

THE FURPHY

ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

July 2025 Edition



**1 Commerce Ave, Armadale, WA 6112
PO Box 697, Armadale, WA 6992**

Ph: (08) 9497 1972

email: secretary@armadalersl.com.au

Website: www.armadalersl.com.au

Social media: [Facebook](#)

General Meetings:

Second Sunday of the month at 1100hrs

Annual General Meeting:

Second Sunday of September

Committee Positions

Armada Sub-Branch Committee	
President	Mr Mike Fairweather
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Ms Carol King
Treasurer	Mrs Cheryl Cowie
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:

At the Armadale RSL Sub-Branch:

Monday: by appointment only

Thursday: between 0900 - 1400hrs

Weekday Contact Details:

Mobile: 0407 449 150

e-mail: welfare2@armadalersl.com.au

Diary Dates for July

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
Sunday	6 th	Social Committee Meeting	1100
Tuesday	8 th	Management Committee Meeting	1100
Sunday	13 th	General Meeting	1100
Sunday	20 th	Heartbeats Band	1230

REMINDERS

General Meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month and will now

Commence at 1100 hours

(not 1030 as in the past)

No BYO food to be consumed on days when the Kitchen is open

(between 12 noon and 2:00pm)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Members,

I'd like to extend my condolences to the Bishop family on the passing of Geoff Bishop, a past Treasurer and Committee Member of the Sub-Branch.

The Secretary has already mentioned that the grant for \$33,000 will be forthcoming soon. A Busy Bee or similar will be required to assist and I'll be chasing all members to help us out over a couple of days once the dates are finalised.

Congress was held on 14th June. Thanks to Carol and Graeme who accompanied me on the day. Matt Keogh was a guest and thanked everyone for their attendance "especially the Armadale delegates".

Paul Papalia advised that a grant will be opening soon for Sub-Branch upgrades. We will be looking at applying for new Solar Panels and Batteries. We will also consider trying to upgrade the floor coverings in the Wilson Room and Office area but clearly, we will be subject to this State Government grant criteria.

A review is being undertaken to increase Sub-Branch disciplinary powers especially when an Integrity breach has occurred.

Our "RSLWA Board Patron" (Trent Mongan) was not returned to the Board and we have requested that David Thomas (current President at Claremont) be allocated to our Sub-Branch. This will be ratified in due course.

The vacant Executive positions for the AGM are: President (2 years), Vice President (1 year) and Treasurer (2 years). Nominations open on 13th July for 1 month. Please consider standing for a position on either the Executive or the Committee.

Thanks everyone for their support to date and cheers for now,

Mike Fairweather

President

Returned Services League Armadale Sub-Branch

Ph: (08) 9497 1972. M: 0403 980 290

1 Commerce Avenue Armadale WA 6112 | PO Box 697 Armadale WA 6992

e-mail: president@armadalersl.com.au

Secretary's Notes

Hi Everyone,

On behalf of the Sub-Branch, Graeme, Stormy and myself attended State Congress on 14th June. It was interesting and the President will give some feedback in his report.'

We have received confirmation of an amount of \$33,000 will be coming our way in July to replace the hall carpet and also to effect repairs to the external plumbing on the western wall. This is a grant from the ANZAC Trust.

*The carpet laying will require a significant effort as it will also entail re-securing some loose floorboards. **Everything** will need to be moved – tables, chairs, piano, pool tables etc. This will involve significant manual assistance from as many members as possible. Stormy will be co-ordinating this activity but as he will need to work around current First Aid bookings there may be a delay. I'm sure he'll be chasing as many members as he can to help out over that time.*

TOPESS BAAA MAID
IN NEW ZEALAND



The Sub-Branch AGM nomination forms will be on the board at the 13th July GM and close after the GM on 10th August. The AGM will be held on 14th September.

We will be welcoming back the Heartbeats Band this month. Lunch will be on sale and is advertised elsewhere in this newsletter.

That's about all from me for this edition.

