

THE FURPHY

ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

August 2024 Edition



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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
Warden	Mr Graeme Cowie
Warden	Mr Mick Quinn
Membership Officer	Mr Tom Rynn
Committee	Mr Bob Giles
Committee	Mr Geoff Scott
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 1000-1400hrs

Weekday Contact Details:

Mobile: 0407 449 150

e-mail: welfare2@armadalersl.com.au

Diary Dates for August

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
Sunday	4th	Social Committee Meeting	1100
Tuesday	6th	Management Committee Meeting	1100
Sunday	11th	General Meeting	1030

The Proper way to call someone a Bastard....

A guy was getting ready to tee off on the first hole when a second golfer approached and asked if he could join him. The first agreed to the twosome. They were even after the first two holes. The second guy said, "We're about evenly matched, how about playing for five bucks a hole?"

The first guy begrudgingly agreed to the terms. The second guy won the remaining sixteen holes with ease. As they were walking off the eighteenth, the second guy was busy counting his \$80.00. He confessed that he was actually the pro at a neighbouring course and liked to pick on suckers.

The first fellow then revealed that he was the Parish Priest. The pro was flustered and apologetic, offering to return the money. The Priest said, "you won fair and square and I was foolish to bet with you. You keep your winnings." The pro said, "Is there anything I can do to make it up to you?"

The Priest said, "Well, you could come to Mass on Sunday and make a donation. And, if you want to bring your Mother and Father along, I'll marry them."

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Folks,

July has been a busy month for the executive, we had the RSL State Congress to attend and it was good to see that the State RSL are moving forward in updating the Constitution and By-Laws.

There will be need to spend money, as we have problems with the water pipes and heater, which will require replacing and we needed to update our computers. The Secretary addresses these matters in her notes.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is to be held on Sunday 8th September 2024 and nominations are required for the following positions:

Interim President – 1 year
Vice President – 2 years
Secretary – 2 years
Wardens x 2 – 1 year
Committee – (maximum of six for 1 year)

Look forward to members nominating for the above positions, as new blood brings new ideas.

Ken Hepburn

President

Returned Services League Armadale Sub-Branch

Ph: (08) 9497 1972. M: 0428 001 949

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E Website: www.armadalersl.com.au



COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

BEDFORDALE CWA

Invites you to

A celebration of the history of the Country Women's Association
within the City of Armadale.



14 to 17 August 2024

Marking the Centenary year of the CWA in WA, Bedfordale CWA will be hosting a 4-day retrospective - looking at the now closed Armadale, Kelmscott and Roleystone branches and the great volunteer work they did in our community.

When: Wednesday 14 August to Saturday 17 August 2024
10am to 4pm (Wed – Fri) 1pm to 4pm (Sat)

Where: ~~Minnowarra~~ Minnowarra Historical precinct - adjacent to History House Museum, Jull Street Armadale

Food: Tea, coffee, Devonshire tea, cake, biscuits and a light lunch provided

RSVP: Please indicate when and how many will be coming by emailing bedfordalecwa@yahoo.com or phoning Roxanne White, Secretary on 0407 220 564

Proudly supported by



100 years uniting women and strengthening communities

Secretary's Notes

Hi Everyone,

We attended State Congress on 6th July and a summary of proceedings was presented to members at the July General Meeting. It was a very productive day, and it was great to see that Head Office are addressing some of the minor discrepancies between their Constitution and By-Laws.

Following the Midnight Angel duo performing on 30th June and how well they were received, we have re-booked them again for the afternoon of Sunday 8th September following the Annual General Meeting.

Our new computers have arrived and have been installed without disruption to our business.

The heater in the central hall has "expired" and will need replacing at a cost of almost \$5000. As this was considered by the Executive to be of an urgent nature, we have authorised the contractor to proceed. The President will raise this expenditure at the August GM to be ratified by the members.

There are other maintenance issues that require addressing, and I will contact RSLWA with regards to them contributing to these costs.

Thanks again to Lois and her tiny Social Committee who are so very dedicated to raising funds through selling raffles, Hurry Scurry and the like. Your efforts are sincerely appreciated.

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

Carol King

Sub-Branch Secretary



MIDNIGHT ANGEL DUO

***are returning to the
Armadale RSL***



Sunday 8th September 12:30pm

***Get a group of friends together and bring
along Snacks or Nibbles for a great
afternoon of entertainment***

Free Entry

***The Bar will be open from 11:30am following the
Annual General Meeting***

Notice of **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

The Armadale RSL Sub-Branch and Club Inc. will be holding their AGMs on

Sunday 8th September, 2024

Commencing at 10:30am

Election of Executive and Management Committee

- *Interim President* (1 year)
- *Vice President* (2 years)
- *Secretary* (2 years)
- *2 Wardens* (1 year)

- *Committee (maximum of 6 for a 1 year term)*

Nomination forms are on the board, and must be in the hands of the Secretary before the commencement of the meeting

Membership Update

As at 31st July, 2024:

Service Members:	162
Affiliate Members:	52
Social Members:	<u>70</u>
Total:	<u>284</u>

VALE Service Member Lynette Shortcliffe - NZ Navy.

