

# THE VOICE

June 2014 Edition

## Contents:

Anzac Day Report	1
Life Members	2
Directory	2
Merchandise Available	2
President's Report	3
Commemorating Kapyong	3
Notices	4
Prelude to Inchon	5
Almost Sunk	6
HMAS Perth vs The Luftwaffe	7
Dangerous Training	7
KVAA Inc. Calendar of Events	7
Skyhook Warfare	7
Humour	8
Naval War in the Pacific	9
Anzac Day 2014 Photos	11
Evered Out & About	13
Happy Anniversary To Us	13
Korea Festival 2014	14
Track or Trail?	14
Editorial Disclaimer	14
The Ode	14
Farewells	14

## Anzac Day Report

The WWI veterans are no more and those from WWII and Korea a remnant of their former numbers. With the slow but inevitable decrease in veterans capable of marching each year, you would think Anzac Day would have faded by now from public consciousness, relegated to the Dawn Service and little more. Instead it has morphed into something approaching a family day, as evidenced by the number of family members marching behind the Korea Veterans banner this year. They outnumbered the actual marching veterans by around 4 to 1.

An example of this is the attendance of the daughter and granddaughter of Anzac Day stalwart, Richard Welsby who, sadly, never made it to this year's parade. And there is the extensive family of Ted Moseley, somewhat diminished this year due to split commitments, which led to the absence of Ted's great-granddaughter, Violet, our 'cover girl' for the last two Anzac Day editions of *The Voice*.



As usual, the day was not without drama. Expecting the usual late start, everyone was caught by surprise when we got underway at five past 11, just 20 minutes after our scheduled jump of time instead of the usual forty minutes.

The absence of the bus to bring the marchers back to the Stella Maris is becoming an annoying 'tradition' that no one needs. Many thanks to the staff of the Stella Maris for their 'rescue' operation.

Vice President of the KVAA, Tom Parkinson, made his own way back via tram and, not realising that the route had altered since the last march, found himself having to walk to the Stella Maris from Docklands. As Tom was our scheduled MC, John Munro took over the announcing duties until the peripatetic Vice President arrived. The Editor was offered the job and may have taken it had he not been busy panicking over the mysterious absence of the flags and banner.

Both Tom and the flags eventually showed up

*(continues on Page 9)*

In the absence of our usual Anzac Day 'poster girl', may I present Laura, in slouch hat and holding a khaki-clad battle bear.

### 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  
 Allen Riches  
 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

## National President

Victor Dey OAM

Phone: 03 946 72750 / Mobile: 040 987 8864

Email: blueydey@bigpond.net.au

## National Vice-President

Tom Parkinson 03 9350 6608

## National Secretary

John Moller AOM JP

Phone: 03 9589 3816

Email: secretary@kvaas.org.au

## Treasurer

Gerry Steacy

Phone: 03 9741 3356

Email: steacy32@bigpond.com

## Committee

Ron Christie, John Duson, Alan Evered, Ron Kennedy, Allen Riches, Arthur Roach, Don Scally

## 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

**Veterans' Affairs:** Don Scally 03 9870 7128

**Editor:** Geoff Guilfoyle    Phone: 03 59976240    Email: editor@kvaas.org.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 and Kelly Frawley (Kilcoy) 07 5497 1790

**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.kvaas.org.au

## Merchandise Available

KVAA pocket badge	\$10.00 .....	\$	Kapypong battle print	\$ 6.00 .....	\$
KVAA lapel badge (undated)	\$10.00 .....	\$	The Hook 1953 battle print	\$ 6.00 .....	\$
KVAA lapel badge (1950-57)	\$ 5.00 .....	\$	RAN silk print: Ships in Korea	\$15.00 .....	\$
KVAA windscreen decal	\$ 5.00 .....	\$	Tie (with KVAA Inc. logo)	\$20.00 .....	\$
KVAA beer (stubby) holders	\$ 5.00 .....	\$	Car number plate surrounds (set)	\$10.00 .....	\$
Korean War map (laminated)	\$ 6.00 .....	\$	Korean War bumper sticker	\$ 2.50 .....	\$
Korean War bumper sticker	\$ 2.50 .....	\$			

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

*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

On Friday 11th April, I attended a luncheon commemorating the anniversary of Anzac Day hosted by the Hon. Denis Naphthine MP, Premier of Victoria. The event saw the presentation of certificates to the winners, students from around the State, of the Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize. Great to see the young ones take so much interest.

