

THE FURPHY

ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

March 2024 Edition



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Ph: (08) 9497 1972

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General Meetings:

Second Sunday of the month at 1030hrs

Annual General Meeting:

Second Sunday of September

Committee Positions

Armadale Sub-Branch Committee	
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 March

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



Cleaning a 50 Cal Browning from a RAAF P-51 in Korea 1953

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Folks,

The Sub-Branch held a luncheon on Saturday 24th of February 2024 for Armadale Police Rangers and the 1st Armadale Scout Group, to thank them for holding the ANZAC Overnight Vigil, over the years they have done so.

The member for Armadale, Dr Tony Buti, the Mayor of the City of Armadale, Ruth Butterfield attended and thanked them on behalf of the people of Armadale. Certificates were handed to Armadale Police Rangers and 1st Armadale Scout Group by me, on behalf of all our Servicemen and Service women for holding the Vigil.

As I wrote in the last Furphy, we still have a strong membership of Service Members, but we have a lack of them attending the Sub-Branch.

RSL's across the state are having trouble remaining open, due to lack of support from their members and this Sub-Branch needs its members to support it, otherwise, in the future it may happen to us.

If any member has ideas on how to improve how the Sub-Branch can do things better, please come to the next General Meeting and present those ideas to the members and committee. We are open to hearing from you.

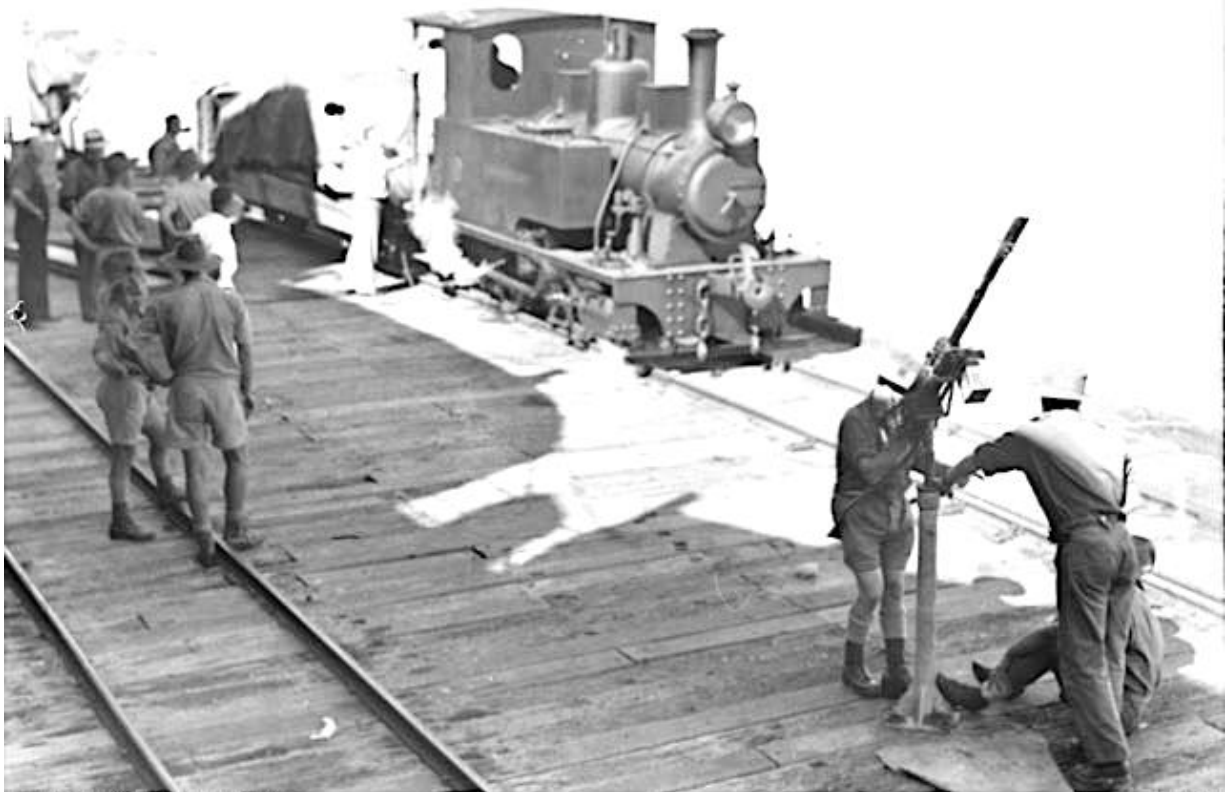
Regards,

Ken Hepburn

President

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

email: president@armadalersl.com.au
Website: www.armadalersl.com.au



Broome, WA. 1943

Scene on the jetty at Broome, showing the small locomotive used for hauling cargo, mostly meat from the Broome Meat works, onto the jetty for shipment. An anti-aircraft machine gun is mounted in the right foreground.

