

# THE VOICE

June 2012 Edition

## Contents:

Anzac Day Report	1
Life Members	2
Directory	2
Merchandise Available	2
President's Report	3
Anzac Day in Merrijig	3
Avoiding Korea	3
Notices	4
Revisit Korea	5
The Wrong Lesson Learnt	5
Notices II	6
The Battle of the Coral Sea	7
A Numerological No-Show	8
1911 vs 2011	8
Worse the Hiroshima	9
The Moral Highground	9
WWII Civilian Casualties	9
Sarcastic Police	10
Nuptially Yours...	10
Out & About	11
Notices III	12
KVAA Inc. Positions 2012-13	14
New Army Recruit	14
Farewells	14
Editorial Disclaimer	14
The Ode	14

## Anzac Day Report

It was the coldest Anzac Day in 20 years here in Melbourne, but apparently not the wettest, although it certainly felt it to those marching... Um, actually, "marching" probably doesn't best describe the morning. Standing around waiting to march is more accurate. The change of venue from the traditional Swanston Street to Saint Kilda Road (Linlithgow Avenue for the Korean veterans) plus the weather slowed everything to a crawl rather than a stately progression.

Many thanks go, as usual, to the Cadets from Melbourne High School, around thirty of whom bore the banner high and carried the flags. Well done also to those veterans and/or family members who braved the cold and rain to march. The change of jump off point brought one advantage: it wasn't a long tramp to the Shrine.

As usual, as has now become traditional, there was a post-event get together at the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre where those who marched met up with those who didn't. Among the 90 or so present were three special guests and one gatecrasher. KVAA Inc. member Les Peate flew all the way from Ottawa, Canada for the event. *[I suspect he was actually in Australia on unrelated business, but why let the facts get in the way of a good story - Editor]*. From equally far afield was Lance Corporal Chris Stone of the British Army Royal Signal Corp. From not so far away, Mark Slater, former test cricketer and nephew of KVAA Inc. member Charlie Slater, also attended. Mark is the source of the cricket bats currently being raffled. *[See page 4 for an entry coupon - Editor]*



And the aforementioned gatecrasher? Geoff McCloud (pictured), a Korea War veteran but not a member of the KVAA Inc. wandered across from a smaller function on the other side of the Stella Maris, presumably to mooch our finger food. We made him welcome regardless and he fitted right in.

The traditional Anzac Day raffle was supervised by the traditional Alan Evered and Gerry Steacy. Curiously, Elaine Steacy and Nicole and Luke Evered (grandson of Alan and Nicole) all won prizes. The Secretary and Treasurer investigated the

*(continues on Page 13)*

### 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.



# Life Members

Jim Boxshall  
 Rev. Burne Brooker†  
 John Brownbill RFD KSJ  
 John Burke†  
 Bill Campbell†  
 Victor Dey OAM  
 John Duson  
 Athol Egeberg  
 Mick Everett†  
 J F Frawley OAM BEM†  
 Stan Gallop  
 Olwyn Green OAM (Hon)  
 Des Guilfoyle†  
 John Holford  
 Neville Holl†  
 Murray Inwood  
 David Irving  
 Ron Kennedy  
 George Lang OAM  
 Dennis Lehman  
 Kenneth Mankelow†  
 Bruce Maxwell  
 Alan McDonald  
 Ian McDonald†  
 Allan Murray  
 Ray McKenzie†  
 Don McLeod†  
 George Mitchell†  
 Bill Murphy  
 Ormond Petherick  
 Jack Philpot  
 Arthur Roach  
 Ivan Ryan  
 Joe Shields†  
 Gerry Steacy  
 Doug Wilkie JP

†Deceased

# Directory

## Patron

Major General J C Hughes AO DSO MC FAIM Dip FP

## President

Victor Dey OAM  
 Phone: 03 946 72750  
 Mobile: 040 987 8864  
 Email: blueydey@bigpond.net.au

## Vice-President

Tom Parkinson 03 9350 6608

## Secretary

Alan Evered  
 Phone: 03 9874 2219  
 Email: evered@optusnet.com.au

## Treasurer

Gerry Steacy  
 Phone: 03 9741 3356  
 Email: steacy32@bigpond.com

## Committee

Ron Christie, John Dusan, Keith Langdon,  
 Allen Riches, Arthur Roach, Ivan Ryan

## Appointments

**Chaplain:** John Brownbill RFD KSJ 0418 359 085    **Pensions:** Charlie Slater 03 9355 7264  
**General Committee:** Alan McDonald    **Veterans' Affairs:** Ivan Ryan 03 726 6053  
**Editor:** Geoff Guilfoyle 03 9546 5979 Email: Geoff\_Guilfoyle@aanet.com.au

## Delegates

**ACT:** Colin Berryman OAM 02 6258 2463, 040 896 2415, or jacol57@bigpond.net.au  
**Albury-Wodonga:** Paul Shimmen 02 6041 3211    **Geelong:** Arthur Roach 03 5243 6113  
**New South Wales:** Merv Heath 02 4343 1967    **Queensland:** Harry Pooley 07 3200 0482  
**South Australia:** John Bennett 08 8556 7288    **Tasmania:** George Hutchinson 03 6275 0762  
**Western Australia:** John Southorn 08 9531 2008

## 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 .....	\$	Car number plate surrounds (set)	\$10.00 .....	\$
Korean War map (laminated)	\$ 6.00 .....	\$			

**TOTAL . . . \$ \_ \_ \_**

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

Surname: ..... Given Names: .....

Address: ..... (Please Print)

State: ..... Post Code: .....

