

THE FURPHY

ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

November 2024 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 1030hrs

Annual General Meeting: Second Sunday of September

Committee Positions

Armadale Sub-Branch Committee	
President	Mr Mike Fairweather
Vice President	Mr Geoff Scott
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 Ken Hepburn
Committee	Mr Keith Northcott
Committee	Mr Robert Smith
Committee	Mr Geoff Tooth
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 November

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
Sunday	3 rd	Social Committee Meeting	1100
Wednesday	6 th	Management Committee Meeting	1100
Sunday	10 th	General Meeting	1030

Annual Poppy Appeal Stalls



We are holding our Appeal on Wednesday 6th, Thursday 7th and Saturday 9th November

Please support your Sub-Branch by visiting these stalls at Coles North Armadale, Coles Armadale and Woolworths Armadale

We will be at Haynes on Thursday 7th only



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Members,

Thanks to the members who volunteered for our Busy Bee held on Tuesday 29th October. It was a very warm day, and they all did a fabulous job before coming into the cool hall for a light lunch and a drink.

Arrangements for Remembrance Day are under control we hope to see as many of you who can attend the service commencing at 1045 hours and come on back to the club for a drink or three. A sausage sizzle lunch will start at 12 noon.

It has been reported that disrespectful comments are being made about the Executive and Committee which have been heard by both members and patrons recently. I would remind you that this will not be tolerated. The Code of Conduct has been reproduced in this edition of the Furphy.

Failure to comply will result in action being taken.

Thanks to everyone who keeps coming in on a Friday and Sunday, if you could mention to your friends and family that we welcome the Public and Social Membership is only \$20 a year that would be appreciated.

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



RSLWA

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

WA BRANCH INCORPORATED

28 St Georges Tce Perth WA 6000 | PO Box Z5424 St Georges Tce WA 6831

T 08 9287 3799

ABN 59 263 172 184

CODE OF CONDUCT

Introduction

RSLWA provides assistance and support for serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel and their dependents.

Appropriate conduct by all RSLWA members is necessary to enable the ongoing delivery of our mission, within suitable environments throughout our Sub Branches and related environments.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct requires that all members of RSLWA must:

- behave honestly and with integrity;
- act with care and diligence;
- treat everyone with respect and courtesy, and without harassment, bullying or discrimination
- comply with all applicable Federal and State laws, including but not limited to Criminal Law (Unlawful Consorting and Prohibited Insignia) Bill 2021; and
- at all times behave in a way that upholds the RSL's values, integrity and good reputation.

Harassment

- Harassment includes any unwelcome behaviour that offends, humiliates or intimidates any person or member of RSLWA or its Sub-Branches.

Disciplinary Powers of a Sub-Branch

Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may result in the Management Committee undertaking disciplinary action against the Member of conduct unbecoming a member.

If it is satisfied the member has been guilty of such conduct, it may resolve that they be placed on a caution to improve their conduct, or be reprimanded or be suspended from membership of the Sub-Branch for a period not exceeding three months, or it may resolve that the matter should be referred to RSLWA for its consideration.



20 September 1963 - The 16th MCM Squadron with 6 Ton class minesweepers deploy as part of Operation GARDENING, a minesweeping task to clear a channel into Tonolei Harbour in Bougainville, where US aircraft had dropped a large number of magnetic mines in 1943. This was the RAN's biggest minesweeping operation for 16 years



Secretary's Notes

Hi Everyone,

Stalls for selling merchandise are scheduled for November 6th, 7th and 9th and a big thank you to those who have filled all the positions.

As we are not opening on Melbourne Cup Day, we're having a Cup Themed afternoon on Sunday 3rd. There's a \$50 prize for Best Hat – we hope as many people as possible will come along and join in the fun.

There will be 2 raffles at \$2 per ticket with great prizes.

The closing date for the Members Lunch on Sunday 24th November is Sunday 10th if you would make sure that you register by then so we can confirm numbers to the

Caterers. This is for financial members at a cost of \$25 per head.

Metconnx employees are still going to have their staff drinks here, but are now alternating between us and Byford so they will next be in early December.

That's all from me for this edition of the Furphy, best regards to you all,

Carol King

Sub-Branch Secretary

e-mail: secretary@armadalersl.com.au



“Melbourne Cup Themed” Afternoon

Sunday 3rd November from 12 noon



**“Cup Hat Competition” open to
both men and women**



\$50 prize for best hat



**Seafood and
Charcuterie
grazing platter
RAFFLES
available**



A cardiologist died and was given an elaborate funeral. A huge heart, covered in flowers, stood behind the casket during the service.