Sadly the Loco is now housed in Carnarvon in a locked shed where she is deteriorating daily



Secretary's Notes

Hi Everyone,

We will be holding a mid year Roast Luncheon on Sunday 19th May for financial Sub-Branch members. The cost is \$25 per head and tickets are available from the bar until Sunday 5th May.

The Annual ANZAC Appeal will be held on Saturday 20th, Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd April. A list is on the Notice Board if you have a couple of hours to assist us at the tables on those days.

One of our Service Members – Lyndon Jackson is a Justice of the Peace. He has kindly offered that if he can be of service to our membership to sign/witness/endorse/certify documents if required. He is usually in the club on a Friday afternoon but we recommend that you message or call him on 0429 832 007 prior to the need to confirm.

Metconnx personnel came in on Friday 23rd February for a couple of hours and will continue to do so on a monthly basis for the next few months.

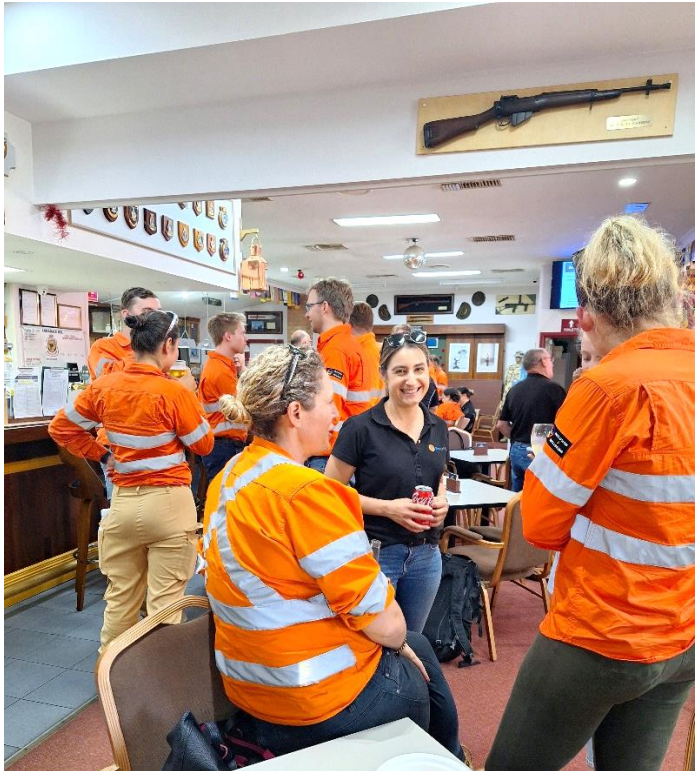
A reminder that Service and Affiliate Memberships will be reviewed in early March and unfinancial members will have their Loyalty Cards rendered inoperable. Once Renewal has been received, they will be re-activated with no loss of points.



Carol King

Sub-Branch Secretary

Metconnx Staff Function - Friday 23rd February



**People say that drinking
milk makes you stronger.
Drink 5 glasses of milk
and try to move a wall.**

Can't?

**Now drink 5 glasses
of wine.
The wall moves
all by itself.**



Membership Update

<i>As at 29th February, 2024:</i>	Service Members:	185
	Affiliate Members:	52
	Social Members:	48
	Total:	<u>285</u>

Of our Service Members, 69% are financial and 31% have still to pay dues for 2024. That 31% are unable to partake in activities until they become financial and the cut off time is ANZAC Week.

Our Affiliate members are mostly financial with only seven still to pay for 2024. That is a figure of 13%.

All 48 Social Members are financial for 2024.

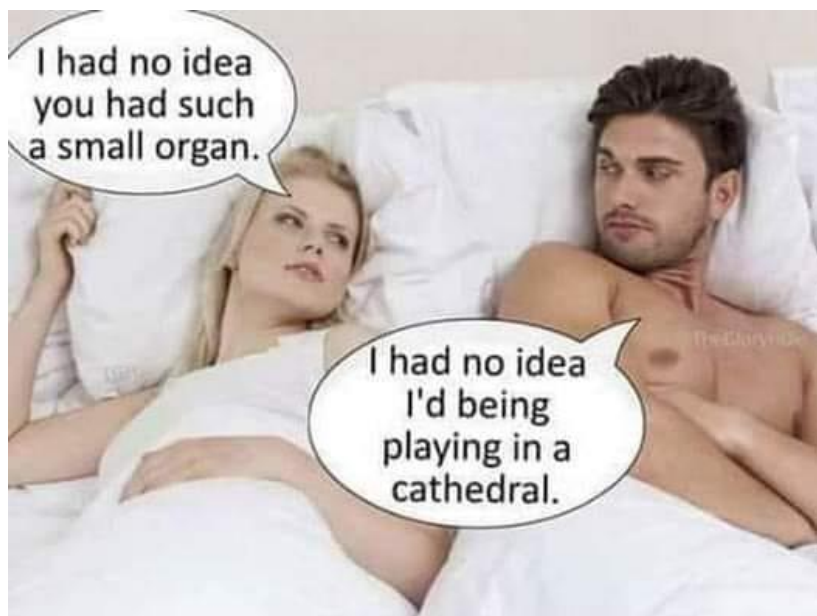
Any Service Members who have paid direct to RSLWA by the end of February will be notified to me in first week of March by State.

