# THE VOICE

June 2011 Edition

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### **Anzac Day Report**

Anzac Day this year was most unusual. Firstly, it fell on Easter Monday. While Anzac Day is always on 25 April, Easter moves all over the place. Unfortunately, the combination of Easter and the Anzac Day public holiday, as well as good weather, made it an unusually long weekend and perfect for a five-day holiday. Thus the number of both participants and spectators was down slightly on last year.

Secondly, Korean War veterans featured prominently in Anzac Day commemorations. The Kapyong anniversary saw the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, in South Korea, joining a group of veterans at the battle site. This, and other Korean War related commemorations, featured in the television news bulletins and daily papers. Readers of *The Age* on 26 April would have seen KVAA Inc. member from Rockhampton, Alfred Smith, posing with the PM.

Finally, it was the first Anzac Day in something like 15 years not attended by the Editor. I spent much of April on the sick list and was not available for flag transportation or photo duty. Fortunately, KVAA Secretary, Alan Evered, jumped to the rescue, backed by the



Tom Bryant, Jim Johnson & Max Folen

RACV who handled the transport of the flags on the day. Many thanks to the RACV for coming to our rescue.

Due to the clash with Easter, and with only a half dozen Cadets available for flag-bearing duties, only six flags and the banner went aloft for the march. A pity, for despite the advice to the contrary, twenty-two Cadets actually showed up!

Hope there was enough food at the Stella Maris after the event for them all.

### **Associate Member**

International Federation of Korean War Veterans
Korea & South East Asia Forces Association of Australia
Sister with Korean War Veterans Association Australian Chapter
Twinned with the South London Branch British Korean Veterans Associations
Twinned with the Korea Veterans Association of Canada

#### **Affiliated Associations**

Association of Queensland Korea Veterans Inc. Korea Veterans Assoc. Sunshine Coast Inc. Korea War Veterans Association of NSW Australian Korea Veterans Association Inc.

#### **Allied Associations**

Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc.



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The Ode

### Life Members

Jim Boxshall
Rev. Burne Brooker<sup>†</sup>
John Brownbill RFD KSJ
John Burke<sup>†</sup>
Bill Campbell<sup>†</sup>
Victor Dey OAM
John Duson
Athol Egeberg

Mick Everett<sup>†</sup>
J F Frawley OAM BEM<sup>†</sup>
Stan Gallop

Olwyn Green OAM (Hon)

Des Guilfoyle<sup>†</sup>

John Holford
Neville Holl†
Murray Inwood
David Irving
Ron Kennedy
George Lang OAM
Dennis Lehman
Kenneth Mankelow†

Bruce Maxwell Alan McDonald Ian McDonald<sup>†</sup> Allan Murray Ray McKenzie<sup>†</sup> Don McLeod<sup>†</sup>

Don McLeod<sup>†</sup>
George Mitchell<sup>†</sup>
Bill Murphy
Ormond Petherick
Jack Philpot
Arthur Roach
Ivan Ryan

Joe Shields<sup>†</sup> Gerry Steacy Doug Wilkie JP

†Deceased

### **Directory**

#### **Patron**

Major General J C Hughes AO DSO MC FAIM Dip FP

#### **President**

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#### Committee

Ron Christie, John Duson, Keith Langdon, Allan Murray, Allen Riches, Arthur Roach, Ivan Ryan

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Pensions: Charlie Slater 03 9355 7264

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Geelong: Arthur Roach 03 5243 6113 West. Australia: John Southorn 08 9531 2008
New South Wales: Merv Heath 02 4343 1967 Queensland: Harry Pooley 07 3200 0482
Tasmania: George Hutchinson 03 6275 0762 South Australia: John Bennett 08 8556 7288
Albury-Wodonga: Rocky Camps 02 6024 7241 or 0408 690 820

#### Correspondence

The Secretary, PO Box 2123, Rangeview, Victoria 3132

#### Website

www.austkoreavets.asn.au

### Merchandise Available

KVAA Inc. pocket badge	\$10.00 \$	Kapypong battle print	\$ 5.00 \$
KVAA Inc. lapel badge	\$10.00\$	RAN print: Ships in Korea	\$ 5.00 \$
KVAA Inc. windscreen decal	\$ 5.00 \$	Tie (with KVAA Inc. logo)	\$20.00\$
Korean War bumper sticker	\$ 2.50 \$	Korea Veteran caps	\$10.00\$
Korean War map (laminated)	\$ 6.00 \$	Car number plate surrounds (set)	\$10.00 \$

#### TOTAL . . . \$

Please put a check beside each article requested and insert the dollar total.

Surname: Given Names: (Please Print)

State: Post Code:

Cheques or monery orders should be made out to:

The Treasurer, KVAA Inc., 1 Kent Court, Werribee 3030, Victoria



Vic Dey, National President, KVAA Inc.

### **President's Report**

On April 7th, in the presence of the Korean Ambassador, His Excellency Dr Woosang Kim, the Fountain Gate Secondary College held their annual Anzac Day Memorial Ceremony. This was followed by the planting of a "Lone Pine" seedling in the school gardens. The College has 1100 Students from 40 Countries, and with a great number of VIP's present, it made for a very impressive ceremony.

For members who wish to participate in the Veterans Digital Storytelling Project [Editor: see Page 11] please contact Ms Patricia Pollard at 03 9935 3037. Dates set down for interviews are: 7th, 8th and 9th September and 12th, 13th, and 14th October. I believe that this is a great opportunity for anyone to tell their own personal story if they so desire.

The Korea Australia "Year of Friendship" concert, celebrating mateship, held on April 8th, was vastly different to the "Little Angels" with the acts displaying different aspects of Korean Culture. Unusual by western standards, but entertaining.

The Queensland Korean War Memorial dedication ceremony at the Cascade Gardens on the Gold Coast is set for the 20th August 2011. The Memorial will be called "Korea Remembered".

The annual Korean Church Service will be held on Sunday June 26th. This is always a wonderful day spent with our Korean Comrades and their families; a church service that incorporates our part in the Korean War and also reminds us of lost mates and those who have since passed on. In the hall adjoining the Church where refreshments are served the veterans/wives/widows mix freely with the Korean congregation in a truly wonderful atmosphere.