Our adopted school, Fountain Gate Secondary College, held their annual Memorial Ceremony on April 24th. It was a very impressive Service with many notable guests including, Major General David McLachlan AO, State President of the Victorian RSL, and Cr. Geoff Ablett, Mayor the City of Casey. Many thanks to the Principal, Mrs Vicki Walters, and her staff. A great day and well organized.

The weather on Anzac Day held good for Veterans and the general public. It drew good numbers for both the march and the reunion at Stella Maris afterward. A wonderful time enjoyed by both veterans, friends and family.

The first Korean Festival held in Melbourne took place on Saturday 17th May and was presented by the Korean Consul General and the Korean Community. Starting at 11am it went through until 8pm. Some of the program schedule included a *Hanbok* fashion show displaying traditional Korean dress which started with 5-6 year olds and progressed through to the adults; a Korean classical orchestra; a martial arts display, and traditional dancing and performance, among other things, including a Korean wedding. It is proposed that the Korean Festival will become an annual event, and given the interest it generated, this may well happen.

Although May has proved unusually warm, don't count on the balmy weather lasting much longer. Time to rug up and keep the coming winter chill away.

## Commemorating Kapyong

by Nicholas Abela

*The following is a talk given by Nicholas Abela, School Captain at the St. Patrick's College in Strathfield (Concord RGH Chapel) on Saturday 12 April 2014 commemorating the April 1951 Battle of Kapyong.*

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. It is a pleasure to be here to join you this afternoon for this service. Today, we commemorate the 63rd year since the Battle of Kapyong, widely regarded as one of the finest examples of Australian military action during the Korean War.

On the night of 22 April 1951, Chinese forces launched a major offensive against United Nations forces defending the South Korean capital, Seoul, and positions further east. Next morning the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade (including the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment) was ordered to the valley of the Kapyong River about 60 kilometres north-east of Seoul, where South Korean forces were being driven back.

During a night of fierce fighting and throughout the daylight hours of 24 April the Australians and a Canadian battalion, supported by a New Zealand artillery regiment, stalled the Chinese advance before eventually withdrawing after dark. At a cost of 32 men killed, 59 wounded and three missing, the Australians had helped hold up the Chinese 60th Division and inflicted heavy casualties which totalled more than 500 killed alone. For their contribution to this action, the 3rd Battalion was awarded a US Presidential Citation.

The impact on our small nation was profound, not least because we lost so much of the future talent of our country. Current and future leaders in their fields – artists, scientists, farmers and sportsmen, beloved children and fathers – enlisted and marched straight to their deaths.

And yet, from conflict prosecuted in the pursuit of a righteous cause, some good does come.

Besides the protection of our fundamental freedom, servicemen and women are bonded together in an enduring sense of mateship, a sense of doing the right thing; a sense that no matter the deprivations, your mates will not let you down, nor you them.

Late last year, the Year 10 students from St. Patrick's College visited the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway near Concord Hospital. While there, the students were lucky enough to meet retired Australian General Peter Cosgrove. When speaking to the boys regarding Australia's military history, he described the generation of Australians who lived through the First World War, the Great Depression, the Second World War and the Korean War 'as the greatest generation of Australians ever'. Today, we honour the sacrifices of this great generation of Australians with gratitude and with thanks.

We are now almost 100 years removed from the onset of WWI, 68 years from the end of WWII, and a generation or more away from the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam and it is very difficult for us to comprehend what our service men and women went through. In fact it is very difficult for anyone who hasn't experienced it themselves, to comprehend what it must be like. But that is no excuse to dismiss or to forget.

