

# THE VOICE

February 2013 Edition

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## Xmas Luncheon Report

1 Some things never change. Certificates and pins were awarded, the *Swing Masters* played, prizes were raffled, and Associate member, Nicole Evered, (who the Editor suspects might be related to Secretary, Alan Evered) won multiple prizes. However, given the number of tickets she bought, rigging is not suspected. Oh, and that guy with the long white beard dressed in the natty red and white outfit showed up as usual and handed out good cheer and (more importantly) lollies to everyone regardless of their position on the yearly good/bad scale.

3 Some things never change. The P.A. system spluttered, stuttered then, finally, after making a truly weird set of assorted sounds (including something like a machine gun in action) it finally died. Despite M.C. Alan Evered's best attempts to revive the contraption, it stayed that way. Rumour has it that we'll use a megaphone instead next year.

7 Some things never change. The idiot Editor of this esteemed publication, despite reminding himself to turn the ISO on his camera to a higher setting (like 800), forgot and left it at 100. For those who aren't camera savvy this is what results: every second photo is blurry. Apologies to those in every second photo. On the positive side, the subjects in every first photo came out just fine. See page 12.

10 Some things never change. We enjoyed the presence of a few special guests from interstate. This year it was Colin Berryman, our ACT delegate; John Bennett, our SA delegate, and Harry Spicer, President of the *Australian Korea Veterans Association Inc.* (and KVAA Inc.

*(continues on Page 9)*



### 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 Association 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  
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 Allen Riches  
 Arthur Roach  
 Ivan Ryan  
 Joe Shields†  
 Gerry Steacy  
 Doug Wilkie JP

†Deceased

# Directory

## Patron

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Gerry Steacy  
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## Committee

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

## Appointments

**Chaplain:** John Brownbill RFD KSJ 0418 359 085    **General Committee:** Alan McDonald  
**Pensions:** Charlie Slater 9355 7264 & Ian Donald (Welfare Office, Bentleigh RSL) 9557 4547  
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**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  
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## Correspondence

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## 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 . . . \$\_\_\_\_\_ + \$2 pp = \$\_\_\_\_\_**

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

## President's Report

My thanks to everyone for the phone calls, cards, messages and visits during my two months in hospital and rehabilitation. According to my surgeon, cardiologist and my local doctor I am on the road to a full recovery. The new (heart) valve is working well and I am feeling much better.

I must thank the Executive Committee for their work ethic during my convalescence, the Association's affairs were very well looked after and indeed nothing was left to chance. A great job extremely well done.

On Monday, 17 Dec. 2012, the new Consulate for the Republic of Korea opening took place in Melbourne. The Order of Service was: Australian National Anthem; the Korean National Anthem; introduction by Mr Sung-Sub Jung, Consul for the Republic of Korea in Melbourne; response by, his Excellency, Alex Chernov, Governor of Victoria; a speech by Mr Hae-Yun Park (Director-General, Asian & Pacific Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Trade); a toast by His Excellency, Tae-Yong Cho, Ambassador for the Republic of Korea, with a toast in response by a representative of the Honourable, Bruce Atkinson, President of the Legislative Council of Victoria.

Our Association was very well represented by Members/Wives/Widows and we thank the Korean Community for the invitations to attend this official function. It was my first outing since my sojourn in hospital and rehabilitation and I'm glad to be back in action, so to speak.

May I take this opportunity to remind everyone (if needed) that July 27th this year, will be the 60th Anniversary of the Cease Fire in Korea. I would imagine that there will be something happening, regarding this milestone, in each State. Keep alert and aware of the situation in your

## Waurn Ponds Memorial Address

Delivered by Squadron Leader Daryll Topp, 25 Nov. 2012

"Korean War Veterans, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to be here today representing the Commanding Officer of 21 Squadron and the Australian Defence Force, to commemorate the laying of the plaque dedicated to the memory of those service members who fought in the Korean War.

"In the aftermath of the Second World War, communities were still coming to terms with the devastation which that conflict had caused, and the millions it had killed. Yet only five years after the end of this war, another was to break out, and again Australia would commit its forces. It was the Korean War.

"The Korean War was a new experience in world diplomacy for Australia and Korea was a place few Australians knew about, until 1950. Australian volunteers had enthusiastically answered the call for both World Wars compelled by close ties of kinship or by the threat of actual invasion. But Korea was different. It was the first time the United Nations had been called to repel armed aggression and it was the first time Australia had responded to the call from the United Nations Security Council to honour its commitment as a member of the world organisation.

"Australia sent 17,164 men and women, including around 50 nurses, serving in the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force to the Korean Peninsula, or in the waters adjacent to Korea. During the conflict and after the ceasefire, between 27 June 1950 and 19 April 1956; Australian casualties numbered over 1,500, including 340 dead and 43 whom to this day remain listed as missing in action.