By the time this newsletter comes out (June 9) winter will be well and truly upon us, so keep warm and, above all, keep well.

### **Gang Shows**

Gang Shows are musicals put on by the Scouts and Guides all over Australia. These shows all owe their existence to Rover Scout, Ralph Reader, who wrote the first performance in England on 31st October 1932. Gang Show officially reached Melbourne in 1951 thanks to the 9th Brunswick Scout group who staged the musical comedy *We'll Live Forever*.

Hundreds of Scouts and Guides throughout Australia benefit from the training provided by many these shows which help develop confidence, personal organisation, self-discipline and teamwork...and so much more. It is also an entertaining evening for the audience. The Melbourne shows run for two ½ hours including interval.

#### Melbourne Gang Show –

Prices: Adults: \$25/ Concession: \$18 / Family: \$72

**Venue:** The Besen Centre, 87-89 Station St, Burwood (on campus of Mount Scopus College). [Melways Ref: Map 61, C5].

**Tickets:** www.gangshow.org/tickets/GS2011bookingform.pdf for a booking form or via credit card on (03) 9440 9460

#### **Dates and Times:**

Friday 24 June at 7.30pm / Saturday 25 June at 2.00pm Saturday 25 June at 8.00pm / Sunday 26 June at 2.00 pm Wednesday 29 June at 7.30pm / Thursday 30 June at 7.30pm Friday 1 July at 7.30pm / Saturday 2 July at 2.00pm and 8.00pm

#### Brisbane Gang Show -

**Prices:** Adults \$22/ Concession \$20/ Child under 18 to \$15 **Venue:** Schonell Theatre, Union Drive, St Lucia, Brisbane 4072 **Tickets:** brisbanegstickets@gmail.com / Phone: (07) 3871 0338

### **Dates and Times:**

Friday 1 July 2011 7:30pm / Sunday 3 July 2011 11:00am Sunday 3 July 2011 2:00pm / Tuesday 5 July 2011 7:30pm Wednesday 6 July 2011 11:00am / Wednesday 6 July 2011 4:00 pm Thursday 7 July 2011 7:30pm / Friday 8 July 2011 7:30pm Saturday 9 July 2011 1:00pm / Saturday 9 July 2011 7:30pm

#### Sydney Gang Show -

**Prices:** \$16.50-\$28.50 for adults (depends on seating).

**Venue:** The Riverside Theatre, Corner Market & Church Streets, Parramatta, 2150.

**Tickets:** tickets@gangshow.asn.au / Phone: (02) 9636 2731

#### **Dates and Times:**

Friday 8 July 2011 7.30pm / Saturday 9 July 2011 11am Saturday 9 July 2011 3pm / Saturday 9 July 2011 7.30pm Tuesday 12 July 2011 7.30pm / Wednesday 13 July 2011 7.30pm Friday 15 July 2011 7.30pm / Saturday 16 July 2011 11.00am Saturday 16 July 2011 3.00pm / Saturday 16 July 2011 7.30pm

Other Gang Shows (Place, dates and contact number) -

Adelaide, 19-24 September, 08 8276 6974 Hobart, 25-29 August, 03 6229 9385 Central Coast, NSW, 13-16 July, 0414 991 868 Hornsby, NSW 2077, 1-9 July, 02 9481 0937 Kirrawee, NSW 2232, 28-29 June & 1-2 July, 0404 885 365 Mildura (Sunraysia), Victoria 3502, 8-16 July, 03 504 5892 Nunawading, Victoria 3131, 26 Aug. - 3 Sept., 03 9876 5645 Traralgon, Victoria 3844, 14-22 October, 0402 903 391

### **Notices**

#### R.A.N. Battle Class Social Club

Annual National Reunion - Hobart 2011

An invitation to all ex-naval personnel and families. When: September 29th - October 2nd 2011

Where: Hobart, Tasmania
Venue: Hobart Macquarie Hotel

Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania

Cost: \$135.00 per couple inc. full buffet breakfast.

\$55.00 per head - Registration & Sat. Dinner Dance

(including pre-dinner drinks).

### Program:

(Additional costs for events other than Saturday night dinner)

Thursday 29th Sept.: Meet & Greet with buffet meal at night

Friday 30th Sept.: Day Bus Trip

Evening reception at Government House

Saturday 1st Oct.: Free day - Dinner Dance at night

Sunday 2nd Oct.: Cenotaph Service, Lunch,

Farewell Drinks & Finger Food at Night

For further information on membership or the reunion: Geoff (Wiggy) Bennett, 7 Viola Crescent, Highett Victoria 3190 Tel: (03) 9532 3672 Fax: (03) 9532 3672

Email: benhun@bigpond.net.au or chjoemon@southcom.com.au

A Special Thanks to the RACV

KVAA Inc. Committeeman, Ivan Ryan, was just one of many war veterans picked up from their homes and driven to the Anzac Day service in Melbourne on April 25. As well as



Ivan Ryan with driver, Mr Tonkin

transporting the veterans, the drivers look after the veterans with eats and drinks while awaiting the march and, in Ivan's case, transported him to the Stella Maris for the post-march reunion where he was picked up by his family.

Thanks to the RACV for this wonderful service to

veterans, who without their help, would not be able to attend the march and see their fellow veterans on such an important day.

### **Altona Memorial Service**

At a Memorial Service at Altona last year, a plaque commemorating the Korean War was presented to Altona RSL by the KVAA Inc. The idea now is to make a wreath-laying service there a regular feature of the KVAA Inc. calendar.

Therefore, and with June being the first anniversary of the dedication, a wreath-laying ceremony will be held at 1100 hours on 22 June at the Altona cenotaph in Civic Parade, Altona, followed by lunch at 1200 hours at the Altona RSL, 31 Sargood St, Altona (Melways 54 G 11).

All members and any guests they wish to bring are welcome.

#### The First Battalion Association

(incorp. 1 RAR and 2/1st Aust. Inf. Btn.)

