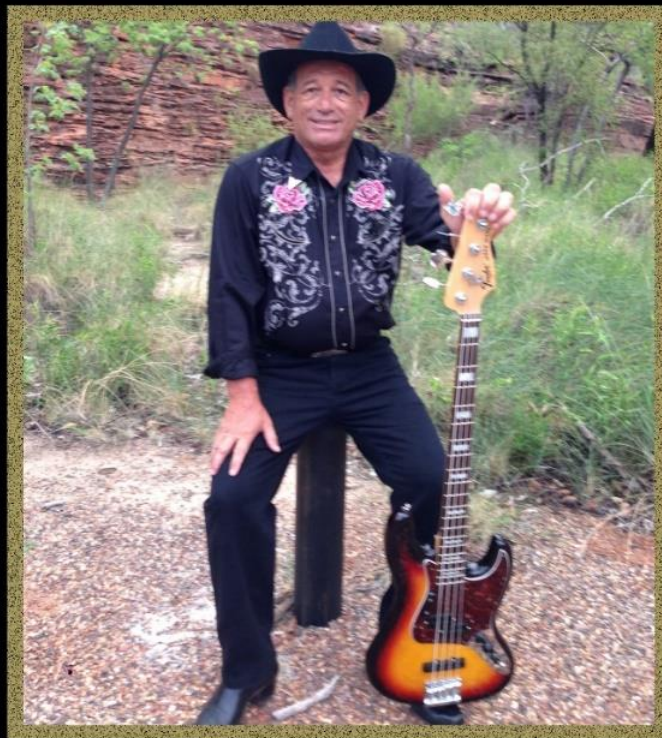
1 Commerce Ave Armadale

LIVE MUSIC FROM

# CHARLIE MEZZA

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

*following the Members Lunch -  
from 1:30pm onwards*



Foot Tapping Country Tunes & Old Time Rock & Roll

# Significant Event

***We reflect on what is referred to as the Battle for Australia and the bravery of those who served on Australia's home front, and the islands, the seas and in the skies to the north. It's an important reminder of a challenging time for Australians between 1942 and 1945***

## **Outbreak of war**

On 3 September 1939, Great Britain declared war on Germany. As in the First World War, Australia was not directly threatened by this conflict thousands of miles away. But as a loyal member of the British Empire, Australia again raised a volunteer force for overseas service wherever it was needed. During 1940 and 1941 the men of the Second Australian Imperial Force (the AIF) found themselves fighting the Germans and Italians in Egypt, Libya, Greece and Crete.

## **Japan strikes south**

Right from the beginning of the war, Australia was concerned that Japan might also become involved. To strengthen the Empire's defences in Asia, Australian soldiers were sent to Malaya in February 1941. These men became part of the forward defences of Britain's greatest naval base in the region - Singapore. As long as the Royal Navy in Singapore guarded the sea between Australia and any enemy to the north, Australians felt safe.

On 8 December 1941, Japan declared that the day of European domination of Asia and its resources was over. Japanese troops landed on the north coast of Malaya, and in a daring move, Japanese carrier-based aircraft bombed the United States' Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Japan hoped temporarily to destroy U.S. naval power in the Pacific and enable Japan to concentrate on the conquest of a huge Asian/Pacific empire. This would stretch from the Indian/Burmese border, down through Malaya, across the Indonesian islands to New Guinea, out into the Pacific as far as the Gilbert Islands and north to the Kurile Islands off Japan itself.

## The fall of Singapore

The Japanese Army aimed to crush the British Empire forces in Malaya and Singapore in 100 days. It took them just 70 days. On 10 December, Japanese planes sank two British battleships, the Prince of Wales and the Repulse, sent to repel their invasion. In January at Gemas and Bakri in Malaya, Australian troops successfully ambushed Japanese forces.



*East Coast of Malaya. December 1941. Crew members escaping by scrambling over the side into life boats from the doomed RN battleship HMS Prince of Wales after the Japanese air attack.*

Despite their bravery this did little to slow down the rapid pace of the Japanese advance towards Singapore. By 31 January 1942, all Empire forces had withdrawn to Singapore Island itself.



*East Coast of Malaya. 10 December 1941. Heads of crew members of HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse bobbing in the water as a destroyer moves in for the rescue. Some 2320 men from both ships were saved after the sinking of the ships by Japanese bomber aircraft*

On 8 February, the Japanese landed in the north west of the island. Within six days they were on the outskirts of Singapore which was under constant attack. On 15 February, General Percival, the Commander, surrendered. At Singapore the Japanese took more than 140,000 prisoners, approximately 15,000 of them Australians.

### **The months of defeat**

On 23 January 1942, the war crept closer to Australia - Rabaul in New Britain fell to the Japanese. On January 30, the Australian defenders of Ambon Island surrendered. On February 19, just four days after the fall of Singapore, the first ever air raid on the Australian mainland occurred. Darwin was bombed and 243 people were killed.