Carol King

Sub-Branch Secretary

e-mail: secretary@armadalersl.com.au

HEARTBEATS BAND

*live at the
Armadales RSL*



Sunday 20th July - 12:30pm

***Lunch on Sale
from 12 noon – 2:00pm***

***Get a group of friends together and join us for
a great afternoon of musical entertainment***

Free Entry

LUNCH on SALE

Sunday 20th July

(to coincide with Heartbeats Band)

Mains: \$15.00 *(all with Chips)*

- *Parmi Burger*
- *Burger with the Lot*
- *Hot Beef and Gravy Roll*



Desserts: \$5.00



- *Christmas Pudding / Custard*
- *Blueberry Cheesecake*
- *Apple Crumble/Custard/Cream*

12 noon – 2:00pm

Membership Update

As at 30th June, 2025:

Service Members:	133
Affiliate Members:	40
Social Members:	<u>70</u>
Total:	<u>243</u>

All members who have paid their subscriptions should have received their Membership Cards from RSLWA by end of June.

4Please advise if your card has NOT arrived.

Tom Rynn

Tel: 0439 934 285

e-mail: tomrynn@bigpond.com



25 June 1992 - HMAS YARRA, (Type 12 frigate), departed from Sydney under tow, bound for India to be scrapped



July Service Members:

Dew	Mr	Damien	16/07	Dunn	Mr	Richard	14/07
Flavel	Mr	Marc	30/07	Graveson	Ms	Trudi	14/07
Hibbert	Mr	Glenn	23/07	Robson	Mr	Brent	05/07
Sargeson	Mr	Laurence	21/07				

July Affiliate Members:

Skehan	Mr	Josh	23/07
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July Social Members:

Borger	Mrs	Julie	24/07	Brough	Ms	Lyndall	14/07
Garbutt	Ms	Kathy	28/07	Hagemann	Mr	Ingo	24/07
Hodge	Mrs	Pauline	02/07	Keilty	Miss	Natalie	19/07
Nonnok	Ms	Phamphanat	08/07	Sanders	Mr	Robert	16/07
Sue	Ms	Corbie	12/07				

*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,

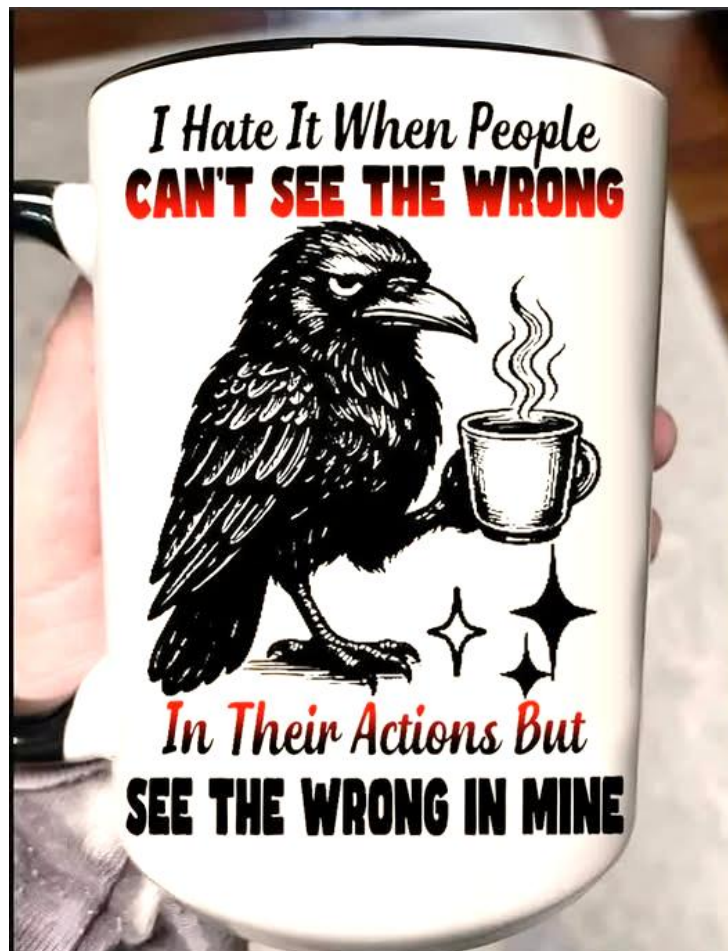
Sales have been fairly steady, but would like an increase of course, but I say that all the time.

Prices are holding for the moment so I can't see any need to apply any increases in the short term.

Thanks to Fee for filling in again when Jules has been unwell, we really appreciate your support.