The Twentieth National Reunion of The First Battalion Association will be hosted by the Queensland Branch of The First Battalion Association at the Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads, on 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

Booking can be made by telephone Jock on (07) 32811983. Accommodation bookings for Outrigger Twin Towns Resort (only), please phone Brian Blade on (07) 31651726.

### National Service 60th Anniversary

8-11 September 2011 Townsville Townsville will host Australia's biggest reunion of National Servicemen with four days of celebrations.

#### **Events include:**

Meet and Greet / Public Concert / Dinner Dance / Commemorative Service / Parade / Farewell BBQ

#### Costs:

National Service 60th Anniversary registration \$50 / Dinner Dance \$62

#### For more information:

Web: www.townsville.qld.gov.au

Phone: (07) 47279000

### HMAS Anzac & HMAS Tobruk Reunion

All personnel who served on above ships are invited to participate in the National Reunion at Ettalong Beach, NSW on Thursday 20th - Sunday 23rd October 2011. Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the commissioning of HMAS Anzac. All replies regarding membership and/or the reunion to:

John "Rebop" Golotta. (President) 22 Troedel Street, Pearcedale, Victoria, 3912. Phone (03) 5978 7808 Email: hm.anzac@bigpond.com

#### **Change of Date**

Our 2011 Korean War Ceasefire service has a change of date. Please note it is now 1230 hours for 1300 hours start at the Shrine of Remembrance on SATURDAY 30th JULY.

### **Sight-Seeing**

by Ernie Holden

Here's another snippet from Ernie Holden's book, Mates, Mortars and Minefields (available directly from the author on (02) 96239392. Cost \$20 + \$10 p&p anywhere in Australia). In this story, Ernie goes 'AWOL' with a loaded rifle...Well, not quite. Read on...

The day was fine and warm and I was on a 24-hour leave to do whatever I liked, except leave the boundaries of South Korea.

I read a 'Western' novel (probably a Zane Grey book) and loafed around all morning. After lunch I was bored and decided to have a look at the scenery south of the front line. I started walking, my only friend being my trusty rifle and after awhile, a young American soldier in a jeep passed me. He stopped to give me a lift and I hopped in, sitting with my rifle, butt on the floor and barrel straight up. He had some kind of automatic weapon, as it was mandatory to carry our weapons everywhere in Korea in case the enemy turned up. We were told it could happen anytime.

The American said, "Hi Aussie, where are you going guy?"

I replied, "I'm going south as I have the day off. I'm from the Second Battalion, Australian Regiment."

"Why are you going south?" he asked.

"Just to look at the scenery," I replied, "I like hills and mountains".

He became very quiet as we drove past Korean villages that had been destroyed and small army camps, etc. Trucks, jeeps and tanks were moving around everywhere and after about ten miles, a large American army camp was to our right. He pulled up and said, "This is where I turn off," pointing to the camp. I thanked him for the lift as he speedily drove off and I started walking south again. After ten minutes, I saw the same American in his jeep heading south again. Instead of slowing down he sped straight past, ignoring me – maybe it was the rifle that scared him?

Eventually, in the late afternoon, I got sick of trudging south as it was getting cooler. I turned around and somehow got a lift back to near the front line. I arrived just after the evening meal and in time to see the second half of the movie *A Yankee in Indo-China*. I got back to my bunker around 9.00 p.m. finally falling asleep around 10.00 p.m.

Years later I was dwelling on why the young American jeep driver grew quiet when I told him I was going south to see the scenery. He probably thought I was going AWOL to somehow escape out of South Korea. I think he was probably frightened to say anything as he was driving and I had a loaded 303 rifle that I was holding in front of me. I would say that he probably was trying to work out how to get rid of me; after all he wouldn't want to be part of helping a soldier deserting the front-line.

### **WWII: Homefront Factoids**

In 1940, the government of South Africa issued postage stamps half their normal size to save paper.

To aid wartime economies the New Zealand government told its citizens to use both sides of every sheet of paper. Unfortunately, the message was put across via large, paper-consuming posters.

In the U.S.A. the drive to collect scrap metal for the war effort affected even the judiciary. In San Franciso, courts would accept a motoring offender's bumper in lieu of a cash fine.

In 1942, when Civil Defence preparations were at their height, America's best-selling book was the official Red Cross handbook on first aid. It sold more than 8 million copies – though it never appeared in the best-seller lists, being classified as a pamphlet.

Meat consumption in the USA actually went up during WWII, despite a 28oz (795g) a week ration. This was because the government allowance permitted many poor families to eat meat regularly for the first time.

### **The Cocos Islands Mutiny**

During the Second World War, only three servicemen from British and Commonwealth forces were executed for mutiny. All three were participants in the Cocos Islands Mutiny, which took place in May 1942 on the small group of islands of that name belonging to Australia in the Indian Ocean.

Soldiers from what was then Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) were garrisoned on one of the Cocos Islands to defend a vital radio and telegraph station, On the night of 8 May, a dozen of them, led by Bombardier Gratien Fernando, an advocate of Ceylonese independence from Britain, attempted to take control of the island and hand it over to the Japanese. The mutineers were thwarted when their Bren gun jammed at a crucial moment. Three men, including Fernando, were hanged at the Welikada Prison in Colombo, Ceylon in August 1942.

Source: Nick Rennison, BBC History magazine Vol. 11, No. 11, Nov. 2010

### **Out & About**

### 10th Annual Anzac Day Ceremony

Fountain Gate Secondary College Thursday 7 April 2011



(l-r) Tom Parkinson (Vice-President, KVAA Inc.), Keith Langdon (Committeeman, KVAA Inc.), Vic Dey (National President, KVAA Inc.) and Alice McConnell, Shrine Representative.



His Excellency, Dr. Woosang Kim, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Republic of Korea delivers the main address.



Front (l-r): School Captain, Sally Northey, 12A; His Excellency, Dr. Woosang Kim, Ambassador, Republic of Korea; Anthony Byrne, MP for Holt, and School Captain, Junior Folueno, 12C. Standing (l-r): 1st AIF Historical Group member, Wayne McEleise; Mr. Vic Dey, National President, KVAA Inc.; Mr. Ian Arrell, 5/6 Battalion, RVR (Piper).

