

THE FURPHY

ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

May 2026 Edition



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PO Box 697, Armadale, WA 6992

Ph: (08) 9497 1972

email: secretary@armadalersl.com.au

Website: www.armadalersl.com.au

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General Meetings: Second Sunday of the month at 1100hrs

Annual General Meeting: Second Sunday of September

Committee Positions

Armadale Sub-Branch Committee	
President	Mr Mike Fairweather
Vice President	Mr Bob Giles
Secretary	Ms Carol King
Treasurer	Mrs Cheryl Cowie
Warden	Mr Graeme Cowie
Warden	Mr Keith Northcott
Membership Officer	Secretary
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 May

<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	1100
Sunday	17th	Cloud 9 Band	1230



Result of Lieutenant Jimmy Thach's landing accident aboard USS Saratoga, 19 Mar 1940

Secretary's Notes

Hi Everyone,

Thanks to those loyal members who sold merchandise during the week leading up to ANZAC Day – this is a very important and necessary fundraising activity and was very successful. Unfortunately, due to a lack of volunteers, 4 sessions were not covered which is disappointing.

It was heartening to see all the lovely tributes laid at the Cenotaph on ANZAC Day. It was very difficult to hold back my emotions when so many very young children laid flowers after the formal wreath laying ceremony concluded. To me, it shows the spirit of ANZAC is alive and thriving in our younger generations and for that I am extremely proud and grateful.

We did very well on ANZAC Day with Raffles and selling Merchandise. Thanks so much to Lois and Irene who yet again put in a superb effort.

Thanks also to Brad and Kane Burgess who stepped in to help sell the Gunfire Breakfasts.

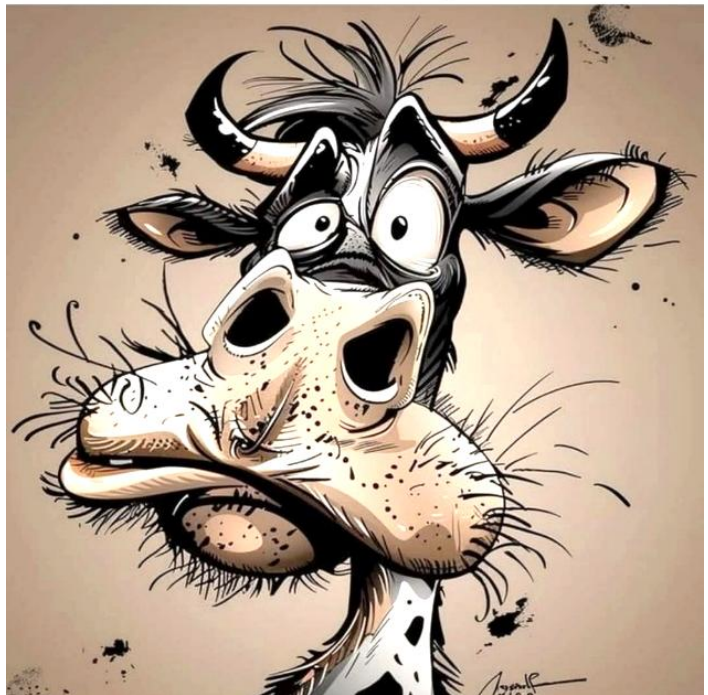
Best regards as always,

Carol King

Sub-Branch Secretary

e-mail: secretary@armadalersl.com.au

**Of course, I talk to myself.
Sometimes I need expert advice.**







ANZAC Soldier (Australian & New Zealand Army Corps) Giving Water to his Camel, 1916.
During Word War I, the Imperial Camel Corps of the British Empire had battalions from Australia, New Zealand, and India to combat the Ottoman Empire. About 40,000 camels were used by cavalry, ambulance, surveillance, and transportation units. In comparison, probably 6+ million horses were used by all sides during WW I.



*Australian coast watchers in Papua New Guinea what a magnificent photo legends WWII uncovered: Honouring the Australian Coast Watchers of the Pacific Theatre
 "Australian Coast Watchers and their assistants in Bougainville, after they had been evacuated from New Ireland and Papua New Guinea*



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Members,

Thanks so very much to everyone who assisted both in the lead up and on ANZAC Day.