Bye for now,

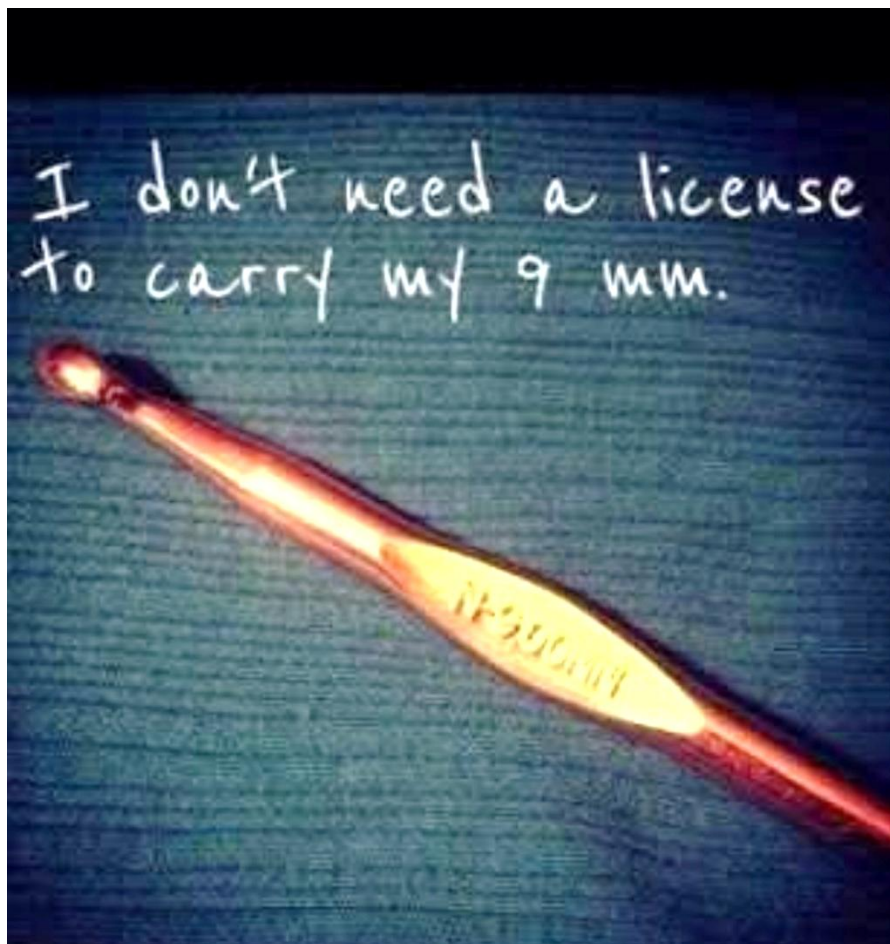
Stormy



it's not going to end well



Treasurer's Report





Private (Pte) A. Kean of Swan Hill, Victoria, dozes during a halt near Mubo. With him is Pte Frank Soutter (possibly VX24993 Francis Henry Soutter) of Clifton Hill, Victoria who was shot through the arm during fighting in the Mubo area, Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea. 3 August 1943



B-17G bomber returned to Nuthampstead, Hertfordshire, England, United Kingdom after being damaged on a bombing mission over Cologne, Germany, 5 October 1944. The pilot had to fight for control against drag and cold in order to return to base

I Hope Her last Name Is
Not Brick... 🧱



When your photo doesn't
go as planned



So, Fergus, what
do ye have on
under your kilt?

Well, Angus, on
a good day,
lipstick





Crashed HE 111



German Soldier Helps A Little Boy Sneak Across The Berlin Wall, 1961

Australian Peacekeepers in Bougainville

1994 - 2003

Australian peacekeepers played a key role in brokering peace in the long-running conflict in Bougainville, an island province of Papua New Guinea (PNG). The almost decade-long civil war between separatist groups and the Papua New Guinea Government was one of the most significant and violent conflicts in the region since World War II. An estimated 15,000 people died and up to 70,000 people were displaced.

Australia and New Zealand led 3 regional peacekeeping missions to Bougainville between 1993 and 2003. The aim of these missions was to monitor the truce and ceasefire, prevent further major outbreaks of violence and bring stability to the region.

