

# THE FURPHY

**ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER**

*October 2024 Edition*



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

**Ph: (08) 9497 1972**

email: [secretary@armadalersl.com.au](mailto:secretary@armadalersl.com.au)

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

Social media: [Facebook](#)

**General Meetings: Second Sunday of the month at 1030hrs**

**Annual General Meeting: Second Sunday of September**

## Committee Positions

<b>Armadale Sub-Branch Committee</b>	
President	Mr 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 October

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Social Committee Meeting</b>	<b>1100</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Management Committee Meeting</b>	<b>1100</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>1030</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Busy Bee</b>	<b>1000</b>



*Sergeant D Cameron, the pilot of Handley Page Halifax B Mark II, HR837 'NP-F', of No. 158 Squadron RAF, poses with two of his crew amidst the damage caused when it was hit by a falling bomb from another aircraft while raiding Cologne on the night of June 28/29 1943. In spite of the severe damage to the fuselage, none of the crew were injured and Cameron managed to fly HR837 back to the Squadron's base at Lissett, Yorkshire. HR837 was repaired and flew a further 11 operations with the Squadron before being turned over to No. 1656 Heavy Conversion Unit. (June 1943)*

**This lovely Thank You gift of chocolates was received recently...**



*Please enjoy this small gesture as a heartfelt thank you for honouring my Dad 'Peter Walker' as a former Vietnam Veteran, at his recent farewell at Simplicity Funerals. It meant a lot to us to honour him and his wishes for a military send off, and you made that possible, so thank you.  
Tracy and family*

***Our appreciation is extended to Hans van de Velde for reciting the Ode at Peter's Funeral Service***



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Members,

This is my first report as President, and I would like to thank our members for the support you gave me at the recent election.

Thanks to all who stood for committee positions, I really appreciate your nominations and look forward to working with you.

I would like to remind members that even if you are not on the Management Committee, this does not mean that when we ask for people to assist - for example sitting on stalls selling merchandise, or to help us with the upcoming Busy Bee that you have to be a Committee person to carry out these activities.

The Committee alone can't carry out every task that's needed to keep the Sub-Branch open and it would be appreciated if other members offered to supplement the small team that we normally have carrying out these things.

*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](mailto:president@armadalersl.com.au)*

when you forget to knock  
before you open the fridge



# Secretary's Notes

*Hi Everyone,*

*Thanks to all who took the time to attend the Annual General Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September and congratulations to all who were elected to the Management Team. I'd like to thank you for kindly volunteering for these positions even though at times it can seem like a very thankless task.*

*In the lead up to Remembrance Day, we will be holding a Busy Bee on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October between 1000 and 12 noon. This will be followed by a light lunch for those who help on the day. For catering purposes please let myself or Lois know if you will be volunteering.*

*Stalls for selling merchandise are scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. A roster is on the board if you would consider donating your time for a couple of hours on any of these days to help with this very important fund-raising initiative.*

*We will be holding a Members Lunch on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November for financial members at a cost of \$25 per head.*

*There have been a few suggestions made recently about how we could improve the attendance in the Club. Please be aware that sometimes the Executive and Committee have already put in a large number of hours during the week keeping our doors open and may actually be trying to have a quiet drink with friends on a Friday or Sunday. If you have any ideas which you wish to share, please feel free to either e-mail them to me or put them in writing. This will ensure these initiatives are brought up at a Committee meeting which is the correct forum for decision making.*

*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](mailto: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**



**1944**



**Normandy**

**2018**





# Membership Update

*As at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2024:*

Service Members:	161
Affiliate Members:	52
Social Members:	<u>72</u>
Total:	<u>285</u>