Our appreciation goes to Armadale Police Rangers and Armadale Scouts who again conducted the overnight Vigil at Memorial Park before our Dawn Service. They were well looked after with food for them being donated by Dominos, Subway and KFC.

The Dawn Service went well, and the fabulous effort from most of the Executive and the Committee after we got back to the hall was great. I thank you all so very much.

That's about all from me for now,

Mike Fairweather

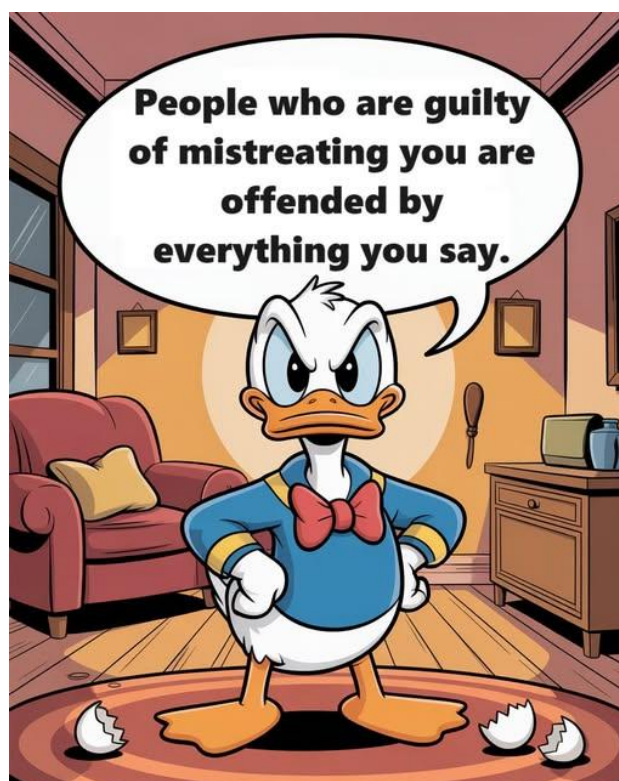
President

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



Membership Update

As at 30th April 2026:

Service Members:	147
Affiliate Members:	43
Social Members:	<u>76</u>
Total:	<u>266</u>

4 Affiliate Members have not renewed by 30th April and have been removed from our records along with their Loyalty points.

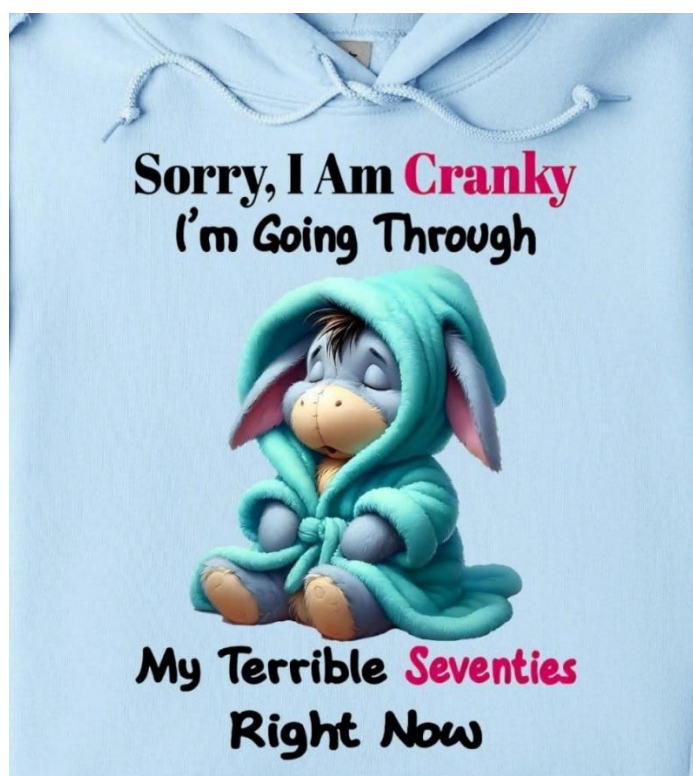
I will visit the Service Members list again in the coming weeks to reconcile our data with that held by RSLWA before deleting any Service people from our records.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Carol King