"The United Nations losses amounted to more than 36,000, most of whom were US servicemen. Belgium, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Holland, the Philippines, Thailand and Turkey together lost 1,800 men; another 7,000 men were wounded, of whom most were Turks. We remember the horrendous price paid by the Korean people, military and civilian, in defence of their homeland. Since this conflict, Australia has maintained a presence, discharged by the Australian Military Attaché.

"Those of us who inherit your legacy can only imagine what it means to have served in a war, to be one of the ordinary Australians called upon to do extraordinary things. Australians like Ray Parry, who along with three mates defended an outpost against a major attack. Ray Parry's stand is featured in the Kapyong diorama at the Australian War Memorial and the citation that accompanied his Military Medal praised his 'brilliant leadership' and 'determination to hold vital ground' as being directly responsible for 'thoroughly disorganising the enemy'.



Sqn. Ldr. Daryll Topp

"Or the nurses who put their hand up to go to war zones, like Nell Espie who was one of the first women to become a career military nurse and who not only served in Korea, but Malaya and Vietnam as well. Or prisoner of war Private Robert Parker who, when captured, said

*(continues on Page 4)*



that despite being terrified, he put up his hands and smiled at them. He was listed as missing in action and for seven months his family did not know where he was. He said ‘the thing that kept me going was thinking about getting home one day’.

“Time and time again when we hear these stories of fortitude and courage, there is a common purpose. Mateship has been an overriding theme throughout ANZAC history and the Korean War was no exception. Stories of men risking their lives for their mates, of great camaraderie, not just within their own ranks but with allied troops, particularly with our ANZAC brothers from New Zealand.

“Australia’s involvement in the Korean War won much praise from other nations. Awards and decorations given to Australians during the war totalled 615, while awards given to Australians by other countries number 173. Australia also gained many political and security benefits, the most important being the signing of the ANZUS Treaty with the United States and New Zealand.

“The end of the Korean war came with the signing of an armistice on 27 July 1953, three years and one month after the war began. The ending was so sudden that some soldiers had to be convinced that it really was over. The cost of the war in Korea was immense, particularly for its people. The attempt by the Communist North to unite Korea under its rule had been stopped, it had been one of the bloodiest wars of the century, nearly four million Korean and Chinese soldiers and civilians also lost their lives in this conflict.

“There is a feeling among Australian Veterans of Korea that their war experience was forgotten, either lost in the aftermath of the Second World War or muddled with the beginnings of the Vietnam War. I would like to share a quote with you from Sergeant (later Air Vice Marshal) Bill Collings, RAAF. “No one knew I was home from Korea. ‘What are those medals for?’ They just didn’t have a clue, really.”

“At last the sacrifices of that conflict have been commemorated and I am sure you will agree that this memorial is a fitting tribute to all the men and women who served in Korea. I would like to finish with a poem written by Private P.J. ‘Banjo’ Paterson, 1RAR, who wrote about leaving Korea, echoing the feelings of many Australian veterans of Korea:

*To the Boys we leave behind us  
So long, Digger  
We’re off to Aussie, Feller,  
And we hate to leave you here.  
Gawd, we didn’t think we’d part like this  
When we started out last year.  
Remember the march through Sydney?  
We were really glad that day.  
We were “going to Korea”  
And it had to end this way.  
And the days we spent on the Devonshire  
Our first long voyage by ship -  
We laughed and joked, not dreaming  
That this was your ‘one-way trip’.  
It’s still hard to believe that it’s happened  
That you’ll march with us no more  
That you’ve ‘grounded Arms’ forever,  
And have fought your last cruel war.  
Yes, we’re going back to Aussie, Mate.  
And we’re going to march again.  
And we’ll try to make it a better place,  
So you won’t have died in vain.  
And while the band is playing  
Our marches, old and new,  
We’ll swing along there proudly,  
Knowing you are marching too,  
Yes, you’ll always march beside us,  
And when our time is through  
We’ll muster on that “Last Parade”  
To march again with you.*



Jan Austin, niece of No.77 Squadron pilot, Sergeant Peter Chalmers, who disappeared during air operations in Korean in March 1953.



Korea War veterans (l-r) Arthur Roach, Ray Everett, Laurie Price

## A Trawler Goes to War

Two hundred miles west-south-west of the Canary Islands the Atlantic rollers surge endlessly eastward towards the African shore. In October 1941, these were dangerous waters infested by German U-boats ever watching and waiting for the helpless merchantman. Among them was *U111*, a submarine of 750 tons, measuring some 245 feet in length, and capable of exceeding 18 knots on the surface. She was commanded by Wilhelm Kleinschmidt, an experienced underwater sailor with a crew of fifty-one.