### **RAAF 90th Anniversary**

Airforce Centre, Camberwell Thursday 7 April 2011



"Happy 90th Anniversary RAAF"



(l-r) Air Commodore John Hewson, Peter Colliver, President, RAAF Association (Vic.) and Hugh Delahunty Member for Lowan, Victorian Minister of Veterans' Affairs.



Air Commodore John Hewson and Alan Evered (continues on Page 8)

### Follow the Leader

On 20 November 1943, the 2nd Marine Division invaded an island named Betio on the southwestern tip of the Tarawa atoll. It was the beginning of a three-day battle so bloody that there were calls for a Congressional inquiry from some newspapers. But a hundred miles to the east-northeast, a far different operation was taking place on a place called Abemama.

Abemama is such a tiny island, that only 78 Marines were assigned to take it. Its sole military significance lay in the existence of a radio station built by the Japanese. In a nearly tragic foreshadowing of the events to come, the invasion almost didn't take place. The Marines' transport-and sole support vessel-the submarine *Nautilus*, was attacked the night before the assault by the U.S. destroyer *Ringgold*, on its way to support the landings on Betio. *Ringgold* spotted the sub and, unable to identify her, lobbed a few 5-inch shells in her direction. The *Nautilus* went down and the *Ringgold*, thinking the job was done, steamed off for Tarawa. Fortunately, although the sub suffered a direct hit, the shell was a dud. The *Nautilus* received only minor damage and was able to fake its own "sinking" by diving quickly.

The next morning, the Americans stormed ashore to be greeted not by enemy fire but by a pair of natives of the atoll, who informed the Marines that the island was defended by only 25 Japanese soldiers dug in around the radio station. The Marines called in support fire from the *Nautilus* and then attacked.

The Japanese position proved to be a much tougher nut to crack than anticipated. After some hot action, the Marines withdrew and decided to starve them out. On D+4, one of the natives returned with the announcement that the "Saps are all dead" (natives of the atoll have no 'j' in their alphabet, so they substitute the "s" sound).

Although it sounded suspiciously like a trap, the Abemamian's information proved correct. The entire enemy contingent was found lying around the radio station. Later investigation and interrogation of the natives revealed the events surrounding their demise.

According to the witnesses, the captain commanding the Japanese was exhorting his remaining troops in anticipation of a new marine attack when his pistol accidentally discharged, the bullet entering his head next to his ear. The fifteen surviving soldiers, demoralized and lacking leadership now that their C.O. lay dead in front of them, decided to follow his suicidal example, albeit more deliberately.

Source: Strategy & Tactics magazine No. 105

### Gold Braid Crisis

The swift German conquest of France in 1940 created an immediate worldwide shortage of one of the most militarily important substances known: gold braid. Virtually the entire world supply of this vital material, including that for the Wehrmacht, derived from Lyons in eastern France, where some 50,000 workers labored to meet the rising demand. As a result, Allied and neutral powers were forced to fall back on slender stockpiles of the precious substance, just as they were involved in expanding their own military services. Moreover, the manufacturing processes were secret, the clever Lyonnaise knowing a good thing when they saw it. The situation became more severe when the Soviet Union "remilitarized" its armed forces in 1942, the British having to part with some of their dwindling stocks in order to help Stalin beef up the morale of the Red Army. However, American ingenuity saved the Allied armies from grinding to a halt for want of the stuff. A US Navy crash program, in cooperation with Seventh Avenue, successfully developed a domestic process for this critical material, thereby insuring an endless supply for the benefit and safety of the Free World.

Source: Strategy & Tactics magazine No. 90

## A Bad Year for the Wehrmacht

During 1944, the German Army lost in combat or through administrative dissolution 172 divisions. This represents 68 more divisions than it started the war with, and represents fully 32.2% of the 522 divisions it had active in WWII. In the same year, Germany produced sufficient material to equip 250 infantry and 40 armored divisions, at a time when her army averaged about 150 divisions; yet combat losses were so great that most front line formations were severely short of equipment.

### **Eating the Parachute**

The last attempt at aerial resupply before the Second World War appears to have been during the siege of the Alcazar of Toledo during the Spanish Civil War in August and September of 1936, when several canisters of food and medicine were successfully dropped into the tiny fortress. Once a turkey was used as a sort of air break for the delivery of more perishable materials, the flight of the turkey noted to be "swift, majestic, and almost vertical." Presumably this was the only time in aerial resupply operations that the "parachute" was eaten.

From Strategy & Tactics magazine No.90

#### Korean Arts Gala Performance

Korea-Australia Year of Friendship Malvern Town Hall, Friday 8th April 2011



His Excellency, Dr. Kim Woosang, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Republic of Korea (centre) on stage with the performers and dignitaries.



Leo Gleeson with souvenir program

### **Anzac Day**







### **Marketing Explained**

You're a woman and you see a handsome man at a party. You go up to him and say, "I'm fantastic in bed." That's **Direct Marketing**.

You're at a party with a bunch of friends and see a handsome man. One of your friends goes up to him and pointing at you says, "She's fantastic in bed." That's **Advertising**.

You see a handsome man at a party. You go up to him and get his telephone number. The next day you call and say, "Hi, I'm fantastic in bed." That's **Telemarketing**.

You see a man at a party, you straighten your dress. You walk up to him and pour him a drink. You say, "May I," and reach up to straighten his tie, brushing your breast lightly against his arm, and then say, "By the way, I'm fantastic in bed." That's **Public Relations**.

You're at a party and see a handsome man. He walks up to you and says, I hear you're fantastic in bed." That's **Brand Recognition**.

You're at a party and see a handsome man. He fancies you, but you talk him into going home with your friend. That's a **Sales Representation**.

Your friend can't satisfy him so she calls you. That's **Technical Support**.

You're on your way to a party when you realize that there could be handsome men in all these houses you're passing. So you climb onto the roof of one situated towards the centre and shout at the top of your lungs, "I'm fantastic in bed!" That's **Junk Mail**.