Tel: 9497 1972

e-mail: secretary@armadalersl.com.au





May Service Members:

Briggs	Mrs	Debra	02/05	Bushell	Mr	Leslie	17/05
Hennah	Mr	John	25/05	Jarratt	Mr	Adrian	13/05
Mulvaney	Mr	Anthony	10/05	Northcott	Mr	Keith	11/05
Smith	Mr	James	25/05				

May Affiliate Members:

De Groot	Mr	Roland	01/05	Norton	Mrs	Pera	30/05
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May Social Members:

Brokas	Mr	John	15/05	Dawson	Miss	Imogen	15/05
Edwards	Mr	David	24/05	Kendell	Ms	Nita	17/05
Potter	Mr	Warren	06/05	Toms	Miss	Tracey	14/05

If there are any errors or anyone has been missed off the list, please advise

The Secretary (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,

Finally everything ANZAC Day 2026 is over. I was a bit disappointed in the bar takings on the day, but the \$7 pints would have contributed to this.

Thanks to Jules and her staff (Julie and Angel) on the day, they all did a great job yet again.

This week we were notified that due to the price of diesel, there has been an increase in delivery costs by the Breweries. I will be increasing the price of drinks in the coming weeks, however as an RSL we can't continue to absorb these rising costs without passing them on to our members and guests.

Cheers for now,

Stormy

**Chickens have stopped
crossing the road...**



They now call an 'ewe'ber



Dick Winters of E Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment - real photo on the right, on the left Damian Lewis playing his role in "Band of Brothers"

CLOUD 9 BAND

***Appearing at the
Armadales RSL***



Sunday, 17th May - 12:30pm

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

BYO Snacks / Nibbles

Free Entry



Maori Battalion survivors of action in Greece, performing a haka in Helwan, Egypt for the King of Greece (1941)



B-25 Mitchell demonstrating some significant firepower!