Any Service Members who have paid through the Sub-Branch, are reminded your receipts are available for collection from behind the Bar.

Tom Rynn

Tel: 0439 934 285

E-mail: tomrynn@bigpond.com





March Service Members:

Akaczonok	Mr	Thomas	08/03	Billi	Mr	A	25/03
Corrigan	Ms	Anne	03/03	Dell	Mr	Geoffrey	21/03
Hymus	Ms	Patrice	08/03	Mederic	Mr	Michael	08/03
Millard	Mr	Robert	01/03	Mitton	Mr	Glenn	08/03
Newey	Mr	Graham	23/03	Popelier	Mr	Martinus	20/03
Quinn	Mr	Michael	22/03	Scott	Mr	Geoff	22/03
Shortcliffe,	Ms	Lynette	07/03	Stevens	Mr	Peter	21/03
Sullivan	Mr	Daniel	27/03	Wilson	Mr	Patrick	24/03
Wood	Mr	Jason	23/03				

March Affiliate Members:

Cripps	Mr	Roger	19/03	Eslemont	Mr	Robert	12/03
Atwell	Ms	Lisa	17/03	Girdlestone	Miss	Brylee	01/03
Grogan	Mr	Sean	14/03	Leask	Mr	Gordon	20/03
Stewart	Mrs	Ngairé	14/03	Tozer	Mr	Murray	17/03

March Social Members:

Church	Miss	Kristy	11/03	Muir	Ms	Sara	11/03
Passmore	Mrs	Merette	12/03	Russell	Mr	Luke	27/03
Van de Velde	Mrs	Linda	10/03				

*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

Real Bar Stools !!!



Bar Manager's Report

G'day All,

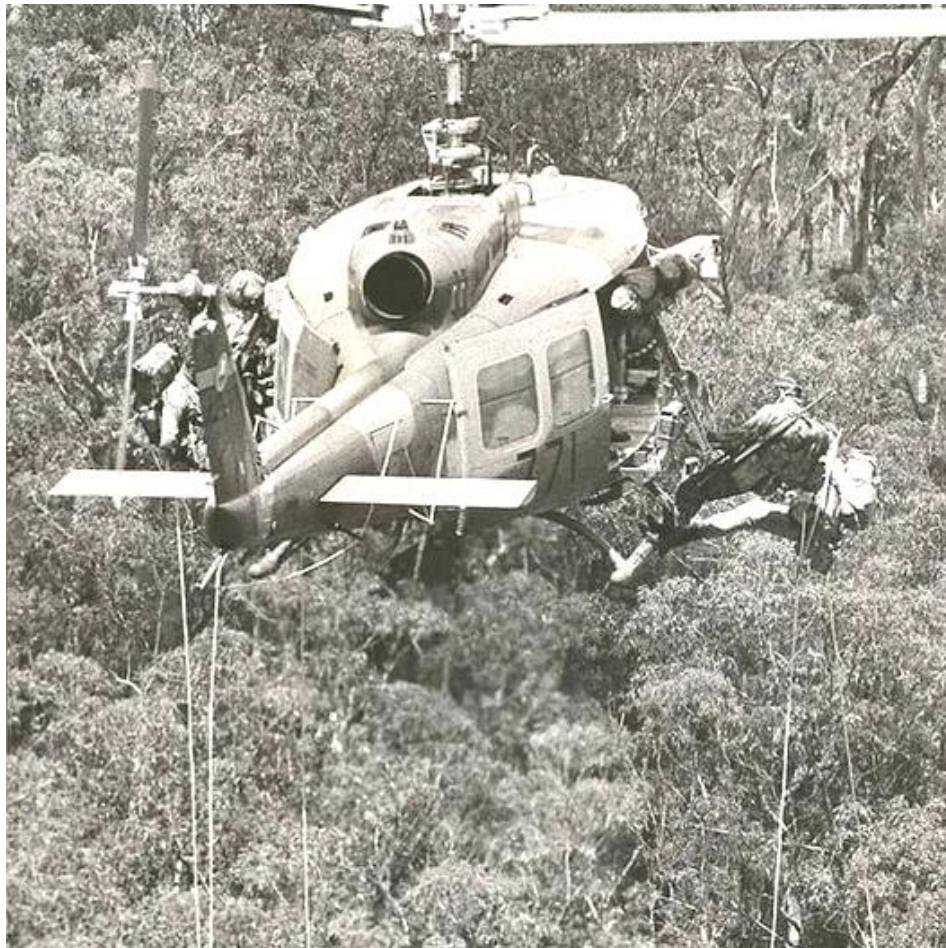
Everything is going OK except we are still unable to source Cascade and Peroni. We have been unable to obtain any confirmation as to when this can be rectified which is extremely annoying.