### Tales From the Pacific War

After the 7th December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbour, Rear Admiral Chester F. Nimitz, was appointed Commander In Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. He glumly broke this news to his wife, who reminded him that he had wanted the command all his life. "But sweetheart," replied the Admiral, "all the ships are on the bottom."

In the aftermath of the Battle of the Coral Sea, the carrier *Lexington* was engulfed in an uncontrollable blaze and the order was given to abandon ship. The evacuation was so orderly that not a single life was lost. Even the captains's spaniel, Wags, was saved. The dog, who was wearing a life jacket, was placed in a life raft with other members of the crew.

As the *Hornet* prepared for a Japanese attack in the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands, the galley prepared thousands of mince pies and donuts to serve in the event of a lull in the battle. But as bombs and torpedoes rained down on the *Hornet*, one of the bankers remarked later that "There just wasn't any lull!"

On his way back from bombing Japanese carriers at Midway, Lieutenant Commander Wade McClusky's plane was attacked by Zero fighters. His plane was shot up by fifty-five bullets from the Zeros – and from his own tail gunners. Since the twin barrels of the tail gun were eight inches apart, the gunner believed he could shoot on both sides of the rudder at the same time. Luckily, what was left of the rudder was enough to get them back to the *Enterprise*.

After the Battle of Midway, the *Yorktown*, dead in the water, was abandoned. The next day, an escorting destroyer, the *Hughes*, heard a blast of machine gun fire coming from the stricken carrier. A search party was sent over to investigate, and found Seaman Second Class, Norman Pichette, on board. Despite suffering from severe abdominal wounds, Pichette had pulled himself up from three decks below, and fired a machine gun at the *Hughes* to attract attention. The wounded sailor told the search party that another man was still alive in the sick bay. Soon afterward, Pichette died, but thanks to his actions, the man in the sick bay survived.

After being attacked by U.S. dive bombers at the Battle of Midway, the carrier *Kaga* was burning, dead in the water. The U.S. submarine *Nautilus* followed the *Kaga* for nearly three hours, then tried to finish the carrier off with three torpedoes. Two of the "fish" missed, but the third hit the hull of the *Kaga*, then broke in half without exploding. The warhead sank, and the body bobbed up to the surface among a group of sailors who had gone overboard to escape the flames. Several of them clutched the torpedo like life raft. One even straddled and rode it like a horse, providing perhaps the only laugh that these men would have all day.

Once the weaknesses of the Japanese Zero fighter became known to U.S. Navy pilots, they began trying a new evasive tactic. When a Zero got on the tail of a U.S. Navy fighter, the American pilot would dive straight down toward the ocean, and pull out just before impact. If the Zero tried to pull out when the U.S. fighter did, it would sometimes disintegrate, as it was not strong structurally. If the Zero did not pull out in time, it would crash into the sea.

Lieutenant Joichi Tomonaga, commander of the Japanese aerial strike force, returned to the carrier *Hiryu* after the raid on Midway with a punctured left fuel tank. After the *Akagi*, *Kaga*, and *Soryu* were hit by U.S. dive bombers, the *Hiryu's* planes were ordered to strike. Tomonaga was then informed by the ground crew that the hole in the fuel tank of his plane had not yet been repaired, so that if he left, he would not have enough gas to return to the *Hiryu*. Tomonaga waved the crew off, climbed into his plane, and took off with the rest of the strike, thus displaying the spirit of self-sacrifice that both Japanese and American aviators showed on that day.

Source: Victor Cross, Battlehawks, 1942, Lucasfilm Ltd. 1988

### **Ammo Well Spent?**

During Cuba's Revolution against Spain, in 1895-1898, the Cuban rebels had great difficulty in securing supplies. As a result, they developed a number of interesting and innovative ways to secure needed materials. One of the most unusual ways was that instituted by the Cuban prostitutes in towns with Spanish garrisons. Spanish soldiers requiring the services of one of these patriotic young ladies soon found that their money was no good. Instead of exchanging their favours for cash, these clever daughters of the revolution demanded payment in ammunition. The specific rate depended upon the rank of the client. Thus, an ordinary enlisted man had to pay 100 rounds, while a non-commissioned officer had to cough up 200 rounds. Fees for officers began at 1,000 rounds and rose steadily with rank. The transaction completed, everyone went away happy, though perhaps not for long, as the young ladies rapidly turned their fees over to the guerrillas, who presumably returned them to the Spanish Army by way of their rifle barrels.

Source: Strategy & Tactics magazine No. 94

### **Notices II**

### Maritime Squadrons Association NSW Reunion Dinner

The 2011 NSW Reunion Dinner is on Saturday 9th July at the Officers' Mess, RAAF Glenbrook, with accommodation at the Chifley Hotel next to Panthers in Penrith.

A bus will depart the Panthers Motel at 1745, to arrive at the Mess at 1800. Dinner will commence at 1930, and drinks before and during the dinner will be, as usual, at member's expense, but we might be able to support the expense from Association funds. The bus will depart the Mess for the return to Penrith at 2300.

For non-members of the MSA, and non-financial members, add \$10.00 to the following costs.

Cost of the weekend will be \$270.00 for a double and \$200.00 single. This is for accommodation, transport to and from Glenbrook and dinner. Breakfast is available next door at the Panthers restaurant at additional cost. For members living in the local area who will be attending the dinner only, the cost will be \$100.00 per double, and \$50.00 per single.

For further details or an application form e-mail *peter.turner03@optusnet.com.au* or phone (02) 4735 3948, or you can download it from: *http://www.msa.asn.au/notices.htm* 

### Remember Your Vaccination Against Pneumonia This Year

The Australian Immunisation Guidelines recommends vaccination to the following groups, who are at high risk of infection from pneumococcal bacteria:

- Anyone over 65 years old
- People with heart, kidney and lung disease.
- People with diabetes
- Anyone with a weakened immune system
- Tobacco smokers
- People without a spleen

The vaccine is FREE for anyone 65 years or older.