Cnr Armadale Rd & Eighth Rd



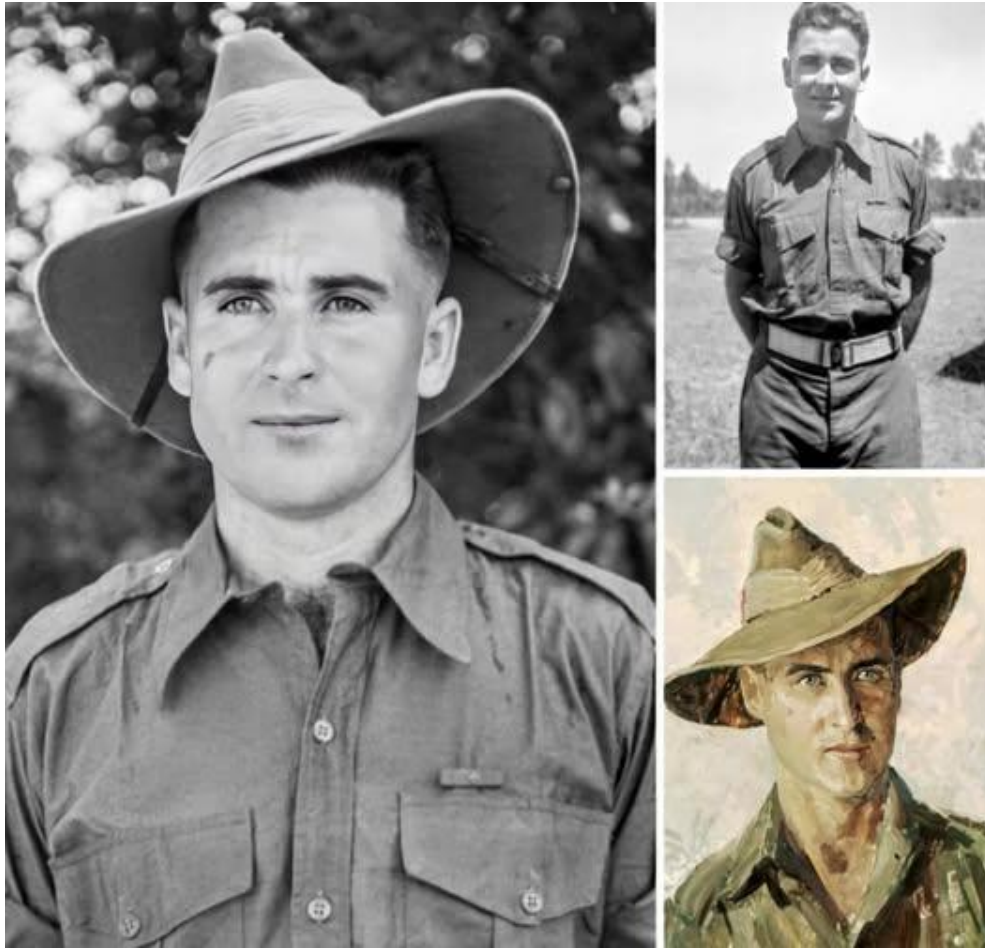
164 Jull Street, Armadale - 9498 1909



Domino's®

**DOMINO'S ARMADALE
(WA)**

📍 89 Jull Street,
ARMADALE Western Australia 6112



Private Leslie Thomas Starcevich Honoured with Victoria Cross

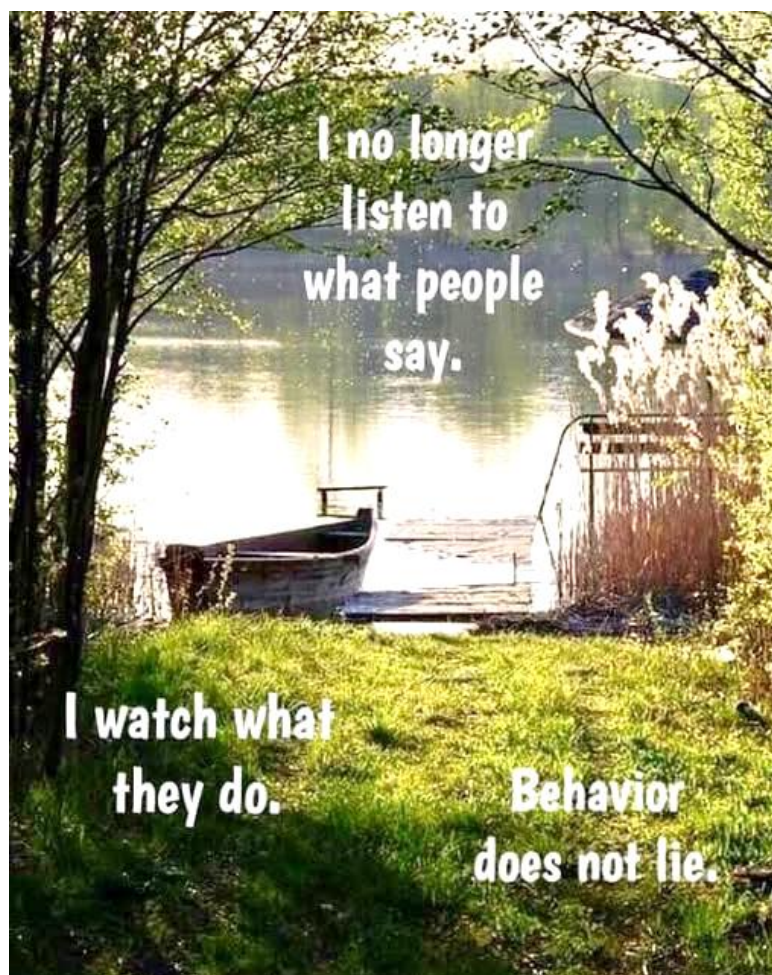


Vietnam War Stories: Honouring the Heroes We Lost:

Today we honour Private Ronald John Bell of Albany Western Australia. Ron, the eldest of six children, was a National Serviceman serving with 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) (The ANZAC Battalion comprising 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment and a component from the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Regiment)



Some of the lovely Merchandise for sale on ANZAC Day





***City of Armadale Mayor Ruth Butterfield with Filiz Shah from the Turkish Society of WA
and the Armadale RSL Secretary***



JOY LOFTHOUSE

Joy Lofthouse was one of the last surviving women who served as a pilot in the Air Transport Auxiliary during World War II, a civilian organization that delivered military aircraft across Britain.