Following the eulogy, the heart opened and the casket rolled inside. The beautiful heart then closed, sealing the doctor inside, forever.

At that point, one of the mourners burst into laughter. When all eyes stared at him, he said, "I'm sorry. I was just thinking of my own funeral... I'm a gynaecologist.

The proctologist fainted.

**the grim reaper came for me last night
I managed to fend him off with my
vacuum cleaner
talk about Dyson with death!**



Q. Did you hear about the first restaurant to open on the moon?

A. It had great food, but no atmosphere.

Q. What do you call a cheese that's not yours?

A. Nacho cheese!

Membership Update

As at 31st October, 2024:

Service Members:	160
Affiliate Members:	52
Social Members:	<u>73</u>
Total:	<u>285</u>

VALE: Service Members: OFFORD, Graham and POLLOCK, George
Social Member: TAI, Michael

REMINDER

Membership is from January to December each year. Renewal sheets are on the notice board and on the last page of this Furphy newsletter.

Social Members have a grace period and are removed from records if not paid by end of January.

Service & Affiliates also have a grace period and in accordance with RSLWA Congress decision in July and that is now the end of February.

Affiliate and Social renewals can now **only** be transacted through the Sub-Branch but Service members can process through RSLWA in person or via the internet.

Any queries to Membership Officer Tom Rynn.

Tom Rynn

Tel: 0439 934 285

e-mail: tomrynn@bigpond.com

OBI WAN CANNOLI



METAPHORS BE WITH YOU

I met my wife at a singles night



**I was surprised as I thought she was
at home with the kids**

End of Year
Members Luncheon
Sunday 24th November, 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 10th November)

An Englishman, a Scot, and an Irishman walk into a pub with their wives and all order tea.

The Englishman sweetly asks his wife, "Pass the honey, honey."

Inspired, the Scotsman turns to his wife saying, "Pass the sugar, sugar."

Not to be outdone, the Irishman glances at his wife and barks, "Pass the milk, you bloody cow!"



A man walks into a doctor's office, sits down and says, "Now, doctor, this may sound kind of strange, but I have five penises." Taken aback, the doctor asks him, "My God, how do your pants fit?" To which the man replies, "Like a glove."

My father always used to say, "In life, one door might close, but another one will open." He was a great philosopher. But an awful cabinet builder.



November Service Members:

Bauld	Mr	John	15/11	Enright	Dr	Leo	24/11
Escott	Mr	Gary	01/11	Evans	Mr	Steve	04/11
Fairweather	Mr	Michael	15/11	Ferrari	Mr	Michael	02/11
Gillam	Mr	Gordon	29/11	Grimes	Mr	Wayne	14/11
Harding	Mr	Andrew	01/11	Henderson	Mr	Richard	03/11
Jonsson	Mr	Rodney	25/11	Palmer	Mr	Glen	11/11

November Affiliate Members:

Lucas	Mrs	Catherina	03/11	Matthews	Mr	Russel	24/11
Murphy	Mr	John	03/11				

November Social Members:

Beard	Mr	Malcolm	09/11	Bowen	Mr	John	28/11
Buley	Mr	Brenton	16/11	Choo	Miss	Jackie	02/11
Evans	Mrs	Maralyn	16/11	Hodges	Mr	Clayton	03/11
Lewis	Ms	Susan	12/11	Neasmith	Ms	Amanda	22/11
Stenning	Mr	Gordon	05/11	Thompson	Mrs	Julie	18/11