A fight for Independence



Members of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA), many with homemade weapons, gather around a World War II Japanese 20 mm cannon that was reconditioned at the Panguna mine workshops and used to deadly effect against the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF). In 1994, one of the PNGDF's Iroquois helicopters, donated by Australia, was reportedly shot down by this gun in the hills above Koromira, south-east Bougainville

A province of PNG in the South Pacific region, the island of Bougainville was in a state of civil war from 1989 to 1998. This was known as the Bougainville Crisis.

The war was fought between the PNG Government and separatist groups seeking independence from PNG, primarily the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA). With deep-seated distrust on both sides, inflamed by ethnic differences, community-level tensions evolved into an armed struggle that spanned almost a decade.

The catalyst for the long-running conflict was the development of a copper mine on the island by Australian company Conzinc Riotinto of Australia (CRA – now Rio Tinto Limited).

The Panguna mine

After the discovery of copper and gold in Bougainville in the 1960s, CRA established an open-cut mine at Panguna. At the time, it was the world's largest copper and gold mine. It was also the biggest mining project ever undertaken by an Australian company. However, the mine sparked major conflict in Bougainville, stirring up historical and ethnic issues that eventually led to a civil war.

Building the mine, along with an airfield, ports and a power station, meant acquiring land from local landowners and resettling local Nasioi people. It also brought thousands of workers to Bougainville, mostly European and Australian expatriates and PNG mainlanders. This influx of outsiders caused further tensions in the community. Their cultural and social behaviours clashed with the ethnic and cultural sensitivities of the local and mostly Catholic Bougainvilleans. The outsiders were also benefiting from the island's rich resources in a way that many of the local people and landholders were not. The mine began operating in April 1972 under the management of Bougainville Copper Ltd, with the PNG Government as a 20% shareholder. But as time went on, opposition to the mine grew. The local villagers were distressed about the disastrous environmental damage caused by the mine, with local rivers and crops poisoned, whole species wiped out and congenital disorders found in children. They opposed losing their land and wanted a greater share of the mine's revenue in return, a demand the PNG Government refused. In late 1988 and early 1989, disgruntled landowners began sabotaging the mine's infrastructure. There were violent clashes and protests.

The PNG Government sent in riot police to restore order, followed by the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF). The violence quickly escalated, and the mine was forced to close in May 1989.



Destroyed resort buildings at Kieta, damaged during the conflict on Bougainville, which lasted for nearly 12 years

The crisis becomes a war

Over the next 10 years, Bougainville descended into a violent civil war. Separatist groups emerged, seeking autonomy or demanding independence from PNG.

Throughout 1992, PNGDF commanders on the island armed hundreds of Bougainvillean men who were opposed to the BRA. They led the men on operations and called them the Bougainville Resistance Force (BRF).

The BRA had declared the independence of Bougainville from PNG in 1990. The BRF was opposed to an independent Bougainville dominated by the BRA, which was largely composed of members of the Nasioi ethnic group. With little success, multiple attempts were made to broker peace between the warring groups.

The drawn-out conflict resulted in the deaths of hundreds of PNGDF soldiers and resistance fighters, and an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 civilians. Up to 70,000 people were also displaced. After the PNG Government withdrew its security forces in 1990, it cut off services to the island, impacting the supply of essential goods, including medicine. This was devastating to the island's economy and resulted in many civilian deaths due to disease and deprivation. PNG forces later returned to areas of Bougainville where they had local support.



A smoke grenade goes off as armed members of the BRF patrol with soldiers from the PNGDF in the Nagovis district, southwest Bougainville, during the civil war. The militia soldier in the foreground has graffiti on the back of his helmet which reads, 'Cultist Land. Starlite Charlie One '97.'

A multinational mission

A multinational peacekeeping effort – led first by New Zealand, then by Australia – eventually helped set Bougainville on the path to peace. The PNG Government invited New Zealand to lead the way initially, due to its neutrality in the region and lack of involvement in Bougainville.

In July 1990, New Zealand agreed to provide a secure venue for peacekeeping talks with separatist leaders. On 29 July, New Zealand carried out Operation Big Talk aboard the HMNZS *Endeavour* with international observers from Canada, Vanuatu and New Zealand.

The delegates all signed the Endeavour Accord on 5 August, which called for government services to be restored. However, there was no progress made toward a political solution.