She flew many types of planes during the war, including fighters and bombers, often with minimal instrumentation and no radio support. Her work helped keep the Royal Air Force supplied and operational, and like many women pilots of her era, she carried out these missions with skill and determination at a time when female aviators were still a rarity in military aviation.



In 2015, more than seventy years after the war ended, Joy Lofthouse fulfilled a lifelong moment of reflection when she flew her favorite aircraft, a Spitfire, once again. The flight was an emotional tribute to her service and to the women of the Air Transport Auxiliary who contributed so much but were often overlooked. Joy Lofthouse passed away in 2017 at the age of 94, leaving behind a legacy of courage, pioneering achievement, and inspiration for future generations of women in aviation history, and the lasting impact of those who quietly shaped it.

ANZAC TRIBUTES 2026



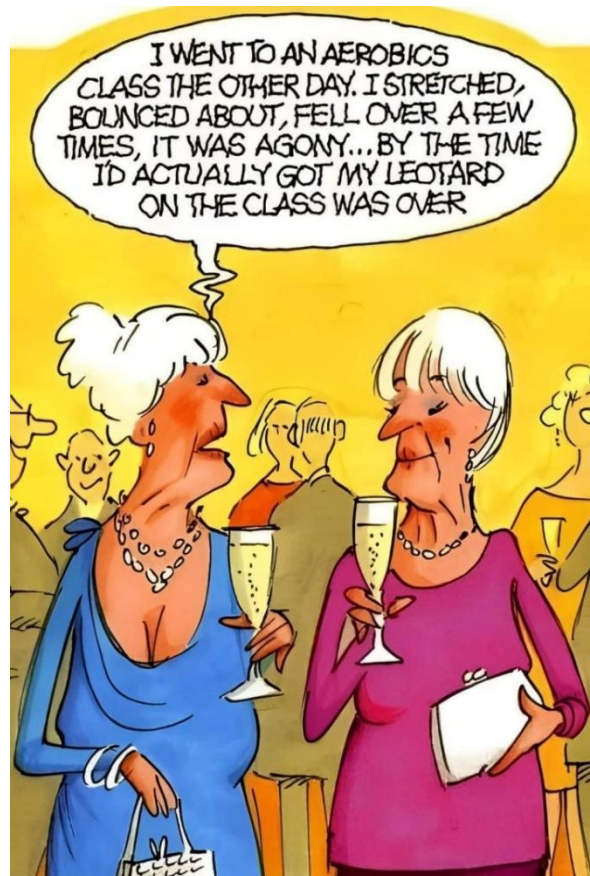




Aid unit 1940s



German battleship Bismarck is photographed from the deck of Prinz Eugen days before the Bismarck was sunk in May, 1941