*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,

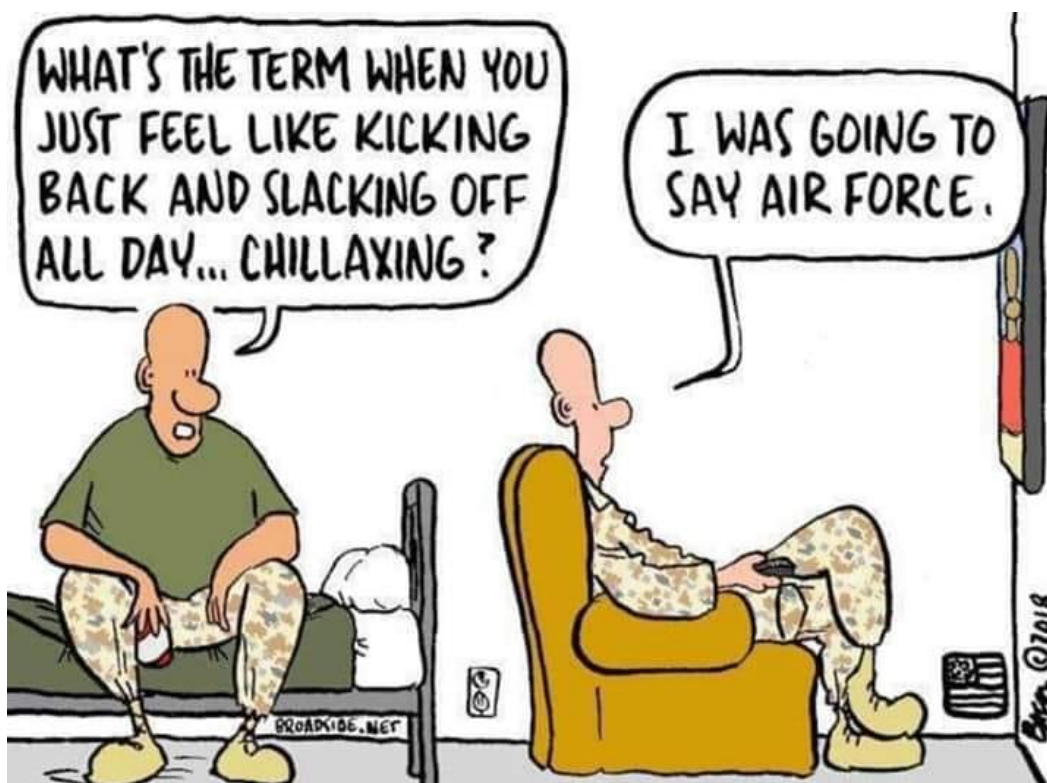
We had a good weekend's Members turn out at the end of last month and I sure hope we see much more of that.

All drinks have now increased in price, and we have kept that to a minimum for you.

Hopefully we will have a decent number of people in on Remembrance Day which will also help the Bar.

Bye for now,

Stormy





HMAS Stuart conducted a Helicopter in-Flight Refuelling (HIFR) evolution from the flight deck, with their embarked Flight 602 MH-60R Seahawk helicopter call sign 'Scarecrow' during the ship's regional presence deployment



Royal New Zealand Navy ship HMNZS Aotearoa conducts a Dual-Replenishment at Sea with HMAS Sydney and USS Howard during a Maritime Cooperative Activity in the South China Sea