Female and male soldiers of the Australian Army disembarking from a RAAF C-130 Hercules aircraft (A97-178) on the tarmac of Aropa Airfield in Bougainville. They are wearing bright yellow brassards and carrying bright yellow hats, indicating that they are members of the Australian-led Peace Monitoring Group (PMG)

Australia, by comparison, had a more complex history in the region. PNG, including Bougainville, was an Australian colony from 1919 to 1949. It was then an Australian-administered United Nations trust territory until its independence in 1975. Australia's official policy in the early years of the Bougainville Crisis was to support the PNG Government and oppose Bougainville gaining independence. The PNGDF was also using Australian-donated helicopters and patrol boats to enforce its blockade of Bougainville.

Australia's role

While there were doubts initially about Australia's ability to be impartial, Australia played a crucial role in facilitating the peace process in Bougainville across 3 separate peacekeeping missions:

- South Pacific Peacekeeping Force (SPPKF), 1994
- Truce Monitoring Group (TMG), 1997–1998
- Peace Monitoring Group (PMG), 1998–2003.

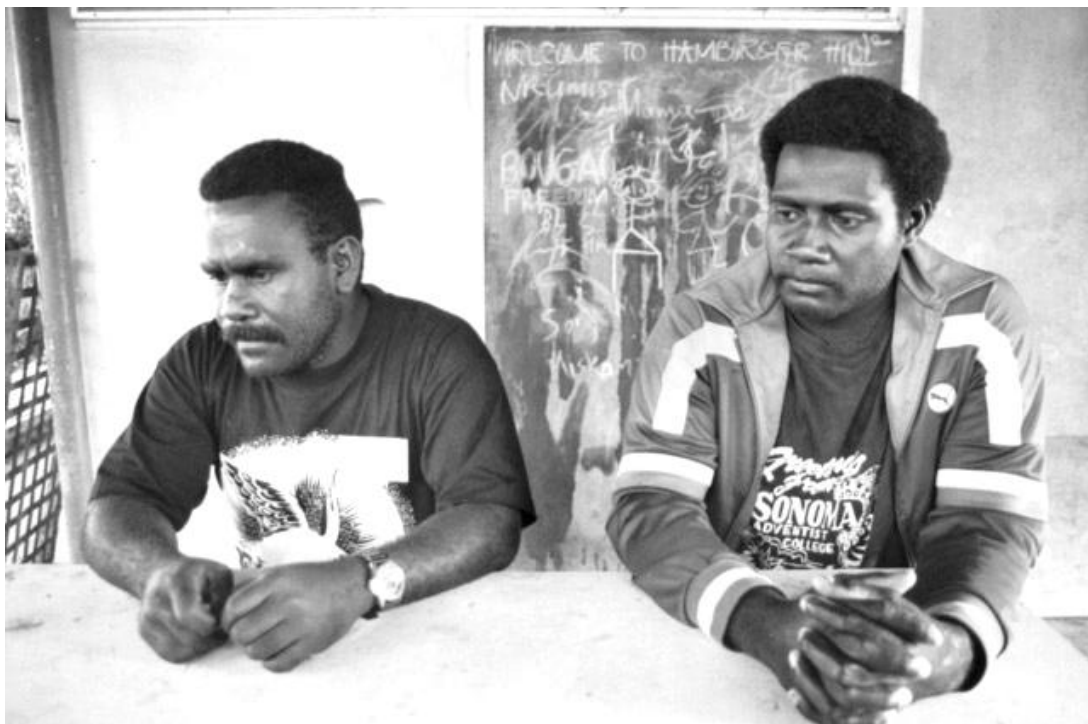
The aim of the SPPKF was to provide security for peace talks. The role of the monitoring groups was to:

- monitor the ceasefire and report on the compliance of both sides
- bring news and updates of the peace process
- help build confidence and popular opinion.

The groups carried out patrols of isolated villages in 4WD vehicles and helicopters, or on difficult treks through thick jungle. Group members spent time with local villagers, held meetings and listened to complaints.

Between 1994 and 2003, around 3,000 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel served on Bougainville across the 3 missions.