Further disasters followed. Timor was invaded on 19-20 February. Here Australian commandos conducted a guerilla campaign during the rest of 1942.



*Portuguese Timor 1942-11. Native Timorese constructing a bamboo hut for the use of Australian guerillas. The four Australians standing guard were members of the 2/2nd Independent Company which landed on the island early in 1942 as part of 'Sparrow Force'*

Between 28 February and 1 March the Japanese landed on Java. Two ships, the USS Houston and the Australian cruiser, HMAS Perth, were sunk in the Sunda Strait attempting to prevent this landing.

On 3 March, an air raid on Broome in north west Australia cost 70 lives. On 8 March, Japanese soldiers came ashore on the mainland of New Guinea and captured Lae and Salamaua. On 12 March, all allied forces in Java surrendered.

By the end of March 1942, there was a line of Japanese-held territory directly to the north of Australia, stretching from Rabaul to Singapore. The Japanese had conquered their Asian/Pacific empire. Many Australians believed it was only a matter of time before Australia too was invaded.

### **The arrival of the Americans**

Just after the defeat in Malaya, Australia's Prime Minister, John Curtin, declared that "the fall of Singapore opens the Battle for Australia." Curtin was aware that Great Britain, herself facing a huge challenge from Germany in Europe and North Africa, could do little to help Australia. Already at the end of 1941, Curtin indicated that Australia would have to seek a new ally to

help defend its shores – the United States. On 22 December 1941, the first American soldiers arrived in Brisbane.

In February 1942, the American President, Franklin Roosevelt, decided to make Australia the main American base in the south-west Pacific. American and Australian forces would launch the fight back against Japan from Australia. Roosevelt ordered General Douglas MacArthur, the US commander in the Philippines, to proceed to Melbourne and there to take command of all allied forces in the area. Throughout 1942, Australia began providing camps, airfields and a whole range of other materials for the increasing number of American service personnel arriving in the country.

### **‘All in’**

During 1942, Australians were told, not asked, that they must get 100 percent behind the war effort. Defence was the first priority.



*Barbed wire emplacements on Manly Beach, Sydney, 1942*





*Australian Women's Army Service mechanics repairing tyres and carrying out maintenance work on Land Headquarters Signals motor vehicles at Albert Park, Melbourne*

Beaches were covered in barbed wire, older men were asked to join the Volunteer Defence Corps, air raid precautions were devised, a National Emergency Service prepared to cope with the possible results of an invasion and manpower laws directed people into essential war production. Hundreds of thousands of women found themselves doing jobs that previously had been done by men.

This freed men for the fighting services. But despite all their fears, the invasion never came!

### **Japanese plans**

In early March 1942, the Japanese had debated what to do now that Japan had so easily gained her objectives. The Navy wanted to invade Australia and deny the country as a base to either America or Britain. The Army felt it did not have the strength to invade and fully occupy so vast a continent.

The Army won this argument. It was decided that from their new base at Rabaul, the Japanese would try to cut Australia off from America. This could be done by capturing various island groups in the Pacific – Fiji, the New Hebrides, Samoa and the Solomons. From these places, Japanese planes would make it impossible for American ships to get to Australia. In early May 1942, the Japanese struck.

## The Battle of the Coral Sea

On 2 May, the Japanese landed at Tulagi in the Solomons. At the same time an invasion fleet headed towards Port Moresby on the south coast of Papua. This fleet was protected by planes from aircraft carriers. However an American carrier force supported by cruisers, and destroyers – HMAS Australia and HMAS Hobart among them – was waiting for the Japanese. American planes found the Japanese carrier Shoho and sank it. The Japanese also found an American carrier, the Lexington, and destroyed it. A Japanese carrier, the Shokaku, was also damaged as was the American carrier, Yorktown. However the Japanese, unsure of the full size of the American carrier force, retreated. Port Moresby had been saved.



*Coral Sea, South West Pacific, May 1942. Smoke billows into the air from the burning carrier USS Lexington after attacks by Japanese torpedo aircraft*

Coral Sea was an important battle. It was the largest naval battle ever fought so close to Australia. It was fought entirely by aircraft attempting to sink ships. At no time did opposing ships fire at each other. Most important of all, it was the first time that the Japanese had been halted in their advance and turned back.



*117 Midway Island, Central Pacific, June 1942. A close view of the fire in the island (superstructure) of the carrier USS Yorktown following a Japanese air attack during the battle of Midway. The ship was later abandoned and sank.*

Almost exactly one month later, near a small central pacific island called Midway, the Japanese Navy suffered a major defeat. Within a matter of hours the Americans sank four Japanese aircraft carriers. Plans for the capture of places like Fiji, Samoa and the New Hebrides were abandoned. From early June 1942, the Japanese no longer possessed the ability to cut Australia off from America.