Cheques or money orders should be made out to:

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

## President's Report

I trust that your Anzac Day was all that you wished it to be. Here in Melbourne the actual march was shortened because of road works in the city. This may have been a blessing in disguise as the weather was really atrocious – cold and heavy rain. I believe we had a reasonable turn out for the march and at the reunion. Our thanks to the Cadets from the Melbourne High School for their support. Deeply appreciated.

On Tuesday 24th April, I and a number of other veterans, attended a spectacular Anzac Day event at the Fountain Gate Secondary College. The presence of Korean Military Attache, Colonel Dae-Hee Ahn, both Federal and State Ministers, and representatives from the KVAA Inc. and other veteran organizations, gave the occasion an exceptional gravitas for the school students and all the visitors in attendance. Following the ceremony, we adjourned to the school Memorial Garden for the dedication of our Korean War plaque.

Pascoe Vale RSL held their Anzac Day Ceremony on Sunday 29th April. This must be one of the biggest RSL ceremonies in Victoria (attendance wise) with guests, school children, and members all paying homage to the fallen. Later, in the club, our own Colonel Alan McDonald was the Guest Speaker. Another wonderful day.

The Royal United Services Institute of Victoria Inc. held a lunchtime address on May 31st. Guest Speaker was Jon Metrikas, whose talk entitled *A Glimpse at the Hermit Kingdom* was a layman's assessment of the economic and military capacity of North Korea. His view on the unification of Korea was, to me, disappointing as he believes it will not happen in the near future, whereas I would love to see it happen in our life time.

Winter is upon us. Take care; keep warm, and keep well.

## Anzac Day in Merrijig

by Adele McCormack

*Here's a short report from Adele McCormack about Anzac Day in Merrijig... Yeah, I'd never heard of the place either. It is a small town (population 100) in the Victorian High Country (aka The Great Dividing Range) just south-east of Mansfield. It's greatest claim to fame is that areas to the north of the town were chosen as filming locations for the 1982 movie, The Man From Snowy River, and its sequel 6 years later. It may not have had the smallest Anzac Day service in Australia but it was probably the highest. And the participants got to ride horses too!*

We had an ANZAC service which I have been attending since they started it a few years ago now. There's a small corner of a paddock, on the top of a hill on the Mt Buller Road which was put aside years ago, for the memory of WWI local soldiers. It looks out into the mountains and there are some cyprus pines planted there. It was cold but the rain stayed away for the ceremony.

Usually we have Peter Howarth, an ex-army Merrijig resident who conducts the service but he was away this year. Instead we had Michael Ray to conduct the ceremony; his father was in the second battalion when he did service in Korea. Michael did a wonderful job and his speech was inclusive and well written. In fact, the conduct of our ceremony was very moving. The horsemen carrying flags rode up the hill and assembled. A fiddler and two guitar players played and sang and of course we had the last post, blown by an ex-reserve army cook in uniform.



## Avoiding Korea

by Ernie Holden

*Another snippet from Ernie's book, Mates, Mortars and Minefields.*

One afternoon at the Hiro camp, one of the soldiers who had been on leave to Kure proudly showed us his arm in plaster, explaining how he had fallen over while on leave and a Japanese had put his arm in plaster. This young soldier seemed quite happy about his misfortune, which seemed a little odd, as I would have been pretty upset if it had happened to me. Later, stories started to drift back to us how for a price a Japanese 'doctor' could arrange for one of your limbs to be broken – how they did it I wouldn't like to guess.

In going to Korea, I fully believed in what I was doing and so to me this seemed like the act of people with no morals. I now realise that some soldiers really started to panic as they accepted the fact that very soon they would be in a dangerous war-zone. To them, a bundle of Japanese Yen was a small price to pay to give them more time, or perhaps send them back home.

## Notices

### 2013 REVISIT KOREA PROGRAM

The Republic of Korea Embassy advise that they do NOT expect to receive application details for the 2013 Revisit Korean Program until sometime in February 2013. Again the expectation is for PRIORITY being given to those who have NEVER returned before.

Having had a successful 2012 Revisit for several of our members, we now know that fellow Commonwealth Korea Veterans have to apply to the country with which they served in order to be accepted for any planned Revisit.

Charlotte O’Kane, National Co-ordinator for BKVA, very kindly supported Jack (John) Thomas JP (Royal Engineers) this year and she will be the BKVA National Co-ordinator for 2013.

To avoid any last minute preparations ALL Korea Veterans in Australia wishing to go should contact our Secretary to register their interest and obtain a list of the sort of application information required. (We already have SIX interested Veterans).

### HMAS Bataan Veterans Assoc. of Aust. National AGM & Reunion

Where: Greenmount Beach Resort, Coolangatta

When: 13-16 September 2012

Contact: John Laughton (03) 9704 7799 or email: johnfl@aapt.net.au for details or to book.

### Seeking Ron Hodgson

I’m seeking information on Army mate, Ron Hodgson: Ord room Cpl BHQ 2RAR Puka 1951 and Korea 2/3 RAR 1951-52. Promoted Sergeant in Korea. Contact Jim Clarke, PO Box 422, Jurien Bay, WA 6516 or phone (08) 9652 1121 if you can help.