South Pacific Peacekeeping Force (SPPKF) 1994



Two members of the Bougainville Resistance Force (BRF) nervously await the start of the Bougainville Peace Conference in Arawa (1994). The peace talks follow years of civil war between separatists and the PNG government

Hopes for a peaceful settlement were raised in late 1994 with the creation of the South Pacific Peacekeeping Force (SPPKF). The PNG Government approached Australia about assembling and leading a regional peacekeeping force to provide security for the Bougainville Peace Conference at Arawa.

Named Operation Lagoon, it was the first combined South Pacific region peacekeeping operation commanded by the ADF.

The Australian-led regional armed force of Australian, Fijian, Tongan and Vanuatuan military personnel deployed on Operation Lagoon between 4 and 21 October 1994. A total of 648 Australian personnel served in SPPKF. However, the BRA was suspicious of the relationship between the peacekeeping force and the PNGDF, and refused to attend the peace conference. Without the BRA, the peace talks failed and the SPPKF was withdrawn after only 3 weeks.

Truce Monitoring Group (TMG) 1997 to 1998

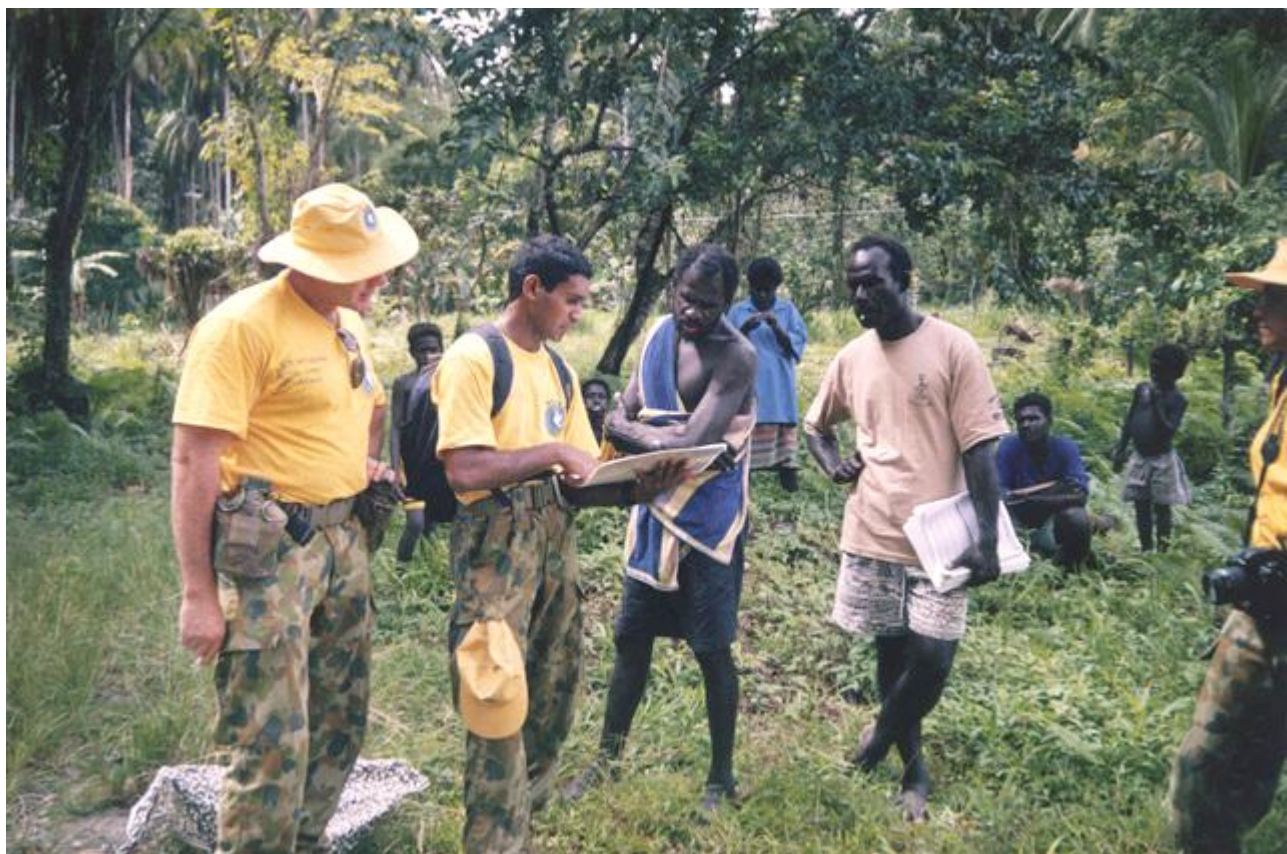


R127781 Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Duncan John Perryman, Royal Australian Navy, wearing his service hat and standing in front of the Peace Truce Monitoring Group banner at the Youth Centre in Bougainville. CPO Perryman was a Signals Yeoman serving on the replenishment ship HMAS Success, which was assigned to the area of operations between December 1997 and January 1998