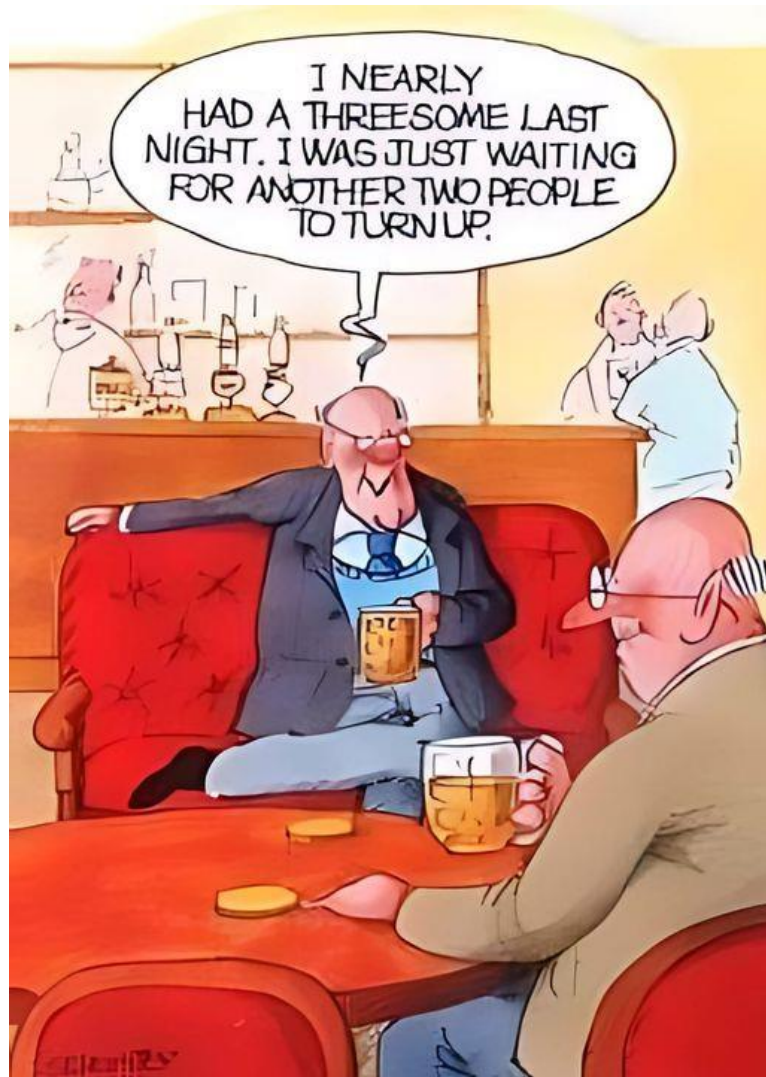
Normandia





Republic of Korea Armed Forces firing an K239 Chunmoo during Talisman Sabre 2023 at Shoalwater Bay Training Area





- I know they say that money talks, but all mine says is "Goodbye."
- I have an inferiority complex, but it's not a very good one.
- What do you call a lazy kangaroo? A pouch potato.
- My wife and I laugh about how competitive we are. But I laugh more.
- My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down.
- What do you call someone who doesn't like carb? Lack-Toast intolerant.

A truck loaded with thousands of copies of Roget's Thesaurus crashed yesterday losing its entire load. Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied, confused, shocked, rattled, paralyzed, dazed, bewildered, mixed up, surprised, awed, dumbfounded, nonplussed, flabbergasted, astounded, amazed, confounded, astonished, overwhelmed, horrified, numbed, speechless, and perplexed.



Byford Rail Extension – Update



There will be a road closure on Saturday 9 November on Forrest Road at the rail corridor to install the remaining planks

Other general updates:

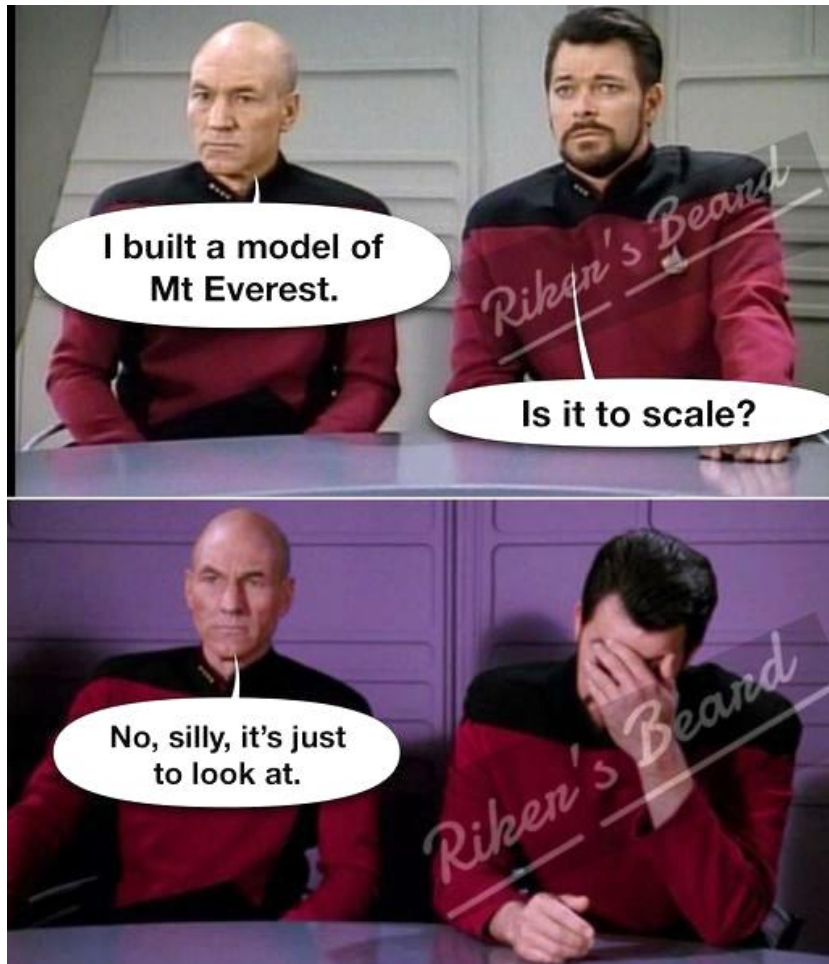
- Works are continuing to install overhead line equipment and lay rail along the corridor. We have also commenced installing new security fencing along the rail reserve boundary and installing foundations for noise walls in some locations in Armadale and Darling Downs. The noise walls will be between 1.8 and 2.4 metres high and built from recycled plastic panels with steel posts. They will include a minimum of 80% recycled content and have the ability to be recycled at the end of their life.
- Piling for the pedestrian bridge over Armadale Road is now complete – it will start to take shape in the coming months.
- Structural steel installation is ongoing at Armadale Station. In addition, earth works and in-ground services for the new bus interchange and station car park have commenced.