### Korea War Veterans Memorial Reunion

Where: Canberra, ACT 2602

When: 19th 20th & 21st October 2012

October 2012 sees the gathering of veterans, family and friends, for the annual commemorative service and functions in Canberra. For information packs and bookings please contact Ms Wendy Karam on 0418 124677 or email: wendykaram@yahoo.com.au

### Monster Bat Raffle

Er, no, the KVAA isn’t raffling a giant mutant flying rat-like animal with membranous wings. Our bat is of the cricket species and, no, not that sort of cricket, as in the insect. The KVAA Inc. is raffling two cricket bats. The first is signed by all the members of the 2009 Australian and South African Test teams, and the second by the 2010 Australian and English teams. Tickets are available from Alan Evered and are \$2 each. The proceeds go to a worthy cause: namely the KVAA Inc. The raffle will be drawn at the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre after the 27 July Commemoration Ceremony at the Shrine. The winner will be notified and the result published in *The Voice*. Tickets are limited so get in early. Hint: the perfect birthday or Xmas gift for a grandchild – and you support the KVAA Inc.

Please photocopy page or cut along the dotted line

<p style="text-align: center;">(Please Print)</p> <p>Name: .....</p> <p>Address: .....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Phone Number: .....</p> <p>Number of Tickets Required:</p> <p>5    10    15    20    Other:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>   <input type="checkbox"/>   <input type="checkbox"/>   <input type="checkbox"/>   .....</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <h2 style="margin: 0;">RAFFLE TICKET</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Order Form</h3> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Organised by the <b>Korea Veterans Association of Australia Inc.</b> Registered Charity Number: 56487</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0;"><b>Prizes:</b> <b>Australia v South Africa 2009 cricket bat</b> <b>Australia v England 2010 cricket bat</b></p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Signed by all the members of each team.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Drawn 27 July 2012 Winner notified Result printed in <i>The Voice</i></p> </div> <p style="margin: 10px 0; font-size: large;"><b>Ticket \$2.00</b></p> </div>
<p>Please ensure your name is shown on any cheque or money order sent to: <b>The Secretary, PO Box 2123, Rangeview, Victoria 3132</b></p>	

# Revisit Korea

## (some random observations)

by Jennifer Youngson  
(daughter of Stan Starceвич)

The highlight [of the April revisit] for me was the tour guide, Sharon (not her Korean name). She was very organised but had a lovely way with the English language. We learnt that 7 million South Koreans still have family in North Korea, Seoul has 31 bridges, South Korean boys do military service for 2 years, the birthrate is 1.1 child, and if anyone escapes from North Korea, they are given a house and an education. She even told us what to wear for the Australian Ambassador's dinner and the banquet on the last night. The kids who helped her were smiling and respectful to the veterans. When I told my 18-year-old that they liked old people, he just laughed.

The Kapyong ceremony with just the Australian and NZ veterans was very moving. It was in a quiet gully on a sunny day with the birds singing and a warm breeze, and yet so many had died on those hills around us. They had cold beers in eskys for the veterans, which were much appreciated.

Going to the JSA was life changing. I couldn't believe we were two feet away from the North Korean soldiers outside the window of the hut where the Armistice was signed. One of the NK soldiers got a camera and took pictures of us. The US soldier did a surprisingly honest talk on the Korean War. Afterward, we had lunch with the Swiss and Swedish soldiers: a roast with wine and waiters. Not what you'd expect 3 kms from the enemy!

We went to the observation point with the binoculars to see North Korea. Some of the veterans were trying to see where they fought – Maryang San and the Hook. I could have stayed there longer.

It rained on Anzac Day, so they had the ceremony inside the War Memorial. The Turkish attaché spoke after the Australian attaché, who gave an honest account of Gallipoli.

Then we went by bullet train, 300mph, to the UN cemetery. We looked in the pouring rain for graves of Australian soldiers who died in Korea. The young Korean girls handed out white flowers to put on the graves.

Most of the veterans were surprised to learn that Seoul is a city of 15 million, with skyscrapers everywhere and freeways, like in *The Jetsons*. A future city. The 7th largest economy in the world. When they saw Seoul last it was rubble.

The hotel restaurant had more choices of food than I have ever seen. Lobster, curry, bacon, eggs, soup, ice cream jelly beans, pasta, cabbage, sushi – and that was just breakfast! It was good to have everyone stay at the same hotel. You met people in the lifts going down to breakfast. I have names of four who I will keep in touch with. I didn't know anyone before this trip.

## The Wrong Lesson Learnt

During the 1941–42 winter fighting on the Eastern Front, the Soviets had succeeded in isolating, by February 1942, 100,000 troops of the German 16th Army in the Demyansk pocket (north-west of Moscow), and a further 3500 men at nearby Khulm. The Luftwaffe was called on to provide aerial supply with its transports.

The Luftwaffe transport arm had been decimated twice before in the war: first, most severely, in the invasion of Holland and again in Greece and Crete. The Ju-52 transport, which provided most of the German airlift capacity, was prone to crash in icing conditions. The main airfield in the Demyansk pocket was also over 150 miles from the nearest airhead.

Nevertheless, by rounding up every flyable Ju-52 in the Reich, the Germans were able to keep the 16th Army supplied with its required 300 tons of supplies a day until they were relieved on 18 May. Although there was no airfield at Khulm and all supplies had to be paraded, that strongpoint also held until relieved. Despite the loss of 265 transport aircraft, mostly to the weather, the Luftwaffe had managed the first largescale air supply in history. It also resulted, however, in the Germans putting too much faith in their airlift capacity to rescue them in tight situations.

The Demyansk airlift had only been possible because of German air superiority. But the Germans were not able to be strong everywhere at once. Thus, in the spring of 1942, it was decided that the Luftwaffe would shift its main weight south, to support operations in the Crimea and the hoped-for drive on the Caucasus. This ended in the winter of 1942 at Stalingrad where, drawing on their experience at Demyansk, the Germans believed they could air supply the trapped troops until they could be relieved.

They were wrong.