***Membership ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December so now is the time to renew for 2025***

**Service** Members **may** renew through RSLWA or the Sub-Branch.

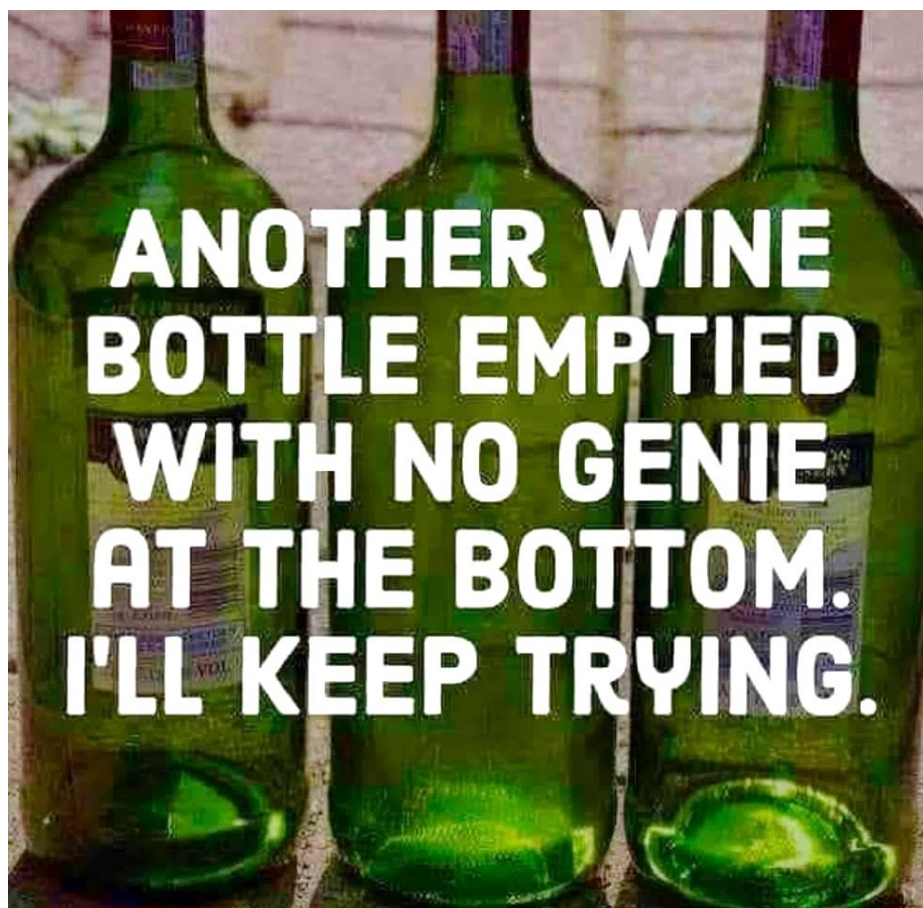
**Affiliate** and **Social** Membership can **ONLY** be renewed through the Sub-Branch.

Any queries to Membership Officer Tom Rynn.

*Tom Rynn*

Tel: 0439 934 285

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



***End of Year***  
**Members Luncheon**  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> November)**



**October Service Members:**

Barbet	Mr	John	12/10	Errington	Mr	Brenton	10/10
Fordham	Mr	Richard	06/10	Hassall	Mr	Robert	02/10
Hughes	Mr	Anthony	19/10	Jackson	Mr	Brian	17/10
Johnston	Mr	Kenneth	03/10	Karsten	Mr	Michael	12/10
McVea	Mr	Kim	09/10	O'Rourke	Mr	Patrick	27/10
Parker	Ms	Lynette	18/10	Playle	Mr	William	05/10
Ramsey	Mr	Liam	08/10	Walker	Mr	Robert	13/10

**October Affiliate Members:**

Bishop	Mrs	Ann	11/10	Lucas	Ms	Annette	08/10
Manderson	Mr	Jordan	10/10	Marshall	Mr	Gordon	18/10
Marshall	Mrs	Margaret	16/10	Smith	Mr	Martin	30/10
Symonds	Mr	Kim	03/10				

**October Social Members:**

Burgess	Mr	Kane	31/10	Floresta	Ms	Sharon	10/10
Gilroy	Miss	Lorraine	08/10	Thompson	Mr	Robert	15/10
Watterson	Mr	Neil	16/10				

*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,*

*Some of you will have noticed that 4 Pines, Matilda Bay and Somersby Cider taps have now been removed due to lack of sales.*