The morning of Saturday, October 4, 1941, dawned bright and clear, with little wind and a long low swell. *U111* lay on the surface, her crew enjoying the early morning sun. The sea, as far as the eye could see, was empty, but unknown to Kleinschmidt, beyond his gaze as he scanned the horizon, sailed the U-boat's nemesis.

At 0820 on that October morning, Lieutenant-Commander Arthur H. Callaway, (RANVR), commanding H.M. Trawler *Lady Shirley*, was scanning those same Atlantic wastes of water when he sighted what he thought might be the funnel of a ship. Suspecting, however, that it could be the conning tower of a submarine, he turned his ship to investigate.

Meanwhile, Kleinschmidt had sighted smoke from *Lady Shirley's* funnel, and though not alarmed, decided to dive.

More than one hour and a half passed until Commander Callaway's patience was suddenly rewarded by an unmistakable contact. A pattern of depth charges was dropped, none of which damaged *U111*, but they certainly disturbed her crew.

Kleinschmidt decided to surface, and barely had the rumble of the exploding canisters died away before the crew of *Lady Shirley* sighted the periscope rising from the depths.

Callaway swung his ship hard aport to bring his single 4-inch gun to bear, and as the conning tower slowly emerged, his gun crew opened fire at 500 yards range.

The Germans, running along the submarines deck to man the forward 4.1 inch gun, were sprayed with machine-gun fire and either killed or driven back. The survivors, however, opened fire with a machine gun and killed the gun-layer in *Lady Shirley*, whose place was taken by Sub-Lieutenant F. F. French, R.N.R. who scored three hits in rapid succession. The casualties in the submarine increased with every hit and her captain fell mortally wounded.

Fire from *U111* died away, and Callaway moved his ship forward to run alongside her and as he did so the surviving Germans held up their hands in a token of surrender. The U-boat, badly damaged and sinking by the stern, was ordered abandoned by the senior surviving officer. Forty-five Germans were taken from the water, one of whom was moved to comment: "We were bigger than you," he said, "we could see you, but you couldn't see us, but yet YOU beat us."

On October 14, 1941, Lieutenant-Commander Callaway was awarded the D.S.O. – "For great daring and skill in a brilliant action against a U-Boat." Unfortunately Callaway and his gallant crew did not long survive their triumph. On December 11, *Lady Shirley* herself fell victim to a U-boat in the Straits of Gibraltar. There were no survivors.

Source: *Navy News* Vol.2 No.1 1st January 1959



"Ok! Sailor! . . . Get in there and break 'em up!"



"I think it is something to do with his religion, sir."

# Notices

## RAAF Intelligence Officers

Seeking all past RAAF intelligence Officers to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the intelligence category in the RAAF. A function is in the planning stages for September next year in Canberra. To support this celebration I am creating a list of past officers, as well as tracing the history of Intelligence in the RAAF since 1921. Contact Wing Commander David Glerean at david.glerean@defence.gov.au or (02) 6127 5954.

## No. 157 Recruit Training Course

Seeking surviving members of No. 157 Recruit Training Course, Richmond RAAF Base sept.-Dec. 1950. The drill instructor was Corporal Jimmy Carter (not the U.S. President). Contact Dave Neilen on (02) 6241 1245.

## Goldcard Travel Limitations

Your DVA Gold Card provides financial coverage for clinically appropriate treatment within Australia. For card holders travelling overseas, the Department can only provide assistance for treatment related to you accepted disabilities.

Gold Card holders with no war-caused injuries and war widows are not covered by the DVA for any treatment while travelling overseas. It is your responsibility, as the card holder, to take out the appropriate insurance while travelling abroad. This could save you thousands of dollars should you become unwell during your venture.

The DVA has seen an increasing number of instances in recent months where card holders have become unwell abroad, have received treatment without travel insurance, and have been disappointed when the DVA has been unable to reimburse their costs upon returning home.

Gold and White Card Holders should contact the Department prior to any overseas travel, just to be sure they know what medical treatments and services the DVA will reimburse. Contact the DVA on 133 254 or from regional Australia free call 1800 555 254

## Talks & Events at the Shrine of Remembrance

*Bookings are essential for all talks. All talks: 5.30pm arrival for a 6pm start. Gold coin donation.*

### Behind Barbed Wire: POW and Internment Camps In Victoria 1939-45

**When: Wednesday 27 February / Presenters: Tim Whitford and John Gribben**

During the Second World War, thousands of Prisoners of War, 'enemy aliens' and Australians of German, Japanese and Italian descent found themselves imprisoned inside a huge POW/Internment Camp complex in farmland in Victoria's Goulburn Valley. John and Tim talk about this little-known aspect of Australian history.