The RSLWA Board meet early this month and there will be some changes to the State By-Laws which were promulgated by the recent State Congress.

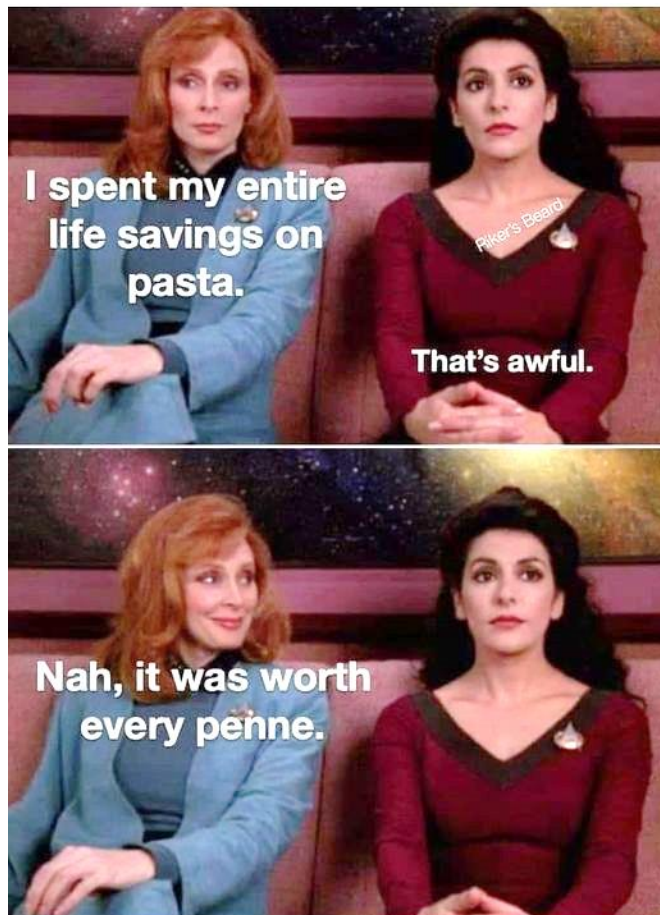
They will have an impact upon Membership and we anticipate full information will be given in the September Furphy.

Any queries to Membership Officer Tom Rynn.

Tom Rynn

Tel: 0439 934 285

e-mail: tomrynn@bigpond.com





August Service Members:

Briggs	Mr	Mark	15/08	Buti	Mr	Antonio	20/08
Gardiner	Mr	Owen	27/08	Hewitson	Mr	Alan	17/08
Knight	Mr	Michael	09/08	Livesey	Mr	Adam	05/08
McDonnell	Mr	Graeme	04/08	Rynn	Mr	Thomas	31/08
Smith	Mr	Paul	09/08	Smith	Mr	Robert	20/08
Tooth	Mr	Geoffrey	11/08				

August Affiliate Members:

Brown	Mr	Ray	11/08	Galvin	Mrs	Joan	18/08
Kostin	Ms	Vicki	12/08	Lewis	Mr	Steve	29/08
Symonds	Mrs	Karan	28/08				

August Social Members:

Borger	Mr	Henk	06/08	Craven	Mr	Vince	02/08
Gunjila	Mr	Stjepan	15/08	Oates	Mr	Simon	08/08
Thornton	Mr	David	20/08				

*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

I asked my boss “What do you want me to do with this 6 metre roll of Bubble wrap?”

He replied, “Just pop it in the corner”.

4 bloody hours it took me!



Bar Manager's Report

G'day All,

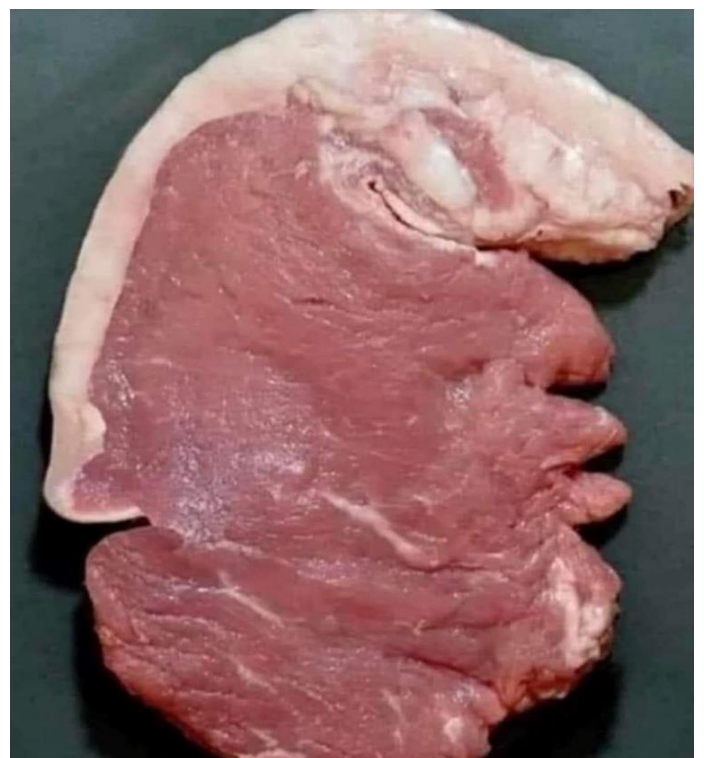
The membership attendance is dwindling which is causing kegs to go out of date. This costs the Club money.