*We are unsure at this point whether we will replace these kegs with others as with limited sales we have had to return several half empty kegs recently as they had passed their expiry date. As there is no refund on these, it is not a cost-effective situation.*

*All drinks will be increasing in price in the very near future, but I'll do my best to keep the price rise to a minimum for you.*

*Cheers for now,*

*Stormy*





**BUSY  
BEE**

# Tuesday

# 29<sup>th</sup> October

*10:00am – 12 Noon*

*To be followed by a light lunch*

Volunteers are required to assist the Management Team tidy up the gardens and surrounds prior to Remembrance Day

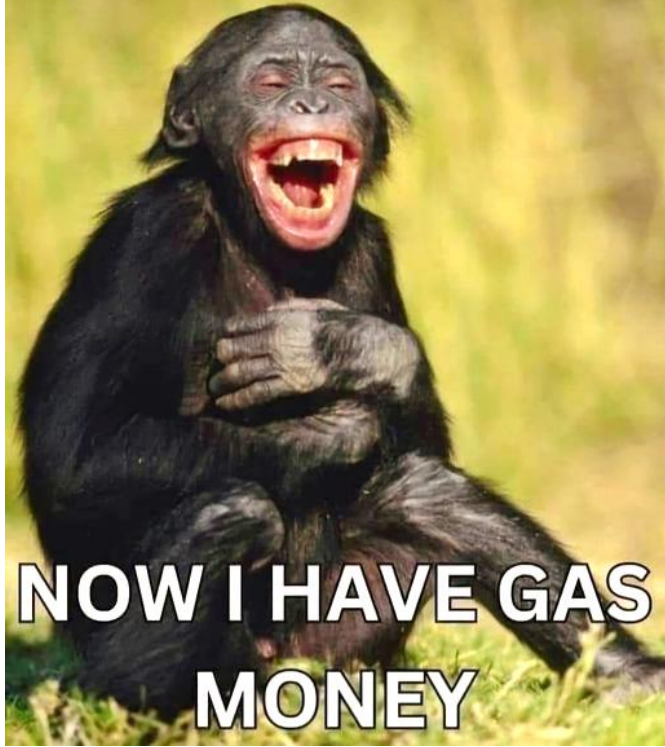
*For catering purposes, please let either the Secretary or Lois know if you are available to help out on the day*





*Australian soldiers resting outside their billets in Ypres during the Third Battle of Ypres, November 1, 1917.*