Source: *War in the East: The Russo-German Conflict, 1941-45* by the staff of *S&T Magazine*, Simulations Publications Inc. 1977

## Notices II

### Healing the Wounds of War

On Sunday 19th August, the St. Georges Uniting Church in East St. Kilda will be holding their "Healing the Wounds of War" Service. This Service started in 1917 to honour their Minister, the Rev. Andrew Gillison, who died at Gallipoli on August 22nd 1915. This years service commemorates the Seventieth anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign. A Reading and Candle Lighting will be undertaken by a Korea Veteran.

**St. George's East St. Kilda Uniting Church**  
**4 Chapel Street, East St. Kilda**  
**Sunday 19 August 2012, 10:30am**  
**Annual Memorial Service**

### Ian 'Robbie' Robertson

Congratulations to Ian Robertson who is returning to Korea this month, the trip arranged through the City of Pusan, Melbourne's 'sister-city.' Ian was only one of four chosen from numerous Australian and international applicants.

### DVA MyAccount

*DVA MyAccount* is the new online way of doing business with the DVA. Please follow this simple two step process to register and get started with *MyAccount*.

Step 1: Call 1800 173858 to speak to a DVA officer and receive a registration number. You will need to go through a simple proof of identity process, so please have your DVA file number or client number ready.

Step 2: Once you have your registration number, visit [www.myaccount.dva.gov.au](http://www.myaccount.dva.gov.au) and select the REGISTER NOW button and follow the on-screen prompts to get your account logon.

The website also provides a helpful "how to" video for the registration process which guides you through the steps.

*MyAccount* is quick, simple and secure service which will be regularly updated.

Please note: We are currently experiencing a higher than expected volume of calls and ask for your understanding if we are unable to answer your call immediately.

The last nation to enter World War II on the Allied side was Mongolia, which declared war against Japan on 9 August 1945.

### Princess Cruises Discounts

Available to personnel in the Royal Australian Navy, Royal Australian Army, Royal Australian Air Force, Royal New Zealand Navy, the New Zealand Army or the Royal New Zealand Air Force who are:

- Active personnel currently serving by providing their PM KeyS number, Regiment number or Service Number, and
- Ex-serving personnel, including discharged and retired personnel, by providing relevant documentation which shows evidence of having served in the ADF or NZDF, such as military superannuation/pension statement from the Military Super scheme, the DFRDB scheme, the DFRB scheme, or the DFSS scheme (New Zealand) and/or Certificate of Service.

Onboard Credit Amount (Cruise Length Amount\*):

6 days or less \$50 per person / 7-13 days \$100 per person / 14 days or longer \$250 per person

\*onboard credit currency is in ALJD for selected Princess cruises ships (Dawn, sun and Sea Princess embarking and disembarking in Australia). Onboard currency is in USD for all other Princess cruises ships

Once booking has been made through travel agent, website or via call centre, Defence personnel details, including passenger name, reservation number, ship and sailing date with relevant proof of identification and/or documentation are to be emailed to [defencebenefits@carnivalaustralia.com](mailto:defencebenefits@carnivalaustralia.com) no later than two weeks prior to sailing. Defence Personnel may be asked to produce proof of Defence identification

### Annual Korean War Ceasefire Memorial

**Where:** Shrine of Remembrance Forecourt

**When:** Friday 27 July 2012 at 12.30pm (for 1pm start)

**Guest Speaker:** Cameron Forbes

(Author of *The Korean War* and *Hellfire*, Walkley Award winning former foreign editor of *The Age* and Washington correspondent for *The Australian*).

Light refreshment at the Stella Maris after the service.

### Altona Memorial Service

At a Memorial Service at Altona in 2010, a plaque commemorating the Korean War was presented to Altona RSL by the KVAA Inc. The idea then – now in effect – was to make a wreath-laying service there a regular feature of the KVAA Inc. calendar.

Therefore, a wreath-laying ceremony, conducted by the Altona RSL's padre, Leam Matthews, will be held on Wednesday 15 August at 11am at the Altona Cenotaph in Civic Parade, Altona, followed by lunch at around midday at the Altona RSL, 31 Sargood St, Altona (Melways 54 G 11).

All KVAA Inc. members who live in the area (and those who come from further afield) are encouraged, and are most welcome, to attend, as are any guests or family members they wish to bring.

# The Battle of the Coral Sea

(May 4 - 10, 1942)

by Victor Cross

After the capture of the Philippines, Singapore, the Netherlands East Indies, Guam, and Wake Island, the Japanese decided to expand their Pacific holdings even further. With Japanese troops already occupying northwest New Guinea, their plan called for the invasion and capture of Port Moresby, the principal Australian outpost in southeast New Guinea. The loss of this base would cut off the supply route between Australia and the United States, and leave the coast of northeast Australia wide open to invasion. At the same time, Tulagi Island, east of Port Moresby, was to be captured and used as a seaplane base to further isolate Australia.

The Japanese assembled two task forces. The Carrier Striking Force, led by Vice Admiral Takeo Takagi, left the base at Truk and headed south. This task force included the heavy carriers *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku*, veterans of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The invasion task force, under the command of Rear Admiral, Aritomo Goto, was to leave the Japanese base at Rabaul on May 4th and head southwest to toward Port Moresby. The light carrier *Shoho*, along with four heavy cruisers, would escort the troop transports as they headed toward New Guinea.