We have increased the price of soft drinks this week however we have kept the beer prices the same for now but will reassess when the next CPI is implemented.

Cheers for now,

Stormy

**This
“Trump Steak”
will NOT
form part of our
next GM Meat
Raffle**



Byford Rail Extension – Update



Saturday 20th July saw the first of the elevated rail beams installed across Third Road. Our trusty Warden Mr Graeme Cowie was well positioned to witness this historic event !!!

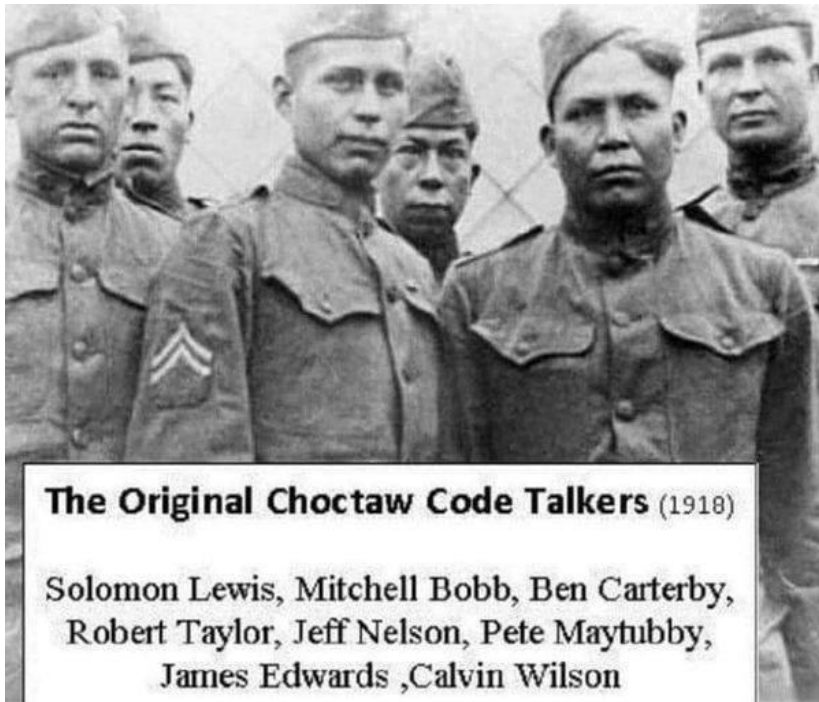








Danish Resistance members holding German occupation forces at gunpoint in Copenhagen, 1945



The Original Choctaw Code Talkers (1918)

Solomon Lewis, Mitchell Bobb, Ben Carterby,
Robert Taylor, Jeff Nelson, Pete Maytubby,
James Edwards ,Calvin Wilson

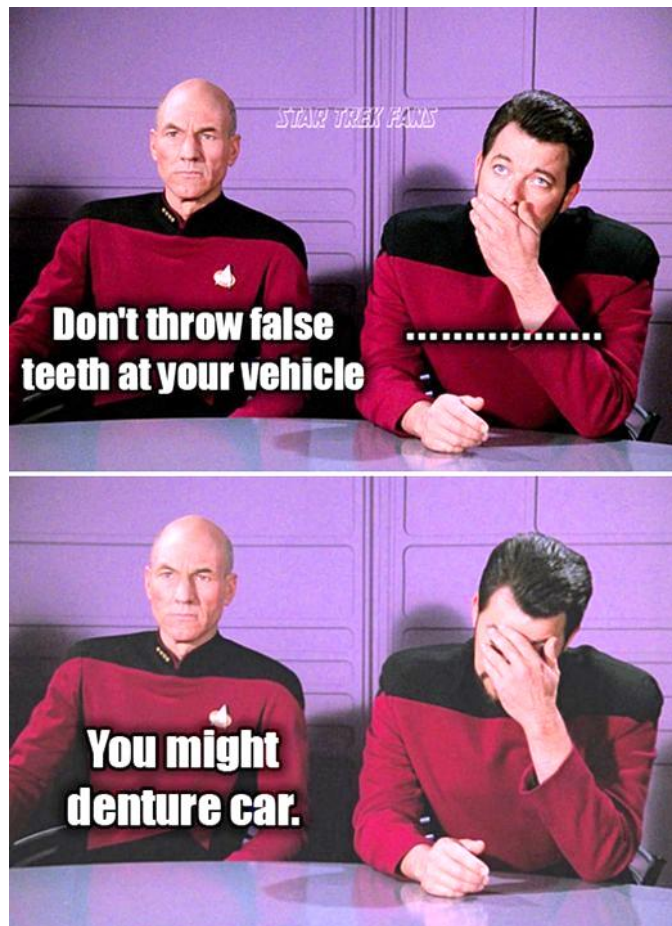
Among the Choctaw veterans of WWI were those who are heralded as “WWI Choctaw Code Talkers.” These reported telephone warriors were: Solomon Bond Lewis; Mitchell Bobb; Robert Taylor; Calvin Wilson; Pete Maytubby; James M. Edwards; Jeff Wilson; Tobias William Frazier; Benjamin W.