Today we remember solemnly and with gratitude the men and women who have given their lives for us in the many conflicts that have afflicted us in the past century. Even though many of those men who fought in the Korean War are no longer with us, how better can  
*(continues on Page 10)*

## Notices

### **Korean War Memorial Church Service**

The annual Korean War Memorial Service is on **Sunday 22 June at 10am**. Each year, Melbourne's Korean community conducts a memorial service at the Korean Church of Melbourne, followed by light refreshments. Although primarily a sombre occasion, it is also a memorable one due to the excellence of the choir and musicians. Please note, the Korean Church Secretary requires the names of attendees. It is most impolite to just turn up on the day. If you plan to attend please advise John Moller on 9589 3816 or [secretary@kvaa.org.au](mailto:secretary@kvaa.org.au) **ASAP**

**St. Andrew's Gardiner Church,  
Corner of Malvern and Bourke Road, Glen Iris.  
(Melways 59 H7)**

### **NSW Ceasefire Memorial Service**

The Korea War Veterans Association NSW will hold a Korean War Ceasefire memorial service at Walsh Park, Meroo Street, Bomaderry, NSW on 27 July starting at 11am. For more information call (02) 44223333 or (02) 4448 5263.

### **Queensland Korean War Memorial**

The President and members of the Associations of Queensland Korea Veterans and the Gold Coast Korean Society invite all Korean War Veterans to attend the **RSL National Korea Veterans Day Remembrance Service** to be held at the Queensland Korean War Memorial, Cascade Gardens, Gold Coast, in the presence of the President of the RSL Queensland Terry Meehan and the Consul General for the Republic of Korea Lee Whie Jin on **Saturday 26th July at 10.00 am**

Following this service, the Gold Coast Korean Association (GCKS) in association with the Consul General for the Republic of Korea Lee Whie Jin will be conducting a Korean War Veteran Commemoration Buffet Luncheon at the Surfers Paradise RSL Club commencing 12:00 am to 14:00 pm. Korean War Veterans and their partners/carers attending the Memorial service are cordially invited to attend.

Would you kindly respond by **17 June 2014** to enable administrative arrangements to be made. To reply, or for more information, contact: GCKS Secretary Kim Yang ku via email on [ykk@tpg.com.au](mailto:ykk@tpg.com.au)

### **Naval Association of Australia**

(Dandenong Sub Branch)

Meet every month for luncheon, bus trips, annual wreath laying service and Annual Award at *HMAS Cerberus* Recruit School. New members welcome.

**Contact:** John Laughton 03 9704 7799 or 0417 336 423.

### **Scarves for Sale**

Winter is almost here. Time to rug up, and what better way than with a woolen scarf (with colored vertical stripes, representing the nations who served under the U.N. in the Korean War).

Did I hear you inquire: "Where can I get one." Glad you asked. Our Vice-President, Tom Parkinson, can help you. Just call him on 9350 6608 or at the Pascoe Vale RSL on 9354 6364.

The cost of the scarf is \$35 plus \$5.20 p&p.

Here's your chance to make a fashion statement and help our organisation at the same time. Hurry, we have limited numbers.

### **Seeking...**

Seeking Private 'Lofty' Proudfoot, ex 1 & 2 RAR Korea, returned to Australia with 3RAR 1954. Contact Merv (Dutchy) Holland, (07) 41630097

### **Seeking...**

Seeking Private William Thomas Boswell, 21190, B Coy, 3RAR August 1952 - July 1953 or any known relatives. Contact A. Rivett on (03) 5792 1935

### **Seeking...**

Seeking information on William Ronald Craig, 1400681, served with 3RAR in Korea, July 1953-April 1954. Contact Steve Sheridan, 0427 213081

### **Healing the Wounds of War**

On Sunday 24th 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. This year's service marks the centenary of the beginning of WWI.

Battalion flags and banners to be marched into the Church. Medals to be worn. Candle-lighting for remembrance. Music by the Band of 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment.

Lunch: hosted by 2/10 Light Battery, 5/6 The Royal Victoria Regiment and St. George's congregation. Cost: \$10.