**I FARTED IN MY WALLET**



**NOW I HAVE GAS  
MONEY**



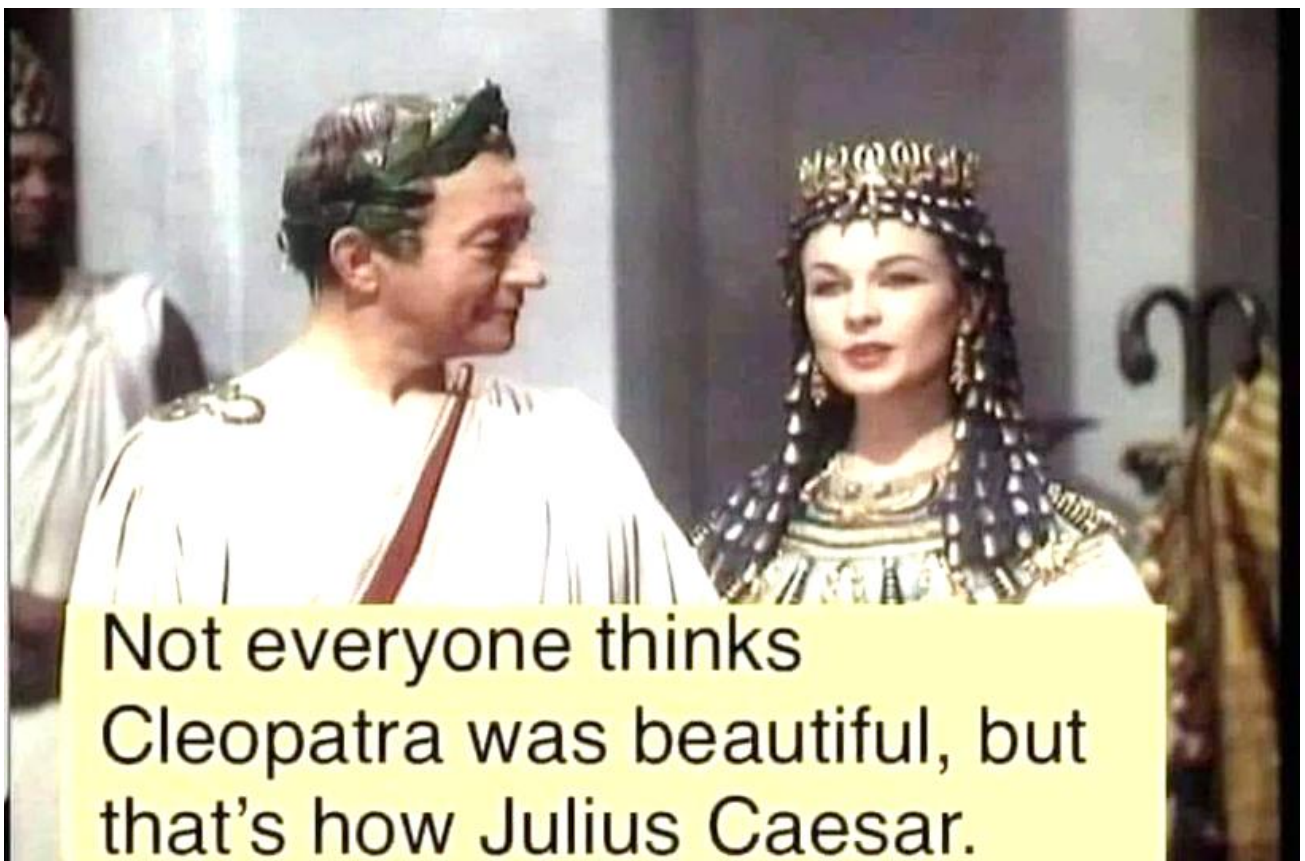
**9 MONTHS LATER**







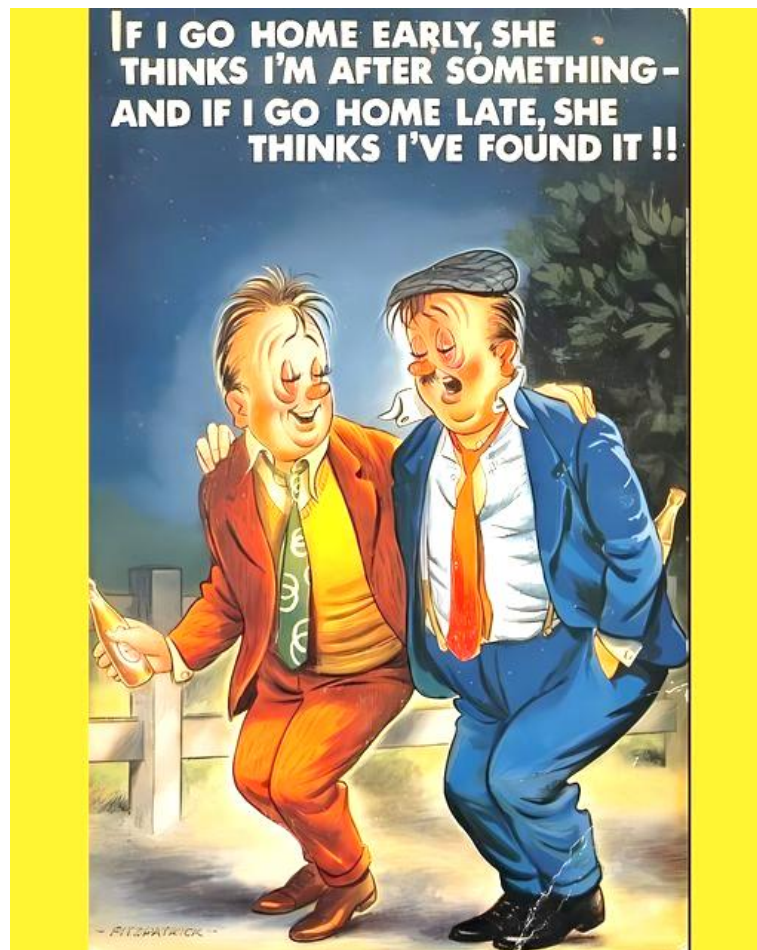
*July 1916 - An infantryman of 'A' Company, 11th Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, on sentry duty in a captured German trench near the Albert-Bapaume road at Ovillers-la-Boisselle, during the 'Battle of the Somme'*