HMAS MAITLAND, (Armidale class patrol boat), was launched in Austral Shipyard, Henderson



“Well, folks, with only seconds to go, this race is too close to call, but it’s a sure bet that one of these athletes is quite literally just a hop, skip or a jump away from victory!”





Attorney: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

Witness: No.

Attorney: Did you check for blood pressure?

Witness: No

Attorney: Did you check for breathing?

Witness: No.

Attorney: So then, is it possible that the patient may have still been alive when you began the autopsy?

Witness: No

Attorney: How can you be so sure Doctor?

Witness: Because his brain was sitting in a jar on my desk.

Attorney: I see, but could the patient have still been alive nevertheless?

Witness: Yes it is possible that he could have been alive and practising law.



F-117 Stealth Fighter... . Boneyard, Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, AZ.



This is one of the most remarkable aviation stories. This B-24 was discovered in the Sahara Desert 15 years after it vanished during WWII. It was found perfectly preserved, with edible rations and working machine guns and radio. But what happened to its crew?



Grey Nurse- RAAF Spitfire



A Sherman Firefly and other vehicles in the village of Putanges, 20 August 1944





THEN



NOW

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Australians and Peacekeeping

Peace support operations are often divided into "peacekeeping" (lightly armed) and "peace enforcement" (heavily armed), and sometimes into other categories as well. In this section, "peacekeeping" and "peacekeeping operation" are used as blanket terms to cover all impartial, multinational, military-based interventions into areas of conflict.

A Proud Record

Australia has had peacekeepers in the field with the United Nations since 1947. In Indonesia in 1947, Australians were part of the very first group of UN military observers anywhere in the world, and were, in fact, the first into the field.

Australians have commanded various multinational operations, including:

1. Lieutenant General Robert Nimmo was Chief Military Observer in Kashmir with the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, from 1950 to 1966
2. Lieutenant General John Sanderson was Force Commander with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, 1992 to 1993
3. Major General David Ferguson was Force Commander with the Multinational Force and Observers (in the Sinai) from 1994 to 1997
4. Richard Butler led the UN Special Commission (in Iraq) from 1997 to 1999
5. Major General Timothy Ford was Chief of Staff with the UN Truce Supervision Organisation from 1998 to 2000
6. Major General Peter Cosgrove commanded the International Force East Timor (Interfet) from 1999 to 2000
7. Major General Ian Gordon was Head of Mission of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization from 2006 to 2008
8. Major General Simon Stuart was Force Commander of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai from 2017 to 2019.
9. Major General Cheryl Pearce was Force Commander, United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus from 2019 to 2021.

Military Observers

In the early years, Australia's peacekeepers were generally unarmed military observers, promoting peace indirectly by ensuring that neither side in a conflict could violate a ceasefire or commit atrocities without the United Nations and the world community knowing about it. Today the media can fill a similar role, but military observers with a peacekeeping operation are more impartial and can use their military training to assess a situation more accurately.

In Indonesia, information from UN military observers ultimately helped the Indonesian republicans win their independence from the Dutch. In Korea in 1950, the UN's judgement that North Korea had invaded the south was based, in part, on a report by Australian military observers serving with the UN Commission on Korea.



Korea, June 1950. Members of the United Nations Commission on Korea (UNCOK) passing native ox carts on the road while on tour of the 38th Parallel just prior to war breaking out

Observer missions help create stability, but do not necessarily help end the conflicts which they are observing. Australian observers took part in a UN operation in Kashmir from 1950 to 1985. The operation continues today, without a resolution of the conflict in sight. Similarly, Australian observers have served with UN operations in the Middle East since 1956.

More recently, when the Iran-Iraq war ended in 1988, Australian observers took part in a UN operation monitoring the ceasefire.

Police in peacekeeping

Peacekeeping has not only been the preserve of the Australian Defence Force. Since 1964, Australian police have served in Cyprus, an island wracked by conflict between its Greek and Turkish communities. Here, too, there is no sign of an end to the conflict, but the police help minimise its effects and build bridges between the communities. More recently, police officers from Australia have also served in places as widely separated as Cambodia, Haiti, Mozambique, Bougainville and Timor.



Three police officers serving with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Their role was to help maintain order before and during the national elections. The men are all wearing blue United Nations (UN) caps.

Larger operations

Since the 1970s, Australian contributions to peacekeeping operations have increased in size and scope. RAAF helicopters operated in the Sinai in the 1970s and 1980s, as Egypt and Israel ended three decades of hostilities. At the end of the 1970s, an Australian infantry force of 150 soldiers took part in a British Commonwealth operation as Zimbabwe achieved independence. In 1989, a larger contingent, composed largely of engineers, assisted the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia.

Peacekeeping in the 1990s

With the end of the Cold War, the 1990s proved to be the busiest decade in the history of multinational peacekeeping. For the first time, RAN ships took part in a peacekeeping operation, enforcing UN-imposed sanctions against Iraq both before and after the Gulf War.