Noise Walls and Privacy Screens:

- Where noise walls are required, they will be placed within the rail corridor. Where privacy screens are required, in areas where the new shared path runs at the rear of private properties, the locations will depend on site conditions.
- In some areas, screens will be placed on concrete retaining walls and will replace existing private property back fences. In other areas, the screening will be built from ground level between the new shared path and private property boundary fences.
- Noise and screen walls will not be installed in any residential estates that are yet to be developed.
- For Armadale, the walls will be located in a section at the end of the elevated rail bridge ramp, south of Church Avenue.



B-17 Bomber 'Miss Donna Mae'





Soldiers wearing gas masks while peeling onions at Tobruk, 15 October 1941



B-17s of the 350th Bomber Squadron of the 100th Bomb Group on a mission

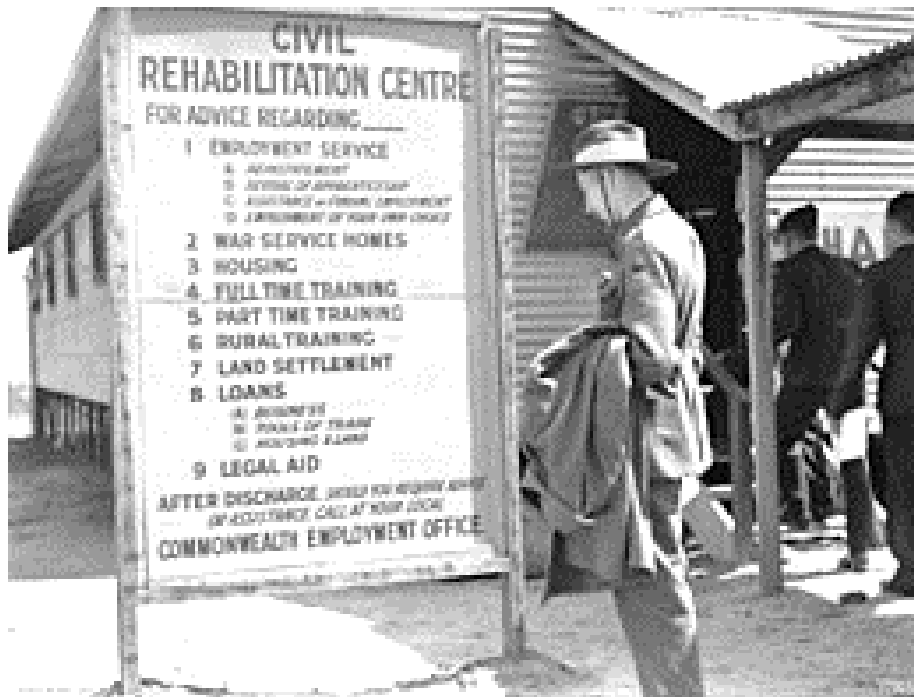
I went to an archaeology party recently where they were only looking for remains of a lower leg.



it was quite the shindig.



Demobilisation of the Australian Military after World War II



An Australian Army sergeant reads the sign outside a civil rehabilitation centre in Melbourne during March 1946

The demobilisation of the Australian military after World War II involved discharging almost 600,000 men and women from the military, supporting their transition to civilian life and reducing the three armed services to peacetime strengths. Planning for the demobilisation process began in 1942 and thousands of servicemen and women were discharged in the last years of the war in response to shortages of labour in the domestic war economy. The general demobilisation of the military began in October 1945 and was completed in February 1947. The demobilisation process was largely successful, but some military personnel stationed in the South West Pacific complained that their repatriation to Australia was too slow.

The disposal of surplus military equipment took place at the same time as the size of the services was being reduced. The disposal process was managed to limit its economic impact. Most equipment was transferred to other government agencies, sold or destroyed by the end of 1949.

Planning

Planning for the demobilisation of the Australian military began at the end of 1942 when the Department of Post-War Reconstruction was formed. The department was involved with drawing up plans for determining veterans' entitlements and the assistance which would be provided to discharged personnel to help them settle into civilian life. That included planning the delivery of training, housing and ensuring that jobs were available. An important consideration was to ensure that civilian employment opportunities were created at an appropriate rate as the size of the military was reduced. It was decided to achieve that by continuing many wartime economic regulations such as price controls to limit inflation and direct resources to where the Australian Government believed they were most needed.