Unknown to the Japanese, however, American intelligence had broken Japan's secret code, and the U.S. forces had learned of the impending invasion of Port Moresby. They also knew that three Japanese carriers would arrive at the Coral Sea, northeast of Australia and southeast of New Guinea, before May 3rd. Two U.S. carrier task forces were assembled, Rear Admiral Frank J. Fletcher commanding the *Yorktown* task force, and Rear Admiral Aubrey Fitch heading up the *Lexington* group. The carriers *Hornet* and *Enterprise*, under the command of Vice Admiral William F. Halsey, headed south from Pearl Harbor, hoping to reach the other carriers in time to help.

On May 3rd, a Japanese assault force captured Tulagi, which had been abandoned by the Australians. The next day, SBD-3 "Dauntless" dive bombers and TBD "Devastator" torpedo bombers from the *Yorktown* attacked Tulagi Harbor, sinking one Japanese destroyer and three minesweepers. Following this attack, the *Yorktown* met the *Lexington*, and the carriers headed west through the Coral Sea to engage the Japanese task forces.

Bad weather, poor visibility, and poor scouting kept the opposing fleets from discovering each other right away. At one point they were only seventy miles apart, but each could not find the other. But at dawn on May 7th, search planes from both sides finally made sightings and attacks were launched. The *Battle of the Coral Sea* had begun.

F4F-3 "Wildcat" fighters, SBD-3 "Dauntless" dive bombers, and TBD "Devastator" torpedo planes from the *Lexington* and *Yorktown* searched for a reported "two carriers and four cruisers." Despite the fact that reconnaissance later reported no carriers in the area, the group pressed on, and at 11 a.m. they found the smaller task force, which was to cover the Port Moresby invasion. There, in the waters below, was an inviting target: the *Shoho*. Although it was protected by a small "Zero" fighter cover, this was not enough to fight off ninety-three American planes. Hit by thirteen bombs and seven torpedoes, the *Shoho* sank in half an hour.

Meanwhile, the *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku*, out of sight of the attacking U.S. planes, launched a strike of their own against what a reconnaissance plane had reported as a carrier and a heavy cruiser. The "cruiser" turned out to be the destroyer *Sims*, which was struck by several bombs and sank. The "carrier" was the tanker *Neosho*, which was badly damaged and had to be scuttled several days later. The next day, May 8th, following a futile night attack on the American task force, a Japanese strike force of thirty-three "Val" dive bombers, eighteen "Kate" torpedo planes, and eighteen escorting "Zeros" took off from the *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku* at 9 am. Scout planes had left earlier; the strategy being that if these scouts spotted the American carriers, an attack force would be right behind. At the same time, the *Lexington* and *Yorktown* launched most of their available planes to attack the two big Japanese carriers.

Just like they had done the day before, the two opposing fleets of fighters, dive bombers, and torpedo planes passed each other without sighting the opposition's planes. At 10:30 a.m., the U.S. planes spotted the *Shokaku* and attacked, scoring three bomb hits and severely damaging the heavy carrier. The *Zuikaku*, hidden in a rain squall, escaped detection by the attackers and was able to launch fighter planes to assist the *Shokaku*. While the American planes were attacking, Japanese scout planes found the U.S. task forces, and the Japanese attack force soon struck. With fighter cover provided by only seventeen "Wildcats" and twenty-three ill-suited "Dauntlesses," the carriers and their escorting vessels had to virtually defend themselves. On this day, however, Japanese aim was poor. Twisting and turning, the *Yorktown* was able to dodge every torpedo while taking only one bomb hit. The less maneuverable *Lexington* was hit by two torpedoes and two bombs.

Both of the damaged carriers were soon able to recover their returning planes. But when gasoline vapors

(continues on Page 8)

deep inside the *Lexington* were accidentally ignited by a spark from a generator that had been left running, the carrier was rocked by a tremendous internal explosion. Fires raged out of control, and the *Lexington* was soon abandoned, sunk by the destroyer *Phelps* later that night. The Japanese invasion task force, which had reversed its course when the *Shoho* was attacked, was ordered back to Rabaul until the U.S. carriers could be driven off. Thus, the invasion of Port Moresby was postponed. With both the Japanese and American task forces retiring for repairs and refueling, the *Battle of the Coral Sea* was over. Two historic “firsts” occurred: a naval battle between aircraft carriers, a naval battle in which the opposing ships never even saw each other.

Who won this engagement off New Guinea? Judged strictly on the basis of ships sunk, it was a Japanese victory. The Japanese lost one light carrier plus the services of a heavy carrier, while the U.S. fleet had lost a valuable heavy carrier, a destroyer, and a tanker. But because the losses to the Japanese carriers forced the postponement, and eventual cancellation, of the Port Moresby invasion, the U.S. fleet could claim a strategic victory in the Coral Sea.

## **A Numerological No-Show**

In 1944, during the depths of the Second World War, people everywhere asked when the fighting would end. Word spread that there was an answer in portentous parallels found between the lives of five world leaders – Winston Churchill, Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Franklin Roosevelt, and Joseph Stalin. The correspondences were so striking, some said, that they must open a window to the future.

What the ‘visionaries’ saw was the number 3,888, obtained by adding the year of each leader’s birth, his age, the year he took office, and the number of years he had served in office. What was so striking to some was that the same number came up for each leader. What was more, half of 3,888 is 1,944 – certainly the year in which the war must end. Another division by two yielded 972, purported to be the precise date and time of ceasefire – the ninth month, seventh day, at 2:00 a.m.

The numbers meant nothing of the sort, of course. Germany surrendered nearly a year later, on May 7 1945. And skeptics noted that the same calculation, performed with the same milestones in the life of any living person, will yield a number corresponding to twice the current year.

Source: *Library of Curious and Unusual Facts: A World of Luck*, Time-Life Books, Alexandria, Virginia, 1991

## **1911 vs 2011**

*(The year is 1911, just over 100 years ago in the U.S.A.).*

The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.

Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub and only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads in car-mad U.S.A.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph and fuel was sold in drug stores only.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was only 30.

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn’t been invented yet.

There was neither a Mother’s Day nor a Father’s Day.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores.

Ninety percent of all Doctors had NO COLLEGE EDUCATION!

The three leading causes of death were: pneumonia and influenza, tuberculosis and diarrhoea.

Two out of every 10 adults in the U.S.A. couldn’t read.

Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.



## **Worse Than Hiroshima**

Nearly everyone today knows of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945 and the ensuing loss of life. Some even label it a 'war crime' and the bombing is far more controversial today than it was at the time when it was nearly universally welcomed. Rarely mentioned, and certainly never labelled a 'war crime' is the 'conventional' raid on Tokyo on the night of 9-10 March 1945, which was far more catastrophic than the Hiroshima bombing.

The United States launched 334 B-29s loaded with 2,000 tons of incendiaries and targeted twelve square miles in which wooden housing made up, according to USAAF estimates, about 90 percent of the area. There was no military or economic target of any importance in the bombing area. The resulting firestorm covered an area of sixteen square miles; the flames could be seen 150 miles out to sea, and the air above the fire was so violent that bombers at 6,000 feet were turned over and crews had to wear oxygen masks. The official U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey concluded: "Probably more persons lost their lives by fire at Tokyo in a 6-hour period than at any time in the history of man."

About 100,000 people died, 1 million were injured, and 1 million lost their homes. The fires were so intense that people who jumped into the canals of Shitamachi to save themselves were boiled alive. The head of the USAAF sent the overall commander of the mission, General Curtis LeMay, the following message: "Congratulations. This mission shows your crews have got the guts for anything." Over the next few nights the USAAF bombed Nagoya, Osaka, and Kobe in the same manner, killing about another 100,000 people. The raids stopped only because the U.S. units in the Pacific ran out of incendiary bombs..

Source: Ponting, Clive, *Armageddon*, Sinclair Stevenson, 1995

## **The Moral Highground: Nazis 1, Allies 0**

While the technology for chemical warfare was widely available to all combatants during WWII, biological warfare required considerable development aimed at deciding what type of germs to use and then how to transmit them. The Japanese had a special facility, Unit 731, operating in Manchuria, developing biological warfare and carrying out experiments on prisoners of war and captured civilians. Some successful attempts were made to spread plague in China, and the United States captured anthrax capsules from Japanese forces on New Guinea. The British also had an active program, again using anthrax, and they heavily contaminated one Scottish island during experimental work.

The efforts of the U.S.A. dwarfed those of the British. A major program, begun before Pearl Harbor, concentrated on anthrax, botulin, and cholera and, later, brucella (enough was produced to theoretically kill the entire population of the world), rularemia, and brucellosis. A 6,000-acre production facility was built in Indiana and three large testing areas were created. By 1943 production of four-pound anthrax bombs was started, and the production facility was geared to produce one million such bombs a month, together with 275,000 botulin bombs. The British ordered 500,000 anthrax bombs from the Americans and prepared millions of cakes of linseed feed impregnated with anthrax, which it intended to drop all over Germany.

And the Nazis? Hitler didn't approve of bacteriological warfare and in early 1942 he decided that Germany would in no circumstances undertake offensive biological warfare operations, despite clear intelligence information about the British program, thus giving the Nazis, in this instance if no other, the moral highground. His instincts proved correct, for biological warfare was not used on any significant scale during the war, partly because of the fear of retaliation and the limited gains expected from its use.

Source: Ponting, Clive, *Armageddon*, Sinclair Stevenson, 1995

## **WWII Civilian Casualties**

In the 1914-1918 war, the overwhelming majority of casualties were military. Civilians, apart from those in the immediate war zone, were not killed in large numbers. In WWII, about 20 million service personnel were killed. This figure is put into perspective by the 65 million civilians killed, about 23 million forcibly deported or resettled, about 25 million refugees, and by 1945, about 60 million homeless. During the course of the war civilians were deliberately killed by both sides and the strains of war caused some societies to collapse into ethnic and religious conflict with widespread slaughter. However, the impact of the war on different societies varied enormously. Some, such as the United States, Canada, South Africa, and New Zealand, were not attacked, had no civilian casualties, and suffered very little apart from the introduction of conscription. Indeed, for the Americans the war was a time of full employment and rapidly rising living standards.

Source: Ponting, Clive, *Armageddon*, Sinclair Stevenson, 1995

## Sarcastic Police

*Here's another comic snippet from the Internet doing the e-mail rounds. Supposedly 16 actual retorts made by 16 individual police officers in the United States in reaction to comments made by drivers pulled over for alcohol and/or drug checks or speeding violations. The comments were supposedly taken off police car videos around the country. As usual with anything arriving via e-mail or taken from the Internet, take it all with a huge boulder of salt. But, true or not, exaggerated or fantasy, it is quite funny.*