### **The fighting in Papua, July-November 1942**

Despite their defeat at Midway, the Japanese continued with their plan to cut Australia's supply line with the United States. On 21-22 July they landed an invasion force on the north coast of Papua at Gona. From there they struck overland across the Owen Stanley Ranges towards Port Moresby. The only way over these rugged, jungle clad mountains was by a narrow path known as the Kokoda Track. In terrible conditions, young Australian and Japanese soldiers fought hard for control of this jungle pathway. By 17 September, the Australians had been driven back as far as Imita Ridge within sight of the lights of Port Moresby – the Japanese objective. However, confronted by strong defences and nearly starving, the Japanese decided to retreat. Pursued by the Australians, the Japanese by 15 November were back where they had landed on the north coast.



*Papua, October 1942 - Men leading pack horses and mules loaded with supplies down the precipitous curving track from the end of the road down into Uberi Valley over which troops and supplies were taken to our forward positions in the Owen Stanley Ranges. In the foreground may be seen a 25-pounder gun that is being man-hauled through the valley to Imita Ridge*

Meanwhile, at Milne Bay, on the far southern coast of Papua, a Japanese force had been decisively beaten by Australians. The Japanese had landed here as part of a two-pronged attack on Port Moresby –one attack was to go overland from Gona and the other around the coast.



*October 1942 - An Australian infantry section passing a Japanese type 95 HA-GO light tank knocked out at Milne Bay. These tanks had given the Australians a rough time in the early stages of the Japanese invasion*



*November 1942 - An Australian anti-aircraft battery somewhere in New Guinea, manned entirely by Victorians using guns manufactured in a Victorian factory. Their bag of enemy planes to date – 43*



*Milne Bay, Papua, September 1942. The efforts of the two RAAF squadrons of Kittyhawks (75 and 76 Squadrons) in the fierce Milne Bay campaign helped drive the Japanese back into the sea*

Airstrips had been built at Milne Bay to allow Australian and American planes to attack out to sea towards the north and to defend eastern approaches to Port Moresby. As the Japanese tried to capture these airfields, Australian soldiers and planes of the RAAF beat them back. This was the first defeat of a Japanese force on land during the Pacific war.

## **Guadalcanal**

The other main Japanese effort to control the Pacific sea lanes was made in the Solomon Islands. They built an airfield at Guadalcanal intending to extend their bombing range towards Fiji and Samoa. On 7 August, American marines landed on Guadalcanal and seized this airfield. The Australian cruiser Canberra was sunk in a night battle off Savo Island on August 9 as the Japanese navy tried to break through the allied defences and sink the American transport ships. Over the next six months the battle raged across Guadalcanal as the Japanese poured in thousands of men in an attempt to drive back the Americans. By March 1943, the Japanese abandoned all hope of retaking the island.

## **The Battles at Buna and Gona, December 1942 – January 1943**

By early December 1942, the Japanese Papuan invasion force had retreated to strongly defended positions round Buna, Gona and Sanananda. Here they were attacked by a combined force of Australians and Americans. This was the first time that Australia had fought side by side with American land forces in the Pacific.



*Papua. Australian Troops in hastily constructed trenches on the Gona perimeter*



*Gona, Papua, December 1942. Australian troops move down the coast towards Buna*

The battles on the north coast were fought to the finish by the Japanese. Few allowed themselves to be taken prisoner. Many allied soldiers were killed, wounded or evacuated suffering from tropical illnesses. By 23 January, all the Japanese positions had been captured. The Papuan campaign was over. Throughout 1942, Australians had felt an invasion was possible. From January 1943, the Japanese were on the defensive throughout their island empire. Although the Pacific war still had two and a half years to run, the danger to Australia had passed.

The defence of Australia had been successful.







*USMC Private First Class Jerry W. Garner wearing his lucky helmet, 1969. He survived the war, and passed away in Missouri, 2012*

## **GAMING CHAIRS IN THE 1930S**



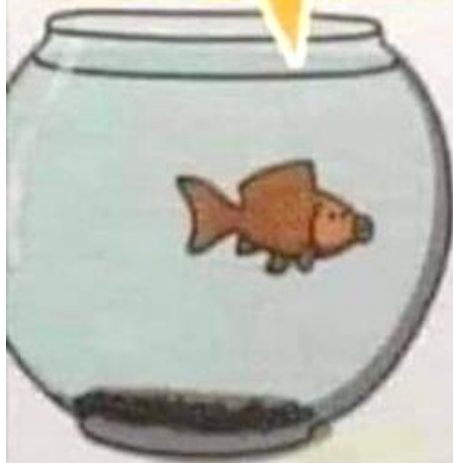
**THEN**



**NOW**



**Still got the  
shits Dave?**



**Yep.**







**RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE  
ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH**

*Your RSL*