For a period in 1993, Australia had over 2,000 peacekeepers in the field, with large contingents in Cambodia and Somalia. In Cambodia, Australia had taken a leading diplomatic role in the search for a settlement to factional strife in a country still suffering the effects of the genocidal Pol Pot regime of the 1970s. The Australian contribution to the resulting UN operation included the force commander and the operation's communications component. In Somalia, where the international effort resulted largely in failure, a battalion-level Australian contingent was nevertheless successful in allowing the delivery of humanitarian aid in the Baidoa area.

A year later, Australians were in Rwanda, another country to fall victim to genocidal civil violence. This time, the Australian contingent centred on medical staff who were able to treat many of the local people, in addition to members of the UN force.

After this there was a lull in Australian peacekeeping, though long-running operations continued in the Middle East and Cyprus and Australians were still involved with Iraq, inspecting weapons-manufacturing facilities and policing sanctions.

Since 1997, however, Australians have also served on Bougainville, where a settlement at last appears possible in the long-running conflict between the Papua New Guinea government and the separatist Bougainville Revolutionary Army.

Then in 1999, Australia led a peace enforcement operation which dwarfed all its previous peacekeeping efforts, as East Timor achieved independence from Indonesia.

East Timor

The Portuguese colony of East Timor was invaded by Indonesia in 1975. After almost a quarter-century of bloodshed in the territory, a new Indonesian government under President Habibie agreed to allow the East Timorese to vote on their future. A UN operation - the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) - was established to organize and conduct the vote, which was held at the end of August 1999 and resulted in an overwhelming vote in favour of independence.

Tragically, once the result had been announced, pro-Indonesian militias, sometimes with the support of elements of the Indonesian security forces, launched a campaign of violence, looting and arson throughout the entire territory. Many East Timorese were killed, and as many as 500,000 were displaced from their homes, about half leaving the territory, in some cases under threat of violence.



Dili, East Timor, 13 November 1999. A destroyed building in the International Force East Timor (Interfet) compound. Note the blood stains on the footpath in front of the building

Eventually, as the violence remained uncontrolled, Indonesia agreed to the deployment of a multinational peacekeeping force. Australia, which had contributed police and military liaison officers to UNAMET, organized and led the International Force East Timor (Interfet), a non-UN force operating in accordance with UN resolutions. Interfet, with the role of restoring peace and security, protecting and supporting UNAMET, and facilitating humanitarian assistance operations, began arriving on 12 September 1999. Australia contributed over 5,500 personnel and the force commander, Major General Peter Cosgrove.

With the withdrawal of the Indonesian armed forces, police and administrative officials from East Timor, UNAMET re-established its headquarters in Dili on 28 September. On 19 October 1999, Indonesia formally recognised the result of the referendum. Shortly thereafter, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) was established as an integrated, multi-dimensional peacekeeping operation, fully responsible for the administration of East Timor during its transition to independence. The hand-over of command of military operations from Interfet to UNTAET was completed on 28 February 2000. Australia has continued to support the UN peacekeeping operation with between 1,500 and 2,000 personnel, as well as landing craft and Blackhawk helicopters. Australia remains the largest contributor of personnel to the peacekeeping mission.



Suai, East Timor, 16 November 1999. Gunner (Gnr) Alan Paul (left) of the 108th Battery, Field Regiment, part of the International Force East Timor (Interfet), talking to a fellow soldier as they begin a patrol of an area between Suai and Matai.

When East Timor experienced a humanitarian and security crisis in 1999, Australia led a multinational peacekeeping force in response. The International Force East Timor (INTERFET) and several United Nations (UN)-led missions assisted the country as it achieved independence, and established itself as an independent and democratic country. Australia's deployment of troops to East Timor in 1999 was the largest since the Vietnam War.

Australia's involvement in East Timor, from 1999 to the end of 2012 was instrumental in that nation gaining independence. The International Force East Timor (INTERFET), deployed from 1999 to 2000, remains Australia's largest peacekeeping mission to date, and the largest overseas military deployment since the Vietnam War. Furthermore, it was the first time Australia had led a major international coalition.



A member of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), part of Operation Astute, patrols the streets of Dili, East Timor, 2006. Australian peacekeepers were part of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) in East Timor from 2006 to 2013.

Independence and Unrest in East Timor

East Timor (now Timor-Leste), is situated on the island of Timor, approximately 700 km north-west of Darwin. It was declared a Portuguese colony in 1702. East Timor remained under Portuguese rule until 28 November 1975, when a political party called the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor (FRETILIN) declared the country's independence.

Nine days after the declaration of independence, Indonesia started to incorporate East Timor. This began decades of violence and conflict between separatist groups and the Indonesian military.

Dili Massacre

On 12 November 1991, Indonesian troops opened fire on hundreds of unarmed, pro-independence protestors at the Santa Cruz cemetery in the capital, Dili. They killed up to 200 East Timorese civilians.

After the massacre, international activists organised in solidarity with the East Timorese. The international community increased its scrutiny of the Indonesian government. Over the next few years, the independence movement gained momentum.