### **Oueensland Korean War Memorial**

The construction of the Queensland Korean War Memorial is now completely approved and funded, the murals and centre piece are in production, and completion is expected in June-July.

Therefore Saturday 20th August 2011, 8-9.30 am has been confirmed as the date of unveiling of the Memorial Wall at the Cascade Gardens Gold Coast site. This will be followed by a luncheon at the Albert Community Centre, Broadbeach, 12.30 pm to 3 pm.

Guests will be joined by dignitaries from Federal, State and Regional precincts as well as those from Korean Veteran Associations, the RSL, the local Korean community, and the ROK Minister for Veteran Affairs, and the Consul General.

This Queensland memorial is a gift to the State of Queensland from the Republic of Korea and the Korean communities now resident in Australia with Joint support from the Australian Federal and State Governments, the Gold Coast City Council and the Australian Korean War veterans to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Australian participation in the Korean War.

Korean War veterans and families are cordially invited to attend and join with us at this special memorial to those who served 1950/53/57.

For more details contact:

Australian Korean War Memorial Queensland Ltd. Post Office Box 1, Isle of Capri, Queensland, 4217 Phone: 0408971007:

E-mail: juromo@bigpond.net.au Web site: www.koreanwarmemorial.com.au



### Geoffrey John Strickland 28/11/1926 -5 April 2011

I am enquiring if anyone in your Association served with Geoffrey John Strickland in the 808 Squadron aboard *HMAS Sydney* aircraft carrier stationed in the 1950-52 Korean War zone. Geoff is my brother-in-law and he died recently. He was married to my sister who died some years prior. I am anxious to receive any biographical information on Geoff, especially in regard to his service with the Australian Navy's Fleet Air Arm during the Korean War. I would also love to hear from anyone who he sailed with during the Korean conflict. I know that he joined the Air Arm about 1948/9 and served in Korea, and that he held a post with the Australian Navy Fleet Air Arm's 808 Sea Fury Squadron out of Jervis Bay. Did he fly the Sea Fury during the conflict and was it on the *HMAS Sydney*? Geoff was also the a founding member of the Nowra Soaring Club near Jervis Bay, and later worked for the Australian Gliding Federation. He is survived by two daughters and numerous grandchildren who would love to know about this part of Geoff's life, as would I also.

Paul Curwood

Phone: 03 9749 2114 or E-mail: ozibecozi@yahoo.com.au

### My Return to Korea

by Alfred Smith

I feel honoured to have been chosen to attend the anniversary of many famous Korean events which occurred 60 long years ago. The tour started at Sydney with a ten hour flight taking us directly to Inchon Airport, one of the loveliest airports in the world. I believe it is rated at Number 5. On arrival we were met by a number of wonderful Korean people and officials, and some attachés from our Embassy. We were decked out with a big tag around the neck which was always worn for security reasons. We were then bussed to our 5 star accommodation at the Grand Ambassador Hotel, assigned our rooms, and then fed with a magnificent smorgasbord of food, the quality of which had to be seen to be believed.

Next day, the touring started. We visited places like Gloucester Valley and the huge memorials erected to the glorious Gloucesters who fought to the last round before being captured after suffering horrendous losses. We visited various observation posts where we looked out over what is now the DMZ, but where you cannot step over a yellow line – the diving line between North and South – to take pictures, as that would be seen as a mark of aggression by the north. Believe it or not, the place is now covered with pine trees. When occupied by the Japanese during WWII, the Japanese cut down every stick of wood and shipped it back to Japan. That is why we only had those small bushes, in the main, when we were there in the early 1950s.

The Bullet train to Busan (Pusan) and the famous cemetery there – our next major stop – was done at an insane 294 MILES per hour! At the cemetery, many a silent tear was shed in this beautiful setting where our dead lie in peace cared for by dedicated staff. Many of us laid a flower at the graves of old mates buried there, once we found their headstones. To make the occasion even more sombre, rain bucketed down and a howling wind almost swept some of us off our feet.

No visit to Korea would be complete without stopping off at Panmunjon in the Peace Village. We even stood over the line, stood in North Korea, and in the actual hut where the truce was signed.

A very special trip was to the Kapyong Valley where our 3 Btn will always be remembered for their heroic stand. We had four Kapyong veterans in our group, so emotion was high, especially given that it was the 60th anniversary of the battle.

There was a remembrance service at every venue, attended by Australians as well as members of the 29th Commonwealth Brigade, mainly Brits, Canucks (PPCLI) and Kiwis. I was honoured to lay the wreath at the Dawn Service and to talk to the Prime Minister. She agreed with me that we were a forgotten group, and she will try and correct this if possible. She came across to me as a very sincere person, and hats off to her speech writer, as he did it right in the speech she gave that morning. The Prime Minister laid the wreath for Australia, and I laid the wreath for the Australian Korean Veterans. My very proud moment.

The presentation of the Peace Medal was an honour, this being done at a wonderful banquet at the best hotel in Seoul. Only a few hours shopping was possible on the last day, as it is over an hours drive to get to the airport, then handshakes and hugs and promises to keep in touch, and cuddles from lovely Korean people.

The organisation behind the trip was exceptional with everything falling nicely into place. The Korean people will never forget the UN servicemen who helped them attain the standard of living that they now enjoy. Not to mention the freedom. All Korean schoolchildren are taken to the national war museums and War Memorials and it becomes part of their lives to realise how close their country was to annihilation.

### Feel Like Telling a Digital Story?

The Victorian Government is asking Korean veterans to participate in 3 day workshops at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image to produce a short 3–4 minute digital story (short movie) that tells a small part of their experience and reflections on their service. Each movie focuses on one story, using a mixture of photos, scanned articles, old archival footage and documents to create a short movie over which the veteran does a 'voice over' i.e. reading out the script which he or she has written with the aid of the ACMI staff. Samples are available for viewing at http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/veterans/veterans-heritage/digital-stories

ACMI facilitators help participants every step of the way and the stories will be made available on a Victorian Veterans Online museum website (currently being created) for general viewing. They will also be used as a resource for teaching Australian History in Victorian high schools.