RSVP by 15th August if attending lunch. Phone: 0423673273 or [charmpolo@yahoo.com](mailto:charmpolo@yahoo.com). All other inquiries: Rev. Angela Tampiyappa on 03 9731 0604

**St. George's East St. Kilda Uniting Church**

**4 Chapel Street, East St. Kilda**

**Sunday 24 August 2012, 10:30am**

(continues on Page 10)

# Prelude to Inchon

by Tom Dworschak

Because of its strategic location, the Korean peninsula was a source of conflict between Russia, China, and Japan in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Japan's victories in the Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895) and the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) left her predominant in the area, and the peninsula was ruled from Tokyo until the end of World War II. In accordance with the provisions of the Japanese capitulation, both the US and the USSR disarmed Japanese troops in Korea; the Soviet Union administered the surrender north of the 38th Parallel, and the United States did the same south of the 38th Parallel.

As the Cold War solidified in the months following the end of the Second World War, the US and the USSR were unable to agree on the terms of the unification of Korea, and the 38th Parallel was transformed from a temporary boundary to an international border. Both sides subsequently installed their own political systems in their respective halves of Korea, as well as organized military establishments. While Russia lavishly equipped the North Korea People's Army (NKPA, or In Min Gun), the United States was unwilling to provoke a conflict by providing the Republic of Korea with "offensive" weapons such as tanks, aircraft, and artillery; regrettably, no one in President Truman's administration seemed to realize that these purportedly "offensive" weapons were also essential to an adequate defense. As a consequence of this policy, by 1950 the In Min Gun had a decided advantage over the ROK Army in combat troops (135,000 to 65,000), tanks (150 to none), and combat aircraft (110 to none), as well as a three-to-one superiority in artillery.

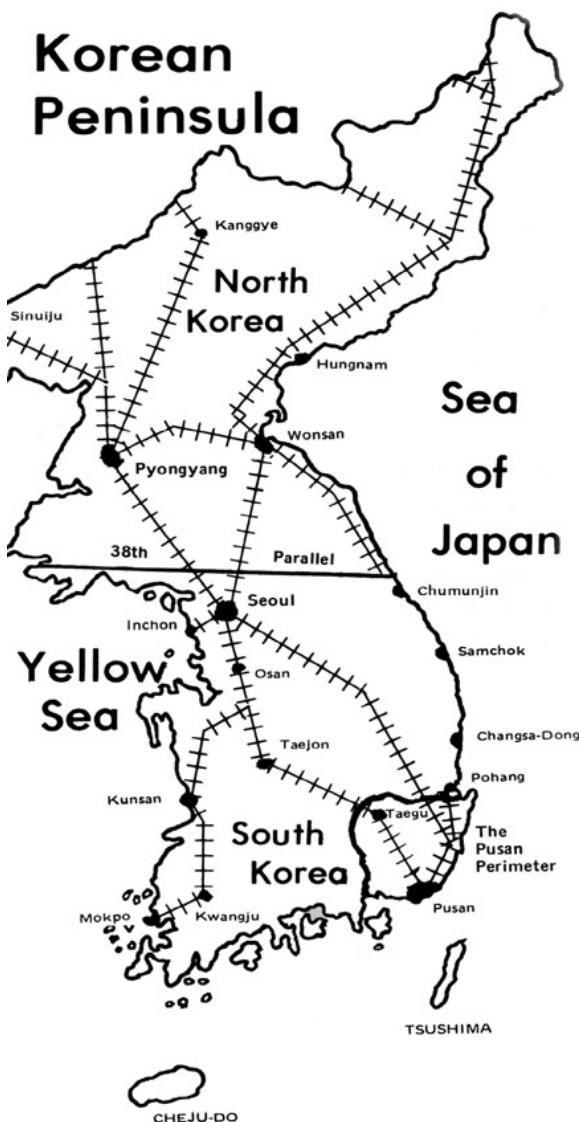
Besides severely underarming the Republic of Korea, the US took diplomatic steps which literally invited a North Korean invasion of the South. On May 23, 1949, Truman ordered the withdrawal of all remaining US soldiers in Korea; concurrently with this Presidential directive, General MacArthur, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers in the Far East, publicly defined America's line of defense in the Pacific and deliberately excluded Korea. The Communists' belief that an attack on South Korea would not prompt a serious response from Washington was reinforced in January of 1950 when Secretary of State Dean Acheson delivered a speech which also omitted Korea from the US defense perimeter.