Not everyone thinks Cleopatra was beautiful, but that's how Julius Caesar.



*HMAS TORRENS, (destroyer escort), was decommissioned at HMAS STIRLING, after a career lasting 27 years. TORRENS was the last of the six River class destroyer escorts, which commenced service in the RAN during the 1960's, and early 1970's. TORRENS was sunk as a target in June 1999, by a Mk 48 torpedo, fired from HMAS FARNCOMB, (Collins class submarine). The video of the sinking was included in a movie which is believed to be either Tora, Tora, Tora or Pearl Harbor*



# Byford Rail Extension – Update



*Heritage train Leschenault Lady will run on the re-layed track at the Boyanup railway station yard*

In a blend of sustainability and historical preservation, the METRONET Byford Rail Extension Project has donated around 400 pre-used railway sleepers to Rail Heritage WA.

The sleepers were removed as part of upgrade works on the project and will be used to re-lay 300m of the 'goods siding' track in the Boyanup railway station yard - doubling its distance and doubling the vintage rail experience for visiting train enthusiasts.

The collaborative effort between the Byford Rail Extension Project team and Rail Heritage WA highlights the power of community, and shows that by embracing

sustainability and repurposing materials, we can work towards a more sustainable future.

“Our goal is to present WA’s railway heritage meaningfully to everybody, and being able to ride behind a live steam locomotive in vintage railway carriages is about as hands-on an historical rail experience as you can get. With the donated sleepers we can expand our scope to do this at Boyanup and give our visitors a better experience,” Rail Heritage WA Secretary Ian Studham said.

In addition to the donated sleepers, the Byford Rail Extension Project will also reuse some sleepers within its own operations for the 8km rail alignment, in line with the Metronet Sustainability Strategy and the goal of working towards a low waste circular economy.



*2nd Lt Alton Frazer's FG-1D Corsair after an engagement with N1K2-J Shiden-Kais of the 343rd*

# British Commonwealth Occupation Force 1945–52

## Historical background

Participation in the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) marked the first time that Australians were involved in the military occupation of a sovereign nation which it had defeated in war. BCOF participation in the Allied occupation of Japan was announced on 31 January 1946, though planning and negotiations had been in progress since the end of the war. The main body of Australian troops arrived in Japan on 21 February.

The entire BCOF force totalled 45,000, from Britain, India, New Zealand, and Australia. About 16,000 Australians served in BCOF, including an infantry contingent of 4,700, base units consisting of 5,300, an air force wing of 2,200, and 130 from the Australian General Hospital. The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) also had a presence in the region as part of the British Pacific Fleet. For two-thirds of the period of occupation the Commonwealth was represented solely by Australians, and throughout its existence BCOF was always commanded by an Australian officer.



*BCOF marching to parade ground for Anzac Day celebrations in Kure, 1946*

The BCOF area of responsibility was the western prefectures of Shimani, Yamaguchi, Tottori, Okayama, Hiroshima, and Shikoku Island. BCOF headquarters were located at Kure, the army was encamped at Hiro, the RAAF at Iwakuni, and the naval shore establishment at the former Japanese naval base at Kure. At the peak of its involvement the Australian component of BCOF was responsible for over twenty million Japanese citizens and 57,000 square kilometres of country. Adjacent to the area of Australian responsibility were prefectures occupied by the 2 New Zealand EF (Japan), the British and Indian Division (Brindiv), and further away the US 8th Army.