### Valour Recognised

**When: Wednesday 13 March / Presenter: Peter Burness**

Peter Burness will discuss bravery in battle, with a special look at Australians' experiences in the First World War. He will also discuss the various honours and awards that have recognised special acts of bravery.

### Escape and Evasion in Enemy-Occupied Crete 1941-43

**When: Thursday 28 March / Presenter: Ian Frazer**

In the Battle of Crete, May 1941, the 2/7th Australian Infantry Battalion, fought with much honour, including a last-ditch stand at '42nd Street' in the final days of the battle. Fighting in the rear-guard, they were denied evacuation at the last minute and forced to capitulate. Large numbers went on the run as evaders and escapers; many more were rescued by the British Secret Services. This story is not well-known yet it is another outstanding chapter in the Battalion's history.

### Price of Valour

**When: Wednesday 3 April / Presenter: Professor John Hamilton**

When Hugo Throssell joined the 10th Light Horse regiment during the First World War, he was emblematic of the Australian nation at that time: full of youth, vigour, courage and idealism. These traits were to see him awarded a Victoria Cross after the savage fighting for Hill 60 during the Gallipoli campaign. Badly wounded in action, Throssell was sent to England to recover. But that was only the beginning of his story.

### Gallipoli From Above: The Untold Story

**When: Wednesday 17 April / Presenter: Wain Fimeri**

It is nearly 100 years since the landing at Gallipoli and hundreds of books, movies and documentaries have failed to grasp the significance of the Anzac achievement. This one-hour documentary overturns many of the myths about the Gallipoli landing; that the Australians landed at dawn, on the wrong beach, with little knowledge of the Turkish defences and they were led by incompetent British officers. In fact nothing could be further from the truth. Join writer and director, Wain Fimeri for this documentary screening.

# A Most Remarkable Man

by Ian Haverfield

I first met Harold Giddens in Brisbane in 1950 where we both enlisted in K force to go to Korea. One day we were on leave when he got into a fight in a hotel in Queen Street. The chap he was fighting was much bigger than Harold. The chap knocked him down about 5 times, he kept getting up and the chap said "I give up" and we went back into the hotel and drank together.

Harold was taken P.O.W. in Greece in WWII. He was taken to a prison camp in Germany, where he escaped three times, twice he was caught, the third time he got to Russia where he said he was treated worse than the Germans. He got away from Russia and into Poland. He met a girl in Poland who kept him in hiding for nine months.

When the allies invaded France he left Poland and got right through Germany and met up with the Americans advancing through Europe. He was taken to a hospital in Scotland where he spent six months. Whilst he was there he met a nurse and later married her.

We were in the same platoon in Korea. During the Kapyong battle the American Air force mistakenly Napalm bombed our platoon. Harold took most of the flames and had the most horrible burns to almost 100% of his body. Later when he stood up, sticks and stones went right through his feet, he was like a piece of charcoal. Because of our position in the front line and surrounded by the enemy it was impossible to evacuate him immediately.

Later during our orderly withdrawal he was carried on a stretcher, and not complaining at all. The only thing he was asking for all the time was water, which because of his condition, we could not give him. He was taken to the Kure hospital where they had to turn off every light in the ward at night because his eyelids were burnt off His hands had lost most the ends of the fingers, his face was burnt off, he was unrecognizable. The whole of his body, black charcoal, he was not expected to live. He was later transferred to Heidelberg Hospital where he must have had almost one hundred operations over the next few years.

I had not seen him for a few years, but I had heard that he was driving for a wealthy family in Toorak. Seven years after he was burnt I was going to the dawn service at the shrine with my father and rang for a taxi. Lo and behold the taxi driver who came to the door was Harold; I looked at him and said "Harold Giddens." He was almost in tears because I recognised him. The doctors had rebuilt his face over those seven years and he was so wrapped that an old friend had recognised him." He wanted to leave his cab and come with us, but my father did not agree, because he would lose his job, and in his condition it would be hard to get another job.

While he was going through all these operations his wife left him. I did not see him again but was able to hear about him through the boys in our battalion. Some years later he disappeared from sight. The next we heard of him was in the death notices in the paper. We found out later that he had remarried and moved to Bacchus Marsh, where he finally died of old age in 1998.

He was not big in stature, but very big in heart.

First published in *The Voice* 2002

# Lili Marlene

One of the truly unique folk phenomena of the WWII was a song about a woman who waited outside the barracks for her lover, who was somewhere else. Based on a poem written in 1917 by Hans Leip, one of the Kaiser's riflemen, *Lilli Marlene* was several times set to music between the wars, all with little success.

In early 1938 Norbert Schultze, a composer, tried his hand at writing music for it, and his version was recorded in 1939 by Lale Anderson, a mildly popular night club entertainer. It was an immediate flop.