These pronouncements of American disinterest in the peninsula, along with the great military preponderance enjoyed by the NKPA, led the North Koreans to conclude that force was their strongest tool for unification. Accordingly, in the early morning hours of June 25, 1950, the In Min Gun launched a full-scale offensive along the entire length of the 38th Parallel. Surprised and outnumbered, the ROK Army rapidly disintegrated. Seoul, the South Korean capital, fell on June 27, and before the war was a week old South Korean military casualties exceeded 44,000 men.

Much to the astonishment of the Communists, the American response to the invasion was both swift and decisive. On June 27 President Truman committed American air and naval forces against the In Min Gun, and later the same day a US-sponsored United Nations resolution calling for an international effort to repel the North Koreans was approved by the Security Council. (The Russians had been boycotting the UN since January, 1950, over the issue of recognizing Communist China, and therefore were unable to veto the measure.) On the twenty-ninth, the President ordered American ground troops into Korea, the first US infantrymen landing at Pusan on July 1. Despite Truman's description of the American move as a "police action," conjuring up images of GIs handing out speeding tickets and parking violations, the United States was at war.

Unfortunately, this was a war that the United States was sadly unprepared to wage. The stringent post-World War II defence budgets and the emphasis on developing strategic nuclear armaments had left America's conventional forces undermanned and under-equipped. The US Eighth Army,

*(continues on Page 6)*



which occupied Japan and would be called upon to fight in Korea, was a prime example of the effects of this austerity; the Eighth Army was short twenty-six battalions of infantry, armour, and artillery, and most of the weapons it did possess were well worn from extensive use in WWII.

Throughout the summer the North Koreans pursued the outnumbered US and ROK troops down the peninsula, and it was not until the advancing Communists reached the Naktong River that the rout came to a halt. It was here in the southeast corner of Korea that the Pusan Perimeter was formed: a fifty-by-eighty-mile chunk of land from which further retreat was impossible. During the first two weeks of September, the NKPA threw its divisions against the American and South Korean forces manning the perimeter in an attempt to subdue the country before the UN intervention assumed significant proportions.

The In Min Gun's offensive to push the UN contingent into the sea experienced local successes, but the North Koreans were unable to achieve a decisive breakthrough for a number of reasons. Although on paper the NKPA numbered some 98,000 men, it is estimated that at least one-third of these troops were forceably recruited South Koreans of doubtful enthusiasm and reliability. Moreover, the In Min Gun's lengthy lines of communication were being subjected to constant air attack, greatly reducing the NKPA's combat ability. Equipment losses had also been severe; the Communists now had only approximately one-half of the tanks and artillery they possessed on June 25.

The United Nations' position was not drastically superior. The South Korean Army, though reinforced to 92,000 men, had performed dismally to date and was now actually more ineffective than ever because of the large influx of untrained draftees into the ranks. Fighting alongside the ROKs was the 67,000-man US Eighth Army, composed primarily of recently called-up reservists, a disproportionate amount of service and support troops, and soldiers soft from four years of occupation duty in Japan. This American force was a far cry from the Army which had liberated the Philippines in WWII. At best, the UN enjoyed a marginal advantage over the In Min Gun in available manpower. The Eighth Army's commander, Lieutenant General Walton H. Walker, considered the situation so tenuous that he was able to leave only one brigade in reserve.

Even though it became evident that the NKPA lacked the strength to throw the United Nations Command into the sea, the Americans and South Koreans seemed equally incapable of breaking out of the Pusan Perimeter. A UN frontal assault to roll the North Koreans back to the 38th Parallel would involve a protracted campaign, for the lack of good roads and the presence of an apparently uninterrupted series of hills and ridgelines would heavily favor the defenders. MacArthur feared that a head-to-head slugging match would produce 100,000 casualties. The General was far too daring and imaginative to be satisfied by such a simple and costly plan.