After several failed peace accords and ceasefire agreements, peace talks resumed in 1997 at the Burnham military camp in New Zealand. This led to the Burnham Declaration in July of that year, which called for a ceasefire in Bougainville and demilitarisation of the island. It also called for a neutral regional peacekeeping force to monitor the terms of the truce.

Organised by the militaries of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and Vanuatu, the New Zealand-led Truce Monitoring Group (TMG) served in Bougainville from 1997 to 1998. The Australian operation was codenamed Operation Bel-Isi, with 'Bel Isi' Pijin for 'quiet heart', 'calm' or 'peace'. The TMG force was around 2,400 personnel in total, including 230 Australians, and first deployed to Bougainville on 6 December 1997. Around 120 Australian personnel served on Bougainville at any one time.

Peace Monitoring Group (PMG) 1998 to 2003



Captain Paul McCrohan, Monitoring Team Arawa (MT-A) (left) and Sapper Jimmy Davis, Military Information Support Team B (MIST-B) (second from left) talking to Chief Patrick, the Chief of Manetai Village during an information patrol. The local patrol escort, wearing a pink t-shirt and holding a sheaf of papers, looks on. McCrohan and Davis were part of the Peace Monitoring Group (PMG)

The signing of the Lincoln Agreement on 23 January 1998 at Lincoln University in Christchurch, New Zealand was the next important step toward peace in Bougainville. It extended the truce until the start of a permanent ceasefire at midnight on 30 April 1998. It also outlined a transition from the current TMG to a Peace Monitoring Group (PMG) to monitor the ceasefire.

On 30 April 1998, all parties signed the Ceasefire Agreement in Arawa, Bougainville, including the PNG Government and the BRA. The agreement also signified the shift from a New Zealand-led peacekeeping operation to an Australian-led operation, codenamed Operation Bel-Isi II.

The PMG was made up of a mix of military and civilian personnel from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and Vanuatu. It deployed the day after the ceasefire agreement, on 1 May 1998. Approximately 2,100 Australian personnel served in the PMG, with around 230 personnel on Bougainville at any 1 time.

Following the PMG deployment, life on Bougainville gradually returned to normal. Schools reopened, some services were restored, market days resumed and people began to move about more freely. These encouraging signs of progress helped to build faith in the peace process.

Signing the Peace Agreement

A series of peace talks led to the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement by the PNG Government and Bougainville separatist leaders on 30 August 2001 in Arawa. This landmark agreement, to which Australia was a signatory witness, granted Bougainville autonomous status and established the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG). It also provided a plan for peace and political stability in Bougainville.



Women and children dance and play bamboo flutes to welcome peacekeepers to a reconciliation ceremony in the grounds of King Tore's 666 Movement, in the Nagovis district of Bougainville. Australian peacekeepers served in Bougainville as part Peace Monitoring Group (PMG) from 1998 to 2003

Withdrawal

In February 2003, Australia announced that it would cease operations in Bougainville on 30 June and withdraw shortly afterwards. New Zealand made a similar announcement. On 30 June, the PMG held a ceremony to mark the end of operations and to hand over to the Bougainville Transition Team, a small team of 17 unarmed civilians that continued to operate until the end of the year. The final contingent of the Australian-led PMG withdrew from Bougainville on HMAS *Tobruk* on 23 August 2003.

Experiences of Australians



Lieutenant Lynda White with an unidentified Staff Sergeant from New Zealand at the Arawa Markets. Australian peacekeepers served in Bougainville as part Peace Monitoring Group (PMG) from 1998 to 2003

After enlisting in the Australian Army as a direct-entry officer and qualified nurse, Lieutenant Lynda White deployed to Bougainville as part of the PMG on 1 June 1998. Her 4-month assignment involved running the operating theatre at the PMG's tent hospital at Loloho Wharf. Lynda worked closely with locals as a midwife, as well as treating gunshot wounds and draining abscesses.