Two years later, a copy of *Lili Marlene* was included in a batch of recordings sent to Belgrade, where the Germans were setting up a radio station. It was first broadcast on the evening of 18 August 1941, and it became an instant favorite with the battle-weary men of the Afrika Korps, languishing in trenches and desert camps before Tobruk and Halfaya.

Within a few months, Lale Anderson received over a million letters from soldiers and their families. Thereafter, regardless of how often it was played at other times or by other stations, Radio Belgrade broadcast it at 9:55 p.m. each evening – just before sign-off – for virtually every night of the next three years.

The song's popularity did not long remain confined to the Afrika Korps. The Italians picked it up from their German comrades, who also introduced it to the folks back home. The British and other Allied forces picked it up from Axis prisoners-of-war. It was soon translated into over a score of languages.

Its popularity survived its war. Recorded some dozens of times, it provided a modest royalty of several thousands of dollars for Schultze – who ended his days as a successful composer of musicals – into the early 1970s. For the "men who marched where the desert sands are burning," the song remains a most positive memory of their war.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 87



## Notices II

### MIA Plaque Dedication

When: Sunday 24th February 2013 at 12 noon

Where: Cheltenham - Moorabbin RSL Sub Branch

289-293 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham. (Melways Map Ref. 87 F2)

The Ceremony commemorates the Dedication of the Bronze Plaque that records the names of the remaining 43 Missing-In-Action Australian Servicemen from the Korean War. The Plaque will be placed in the special Korean War section of the Cheltenham Memorial Gardens situated behind the RSL Club. The ceremony is being organised by the Cheltenham-Moorabbin RSL Sub Branch. All welcome.

### Travelling to Gallipoli or France for Anzac Day 2013?

Attending an Anzac Day Dawn Service in Gallipoli or France is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but it is important to come prepared. Register online to receive helpful information and tips on what to expect, what to bring and other useful updates including important travel information on 25 April 2013. The service is optional and people can still attend Anzac Day commemorations if they have not registered. For more information or to register for either service, visit [www.dva.gov.au/anzac](http://www.dva.gov.au/anzac)

### New Claimants

I am writing to bring you up to date with a number initiatives that the Department of Veterans' Affairs has been undertaking to communicate with veterans, members and dependants who lodge a claim under VEA, MRCA and/or SRCA legislation for compensation or income support. On receipt of a new claim, a DVA officer will now telephone the veteran, member or dependant to establish an "open door" relationship. This will assist in improving communication with our clients, ensuring they receive all necessary information about their claim in a timely way. The officer will also discuss expectations about the length of time it takes to determine a claim, the likely milestones, any possible delays and provide a point of contact for the client. This process will be further enhanced by putting in place open forums that will be offered to all veterans, members, dependants and their advocates who lodge a new claim. The forum's objective will be to improve our clients' understanding of the claim process. I can assure you that any correspondence about the investigation of the claim will continue to be through the nominated representatives, as per the existing procedures.

Jennifer Collins (Deputy Commissioner NSW & ACT)

### Appointment

Congratulations to Olwyn Green on her appointment in June 2012 to the NSW Anzac Centenary Advisory Council, the inaugural meeting of which was held at Parliament House. Olwyn was also selected as one of 25 community leaders to act as Anzac Centenary Ambassadors.

### KVAA Inc. Calendar of Events: February - June 2013

Sunday 24 February:	Cheltenham RSL MIA Plaque Dedication (see notice above)
Wednesday 27 February:	Committee / General Meeting
TBA March:	Bairnsdale RSL MIA Plaque Dedication
Wednesday 27 March:	Committee and Annual General Meeting (BBQ After meeting)
Thursday 11 April:	<i>Voice</i> mail out (10.30 Ringwood RSL)
Wednesday 17 April:	Committee / General Meeting [Note: held on 3rd Wednesday due to Anzac Day]
Friday 19 April:	Premier of Victoria's Luncheon
TBA April:	Fountain Gate Secondary College Anzac Day Service
20-26 April:	Korea Revisit 2013
Wednesday 24 April:	Kapyong Commemoration Bairnsdale RSL at 11am in Beaufort Gardens
Thursday 25 April:	Anzac Day parade then reunion at Stella Maris Seafarers Centre
Friday 24 May:	Austin Health Veterans Day
Wednesday 29 May:	Committee / General Meeting
Thursday 13 June:	<i>Voice</i> mail out (10.30 Ringwood RSL)
Sunday 23 June:	Korean Church Service
Wednesday 26 June:	Committee / General Meeting

General/Committee meeting are held at 10:30 am at the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre, 600 Lt. Collins Street.  
TBA = To Be Announced.



## Sunshine Coast Xmas Lunch

The KVAA Inc. here in Melbourne wasn't the only Korea War veterans group having a seasonal get-together. The photos below of the KVA Sunshine Coast Inc. in the park at Caloundra come compliments of Peter Renton.