He had an alternative: a landing behind enemy lines at Inchon.

## Almost Sunk

On 26 August 1943, the Australian cruiser, *HMAS Hobart*, in company with the destroyers *HMAS Arunta* and *Warramunga*, crept slowly through Sydney Heads just five days after leaving the New Hebrides following temporary repairs there. For over a year, the damaged warship was to remain in Cockatoo Island Dockyard undergoing major repairs.

*Hobart* formed part of US navy Task Force 74, a group of three cruisers and five US destroyers operating in the Coral Sea. In early July, the cruiser *Australia* and *Hobart* were ordered into the Solomons area on patrol duties. At the time, this particular area was a well known 'hot spot' for allied ships, with Japanese submarines operating at night, inflicting heavy casualties.

At 1845 on the night of 20 July, *Hobart*, steaming in column astern of *Australia*, was hit in the stern with a torpedo. An explosion occurred on the port side abreast of Y turret, narrowly missing the after magazine. The blast lifted the mighty Y turret off its seating and blew off two of her four propeller shafts. As the exploding torpedo had blown right through the keel, the remaining stern section of *Hobart* was left precariously supported by the starboard side hull plating. Casualties were relatively low, with eight killed below decks and six on the upper deck. Of these, four were guns crew sitting in a Carly float near Y turret, who were blown over the side.

With the whole of the after part of the ship almost under water and a list developing, *Hobart* was as close to sinking as a ship could be without sinking. The transfer of fuel to restore trim, and with a wire rope securing the stern section of the ship and steering by main engines set up, *Hobart* was able to get underway. In a calm sea, the ship was soon making seven knots and, under the protection of two US destroyers, she set course for Espiritu Santo, arriving the following night.

There, using the skill and resources provided by a US Navy repair ship, temporary plating and bulkheads were welded in place to stiffen the damaged stern section. The ship's steering gear was reconnected and within 24 days, the patched-up cruiser was able to steam at 12 knots for Sydney. On completion of her refit, *HMAS Hobart* was involved in the latter part of the war in the Pacific against Japan.

## ***HMAS Perth* vs The Luftwaffe**

In June 1940, *HMAS Perth* – originally the Royal Navy cruiser *Amphibion* – joined the Mediterranean Fleet and with other Australian units took part in defeating the Italians at the Baltic of Matapan. Then she played a part in the evacuation of troops from Greece to Crete during the disastrous May 1941 operations on the mainland.

During the campaign, *Perth* and other British ships were discovered by German planes in the narrow waters north of Crete. For many hours the ships were bombed by 500 German planes. Two British cruisers and four destroyers were lost. But *Perth*, whose anti-aircraft batteries blazed away until almost all their ammunition was gone, came out of the turmoil with only five of her crew slightly wounded.

*Perth* then made a substantial contribution to the evacuation of Crete, another Allied disaster. On one trip from Sfakia to Alexandria she carried 1,200 British and New Zealand troops to safety. For three hours *Perth* stood off-shore while the troops were brought off in shallow-draught vessels.

Although *Perth* was a marked ship, the German bombers never succeeded in putting her out of action. During the evacuation, however, a direct hit killed four of her crew. In the action, *Perth* fired off every piece of her ammunition. Her guns were red hot, and at the end of her fighting, she was firing off star shells in the hope of creating the illusion that she still had something left.

In all, the Allied navy evacuated some 12,500 troops from Crete, though an equal number were taken prisoner and most of the remaining heavy equipment was lost.

Source: *Navy News* Vol.34, No.9, 10 May 1991

## **KVAA Inc. Calendar of Events:**

### **June - December 2014**

- 22 June: Korean Church Service
- 25 June: Committee / General Meeting.
- 27 July: Korean War Cease Fire (Shrine of Remembrance)
- 30 July: Committee / General Meeting
- 14 August: *Voice* Mail Out
- 15 August: Altona RSL Service
- 24 August: St. George's Church, St. Kilda Service
- 27 August: Committee / General Meeting
- 24 September: Committee / General Meeting
- 9 October: *Voice* Mail Out
- 24-26 Oct.: KWV Reunion in Canberra
- 29 October: Committee / General Meeting
- 11 November: Remembrance Day
- 12 November: Austin Health Remembrance Day Service  
(Time to be confirmed)
- 26 November: Committee / General Meeting
- 3 December: Christmas Luncheon (Certificate & Pin Awards)
- 11 December: *Voice* Mail Out

Meeting are held at 10:30 am at the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre, 600 Lt. Collins Street. No meeting in December.