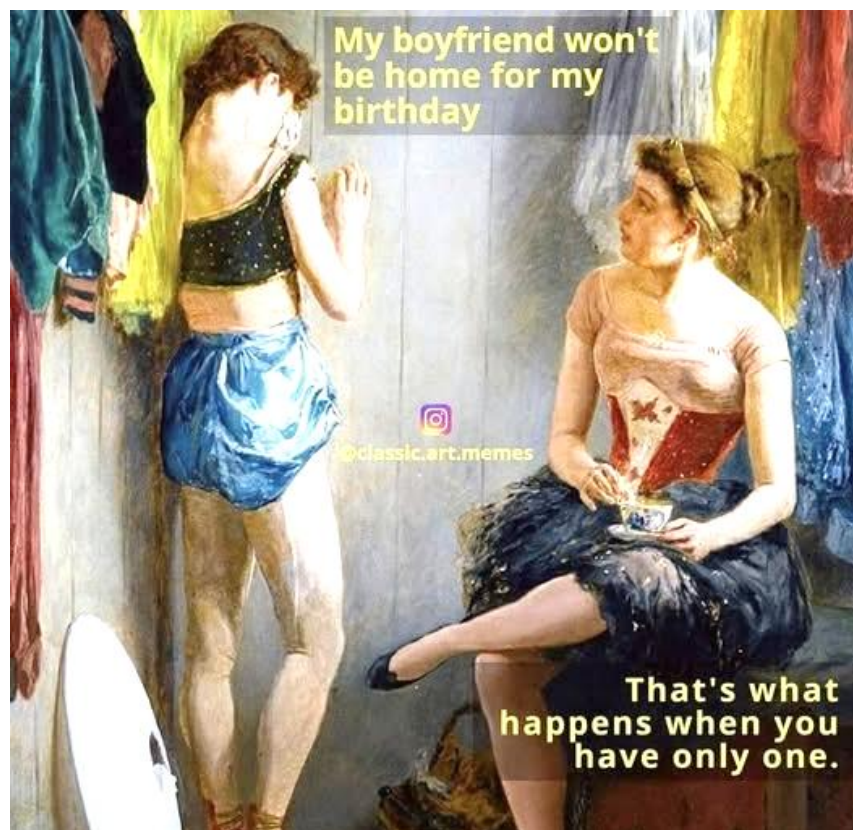


**I have my very own built in alarm clock.
It's called a bladder and
it DOES NOT have a snooze button**





Voluntary Aid Detachment nurses at either the 119th or 107th Australian General Hospital at Adelaide River in 1943



“SANDY”

The only horse to return from the First World War

Sandy was a bay gelding and the only Australian horse to return home from World War I out of nearly 136,000 sent overseas. As the charger of Major General Sir William Bridges, Sandy served at Gallipoli before being sent to France, finally returning to Australia in 1918 to graze at the Maribyrnong Remount Depot.



Sandy

In the First World War 136,000 “walers” (the general name applied to Australian horses abroad) were sent overseas for use by the Australian Imperial Force and the British and Indian governments. One horse from the 136,000 made it back to Australia.

Tallangatta North Eastern Victoria was the home of Sandy. He was used as a general working horse on the O’Donnell farm at Old Tallangatta.

The O’Donnell Brothers Francis (Bonner) and Jack owned Sandy, and Francis donated his most valuable possession, his beloved work horse Sandy to the

Australian War effort. Little did Francis (Bonner) O'Donnell know of the magnitude on Australian history, his decision would have.

The Legend of "Sandy" the only horse to return to Australia from WW1 would begin.

Major General William Throsby Bridges was a tall statured man at 6ft 7inch. Having already a distinguished Military Career, he was then appointed to the Command of the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Forces (A.I.F).

There were 169,000 horses shipped to Egypt from Australia for the use of the A.I.F. Bridges initiated a campaign of intense training. He had three assigned horses for his own private mount and Sandy was one of them.

All the other horses sent overseas were either shot or given to farmers if they wanted them. Imagine the sorrow of a soldier having to have the horse which carried him in battle put down.

Sandy was one of the 6,100 horses sent to Gallipoli.

Bridges was shot in the leg by a Turkish sniper in Gallipoli on 15th May 1915. He died a few days later from his wounds, on the way to hospital in Egypt.

Bridges had only one dying wish: his beloved Sandy, be returned home for retirement at war's end.

It wasn't until the following year October 1917, after months of correspondence between Australian and British authorities that permission was granted for the War Horse to be returned to Australia. The Major's dying wish was going to be granted.

In May 1918 after 3 months of veterinary observation, Sandy was declared disease free and fit to travel home.

Accompanying him was a groom, 38-year-old Private Archibald Jordan from Ferntree Gully, Victoria, who had been with the hospital since April 1917 after being classed as permanently unfit for further active service on medical grounds.

On 7th September 1918, Sandy and Private Jordan, boarded the S.S. Booral at Liverpool in England and after weeks at sea arrived in Port Melbourne on 13th of November. This was just two days after the war was declared over.