We are unfortunately not seeing as many of our members actually patronising the club, and this is frustrating for the volunteers who are doing everything possible to keep the Sub-Branch open.

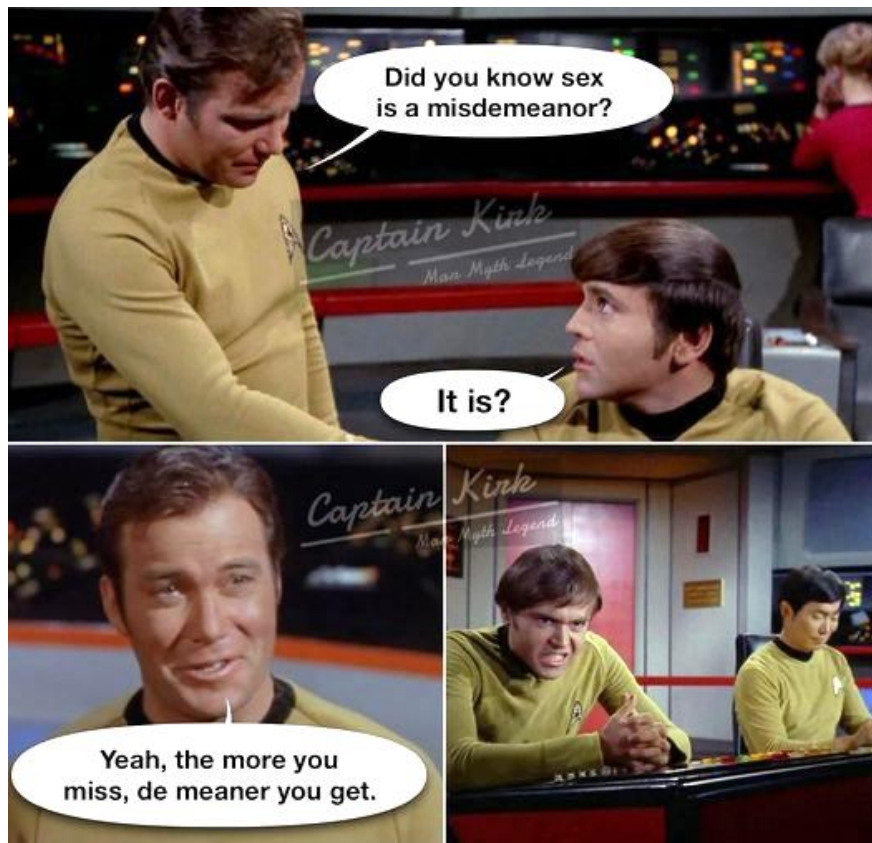
That's about all for now, and thanks to all those who do come in regularly.

Stormy





Australian 9th Squadron Iroquois with members of 7th RAR during Operation Santa Fe, Nui Dat 1967



Byford Rail Extension - Update



Work is continuing, we've put up a heap of columns at the Church Avenue side of the bridge, and we've even started putting in some headstocks. We'll move over to the area just north of Armadale Road shortly to start putting the columns up, so it should become quite visible soon.



The first column being put into place



Progress including the headstocks



Artists impression of the Armadale Road pedestrian bridge. The view is from the middle of Armadale Road, facing east



Artists impression of Elevated rail at Church Avenue



Indigenous Defence Service

Ongoing Research being conducted into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service in Australia's armed forces has established that Indigenous people have served in military uniform from at least the time of Federation. In fact, the identities are known of three men who served even before 1901, in the colonial naval and military forces of Victoria and New South Wales, and pictorial evidence suggests that there may have been others.

This is remarkable chiefly because at the point of Federation Australia was still expanding white settlement in many remote parts of the continent, and the brutal (often violent) process by which Indigenous people were dispossessed of their traditional lands – often referred to as the “Frontier War” – was a recent memory. The remaining Indigenous population, believed to have been reduced by three quarters during the colonial period, existed as a marginalised, neglected, and severely disadvantaged group on the fringes of white society.