The main Australian occupation component was the 34th Infantry Brigade, which arrived in early 1946 and was made up of the 65th, 66th, and 67th Battalions. The RAN ships that served were HMAS Australia, HMAS Hobart, HMAS Shropshire, and the destroyers HMAS Arunta, Bataan, Culgoa, Murchison, Shoalhaven, Quadrant, and Quiberon. Landing Ships Infantry Manoorra, Westralia, and Kanimbla were used for transport.



*HMAS Manoorra loaded with BCOF troops at No. 8 Wharf, Glebe Island, Sydney, before departing for Japan, September 1946*

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) component was stationed at Bofu, in Yamaguchi Prefecture. The RAAF squadrons which served were No.'s 76, 77, and 82, all flying Mustangs. The airforce component of BCOF was known as BCAIR. By 1950 only one Australian squadron, No. 77, remained in Japan.



*Line-up of Mustang aircraft of No. 82 (Fighter) Squadron, RAAF, BCOF, which participated in a fly-past over Tokyo and were based temporarily at the United States Air Force (USAF) base at Kisarazu, 1947*

By early 1947 BCOF had begun to decline and, by the end of 1948, was composed entirely of Australians. The force was dismantled in 1952, as responsibilities in Japan were handed over to the British Commonwealth Forces Korea. Some personnel stayed on to serve in the Korean War. Members of No. 77 Squadron, for example, had their "going home" celebrations interrupted by the news they were to be sent immediately to Korea. BCOF ceased to exist on 28 April 1952 when the Japanese Peace Treaty came into effect.



*Japanese civilians watch planes fly over Kure during the BCOF Anzac Day parade, 1948*

## **Australia's role in BCOF**

The primary objective of BCOF was to enforce the terms of the unconditional surrender that had ended the war the previous September. The task of exercising military government over Japan was the responsibility of the United States forces. BCOF was required to maintain military control and to supervise the demilitarisation and disposal of the remnants of Japan's war-making capacity. To this end, Australian Army and RAAF personnel were involved in locating and securing military stores and installations. The intelligence sections of the Australian battalions were given targets to investigate by BCOF Headquarters in the form of grid references for dumps of Japanese military equipment. Warlike materials were destroyed and other equipment was either retained by BCOF or returned to the Japanese. The destruction or conversion to civilian use of military equipment was carried out by Japanese civilians under Australian supervision. Regular patrols and road reconnaissance's were initiated and carried out in the Australian area of responsibility as part of BCOF's general surveillance duties.

The RAN component of BCOF was responsible for patrolling the Inland Sea, to prevent smuggling and the illegal immigration of Koreans to



Japan. It was assisted by the RAAF whose aircraft were also involved in tracking vessels suspected of smuggling or transporting illegal immigrants. RAAF squadrons also flew surveillance patrols over each of the prefectures in the BCOF zone in order to help locate leftover weapons and ordnance.

By the end of 1946 the task of demilitarising Japan required less effort and the role of the occupying forces was changing, with guard duties and training becoming the main focus.

## Commonwealth Occupation Force Veterans continue fight for recognition for work in post-WWII Japan

*By Oscar Wills (ABC News) 31 Oct 2018*



*A member of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces oversees a prisoner of war camp near Hiroshima after the end of WWII*

They call themselves the 'forgotten forces', the Australian soldiers who formed a large part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) serving in Japan after the end of World War II.

Between 1946 and 1952, their main job was to repatriate Japanese prisoners of war and to get rid of armaments, gas, and other weapons left behind by Japanese forces.

More than 70 years on, some of the remaining members are still pushing for what they say is sufficient recognition of their service.

The men say they have not received a service pension or a medal, despite repeated attempts to obtain it.

## Fighting for recognition

Kevin Cordell, 91, from Bendigo, Victoria, served near Hiroshima and is the president of a group bringing former BCOF members together.

"On our discharge it says we served on full-time war service — active service so many days in Australia, so many days outside Australia," Mr Cordell said.