Sandy lived out his days at “Remount Hill” central remount depot at Maribyrnong, in Melbourne’s West.

By August 1922 increasing blindness and the onset of debility prompted a decision to have him put down, “as a humane action”. Before this was done, however, the War Museum (later to become the Australian War Memorial) was asked if it would like to preserve his skeleton. The War Museum Committee explored having Sandy stuffed whole, but baulked at this idea because of the expected cost (£400) when he had never actually been ridden in action, and the fact that he was now in poor condition due to old age.

Instead, in April 1923, it adopted the proposal by Major General Sir Brudenell White, the Army’s Chief of the General Staff (who was also a member of the Committee), to only have the horse’s head and neck mounted at an estimated cost of £75. The hoofs would be preserved too, polished and mounted as trophies for presentation (at White’s suggestion) to the Minister for Defence, the RMC, and the offices of the Inspector-General and the Chief of the General Staff.

As a result of these deliberations, a taxidermist from the Australian Museum in Sydney travelled with an assistant to Melbourne. The pair spent a fortnight at the Remount Depot, photographing and measuring the horse in life before supervising his destruction and skinning. The unwanted remains were presumably buried at Maribyrnong. The work of mounting the head was carried out at the Museum in Sydney, and culminated in the fitting of a bridle which Lady Bridges provided as being one which her late husband had used before leaving Australia. In September the exhibit was sent to Melbourne for delivery to the War Museum. The hooves followed a month later, and were distributed as planned.

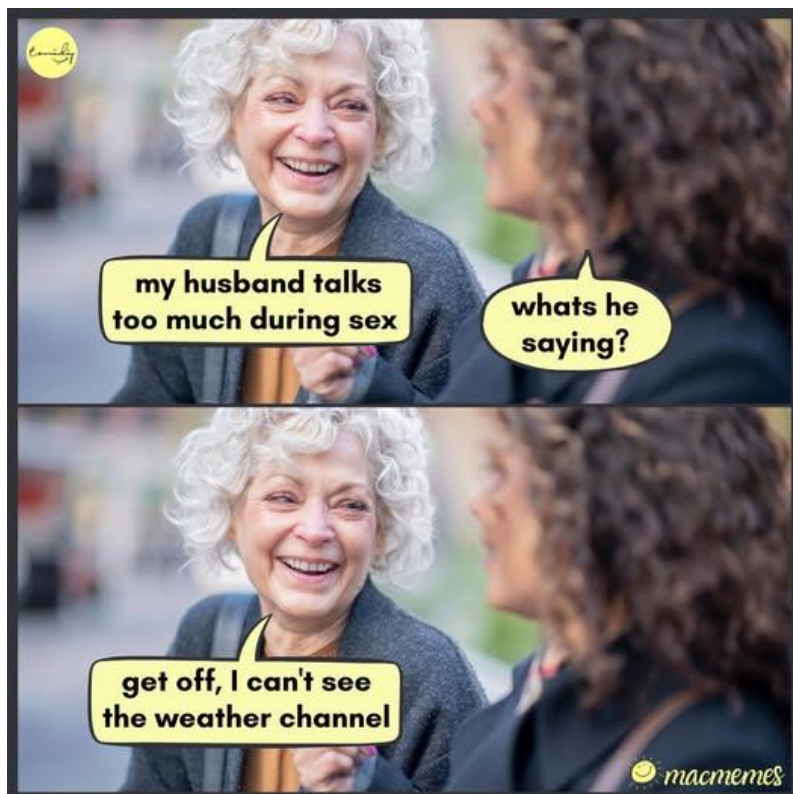
For many years Sandy’s head remained on display at the War Museum and later the Memorial in Canberra, forming a fitting tribute to the thousands of horses which formed such a proud part of the AIF story.

It is still in the collection, though not on exhibition owing to deterioration through age. In 1959 the Memorial also became the recipient of one of Sandy's hooves, returned as a donation from the Department of Defence (although which of the three originally put around the department is unknown).

RMC retains its hoof, displaying it in the Officers' Mess in Duntroon House.

These relics remain as tangible links with the one waler that made it home from the war.







RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH

Your RSL