What prompted Indigenous Australians to contemplate voluntary military service is unknown, and since official records are totally silent on this matter can only be guessed at or derived using surviving personal narratives. Official records, such as personnel dossiers compiled by the nation's armed forces, also rarely shed light on whether individuals were from an Indigenous background, except in some instances upon enlistment. Due to the escalating level of discrimination experienced by the Indigenous population at the time, and the racial restrictions with the 1910 Defence Act Section 61 Clause H, the acceptance rate of Aboriginal volunteers is subjective. The rates of rejection, although not empirical would be around 25 percent rejection bases solely on race. Due to the lack of source material and data the numbers of volunteers who acknowledged their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage is unknown.

Boer War

Discriminatory provisions in early federal legislation excluded so-called “full-blooded” Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from census calculations. In a similar vein, Commonwealth policy-makers generally expected that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men (and other men “not substantially of European origin or descent”) would be exempted from military service in time of war, and this was codified in a 1910 amendment to the *Defence Act 1903*. Despite this discrimination, a small number of Indigenous men – perhaps as many as fifteen are now estimated (Michael Bell AWM) to have served in both colonial and federal contingents during the Boer War in South Africa (1899–1902). As of July 2021 this number is 10 confirmed Aboriginal soldiers. These identified soldiers represent service from across Australia and the issue of heritage appears not to have impeded their enlistment, as the majority of the recruits

could be readily identifiable as Aboriginal. At least two men who accompanied the 1st Australian Commonwealth Horse contingent in 1902 listed their occupation as “black tracker” or “police tracker”. As with all other Australians who served in this conflict, all of the identified Aboriginal men volunteered for service and received service numbers.



Outdoor portrait of an Aboriginal servicemen, probably 5054 Private Henry George Brown of Cape Barren Island, Tasmania.

First World War

When the First World War (1914–18) began, Australia used general enlistment to raise the Australian Imperial Force, separate to its home defence forces, and sent this overseas. Although the “substantially of European origin” rule still applied in recruiting for the AIF, many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were still accepted for enlistment, apparently because their racial background was overlooked if they had not lived in a tribal environment. Even a few “full-blooded” Indigenous Australians (like Douglas Grant 6020 and William Joseph Punch 5435) were accepted because they had been raised in white households. In 1917 the rule was modified to accept men who could satisfy a medical officer that they had “one parent of European origin”.

According to the most recent research released in April 2021, (Scarlett and Cramer, Indigenoushistories.com), the number of Indigenous men who volunteered to enlist in the AIF stands at 1,192, with the lesser number of 929 serving overseas. AWM research (Michael Bell) suggests 152 of the total were rejected because of their

race. Work is continuing to add to the number of volunteers and a recent estimate (AWM Michael Bell) suggests that this could be as high as 1300. Previously the figure of 245 published by the Returned Sailors' & Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia in 1931–32 (Reveille) was used as a basis for asserting that the total number of servicemen was in the vicinity of 400 to 500. This estimate, underpinned by a misunderstanding of Reveille's limited information gathering and by flawed methodology, has proved inaccurate. The growth in numbers of servicemen identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reflects, as well as changing attitudes and a willingness to recognise Indigenous heritage, a dramatic increase in the availability and accessibility of archival and other source material. The promotion of research into Indigenous war service and the long overdue recognition of the Indigenous contribution to Australia's wars are also contributing factors.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people served in practically all branches and units of the AIF: infantry, light horse, artillery, engineers, and even the flying corps (though not as airmen). They saw action in the Middle East as well as on the Western Front. The casualty rate (those killed, wounded, gassed, sick, or taken prisoner) among Aboriginal soldiers was proportionally equal as the whole of the AIF's. Indigenous men won a numerous decorations for gallantry in the field, including four Distinguished Conduct Medals and 26 Military Medals. Some reached non-commissioned rank, and Alfred John Hearps 409, from Tasmania briefly served as a second lieutenant until he was killed in 1916, making him probably the first commissioned officer of Aboriginal heritage. Lieutenant Colonel Charles Melbourne Johnston is current thought to be the highest ranking officer of Aboriginal heritage during the conflict.

The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) is currently represented by only five (5) men during the First World War, perhaps because the navy did not require the mass expansion of its existing personnel.



Sergeant Reginald Saunders, somewhere at sea. c. September 1941.

Two Indigenous women served as army nurses, but one of these (Marion Leane Smith) served in a British unit in England after enlisting in Canada, and the heritage of the other has yet to be confirmed.

Second World War

Due to the same restrictions placed on Indigenous enlistment for the Second World War the accuracy and certainty of enlistment numbers exists for the Second World War (1939–45), where estimates of the number of Indigenous men and women who served have now grown to between 6,500 and 7,000. Again, it seems certain that recent figures have become inflated with the names of persons who, although unquestionably of Indigenous heritage, either did not present themselves as Indigenous or did not know of, or identify with, or wish to acknowledge their background. The list of names maintained by several federal and state agencies and organisations are also known to contain many errors and doubtful entries, but as the research continues to be undertaken to resolve these issues and a willingness of these families. Communities to now identify the numbers continue to grow.