(l-r) Bill Bailey, Ted Baldwin, Kevin Reeves



(front) Joanna and Donald Nutting, and (back) Frank Cannon and Ted Baldwin



(l-r) Mary Smith, Ted Parkinson and Margaret Eade

## Ken's Personal Museum

Ken Beecham of Bundaberg in Queensland and member of the KVAA Inc. is an avid accumulator of photos and memorabilia, his collection filling his house and large back shed to the extent that it is now more a museum than residence. Photos via Peter Renton.



*Xmas Luncheon Report (continued from Page 1)*

member). Harry Spicer brought with him an even more welcome guest. See page 13.

Some things never change. A lot of alcohol was consumed and the 130 odd (some very odd) guests who attended the KVAA Inc. Xmas Luncheon at *Batman on Collins* seem to enjoy themselves regardless of the mayhem going on around them. The consumption of the alcohol and the enjoyment may or may not be coincidental.

## Donations 2012

To all members of the KVAA Inc. who have so generously donated funds to the Association from across Australia and overseas, a sincere thank you to each and every one of you. It proves the Association's strength is solid, and that comradeship with the ranks remains equal to that forged during the Korean War. May we all grow stronger as the year progresses. (Gerry Steacy, Treasurer, KVAA Inc.)

June Adams	Walter Collins	Albert Gosch	Brian Kimmins	Keith Payne	Graeme Stewart
Maxwell Airey	Clem Conlan	Heddel Green	Ronald Land	Dawn Pennington	James Studd
Allan Anderson	Graham Connor	Ronald Green	John Langridge	Joseph Phillips	John Suttie
Merv Andre	Kenneth Costley	Anthony Guest	George Leech	Stanley Phillip	John Taylor
Keith Arkinstall	Robert Coucaud	Maureen Guilfoyle	Denis Lehmann	Jack Philpot	John Thompson
Bruce Askew	Peter Cox	Rex Hanney	Norman Lewis	John Poole	Norman Thornton
Ronald Attrill	William Crump	Harold Harman	Michael Littleton	Harry Pooley	Nell Thwaites
Reginald Attwill	Ernest Cutts	Kevin Hatfield	John Lord	William Prentice	John Trembath
Robbie Auhl	Donald Daniels	Kenneth Hayes	Terence Mackaway	Laurie Price	Roy Underwood
Shirley Baldwin	Kenneth Darkin	John Hazleton	Ray Maley	Lindsay Rainbow	Diane Wadsworth
Ivan Beckett	Arthur Davies	Mervyn Heath	Cecil Malone	Alan Reekie	Brian Wallace
Keith Bell	Victor Dey	Ernest Hebbard	Bartley Marley	Edward Richards	Clarence Walker
Sydney Bennett	Gordon Dickson	Brian Heweston	Gwen Martin	Ronald Ridley	Karen Walsh
Ronald Benton	Alexander Donald	Stanley Hislop	John E. Mathews	Donald Ridgway	Michael Ward
Colin Berryman	Kim Dong-Up	Milton Hoe	Ralph Mayer	Noel Riley	Annabel Watson
Gordon Bidgood	Charles Donnolly	Kevin Hogan	Alan McGowan	Donald Robertson	Peter Webb
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William Boswell	John Duson	Barbara Hortle	John Miller	Ivan Ryan	Lloyd Williams
Jim Boxshall	Valda Dyke	Lawrence Hubbard	Mark Mitchell	Joan Ryan	Shirley Williams
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## The Tsar and the Kaiser

### (A Case Study In Royal Diplomacy)

Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (1861-1948) was a rather inept, unpleasant character who became Prince of Bulgaria in 1887 through the machinations of European power politics. In 1908 Ferdinand declared Bulgaria independent of the Ottoman Empire and himself "Tsar," or emperor. Ferdinand had many peculiarities. He once procured the purported regalia of a Byzantine Emperor from a theatrical supplier, which he kept in a trunk towards the day when he would "liberate" Constantinople and restore the empire. His assumption of the imperial dignity antagonized a number of people, most notably Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, his ally and protector, and King George I of Greece, who also had his eye on the Byzantine throne.

Needless to say, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany had his opinion about Ferdinand as well, as he did about virtually everything in the universe. As far as Wilhelm was concerned Ferdinand was a fat upstart and a buffoon to boot. As it turned out, the Kaiser's views got him into trouble, not for the first time.