- “You know, stop lights don’t come any redder than the one you just went through.”
- “Relax, the handcuffs are tight because they’re new. They’ll stretch after you wear them a while.”
- “If you take your hands off the car, I’ll make your birth certificate a worthless document.”
- “If you run, you’ll only go to jail tired.”
- “Can you run faster than 1200 feet per second? Because that’s the speed of the bullet that’ll be chasing you.”
- “You don’t know how fast you were going? I guess that means I can write anything I want to on the ticket, huh?”
- “Yes, sir, you can talk to the shift supervisor, but I don’t think it will help. Oh, did I mention that I’m the shift supervisor?”
- “Warning! You want a warning? O.K, I’m warning you not to do that again or I’ll give you another ticket.”
- “The answer to this last question will determine whether you are drunk or not. Was Mickey Mouse a cat or a dog?”
- “Fair? You want me to be fair? Listen, fair is a place where you go to ride on rides, eat cotton candy and corn dogs and step in monkey poop.”
- “Yeah, we have a quota. Two more tickets and my wife gets a toaster oven.”
- “In God we trust; all others we run through NCIC.” [National Crime Information Centre]
- “Just how big were those ‘two beers’ you say you had?”
- “No sir, we don’t have quotas anymore. We used to, but now we’re allowed to write as many tickets as we can.”
- “I’m glad to hear that the Chief (of Police) is a personal friend of yours. So you know someone who can post your bail.”
- “You didn’t think we give pretty women tickets? You’re right, we don’t... Sign here.”

## Nuptially Yours...

I recently read that love is entirely a matter of chemistry. That must be why my wife treats me like toxic waste – David Bissonette.

I have sometimes thought of marrying, and then I have thought again – Noel Coward.

When a man steals your wife, there is no better revenge than to let him keep her – Sasha Guitry.

Eight per cent of men cheat in America. The rest cheat in Europe – Jackie Mason.

Marriage is like a cage; one sees the birds outside desperate to get in, and those inside desperate to get out – Montaigne.

After marriage, husband and wife become two sides of a coin: they just can’t face each other, but still stay together – Hemant Joshi.

A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man – Lana Turner.

Marriage is a good institution, but I am not ready for an institution – Mae West.

Marriage is a three-ring circus: engagement ring, wedding ring and suffering - Anonymous.

Marriage is when a man and a woman decide to become one. The trouble starts when they try to decide which one - Anonymous.

Marriages are made in heaven, but so are thunder and lightning - Anonymous.

Do not marry a person that you know that you can live with; only marry someone that you cannot live without – Anonymous.

One was never married, and that is his hell; another is, and that is his plague – Robert Burton.

I married beneath me. All women do – Nancy Astor.

# Out & About

## Fountain Gate Secondary College

24 April 2012

## Premier's Luncheon

16 April 2012



Vic Dey with Robyn Baillieu, the Premier's wife and the daughter of Tom Jubb MM, at the Premier's Luncheon commemorating the 97th Anniversary of Anzac Day. Vic and Tom were in the same platoon in Korea.



## Anzac Day - Healsville Main St.

25 April 2012



Pedestrians look out! Dangerous speedsters Allan Murray and Peter Brooks leading the march. Special Member, James Gillman, stands directly behind them ready to intervene if they get too out of hand.



Two students from Healsville High School place a wreath at the memorial in the centre of the town.



**Vic Dei, 82**  
KOREAN WAR - 1952-53  
3rd Battalion RASSC

PEOPLE can bicker about the value

## The Herald Sun

25 April 2012, Page 9

KVAA Inc. President, Vic Dey, (pictured with great granddaughter Sienna), was interviewed by the *Herald Sun* for Anzac Day 2012. In the piece, Vic said... Oh, wait! No, it wasn't Vic Dey who was interviewed. It was a look-alike by the name of Vic Dei who, like Vic, also served in the 3rd Battalion and has a great granddaughter called Sienna. What a coincidence. You can find the section devoted to Vic Dei in the Anzac Dei edition (Wednesday 25 April) of the *Herald Sun*.

# Notices III

## 5th National Diggers' Bowls Competition 2012

An invitation to all current and ex-servicemen/women. \$10,000 in prize money.

When & Where: 11-13 September 2012, Dubbo N.S.W.  
Venues: Dubbo Railway Bowling Club & West Dubbo Bowling Club  
Cost: \$50 per player (total includes lunch each day). All proceeds go to charity.

This event is open to all current and former Defence Force personnel, making this occasion a true Diggers competition and the only one of its type in Australia. The format is of nominated triples teams, (3 bowls) comprising of 8 sections of 8 teams, with each team playing 7 games of 11 ends each over the first two days with the winner of each section (8), progressing on to the final series. The final 8 teams play a knockout series, over 15 ends, with the 1st names commencing at 9.00 am on the third day, consisting of Quarter, Semi finals and the Final. Sectional winners will be determined by Points and margins. All other teams will enter into a Consolation competition, on the third day, comprising 3 names of 10 ends each, with the winner being determined by Points and margins.

Entrants can nominate a full team or as a single or double entry and can be placed in a team. Teams can nominate under Unit/ship/company/corps/squadron/club/business or nicknames with a contact person named on the nomination form. Because of age & infirmity of some players, a fourth member (sub) can be added to a team to act as a reserve. Note: Proof of defence force service required.

A total of \$10,000 in prize money is available with 1st Prize of \$1,800, 2nd: \$1,500 3rd: \$1,200 4th: \$900 5th: \$750 6th: \$600 7th: \$500 & 8th: \$400.

**Nominations close on 7th september, 2012.**

### Enquiries & Application Forms:

Eric Chamberlain

02 6884 2044 or 02 6884 3000

[www.dubborailwaybowlingclub.com.au](http://www.dubborailwaybowlingclub.com.au)

[www.westdubbobowtineclub.com.au](http://www.westdubbobowtineclub.com.au)

Email: [ericchamberlain@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ericchamberlain@optusnet.com.au)

or

Application form from the Editor or Alan Evered

(see page 2 for contact details)

## MIA Plaque Project

The KWVA of NSW has instigated a project whereby nationally sponsored special bronze plaques, are and will be produced to commemorate the 43 Army, Navy, RAAF and RAF individual servicemen who remain on the battlefields of Korea.