Australia in 1939 followed the practice of the First World War and raised a Second AIF, in which many Indigenous men duly enlisted despite continuance of the requirement that they be “substantially of European origin”. As a consequence, Indigenous service people were to be found serving in the overseas campaigns of 1940–41, including the Western Desert, Greece and Crete, and Syria. After Japan’s entry into the war, Indigenous service continued in the south-east Asian and south-west Pacific theatres. Indigenous soldiers fought and died in Malaya and Singapore, in Papua and New Guinea, in Bougainville and Borneo.

It was in 1944, after service in North Africa, Greece, and Crete, followed by service in New Guinea, that Sergeant Reg Saunders was commissioned lieutenant, having attended the Officer’s Cadet Training Unit at Seymour in Victoria. Widely reported at the time as the first commissioned Aboriginal officer in the army, it now seems truer to say that he was the first identified Aboriginal officer. Alfred Hearps served briefly as second lieutenant in 1916, but it is still unclear to what extent he identified with his heritage or he was recognised during his service, whereas Saunders’ origins were proudly made apparent.

In the Second World War services other than the army also began accepting Indigenous recruits into their ranks alongside non-indigenous personnel. Although, again no accurate numbers can be estimated Indigenous service is apparent in the case of the RAN, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) had several airmen of Indigenous heritage. First among these (but unknown at the time) was Pilot Officer David Paul, a bomber pilot who was shot down over the Aegean Sea in 1943; while still a prisoner of the Germans, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1944. That same year Sergeant Len Waters became the RAAF’s first Aboriginal fighter pilot

and served in the Netherlands East Indies (NEI, now Indonesia). In August 1945 Flight Sergeant Arnold Lockyer was shot down over Celebes, NEI, and was killed by his captors six days after Japan's surrender. RAAF indigenous services numbers are growing with additional research.

A major difference to Indigenous service during the Second World War was the emergence of dedicated but usually auxiliary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander units raised for service within Australia. First noted of these was a special platoon raised in 1940 at the army's training camp in Wangaratta, Victoria, but soon afterwards followed the Northern Territory Special Reconnaissance Unit (NTSRU) in Arnhem Land. The NTSRU was disbanded in 1943, its role taken over by the white North Australia Observer Unit, which remained heavily reliant on Indigenous employees as guides and to help its members live off the land.

In 1942 the army had begun establishing an Indigenous garrison unit in the Torres Strait. From a single company this grew into the 830-strong Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion, and although it was intended to have a static defensive role, in late 1943 it was involved in offensive patrolling into Dutch New Guinea. The RAN also took the initiative of establishing an Indigenous unit at Melville Island, off the Northern Territory's coast. Dubbed the "Snake Bay Patrol", it was an auxiliary outfit intended to secure the island against any Japanese infiltration and to assist with the recovery of downed airmen.

In addition to these units, the services in the Northern Territory (principally the army) began the employment of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as labourers and support staff. Because these men were issued clothing, accommodated, paid, and rationed by the army many were inclined to think they had joined up; in reality they were civilian auxiliaries and not formally enlisted members of the service.

Another significant development during the Second World War was the acceptance into the armed forces of Indigenous women as part of the wider introduction of auxiliary women's branches for each of army, navy, and air force. Numerous Indigenous women joined the Australian Women's Army Service (including Lance Corporal Kath Walker, later famous as the poet Oodgeroo Noonuccal) and the Women's Australian Auxiliary Air Force. With others women joining the Australian Women's Land Army, which aimed to maintain the nation's agricultural production.



Informal portrait of a smiling 11689 Lance Corporal (L/Cpl) Clive Kevin 'Joe' Veave outside a sandbag covered dugout. 21 May 1953

BCOF

Following Japan's surrender in 1945, in 1946 Australia sent a mix of army, navy, and air units to join a British army of occupation of Japan. The three Australian battalions dedicated to the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) ultimately became the basis of Australia's first regular or standing army. Although not engaged in war operations while in Japan, units from all three services formed the basis of the Australian force committed to Korea when war broke out there in June 1950.

Currently there are 25 identified service men, including a sergeant and two corporals, were serving with BCOF in 1946, and it is known that several subsequently transferred from Japan to the fighting in Korea.

Korean War

During the three years of the Korean War (1950–53), at least 80 Indigenous men are believed to have served there. Most did so with the army contingent, although 7 served with the RAN, one seaman (P.D. Syron) served in Korean waters with HMAS *Condomine* in 1952–53. At least two Indigenous army men were killed in action (S.K.J. Lenoy and T. Hazel), and one (Torres Strait Islander Corporal Charles Mene) received the Military Medal for operations during 1952. The most prominent Indigenous figure of the Korean War, however, was Reg Saunders, who returned to uniform from civilian life and served as captain at the battle of Kapyong, commanding a company of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR).