Members of the first party of five year veterans to return to Sydney in August 1945

The Australian War Cabinet approved the Department of Post-War Reconstruction's proposed principles to govern demobilisation on 12 June 1944. The key element of the principles was that the order in which personnel would be demobilised was to be based on a points system, with service men and women being allocated points on the basis of their period of service, age, marital status and employment or training prospects. An extensive demobilisation plan was then developed by an interservice committee following further consultation with trade unions, employers and returned servicemen. The plan was accepted as the basis for planning by the War Cabinet on 6 March 1945. The rate at which personnel were to be discharged was set at 3,000 a day for six days a week and was to be capable of being increased in the event of an emergency.

The final demobilisation plan assigned differing scales of points for service men and women. Service men were allocated two points for each year of age based on their age at enlistment and a further two points for each month of service if they did not have dependent children or three points if they did. Service women received three points for each year of age at enlistment and a point for each month of service. Women with children were given priority for demobilisation, followed by those who had married before the end of the war. Service women who married after the war could ask for an early discharge on compassionate grounds. Men were also eligible for early discharge on compassionate or health grounds, if they had skills which were important to the Australian economy or had been accepted into a full-time training course.

Limited demobilisation began during the final years of the war. In order to meet the needs of the war economy 20,000 soldiers were released from the Australian Army in October 1943. Further reductions took place in August 1944 when another 30,000 soldiers and 15,000 personnel from the Royal Australian Air Force were discharged. In mid-1945 the Government implemented a policy in which service men and women who had completed five years of service, including at least two years outside Australia, could volunteer for discharge.

Post-war demobilisation



Former prisoners of war wave from the bus which took them to the Royal Agricultural Showgrounds after arriving at Central Station in Brisbane

The demobilisation plan was put into action on 16 August 1945, the day after Japan surrendered. The military then had a strength of 598,300 men and women, 310,600 in Australia, 224,000 serving in the South West Pacific Area (SWPA) and 20,100 in Britain and other parts of the world. The only personnel to be discharged during August and September were former prisoners of war and those with a long period of service; general demobilisation did not begin until 1 October 1945. During the intervening months dispersal centres were established in each state and territory's capital city. The centres were to provide information on employment, land settlement, housing, training, loans, tools for trades and other benefits for service personnel as their discharges were processed. Lieutenant-General Stanley Savige was appointed the Coordinator of Demobilisation and Dispersal in September.

Former prisoners of war were given a high priority for repatriation back to Australia and discharge. Planning for the recovery of prisoners of the Japanese, most of whom had been held in harsh conditions, had begun in 1944 and the 2nd and 3rd Australian Prisoner of War Reception Groups were established at Singapore and Manila respectively in August 1945. By the end of September most of the prisoners recovered from Singapore, Java and Sumatra had been returned to Australia along with about half of those recovered from the Bangkok area. Transport shortages delayed the repatriation of Australian prisoners from Formosa, Japan and Korea, but almost all were on their way home by mid-September.

In line with a plan approved by the Australian Government in September 1945, general demobilisation was conducted in four stages. The first stage ran from October 1945 to January 1946 and involved the discharge of 249,159 personnel, which was higher than the targets of 10,000 members of the Royal Australian Navy, 135,000 soldiers and 55,000 airmen specified in the demobilisation plan. In the second stage 193,461 personnel left the military between February and 30 June 1946 though that was slightly lower than the target of 200,000. The third stage ran from 1 July to 31 December, when the services had been reduced to 78,000 personnel, which was considered the strength necessary for the military's postwar tasks. Of the remaining servicemen, those who did not wish to volunteer for continuing service in the military were released in the fourth stage which began on 1 January 1947. At the end of the process, the military's strength had fallen

To 60,000 personnel. If possible, service men and women were placed on leave and allowed to return home while awaiting discharge.



Australian military personnel during the protest march at Morotai on 10 December 1945

The demobilisation of the military included disbanding the female branches of the three services. The Women's Royal Australian Naval Service, Australian Women's Army Service and Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force had been formed during 1941 and 1942 to enable women to serve in the military but were disbanded during 1947, with military service being again restricted to men. Demobilised service women were provided with similar assistance to male members of the military, but were placed under pressure to return to traditional family roles.

The return of Australian personnel from the SWPA was delayed by shipping shortages and the need to maintain a force in the area for garrison duties. The military provided the personnel with training courses to prepare them for civilian life. Refresher courses in basic subjects such as maths and English were run first before vocational training began. The teachers and instructors for the courses were service personnel selected on the basis of their civilian occupations. In addition, sport competitions were conducted to keep the men busy.