In 1909, Ferdinand paid a visit to Berlin with the intention of signing an agreement to re-equip the Bulgarian artillery exclusively with Krupp guns. The Kaiser was, of course, obliged to pay him the courtesies due a reigning monarch, inviting him to a banquet at Potsdam. During the festivities, Ferdinand – who was an amateur gardener and ornithologist – leaned out an open window to admire the garden, with its many beautiful flowers and birds. He thus exposed his rather ample bottom. The Kaiser, who generally behaved more like an adolescent than an Hohenzollern, couldn't resist the opportunity. He delivered a sharp smack to Ferdinand's fundament. As Wilhelm and his toadies let out hearty guffaws, Ferdinand spun around in a rage and demanded an apology. Still laughing, the Kaiser replied that none was in order for a good joke. At that, Ferdinand left the palace without a word of farewell and was soon heading for home. Not long after, the French firm of Schneider-Creuzot concluded a deal to supply artillery to the Bulgarian Army.

Source: Strategy & Tactics magazine No. 108



## “Relaxing” on Hill 159

by Alexander “Alec” Bates



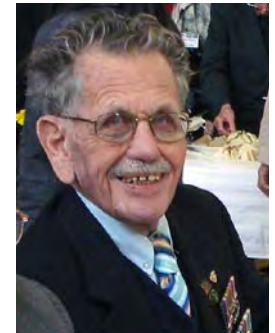
Some would say our sense of humour was a bit bizarre, but it helped us through tough times. The above photo was taken sometime in October 1952 on Hill 159 on the edge of a real trench. [Editor’s note: that’s the author on the left. His comrade, Ron Shenton, is reading the paper]. As there was a tank and a machine gun section on top, and a 3” mortar platoon behind the hill, the chows shelled the hill regularly, trying to knock them out, and making life very uncomfortable for us.

Not long after this photo was taken, some shells landed on the hill. Ron and I quickly slid down to the bottom of the trench, right on top of a bloke who was there cleaning his Bren gun! We sorted ourselves, and at the same time he was calling us for everything, and then he looked up. There was dust and smoke and the noise of exploding shells, and he said, “I don’t know what I’m going on about,” and started to laugh. This started us off. There the three of us were, in the bottom of the trench, covered in dust, laughing our heads off, when another bloke came along, stopped, shook his head. “You blokes are due for the looney bin! he said and went on his way. But that didn’t stop us; it gave us more to laugh at!

## “Dusty” Then & Now



Carol Bates, the daughter of Korea War veteran Alec Bates, sent us this photo taken in 1952 of a group of soldiers on leave, probably in Seoul or Japan. Instantly recognisable on the left to those who know him, even after 60 years, is the KVAA’s own John “Dusty” Miller. The other three soldiers are labelled as a “kiwi”, Ron “Bowman” Shenton and “Chufor”.



“Dusty” Miller in 2011

## Ron Christie vs the Editor



Ron Christie

Old sailor, HMAS *Sydney* veteran, and KVAA Committeeman, Ron Christie, sent me an indignant e-mail in December suggesting that I had made a grievous error in the piece, *HMAS Sydney: From Hero...to Zero*. Apparently I stated that HMAS *Sydney*’s squadrons when it went into action in September 1951 were 806 (Sea Furies), 808 (Sea Furies) and 817 (Fireflies). In fact, according to Ron, it was 805 (not 806) squadron, though it was equipped with Fireflies (the plane, not the insect).

So who is right, Ron Christie or the Editor?

Well, Ron, of course. While typing the piece the Editor’s fingers hit the ‘6’ rather than the required ‘5’ and he never noticed the mistake. But Ron did and dutifully pointed it out. Thanks Ron (grrrr!). Apologies to any surviving member of 805 squadron for the mistake, and commiserations to any surviving members of 806 squadron. Better luck next time.



The Editor  
(a good likeness)

## The Landlubber

To refer to people as landlubbers is taken to express sailors’ contempt for those not at home at sea. Their love of the land made them long to be back on shore. This explanation misinterprets the ‘lubber’ to mean a ‘lover’. However, there is no relationship between the two. From Scandinavian, ‘lubber’ describes a ‘clumsy’ sort of person who, lacking experience, is good for nothing and would be as awkward and incapable on land as at sea.

Source: *Mistakes, Misnomers and Misconceptions* by Rudolph Brasch, Angus & Robertson 1993



# Xmas Luncheon Photos

Batmans on Collins, 5 December 2012





# More From the Xmas Luncheon...

## It Grows With Each Telling...



12:15 pm. ...and the fish I caught was this big.



1:05 pm. ...and I swear, Santa, the fish was this big.



2:05 pm. ...the fish was enormous. Around this big.

## The Elf Mystery Solved...Sort Of.



Gerry Steacy confronts his inanely smiling doppelgänger.

For many years now, Santa has paid us a visit during the Xmas luncheon accompanied by the world's tallest elf. More than one of us has noticed that said elf bears a remarkable resemblance to our esteemed treasurer, Gerry Steacy. That said elf and said treasurer have never been seen together in the same room, that one vanishes when the other arrives, has fuelled speculation that the tall elf and tall treasurer are one and the same individual.