Malaya

During this time Australia was also involved in a conflict in south-east Asia known as the Malayan Emergency (1950–60). Indigenous service men are currently numbers at 70 men having served in that theatre of operations. This number is also expected to continue to rise. Most of these served in the regular army battalions sent on rotational tours from 1955, although there was also an air presence based in Singapore for most of the period of the Emergency.

The defence presence maintained in the Malayan region as part of the British-led Far East Strategic Reserve saw Australia become involved in a low-level military conflict when Indonesia launched a campaign to “confront” the newly-formed Federation of Malaysia. The period of Confrontation (1963–66), mostly fought out on the Island of Borneo (where Indonesia had land borders with Malaysia), the smaller numbers of 6 service men are currently listed. These soldiers were members of the regular army, although claims that this presence numbered as many more served this is yet to be verified.

Vietnam War

Overlapping the commitment with Confrontation, Australia became a participant in the Vietnam War (1962–73). Until the more recent commitment in Afghanistan (beginning 2001), Vietnam was Australia’s longest war and would eventually involve around 60,000 personnel.

A large number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people also served in the conflict, but again precise figures are not known. The names of more than 300 are known, but current estimates of service are approximately 500 as research continues to grow this identified numbers of Indigenous representation. More than 225 are from the army; 75 of these served in Vietnam as national servicemen, even though the National Service Act 1964 exempted Indigenous Australians from the requirement to register for this obligation. Although the numbers available for the RAN and RAAF are far from definitive (12 and five respectively), they at least confirm a presence.

As the largest service, the army also offered the most involved pattern of Indigenous participation in the Vietnam War. In addition to soldiers for each of the nine infantry battalions rotated through Vietnam before withdrawal began in 1971, Indigenous personnel served in most of the elements that made up the 1st Australian Task Force and its supporting branches and units, including armour, artillery, and engineers.



Studio portrait of 2791899 Private (Pte) Gilbert George (Gil) Green, an Aboriginal National Serviceman who served in Vietnam 1970 as a rifleman with the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (7RAR)

Members have been identified in both the Army Training Team and the Special Air Service detachments sent to the theatre. At least ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were killed (although not all were combat casualties) and three were known to have been wounded.

Peacekeeping and other overseas deployments

While the Department of Defence website proclaims that Indigenous personnel served in the full range of overseas deployments undertaken by the Australian Defence Force (ADF) since 1975 (including Somalia, East Timor, Afghanistan, Iraq, and various peacekeeping operations), no numbers regarding the size of Indigenous participation have yet become available. Only a few, but growing number of individuals have been identified who served in Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda, East Timor, the Solomon Islands, and Afghanistan, but these at least provide a basis for the claim that since the 1990s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have become a welcome and integral part of the modern ADF.

Army Reserve units

Supporting Department of Defence claims of significant progress in eliminating all forms of discrimination against Indigenous enlistment is the formation during the 1980s of three regional force surveillance units as part of the Army Reserve. These units – NORFORCE (formed in 1981), the Pilbara Regiment (1982), and the 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment (1985) – are all largely, even dominantly, made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander personnel. Although lacking the numbers of the army, the RAN and RAAF are equally committed to maintaining a proportion of their workforce representative of Indigenous numbers in Australian society.



Thompson's Paddock, Enoggera - circa 1915. This is now the location of Gallipoli Barracks at Enoggera, Queensland



COMPANY C GETS A NEW ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR!



Still flyin'...

Mid-Year
Members Luncheon

Sunday 19th May, 2024
(12 noon)



- Meat:** Roast Beef, Pork and Chicken with Gravy
- Vegetables:** Hot Jacket Potatoes with Sour Cream, Carrots, Beans, Peas, Baked Pumpkin and Corn Kernels
- Desert:** Apple Crumble with Custard

\$25 per Person

(Open to Financial Members Only)

(Book and Pay by Sunday 5th May)

Broome Flying Boats, 1942

At the commencement of the Second World War, Indonesia was still under Dutch colonial rule. Initially, the Netherlands adopted a policy of neutrality, and tacitly relied on Great Britain and the United States of America to defend the Netherlands East Indies (NEI) if required. In December 1941, following Japanese attacks on British and American bases in Asia and the Pacific, the Netherlands joined its allies and declared war on Japan.



Following the declaration, Japanese forces made rapid advancements across Southeast Asia. By January 1942, they had landed troops in Dutch-controlled Borneo, Sumatra, and Maluku, and forced Allied troops to progressively retreat to Java. Expecting further encroachments, in February 1942, Dutch civilians began evacuating out of Java. An 'air bridge' was established that, over a two-week period, evacuated 8,000 Dutch out of NEI to Perth and Sydney, via Broome. Normally, Darwin would have been the stopover port, but after an aircraft carrying evacuees

was shot down in January 1942 and the bombing of Darwin on 19 February 1942, it was no longer a viable option.