Many men in the SWPA believed that the demobilisation process was too slow. On 10 December 1945 4,500 men at Morotai in the Netherlands East Indies staged a protest march demanding that shipping be made available to return them to Australia.

Soldiers at Bougainville also complained about having to remain on the island after the war had ended, and Prime Minister Ben Chifley's plane was sabotaged in an apparent protest during his visit on 27 December 1945. Minister for Defence Frank Forde was largely blamed for the slowness with which military personnel were being demobilised. As a result, he lost his seat at the 1946 election though the Labor Party itself comfortably retained office.

Despite the dissatisfaction of the men in the SWPA, the demobilisation and repatriation process generally proceeded smoothly. Most men had been returned to Australia by January 1946 and 80 percent were demobilised by the middle of the year. Before leaving the military service men and women attended either a dispersal centre or naval depot where they were provided with a medical examination, interviewed by a rehabilitation officer and provided with information about the benefits they were eligible for. The Manpower Directorate was then responsible for placing discharged personnel in employment as well as providing them with identity documentation and ration entitlements. Training courses were made available to veterans, and by 1951 94,000 had completed university, technical or rural training courses and 39,000 were still in training. A further 135,000 began training but withdrew before completing their course.

Demobilisation also included establishing arrangements for the medical care of ex-service personnel. After the war responsibility for medical treatment was gradually transferred from the services to the Repatriation Commission. The Army's hospitals were also transferred to the Commission, meeting its immediate need for facilities. It proved necessary to build new hospitals for the treatment of tuberculosis and mental disorders, but as the specialised Army hospitals established for the treatment of the conditions were respectively unsatisfactory, they had to be returned to the Government of New South Wales. The Department of Social Services was responsible for providing assistance to veterans with a disability not caused by their military service, which led to the foundation of the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service in 1955.

Disposal of military equipment



Wrecked Spitfire fighters awaiting disposal at Labuan in January 1946. The aircraft were later dumped in the sea

The disposal of military equipment and materials was also a key priority after the end of the war. Equipment with civilian uses such as motor vehicles, clothing and housing were urgently needed to counter shortages in the civilian economy. The timing of equipment release had to be carefully planned, however, to avoid harming employment by creating surpluses of manufactured goods. Planning for the disposal of equipment began in 1943 and the Commonwealth Disposals Commission was established to oversee the sale or destruction of equipment in September 1944. Before the commission was established the Government decided that ex-military equipment would be offered to other government agencies before being made available to the public, that sales to the public were to be made on an 'as is, where is' basis and be processed through existing trade channels or public auction at 'fair market prices' and that payment was to be required in cash. Some special priorities were also established; farmers were to be given priority for motor vehicles, machine tools were to be allocated to ex-servicemen and training colleges and special consideration was to be given to the needs of the Red Cross and other overseas and domestic charitable associations.

Preparations for the disposal of equipment began in the second half of 1944 when the War Cabinet directed the military to survey all stocks and indicate any surpluses. General Thomas Blamey, the Commander-in-Chief of the

Army, hindered the preparations as he believed they were premature and that the Army's stocks needed to be maintained until Japan was defeated. That position was opposed by the acting Minister for the Army, and the RAAF and RAN made some attempts to identify their surpluses, but was successful in delaying the Disposal Commission's work until July 1945. As a result, relatively little military equipment was sold between September 1944 and June 1945.

After the war ended the Disposals Commission rapidly disposed of large stocks of military equipment. Consumer goods and raw materials which could be used immediately by manufacturers were the first items to be sold and sales of motor vehicles grew rapidly. Ex-military vehicles made an important contribution to meeting transport shortages in rural areas, but there was some dissatisfaction with the priority given to the agricultural sector and the way in which the vehicles were sold. The Disposal Commission's sales were also important in meeting shortages of clothing, housing, industrial and construction equipment and tractors. Most of the military's stocks of food were donated to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration or sold for export.



The final meeting of the Commonwealth Disposals Commission in September 1949

The disposal of military equipment, particularly outside of Australia, presented a challenge to the Disposals Commission. At the end of the war inadequate preparations were made for the storage of equipment in New Guinea, and many stores were stolen by soldiers, native New Guineans and 'salvage pirates' or damaged by the tropical conditions.