United Nations Assistance Mission to East Timor (UNAMET)

The UN established UNAMET on 11 June 1999. The mission's role was to organise and conduct a ballot for a public referendum on whether East Timor should have autonomy under Indonesia, or independence.

The Australian operation was codenamed Operation Faber. The operation included 45 military personnel. They conducted military liaison with the Indonesian Armed Forces.

The Australian Federal Police deployed 50 personnel to serve with UNAMET from June 1999. The roles of civilian police in UNAMET were to:

- advise the Indonesian police in the course of their duties
- escort ballot boxes after the vote.

We didn't know how many would actually turn up for the actual polling... As I was driving, the head lights of the Land Rover went across the top, there was over two thousand people all sleeping in the basketball court and the wrecked buildings of the school... They didn't know ... who we were until they saw the UN on the side of the vehicle and they just drowned us out with cheers. It was the most moving sight I could ever imagine... These people... had come there during the night because they knew that on polling day if they left their village, and some of them had 12 kilometres to walk over mountain foot pads, they knew the militia would get them on the way there. So to be safe that they actually were there to vote, in the safety of numbers, they all piled onto the place during the night and slept there overnight in freezing conditions.

[East Timor veteran Donald Barnby, interviewed for the Australians at War Film Archive]

The ballot was conducted on 30 August 1999. With 78.5% of East Timorese people voting against autonomy under Indonesia, this paved the way for the country to move towards independence.

The UN withdrew the first UNAMET mission in mid-September 1999.

The significance of the AFP [Australian Federal Police] contribution to UNAMET was universally applauded. Ultimately, the AFP members of UNAMET were awarded the Australian Group Bravery Citation. The then Justice Minister, Amanda Vanstone, officially highlighted the pivotal role played by the AFP as among the first people deployed into Timor-Leste.

"It was in fact, only the unarmed civilian police, mostly Australian, and led by an Australian, who refused to give up when others were ready to leave East Timor. They stood between armed militia and the defenceless people of East Timor. Without that group and their willingness, or determination, to hold on in a desperate and dangerous situation, the United Nations may have in fact withdrawn," Ms Vanstone said.

[AFP Platypus Magazine, April 2013, p. 8]

The East Timorese crisis of 1999

In response to the vote for independence, pro-Indonesia militia groups began attacking civilians. They centred the violence on Dili, but it spread throughout the country. About 1,400 civilians died, and around 500,000 people were displaced from their homes. Entire towns were destroyed. About half of the population left the territory, some by force.

The scale and ferocity of the violence shocked the world. Widespread public anger put pressure on the governments of Australia, Portugal, the US and others to help with the crisis. On 12 September 1999, US President Bill Clinton announced:

The Indonesian military has aided and abetted militia violence in East Timor, in violation of the commitment of its leaders to the international community. This has allowed the militias to murder innocent people, to send thousands fleeing for their lives, to attack the United Nations compound. The United States has suspended all military cooperation, assistance, and sales to Indonesia... The Indonesian Government and military must not only stop what they are doing but reverse course. They must halt the violence not just in Dili but throughout the nation. They must permit humanitarian assistance and let the U.N. mission do its job... We are ready to support an effort led by Australia to mobilize a multinational force to help to bring security to East Timor under U.N. auspice... the eyes of the world are on that tiny place and on those poor innocent, suffering people.

[William Clinton, Remarks to American and Asian Business Leaders in Auckland]

Indonesian President BJ Habibie announced on 12 September 1999 that the country would withdraw from East Timor and allow peacekeepers to enter. Even as the troops withdrew, they murdered dozens of unarmed civilians.

The International Force East Timor (INTERFET)

The port [in East Timor] was like a scene from Hades. There were piles of what appeared to be burning rags and belongings, there was human excrement on the ground, families crying, people clearly disturbed and frightened.

[Lieutenant Colonel Tim McOwan, Australian Special Air Service Regiment, Australian War Memorial]

On 15 September 1999, the UN Security Council authorised the formation of a multinational force known as INTERFET. It was headed by Australia, with a mission to:

- restore peace and security in East Timor
- protect and support UNAMET in carrying out its tasks
- facilitate humanitarian assistance operations.

INTERFET began landing in East Timor on 20 September 1999 with the agreement of the Indonesian Government. By November 1999, 22 nations had contributed to INTERFET, including the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada.

The Australian operations were known as Operation Stabilise and Operation Warden. The Australian Government sent about 5,500 service people to East Timor as part of its contribution to INTERFET. This was the largest deployment of Australian troops since the Vietnam War. Major General Sir Peter Cosgrove commanded the multinational force for 5 months until February 2000.



An informal portrait of the Chief of the Defence Force, General Peter Cosgrove. Cosgrove commanded the Australian-led multinational force INTERFET for 5 months in 1999 and 2000.

Australians from the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR), New Zealanders from the New Zealand Special Air Service (NZSAS) and a troop from the British Special Boat Service (SBS) formed Response Force (RESPFOR). They conducted vehicle patrols into Dili and secured the port before the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR) and other forces arrived.

About 10 AFP members who had been with the first UNAMET mission returned to East Timor with INTERFET under the UNAMET banner. They carried out monitoring and advisory duties. They would later transition to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), the transition mission, when it was established in October 1999.