Broome was not ideally suited to be the main refuelling stopover. There were no moorings and extreme tidal conditions meant the flying boats needed to anchor far from the shore. There were also limited fuelling facilities in Broome, meaning the flying boats were often waylaid.

Broome air raid, 1942

On 3 March 1942, six Allied aircraft were parked at the Broome airstrip and 15 flying boats were anchored in Roebuck Bay, Broome. The flying boats had flown in from Java and were packed with Dutch evacuees. While some of the crew were ashore, the evacuees remained on board, since there was limited accommodation available in the town.

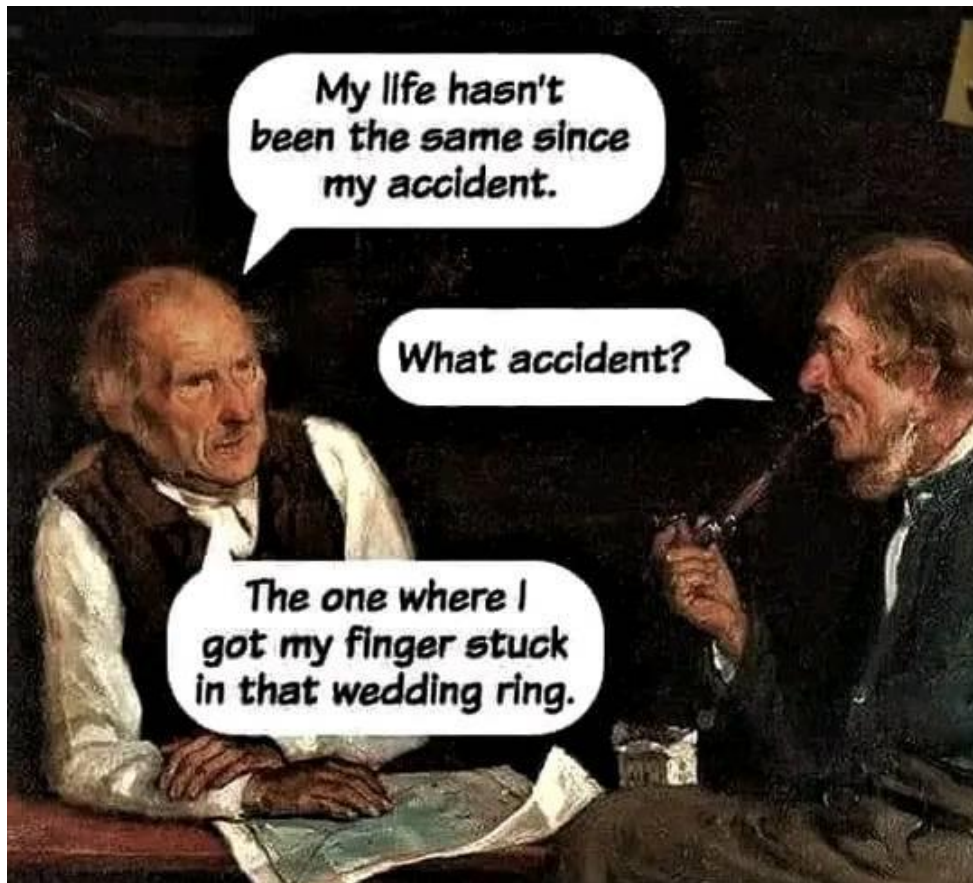
At 9:30am, a squadron of nine Japanese Zero A6M fighters, accompanied by a Mitsubishi Ki-15 reconnaissance aircraft, strafed the harbour and airstrip in a surprise attack. The fuelled flying boats exploded in fireballs and sank. Those who survived the initial gunfire were then exposed to burning fuel and oil on the water, and sharks. Remaining survivors were eventually picked up using small boats, sometimes after they had been pulled out to sea by the tide. Many Broome residents actively tried to save the people trapped in the sinking aircraft and provided shelter and aid in the aftermath.

In just 20 minutes, 21 allied aircraft were burning on the Broome airstrip or sinking in Roebuck Bay. Two other allied aircraft were also lost. A United States Army Air Force Consolidated B-24A Liberator, which had taken off from the airfield as the raid started, was shot down and crashed into the sea, about 10km off Cable Beach; and a Dutch Douglas DC.3 flying from Java to Broome, which was shot down over Carnot Bay when it encountered the departing Japanese Zeros. It is estimated that about 100 Dutch evacuees and Dutch, British and American military personnel died in the raid, but the exact numbers are not known.





Dutch Cemetery in Broome, 1948



Armadale Police Rangers and 1st Armadale Scout Group

Luncheon 24th February 2024





RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH

Your RSL