If veterans or family members throughout Australia wish to have the placement and dedication of the MIA Plaque at their local War Memorial they should approach their local council in the first instance for leave to do so, then if permission is received in writing, contact Vic Dey or Bob Morris, President, KWVA of NSW Inc. Phone 02 44223333, mobile 0418867053 or e-mail: [crme@tadaust.org.au](mailto:crme@tadaust.org.au)



## KVAA Inc. Calendar of Events: July - Dec. 2012

- 25 July: Committee / General meeting
- 27 July: Korean War Cease Fire – The Shrine of Remembrance (see Page 6 for details)
- 15 August: Altona Memorial Service (see Page 6 for details)
- 19 August: St. Georges Uniting Church service at 10.30am (see Page 6 for details)
- 19 August: Brigalong Korea & Malaya/Borneo Memorial Plaque dedication service at 11am
- 29 August: Committee / General Meeting
- 26 Sept: Committee / General Meeting
- TBA Oct: RAAF Memorial Service – Point Cook (details in August *Voice*)
- 19-21 Oct: Korean War veterans reunion in Canberra
- 31 October: Committee / General meeting
- 9 Nov: Austin Health Remembrance Day service
- 11 Nov: Remembrance Day
- 28 Nov: Committee / General meeting
- 5 Dec: Christmas luncheon

General/Committee meeting and AGM are held at 10:30 am at the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre, 600 Lt. Collins Street. No meeting in December. TBA = To Be Announced.

matter and concluded that rigging wasn't likely. Even more curious, Tom Bryant's number came up three times. He quite sensibly snaffled the six packs of beer on his first two trips to the prize table but, no more plonk being on offer, had to settle for a wrapped gift on his third. Hope you liked the papier-mâché doilies, Tom.

Some more highlights: Kim Dong-Up, one of our Korean Korea War veterans, winner of the Early Renewal of Subscription raffle was presented with a cheque by Vic Dey and promptly returned it to Vic as a donation to the KVAA Inc. Many thanks. Oh, and Vic Dey turned 82. Everyone was having such a good time that they forgot to sing Happy Birthday. Vic was so distraught at this omission that for the rest of the day he sat in the corner weeping. [Editor - his might be an ever so slight exaggeration. Last I saw of him he was standing near the bar with a beer in hand laughing. Drowning his sorrows, I guess.]



The son, granddaughter, and two great grandchildren of the late Ted Mosely.

Ted Mosely's great granddaughter, Violet, hasn't quite got the hang of how medals should be worn, but she's so damn cute and enthusiastic that we'll forgive her.



Arthur Slee and son, Greg



Three of the younger Cadets puzzling over one of the raffle prizes.

## KVAA Inc. Positions 2012-13

All KVAA Inc. office bearers of 2011-2012 re-nominated for their position and were returned unopposed. Not a big surprise. For those who were members of the KVAA's predecessor organisation, the KVA, here's a bit of nostalgia for you in the form of the 1987-1988 officer bearers list:

**President:** Frank Connelly

**Senior Vice President:** Eric Roberts†

**Junior Vice President:** Jack Philpot

**Secretary:** Joe Prendergast†

**Assistant Secretary:** Bruce McCulloch†

**Treasurer:** Stan Gallop

**Assistant Treasurer:** Denis Lehman

**Editor:** Joe Shields†

**Assistant Editor:** Des Guilfoyle†

**Pensions Officer:** Joe Pendergast†

**Welfare Officer:** David Irving

**Committee:** Stan Connelly, John Holford, Bill Woodyard†, Tom Hetherington†

## Farewells

Rick W. Adams, 13491, 1RAR,  
on 30 May 2012

John Britt, 46101, HMAS Murchison,  
in early June 2012

Patrick (Ron) 'Crackshot' Cullen, 3400141, 3RAR,  
on 16 May 2012

Keith Faulks, 11096, 3RAR, 1RAR  
on 15 May 2012

William J. (Bill) Field, 3400226, 3RAR,  
on 11 April 2012

Kevin G. Hogan, 3400418, 3RAR,  
in May 2012

Robert J. Kerridge, 11117, 3RAR,  
in early June 2012

Edward T. (Ted) McKenzie, 3400814, 3RAR,  
on 5 April 2012

Jim Mealing, 2400445, 3RAR,  
on 29 April 2012

Bruce Meehan, 48173, HMAS Shoalhaven,  
in early May 2012

William Slater, 3400411, 3RAR, 1RAR, 2RAR  
on 14 April 2012

Norman Tupper, 51455, 3RAR,  
on 7 December 2011

Harold D Whitehurst, 3401053, 3RAR, 2RAR  
on 12 April 2012

Joseph Wilson, 3400814, 3RAR  
on 5 April 2012

## New Army Recruit



With the U.S. armed forces stretched thin at present, the army has turned to a new breed of soldier. Meet Private Chip Munk, the Army's newest recruit and founding member of the 1st Rodent Battalion. While he and his companions lack the sheer grunt of their human comrades-in-arms, he is cheaper to maintain (paid peanuts and takes up little room), is fast, manoeuvrable, hard to hit, and although he has little body strength and firepower, he has a hell of a bite. So terrorists, beware!

## Editorial Disclaimer

Articles in *The Voice* are printed on the understanding that, unless stated, they are the original works of the contributors or authors. The editor reserves the right to reject, edit, abbreviate, rewrite or re-arrange, any item submitted for publication. The view of contributing authors are not necessarily those of the Association, the editor or publishers of *The Voice*.

## 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