Well, maybe not.

The Editor was present with camera and got off a quick shot when Gerry managed to corner the elf during the December 2012 luncheon. The elf, smiling inanely, refused to answer any questions as to who he was and quickly skipped off to rejoin Santa for the trip back to the North Pole.

## Santa's Amazing Diet Tips.



Santa, 2010



Santa, 2012

The new slim-line appearance of Santa at the Xmas luncheon didn't escape notice. Santa seemed younger and fitter; almost like he was a different man. The Editor managed to have a quick word with him and asked for his diet tips. The following is a verbatim account of what the red-and-white clad gent said as he rushed off to his next venue:

"Well, ho ho ho, bless me. It is quite simple. Instead of sitting in the sleigh I get out and jog besides it. This always gives Rudolph and the boys a good laugh and they always seem to speed up a little. At every house at which food is laid out for me, I now have only **one** mince pie or biscuit instead of downing the lot. Oh, and no more eggnog and only low-fat milk for me. Merry Christmas to you all."

## The Perks of the Position



One of the special guests attending the luncheon was Harry Spicer, President of the Australian Korea Veterans Association Inc. It seems that one of the perks of being President of the AKVA is that you get to travel interstate with your very own personal glamorous Swedish masseuse (pictured, in action). Let's hope our President doesn't hear about it else he'll want one too!

## And finally...



Not everyone was happy to see the Xmas elf.

## A Letter From Daehee Ahn

Dear Korean War Veterans,

Greetings from Colonel Daehee Ahn, the Defence Attaché of the Republic of Korea.

I hope you are all keeping well! It has been a while since I was in touch. Indeed, I've been a little busy lying down on the couch and reading books during the Christmas holiday. It was the most peaceful holiday ever in my life and I really enjoyed it.

I am writing this letter to deliver a news that now the Korean Government would like to express condolences to deceased Korean War Veterans.

If you get informed of any decease of Korean War Veterans, please send me an e-mail with the following details.

- Name
- Funeral Service Day
- Address where a funeral wreath can be delivered to

Although it is another small plan by the Korean Government, I hope this can help consoling his beloved family and friends.

Thank you for your assistance and I wish you good health. Yours sincerely,

Colonel Daehee Ahn,  
Defence Attaché,  
Embassy of the Republic of Korea  
4 February 2013

This a very important and generous act by the ROK Government. Our secretary, Alan Evered, suggests that members co-ordinate responses to this request with him.

### *Hello Minister . . . About the revised new warship design*



## Editorial Disclaimer

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## Farewells

Ivan S **Beckett**, 51433, 1RAR in December 2012

Roy Thomas **Brennan**, 5249, 3RAR on 6 Aug. 2012

Edith 'Dita' **Gamble** (nee Martin), VKM2583, nurse/pharmacist on 26 January 2013

John **George** OAM, 31446, HMAS *Sydney*, on 10 October 2012.

National President, KSEAFSA

Ian M. **Haverfield**, 1400100, 3RAR in June 2012

David John **Fitzgerald**, 1400080, 3RAR on 21 December 2012

John W. **Higgins**, 25707, 3RAR on 22 August 2012

Colin William **Hill**, 1451, 3RAR on 17 August 2012

Lawrence W **Kent**, 4786, 3RAR in November 2012

Patrick F. **Kent**, 4977, 1RAR on 2 August 2012

John Hillary **Knight**, 27024, 3RAR on 18 July 2012

Eric **Lawther**, 22865, 3RAR, 2RAR, 1RAR on 7 September 2012

Russell D. **Lloyd**, MC OBE, 57015, 3RAR Korea, AATTV 1969-1970 on 21 November 2012  
Patron of AATTV Association

Rene J. **Lemercier**, 2493, 3RAR on 1 Sept. 2012

Francis Ernest **McLauchlan**, 2401502, 3RAR on 21 July 2012

Donald H. **Mulley**, 25194, 3RAR on 9 Oct. 2012

Edward J. **Richards**, 6308, in June 2012  
HQ, Australian Forces in Korea Maintenance Area & 16th British Commonwealth Infantry Workshop

Henry Charles **Smith**, 6858, 3RAR on 28 Aug. 2012

Barry J. **Sullivan**, 22424, 3RAR (Korea & Malaya), AATTV 7th US Army Special Forces Group (Green Berets) Khe Sanh, Vietnam on 15 October 2012

Maj. Gen. Alan Bishop **Stretton**, AO CBE, 3324, HQ 28th British Commonwealth Infantry Brigade (Korea 1954-1955), CO 2RAR Malaya 1961-1963, Chief of Staff AFV 1969-70 on 26 October 2012

John M. **Thompson**, 31944, 3RAR on 22 Nov. 2012

## 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