As one of only 2 staff running the operating theatre, White was on constant call and rarely able to leave the compound. In appreciation for her efforts, she received a homemade medal crafted by locals from a Papua New Guinea coin. White returned to Australia on 9 October 1998.



Unofficial improvised medal made from a Papua New Guinea 1 kina coin. Local Bougainvilleans made and presented this medallion to Australian Army nurse Lynda White in 1998. She served as a peacekeeper with the Peace Monitoring Group (PMG)

Sergeant Penelope 'Poppy' Searle (formerly Poppy Wenham) was deployed as a signaller with the PMG in March 2000 for 5 months.

A reservist in the Australian Army, Searle was keen to experience service in a real peacekeeping operation. The Army Reserves were called on to serve in Bougainville as the Australian Army was focused on peacekeeping in East Timor (now Timor-Leste).

“When we went to Bougainville to keep the peace there had been 15 years of fighting on the island. During that time the schools were closed and lots of things like hospitals were destroyed. One of the first things that happened when the peace was made was that schools reopened. I was amazed to see young adults of 16 or 17 sitting in primary school classes with 5 and 6 year olds because they had missed out on all their schooling but they knew it was important to learn to read and write.”



Lance Corporal Poppy Wenham (left), 142 Signal Squadron Royal Australian Signal Corps (RASIGS), and Lieutenant General Peter Cosgrove, Chief of the Australian Army. General Cosgrove, were photographed when Cosgrove was visiting members of the multinational Peace Monitoring Group (PMG) on 23 April 2000

Patrick Anthony Foley deployed as a civilian peace monitor with the PMG on Bougainville in 2000. In a postcard to his colleagues in Australia, he described his first impressions of the island during the first 4 weeks of his deployment:

“Dear John and team, I note with amazement that I have been on the island for almost 4 weeks. I don’t want to even think about the 10 days I spent with the Army in Bamagh. (I can only describe it as a sort of waking nightmare, a blur of field-packs, marching, hutchies and heat). Things in Bougainville are either completely dull or amazingly surprising (sometimes in the same day). I have flown in choppers, crossed swollen streams, helped treat someone who had been chopped with an axe etc. It certainly is a long way from my little desk. All my very best wishes to all. Yours, Patrick Foley”

Dear John and team. I note with amazement, that I have been on the island for almost 4 weeks. I don't want to even think about the 10 days I spent with the Army in Bannagh. (I can only describe it as a sort of a waking nightmare) (a blur of field-packs, marching, hutchies and heat) Things in Bougainville are either completely dull or amazingly surprising. (Sometimes in the same day) I have flown in choppers crossed swollen streams helped treat some-one who had been chopped with an axe etc. It certainly is a long way from my little desk. All my very best wishes to all

Bougainville, P.N.G. Yours Patrick Foley

Postage Paid Australia
F.R.O. Australian Forces Post Office
4

To W9CDR John Anderson
A/DHRP - R1-1-B05
Russell Offices
Department of Defence
Canberra ACT 2600

Images courtesy of Corporal Jackie Benussi

Collection relating to the Peace Monitoring Group (PMG) service of Patrick Anthony Foley, Department of Defence, Bougainville, 2000

Commemoration



Members of the multinational Peace Monitoring Group (PMG) boarding a RAAF C-130 Hercules transport aircraft, serial number A97-178. The PMG was departing for peacekeeping duties in Bougainville. Identified is Corporal Shawn Lewis (far left), 145 Signal Squadron, Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who later died at Loloho, Bougainville in an accidental drowning

Lance Corporal Shawn Lewis died on 20 May 2000 while serving with the PMG in Bougainville. His name is recorded with other members of the Australian armed forces on the national Roll of Honour.

National Peacekeepers' Day

On 14 September each year, we observe National Peace Keepers Day. It's the anniversary of the day Australia became the world's first peacekeepers to deploy into the field, in the Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia) in 1947. It's a day to recognise the important work of those who have served, and continue to serve, in the name of global peace.



Lieutenants Brown and Finlay of the Australian Flying Corps in a Bristol Fighter machine at Ramleh, Palestine in 1917

the binoculars you need
to see through all the
crap some people talk





RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH

Your RSL