Sales of stocks in those areas were completed at the end of 1946, often at very low prices, but much equipment was stolen. Specialised military equipment also proved difficult to dispose of given its unsuitability for civilian purposes. Bombs and other explosives were destroyed after any scrap metal was recovered and large numbers of combat aircraft had to be scrapped due to a worldwide glut. Training aircraft and other aeronautical equipment were sold to the public and other government agencies. Demand for tanks and Universal Carriers, which could be converted to tractors, was greater than expected.

The Disposals Commission's activities peaked during 1946 and 1947. Sales generally went smoothly and in accordance with the principles set by the government and did not significantly disrupt normal commerce. While the commission generally operated efficiently, some mistakes occurred such as clothing and scrap metal being sold well beneath their market value. The volume of sales dropped rapidly after 1947 and the Disposals Commission was disbanded in July 1949. By this time the commission had sold £135,189,000 worth of equipment.



Looking Back: Australia's Emu Wars

By Jasper Garner Gore - 18 October 2016



In 1932 Australian troops were dumbfounded when they found themselves outmanoeuvred by clever birds during the Emu Wars.

Early on the morning of 2 November 1932, the Seventh Heavy Battery of the Royal Australian Artillery alighted at Campion, WA, on to a hot red-dirt landscape about halfway between Perth and Kalgoorlie. There they unpacked two Lewis automatic machine guns and 10,000 rounds of ammunition.

The unit's intention? To open hostilities with the emus of Western Australia that were moving in from central Australia in search of water and, having stumbled on the region's delicious wheat districts, had begun to ravage crops.

No sooner had the unit arrived than a flock of 50 emus was sighted. The company's commander, Major G.P.W. Meredith, immediately ordered his troops to circle the birds and chase them into range of the guns. By the day's end only a dozen birds out of the thousands the men had shot at were dead. Nevertheless, first blood had been drawn in Australia's 'Emu Wars'.



Emu running in the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges national park in the Flinders Ranges, South Australia.

Australian Farmers and the Emu Wars

It all came about late in 1932, after a marauding emu population of at least 20,000 had been devastating farms across WA for some time. The farmers under attack (many of them ex-soldiers themselves) had eventually petitioned for military aid from the Minister of Defence George Pearce.

He deployed troops swiftly, and they arrived with hopes of quick victory and a few emu feathers for their hats.

No sooner had the conflict begun, however, than it became clear that the Australian military had vastly underestimated the emu.

Cunning adversaries, the emus proved almost impossible to hit with machine-gun fire, and they seemed able to shrug off even serious injury from bullets without breaking stride.



Describing the emus, Major Meredith later said:

“If we had a military division with the bullet-carrying capacity of these birds it would face any army in the world... They can face machine guns with the invulnerability of tanks.”

A few days into operations, a planned ambush by a dam failed miserably when one of the Lewis guns jammed.

A later attempt to mount a machine-gun on a truck fell apart when it was made apparent that the vehicle could not keep up with the birds.



In recent times we can see thousands of emus flock against Western Australia's 'rabbit-proof fence', as they make their annual migration southwards

Emu War and Peace

Within a week of first contact the troops were recalled. Roughly 2500 rounds had been fired and killed somewhere between 50 and 200 emus.

Meredith did note that his men had suffered no casualties. When the question was raised if a medal would be struck for the conflict, federal labor parliamentarian A.E. Green replied that any medals should go to the emus who had *'won every round so far'*.

For his involvement in the deployment, Defence Minister George Pearce earned the unofficial title 'Minister for the Emu War'.

Although a second (slightly) more successful military operation was mounted against the emus only a few days after the initial retreat in November 1932, in the end it was the instituting of a bounty on emus that proved most effective. Between 1945 and 1960 around 284,700 emus were killed in WA.

Australia's emu population, however, remains stable to this day.

Thankfully, they do not seem interested in resuming hostilities with the Australian government.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2025

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

SERVICE MEMBERS PAY DIRECT TO STATE RSL UNLESS AGREED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OFFICER TO SEND IN BULK VIA THE SUB BRANCH

AFFILIATE & SOCIAL MEMBERS PAY DIRECT TO THE SUB-BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM to 31st December 2025

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ P/C _____

Contact No: Home _____ **Mobile** _____

Email: _____

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>AFFILIATE</u>	<u>SOCIAL</u>
\$40	\$40	\$20
IID or Service No.	N° (If Known)	

IF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND/OR CONTACT DETAILS SINCE LAST RENEWAL PLEASE ADVISE BELOW

NAME:

NEW DETAILS:

..... **Post Code:**.....

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

E-Mail:.....



**RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE
ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH**

Your RSL