To date we have collected over 120 stories from World War 2 and Vietnam veterans from around the state. Korean veterans have also participated but more volunteers are needed. More workshops in Melbourne scheduled on the 7th, 8th and 9th of September 2011 and 12th, 13th and 14th October 2011 with 3 more yet to be scheduled for 2012 at the ACMI studios at Federation Square.

If you are interested in participating in a workshop, please contact Patricia Pollard on 9935 3037 or email inourwords@dpcd.vic.gov.au

### **Notices III**

### Korea: In From the Cold



The Australian War Memorial has an upcoming conference in October this year titled Korea: In From the Cold which is supported by the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs.

Coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the year of

landmark Australian battles in Korea, at Kapyong in April, and Maryang San in October 1951, this conference will assemble leading military historians from around the world to bring a multi-national perspective to these themes. Keynote speaker, Professor Robert O'Neill, Australian Official Historian of the Korean War, will join experts from Australia and overseas. Distinguished Australian veterans of the Korean War will also present their perceptions of the conflict.

Delegates attending the conference will be welcomed at a reception on Wednesday 5 October 2011 at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Canberra. Delegates are also invited to an optional dinner on the evening of the 1st day of the conference, Thu. 6 October 2011 at an additional cost. The dinner consists of a three course meal and complimentary drink on arrival.

#### **Registration fees:**

Pre-sale registration (limited numbers) \$280 Standard registration \$320 Dinner on evening 6th October 2011 \$60 Register online via www.awm.gov.au Registrations close 28 September 2011.

#### **Further information:**

Contact: Louise Williams Telephone: (02) 6243 4544 Email: louise.williams@awm.gov.au

### **2011 Peace Camp For Youth Attendees**

All eight of the KVAA Inc. nominees for the 2011 Peace Camp For Youth were accepted for the July trip. Congratulations to...

**Nikki Anderson**, NSW (Grandfather, Graham Anderson 1RAR)

**Tara Boyd,** ACT (Grandfather, Ronald Ridley 1RAR)

Rhianna Healey, Victoria (Grandfather, Norman Thornton, 3RAR)

**Karl Maciejewski**, Victoria (Grandfather, Bob Winton, HMAS Sydney)

Kieren Scally, NSW (G/father, Don Scally, Kings Own Scottish Borderers) Claire & Peter Sutterby and Olivia Thomas, Victoria (Grandfather, John Thomas, Royal Engineers)

### 2011 Budget Media Release

[Note: edited version of the original release]

The Gillard Government has maintained its commitment to Australian veterans and their families in the 2011-12 Budget, and provided \$60.7 million in new initiatives. This includes \$30.1 million for a Veterans' Pharmaceutical Reimbursement Scheme and \$3.4 million to better meet the needs of our troops through an overhaul of the rehabilitation and compensation claims process. A new \$27.2 million Prisoner of War (POW) Recognition Supplement will provide former POWs with an extra \$500 per fortnight in recognition of their special service and sacrifice. Finding room in a responsible Budget for new initiatives reflects the Government's commitment to continued support for more than 360,000 veterans and their families.

The \$30.1 million Veterans' Pharmaceutical Reimbursement Scheme will assist around 70,000 veterans with out-of-pocket costs for medications, and delivers on an election commitment to introduce a fair solution that provides veterans with war or war-like service relief from pharmaceutical costs.

Veterans who have qualifying service and are in receipt of a disability pension (or equivalent under other Department of Veterans' Affairs administered entitlements) will receive this additional support towards their health care needs.

The Scheme will be effective from 1 Jan. 2012, with the first reimbursements to be made in early 2013. For eligible veterans, the reimbursements will cover the gap between the pharmaceutical allowance component of the Pension Supplement and the pharmaceutical safety net. New initiative to overhaul rehabilitation and compensation claims process

The 2011-12 Budget also delivers funding already committed by the Australian Government, including:

- More than \$8 million per year in additional funding for the Australian War Memorial; and
- \$3.3 million for the establishment of a world-first education centre in Washington DC honouring Vietnam veterans.

### Did You Know...

Before the seventeenth century, almost all carrots cultivated were purple. The modern day orange carrot wasn't cultivated until Dutch growers in the late 16th century took mutant strains of the purple carrot, including yellow and white carrots, and gradually developed them into the sweet, plump, orange variety we have today.

### THE POLITICS OF COWS

**Accountancy**: You have two cows. Your accountant enters them in the books as two chickens. The milk is sold at a profit through a tax haven and entered as a loss. The theoretical eggs are sold at a loss and used as a tax deduction.

**Bureaucracy**: You have two cows. The government regulates what and when you can feed them and when you can milk them, and how and when you can sell the milk. It requires you to fill out all forms in triplicate.

Capitalism (Theoretical): You have two cows. You sell one, buy a bull and breed a herd.

Capitalism (Corporate): You have two cows. Your neighbour has none. So what?

Capitalism (Hong Kong): You have two cows. You sell three of them to your publicly-listed company, using letters of credit opened by your brother-in-law at the bank, then execute a debt/equity swap with associated general offer so that you get all four cows back, with a tax deduction for keeping five cows. The milk rights of six cows are transferred via a Panamanian intermediary to a Cayman Islands company secretly owned by the majority shareholder, who sells the right to all seven cow's milk back to the listed company, with an option on one more. Meanwhile, you kill the two cows because of bad feng shui.

**Communism**: You have two cows. You have to take care of them and the government takes all the milk.

Communism (Castroism): You have two cows. The government takes them both and gives you a goat.

**Communism (Maoism)**: You have two cows. The government takes one then outlaws the keeping of cows. It takes your remaining cow and gives you a goat. It then outlaws the keeping of goats but now allows the keeping of cows. It takes your goat and gives you a chicken then has you beaten for not keeping cows.

**Communism (Stalinism)**: You have two cows. They are tortured for suspected Trotskyite deviation and implicate you. You are tortured and shot. The government takes all the milk then shoots the cows.

**Communism (U.S.S.R. 1970s)**: You have two cows. The government seizes both and provides you with milk. You wait in line for hours to get it. It is expensive and sour.