Securing East Timor

Australians in East Timor were confronted by distressing scenes of violence, murder and destruction. Cosgrove used an 'oil spot' approach. This meant forces would secure key areas and influence surrounding areas from there, then move on quickly by helicopter. They secured Dili by the end of September 1999. From there, they moved to secure the western areas, including Balibo, Batugade and Maliana.

The SAS patrols went a bit further out... we followed them out and we were doing a bunch of joint patrolling with them. And then it started to happen that people started to return. And they'd all been hiding... in the hills... Over the afternoon, we went from nobody to thousands and thousands of people.

And I remember we came off of patrol and they were all congregating at the church and we went down and there was so much emotion from them and they were so thankful... I remember just having my hand shook for hours as we were there and just an amazing experience. And then we started unloading food and so forth.

[INTERFET veteran Lieutenant Colonel David McCammon, Anzac Portal]

At the beginning of its operations, INTERFET airdropped supplies of food and medicine. They protected convoys carrying aid workers, making sure supplies got to the East Timorese people.

The mission secured East Timor, and placed a defensive line on the western border with Indonesia. Australian and New Zealand infantry strengthened this area. The mission cemented Darwin as a vital logistical and defensive base. It also tested the capability limits of the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) from 2000 to 2002

The UN established UNTAET on 25 October 1999. UNTAET directly administered East Timor, including:

- providing a peacekeeping force to maintain law and order
- coordinating relief assistance to the East Timorese
- providing emergency repairs to infrastructure
- creating structures for sustainable governance and law
- assisting in the drafting of a new constitution
- conducting elections.

The Australians became involved from February 2000, in what was known as Operation Tanager. It comprised 7,500 ADF personnel. Australia contributed an Infantry Battalion Group force to the western border region (Sector West) of East Timor. Their role was to prevent insurgency operations by the pro-Indonesia Aitarak Militia forces.

Australia also contributed a Communications Management Team. It provided services in:

- telecommunications
- telephone
- data
- communications infrastructure
- installations and management.

Logistical units were provided under the command of the Australian National Command Element.

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste achieved formal independence on 20 May 2002.

United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) from 2002 to 2005

When Timor-Leste became internationally recognised as an independent state, the UN established UNMISET.

The mission provided assistance to the new government. This included law enforcement, and internal and external security. It helped develop the new Timor-Leste police service.

The Australian operation was codenamed Operation Citadel. It comprised 3,200 ADF personnel. Their functions included:

- staffing headquarters
- managing logistics
- engineering
- military liaison tasks.

An Australian Army colonel also filled the deputy force commander position within the UN Peacekeeping Force Headquarters (PFK HQ).

United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL) from 2005 to 2006

The UN established UNOTIL to continue to support the development of critical state institutions. Sixteen ADF personnel were involved in Operation Chiron. This was the ADF's regional Defence Cooperation Program (DCP). Personnel performed liaison and monitoring functions.

International Stabilisation Force (ISF) in Timor-Leste from 2006 to 2013



Australian Defence Force troops patrol the streets of Dili during Operation Astute to stabilise East Timor after an increase in violence and civic disturbance in the lead-up to the 2007 presidential election. Australian peacekeepers were part of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) in East Timor from 2006 to 2013.

In 2006, Timor-Leste experienced a domestic security crisis, which included widespread violence and civil unrest. Elements of the military sparked the unrest by protesting poor conditions and discrimination between soldiers from the country's east and west. The military body responsible for the defence of Timor-Leste, the *Forças de Defesa de Timor Leste* dismissed almost half of the force after the protests. Violence grew throughout the country, leading to widespread unrest.

Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Portugal intervened through the Australian-led International Stabilisation Force (ISF). The international operation, codenamed Operation Astute, was led by the ADF under Brigadier Michael Slater. Initial tasks were to:

- assist in the evacuation of foreigners
- restore stability and confine conflict to secured areas
- locate and assess weapons
- assist in communication between conflicting groups.

The operation comprised approximately 1,800 ADF personnel and supported ongoing peace and stability in Timor-Leste. By the time the deployment ended, at around the 10th anniversary of independence, Timor-Leste had grown its economy and strengthened its institutions.

United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) from 2006 to 2012

The UN established UNMIT on 25 August 2006. It was created to:

- support the government in consolidating stability
- enhance a culture of democratic governance
- facilitate political dialogue among Timorese stakeholders.

The Australian operation, codenamed Operation Tower, comprised 4 ADF personnel and 50 police at any one time.

Returning home

The last Australian troops from the ISF returned home from Timor-Leste on 27 March 2013. However, a small team of Australians remained to provide training for Timor Leste's defence force.

War artist Wendy Sharpe recalled the East Timorese response to Australian troops in 1999:

In September when the INTERFET troops came in... the local people got bits of... charcoal from their burnt out houses and wrote messages all over this wall to say thank you to INTERFET. And it's really one of the most moving things you ever saw... On this wall it says, 'Thank you very much INTERFET my darling, thank you military Australia, I love you military Australia'... It's just this outpouring of thank you... One of the things that struck me when I first arrived in Dili was the way all the people were smiling and waving... They were just so glad... it just made them feel so good that our people had come in to help them.