*Kevin Cordell says he still gets nightmares following his work in Hiroshima in the aftermath of WWII*

"But when you mention that, they say it doesn't mean anything, so I don't know what you have to do."

Members think their work in the radioactive areas around Hiroshima renders them eligible for a service pension, which requires a veteran to have incurred danger from hostile enemy forces.

But a statement from the office of Darren Chester, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, said BCOF members did not qualify for the service pension.

"By the time the Australian forces arrived in Japan in 1946, Japan had formally surrendered, and hostilities had been over for several months," it said.

"Successive governments have concluded that BCOF veterans are not entitled to the service pension as they had not rendered qualifying service according to the criteria set out in legislation."

It went on to say that BCOF veterans were only eligible to claim a disability pension for conditions caused by their service.

In addition, they said that since last year, members have had access to a DVA Gold Card providing treatment for "all health conditions regardless of the connection to service".

## Feeling like 'second-hand soldiers'

Mr Cordell said the fight had been a long one and it has been hard for BCOF members to convince politicians to recognise their service.

"You have to face the enemy they say, but when [we] got over there in 1946 they weren't really our friends," he said.

"We've been fighting them for 70-odd years. It was only last year that they decided we were in a radioactive area so they gave us Gold Cards.

"They've treated us pretty badly and everyone feels like second-hand soldiers. I know I do."

But there is still some optimism among the group that they get the recognition they feel they deserve.

"We've got a court case going now to try and get medals and a service pension, but we've been trying for years anyway for that and it's most disappointing," Mr Cordell said.

## Cancer rates high says veteran

Mr Cordell remembers the work he did near Hiroshima and said the devastation he saw when he arrived was horrific.

"The smell of death was there everywhere. I still get nightmares about being there, and even smell the smell of death in my dreams," he said.

Harry Fennell, the group's secretary, joined the navy at 17 and was posted aboard HMAS Warramunga off the coast of Japan.

"We were patrolling the waters looking for illegal immigrants coming from Korea or smugglers and black marketeers," he said.

"We were also calling into ports and flying the flag, letting them know the place was occupied.



*Members of BCOF helped out in Hiroshima at the end of World War II*

"It was by no means a walk in the park, but I was very lucky not being based onshore near Hiroshima.

"Our radiation levels were different to the army and air force that were living on top of the atomic bomb area".

Mr Cordell said the environment they were living in had lasting effects after they returned to Australia, with a spike in cancer rates.

"We had an average age of 45 of blokes that had passed away with cancer," he said.

"Anyone that's been there has been lucky if they haven't had cancer of some sort. I know I've had a few."

## Bittersweet farewells

The town of Junee, in NSW, welcomed remaining members of the BCOF Association of Australia for the final time with a service at the town's cenotaph this week.

The group has made the decision to stop meeting because it is getting harder for them to come together as they get older.



*Members of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF 1946-52) have met for one last time in Junee, NSW*

Mr Fennell is the association's youngest member at age 89.

"I think I might be the fittest of the lot at the present moment, thank goodness; I'll keep my fingers crossed," he said.

"They're all getting past it and it's time to give it away while we still can and enjoy it, but it's going to be a loss."

Mr Fennell said despite only three veterans left on the committee, the association would continue to operate but meetings would not longer taker place.

"At the present time we have got quite a bit of money left in the association account and our intention now is to cast memorial plaques in bronze," he said.

They want to distribute those to cenotaphs around Australia.

"We could go out and spend it and have a big beer up, but then the money's gone, we're gone, and nobody knows us," Mr Fennell said.

"So the best way to have our name kept forward is to put these plaques out where people can see them when they walk through the park or past the cenotaph.

Vietnam veteran John Curtis has been hosting the group in Junee for as long as they have been meeting there.

"I honestly had a tear in my eye when they told me a couple of months ago that it's going to be the end of it," he said.

"I'm really going to miss them. We love having them come to our place and I love doing the service down there for them.

"BCOF is known as the 'forgotten force' and I think they are the forgotten force with the politicians."

# 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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:** .....

..... **PostCode:**.....

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

**E-Mail:**.....



**RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE  
ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH**

*Your RSL*