**Communism (Yugoslavia)**: You have two cows. The government takes one and gives it to your neighbour. You form a cooperative to tell him how to manage his cow.

**Democracy**: The government promises to give you two cows if you vote for it. The opposition promises three. The government raises its offer to four. The opposition counters with five. After the election you get none.

**Democracy (American)**: The government promises to give you two cows if you vote for it. After the elections, the President is impeached for speculating in cow futures. The press dub the affair "Cowgate."

**Democracy (European Community)**: You have two cows. The government pays you to produce as much milk as possible, pours half of it down the drain, turn the other half into cheese and butter, then throws it away.

**Democracy (French):** You have two cows. You go on strike because you want three cows. You go to lunch and drink wine. Life is good.

**Democracy (German):** You have two cows. You engineer them so they give excellent quality milk and run a hundred miles an hour. Unfortunately, they also keep trying to invade Poland.

**Democracy (Japanese):** You have two cows. You redesign them so they are one-tenth the size of an ordinary cow and produce twenty times the milk. Most are at the top of their class at cow school.

**Democracy (New Zealand):** You have two cows. You sell them and buy two sheep.

**Democracy (Russian)**: The government promises you two cows. You get one. You are usually too drunk to milk it. The cow dies. Your neighbour informs the KGB.

**Democracy (Singaporean)**: You have two cows. The government fines you for keeping two unlicensed farm animals in an apartment.

**Democracy (Western Socialist)**: You have two cows. Your neighbour has none. You feel guilty for being successful. You push for higher taxes so the government can provide cows for everyone while putting all your money in family trusts so you don't have to pay it.

**Dictatorship**: You have two cows. The government takes both and shoots you.

Eliteism: You are not good enough to keep cows. The government has them all because it is better than you.

**Fascism**: You have two cows. The government takes both, hires you to take care of them, and sells you the milk.

**Militarism**: You have two cows. The government takes both and drafts you.

**Plutocracy**: You have two cows. The government has 200,000. It won't let anyone buy your milk and forces you to buy the government's.

**Political Correctness**: You are associated with (the concept of 'ownership' is a symbol of the phallocentric, warmongering, intolerant past) two differently aged (but no less valuable to society) bovines of nonspecific gender and sexual orientation.

**Socialism**: You have 2 cows. You look after them. The government takes all the milk, keeps most for itself, and distributes the remainder equally between everyone whether they need it or not.

**Theocracy (Taliban)**: You have all the cows in Afghanistan. Exactly two. You don't milk them because you cannot touch any creature's private parts. You get a \$40 million grant from the US government to find alternatives to milk production but use the money to buy weapons.

**Totalitarianism**: You have two cows. The government takes them and denies they ever existed. Milk is banned.

### The White Feather

White is not only a symbol of innocence and purity. It has also assumed the role of indicating and branding cowardice. During World War I, patriotic British women used to present white feathers to men who did not wear a uniform and whom they therefore considered to be shirking military duty. They did so to stigmatize them, and "to show the white feather" became a telling phrase.

Yet the most obvious explanation, coming first into one's mind, is wrong. This would suggest that the association of lack of colour with lack of courage sterns from the fact that frightened people get pale, become "as white as a ghost" – because the blood drains out of their head,

Actually, the white feather as a badge of cowardice is a legacy from cock-fighting days, once a most popular sport. There are all kinds of decorations, invented by the ingenuity of man. Most of them are artificial creations, well thought-out symbols and designs to distinguish bravery arid merit. But the emblem of cowardice "grew naturally" and is the product of birds, made use of by imaginative people.

Cock-fighting was a cruel sport, enjoyed by callous men from the days of the ancient Greeks and Romans onward, and was introduced by the latter into Britain.

The plumage of a game cock was taken as evidence of its breeding. Pure-bred stock had only red and black feathers. The presence of even a single white feather in a cock's tail indicated a cross-bred bird. Experience showed that only the thorough bred was good as a fighter. All other birds were "cowards". Therefore only birds of black or red plumage were taken into the cock-pit and "to show the white feather" came not only to imply a display of impure strain but also to describe cowards, both among cocks and men.

Source: How Did It Begin? by Rudolph Brasch, Angus & Robertson 1993

### The White Feather Revived

In August 1914 Admiral Charles Fitzgerald deputised 30 women in Folkstone to hand out white feathers to men not wearing military uniform. The gesture was designed to publicly humiliate conscientious objectors (COs), those men who took a moral stand by refusing to fight in the First World War) and was emulated across the country.

During the course of the Second World War more than 60,000 men applied for exemption from service on moral grounds. Bitter experience of divisive tribunals during the previous war meant these COs did not suffer as severely as their predecessors. The government was more tolerant. But they were still seen as cowards, and faced open hostility. They were lambasted, spat at and shunned.

The worst possible humiliation, however, was to receive a white feather, in person or in the post. Julia Lloyd, a child during the war, remembered how "those few lily-livered call-up dodgers were put to shame with symbolic white feathers sent in envelopes.' Another who lived through the conflict recalled how one man, on leave from the Merchant Navy, was targeted: "One day, when out walking on the beach, a woman came up to him and spat in his face, called him a coward and gave him a white feather."

For many, then, the white feather remained a potent symbol.

Source: BBC History magazine, Vol. 11, No. 13 2010

### **Slow Boats No-show Boats**

In 1939, just prior to the outbreak of World War II, it typically took a merchant ship 39 days to complete a round-trip between England and the US. That included time for the off-loading and loading of cargoes at both ends of the journey. By the start of 1942 that average had increased to 86 days. The additional 47 days were taken up with the waiting involved in forming large convoys.

Source: Strategy & Tactics No. 266 Jan-Feb.2011

### **Farewells**

William J Coffman, 29285, 3RAR & HQ 28 Brit. C/Wealth Inf. Brigade on 15 May 2011

George Henry Foenander, 3400421, 3RAR, on 8 May 2011

William G Hughes, 51408, 3RAR, in mid-May 2011

### **Editorial Disclaimer**

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### The Ode

They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
and in the morning
We will remember them.

LEST WE FORGET