[Wendy Sharpe, interviewed for the Australians at War Film Archive]



Two East Timorese women beside a slogan that shows local support for the assistance of INTERFET, and reads 'WE LOVE INTERFET. THANKS FOR YOUR SECURITY'. Australian peacekeepers were part of the INTERFET in East Timor from 1999 to 2000

Commemoration

Five Australians died during peace operations in East Timor. Four were defence personnel, and their names are recorded with other members of the Australian armed forces on our national Roll of Honour. One was a member of the AFP.

In January 2000, Lance Corporal Russell Eisenhuth died while serving with INTERFET.

In August 2000, Corporal Stuart Jones, 2 Cavalry Regiment, Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC), died while serving with UNTAET.

In November 2007, Australian Private Ashley Baker died while serving with the ISF.

In September 2011, Craftsman Beau Pridue died while serving with ISF.

In February 2012, Sergeant Brett Kinloch of the AFP died while serving with UNMIT.

In 2009, DVA produced a commemorative poster for the 10th anniversary of Australia's involvement as part of INTERFET.

National Peacekeepers' Day

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

National Police Remembrance Day

On 28 September each year, all police jurisdictions in Australia honour those officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, including on global peacekeeping operations.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers

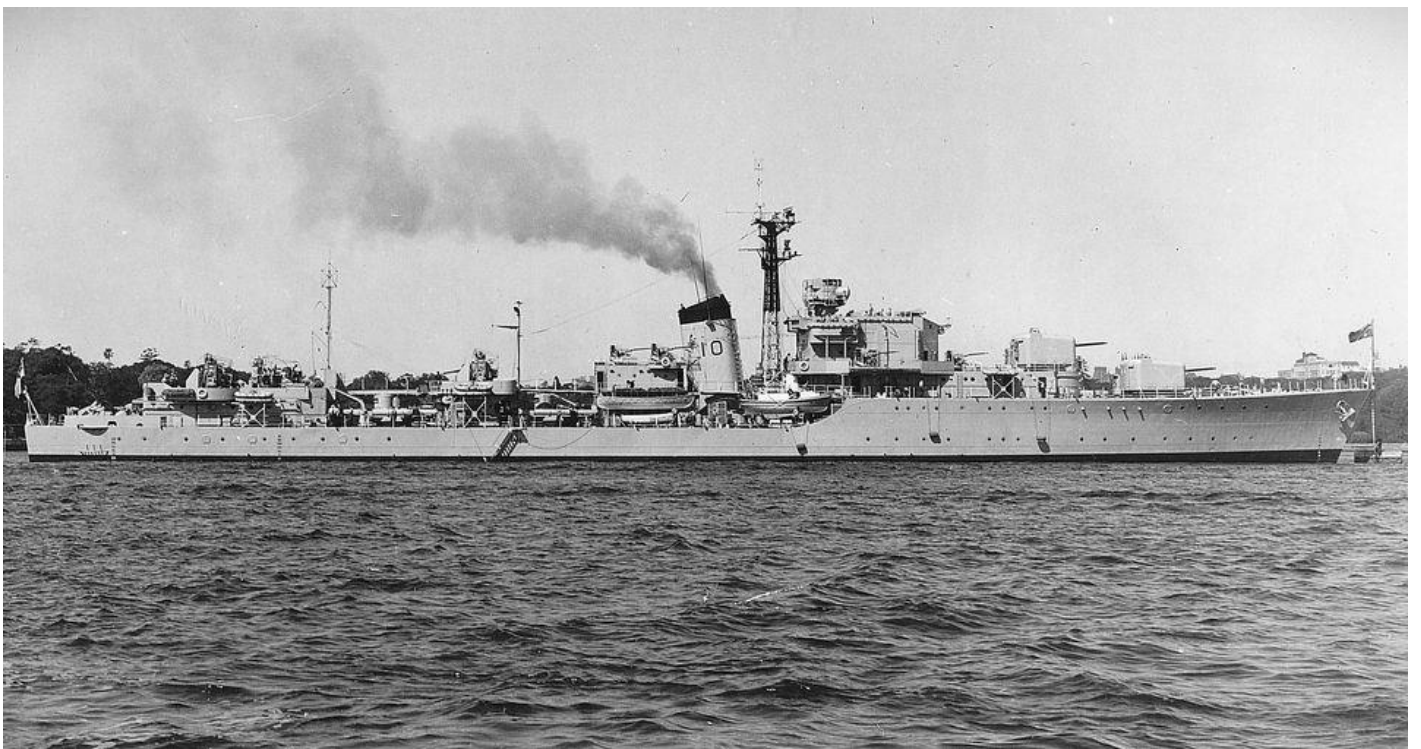
29 May is a day of commemoration and acknowledgement of all military, police and civilian personnel who have served as peacekeepers with the UN. Since UN peacekeeping began, more than 4,000 peacekeepers from many countries have lost their lives while performing their duties under the UN flag.



Captured Japanese dugout and communications post



Puma



HMAS Anzac, a Battle class destroyer, at the Naval buoy in Farm Cove. Early 1950s



**RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE
ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH**

Your RSL