## **Dangerous Training**

by Ernie Holden

*Another snippet from Ernie's book: Mates, Mortars and Minefields, this one about the perils of training – with bombs.*

One Saturday [during training], we had a bit of a dangerous period, when after we had fired rockets and mortar bombs, we had to go out in the field and mark any unexploded projectiles with red flags. Sometime later, army experts would go to the projectiles and explode them so there was no danger to troops or Japanese villagers. After a day of us firing, we would see dozens of Japanese peasants walking all over the firing range.

A lot of Japanese were very poor at that time and some hid in underground holes and came out to grab all the pieces of metal lying around. They sold them for scrap to help feed themselves but I heard one story of how a Japanese picked up a live shell or rocket and it exploded as he picked it up, killing him instantly. On the outside there were no signs of injuries, but the concussion broke every bone in his body. When they picked him up to take him away his body was just like jelly as there were no bones to keep him rigid.

Those poor Japanese took the risk everyday and as we watched them scurry around picking up metal, we sometimes yelled at them and they would quickly scurry underground like ants.

## **Skyhook Warfare**

In June of 1915, Captain Alexander Kazakov of the Imperial Russian Air Service literally dragged a German airplane out of the sky. Kazakov fitted a five-pound anchor, weighted with an iron ball, to a cable which he could unreel from his airplane. One day, pursuing a German *Albatross*, Kazakov unreeled his anchor, snagging the German's port wing. The added weight and peculiar aerodynamics of the situation caused both aircraft to plunge towards the ground. Just before impact, the cable snapped, tearing away part of Kazakov's airplane. As his opponent smashed into the earth, Kazakov managed to regain control of his machine and bring it to a safe landing nearby, a successful conclusion to one of the most unusual aerial combats ever.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 89

# Humour

The pilot of an aerobatic biplane landed in the recently mown field of a Scottish farmer to make a few adjustments to his engine. While he was tinkering with his machine, he noticed the Scotsman and his wife watching with a great deal of curiosity. The Scotsman asked the pilot how much he would charge to give both he and his wife a ride.

“Well”, said the pilot, “Normally I charge £25 pounds each, but if you are both completely quiet throughout the flight, the ride will be free of charge. If I hear the least amount of noise, you will owe the full fare.”

The couple quickly climbed aboard, and the pilot taxied and took off. Immediately, he proceeded to put his plane through all of its paces: barrel rolls, stalls, spins, split S maneuvers, you name it and he did it. The couple in back were completely silent throughout the thirty minute flight.

Upon landing, the pilot said, “I really have to hand it to you for keeping quiet through all that!”

“Aye”, said the Scotsman, “but I’ll admit, ye almost heard me when the wife fell out.”

\* \* \*

In the old days the English and Scottish armies used to fight by gathering their armies on top of the hills and at day break they would run down the hillside into the deep gorge below to fight. One morning at dawn there was a fog (as thick as pea soup) and the two generals decided to refrain from fighting that day. Whilst the two armies were resting a voice, with a Scottish accent came from within the dense fog.

“Any one Scotsman can beat any 10 Englishmen.”

With this, the English general sent down 10 of his soldiers. There was a hell of a fight and no one returned. An hour later, the same voice was heard.

“Any one Scotsman can beat any 50 Englishmen.”

With this the English general sent down 50 of his soldiers. The same thing, a terrible fight ensued and again no one returned. An hour later the same voice.

“Any one Scotsman can beat any 100 Englishmen.”

So down went 100 of the best. No one returned.

An hour later: “Any one Scotsman can beat any 1,000 Englishmen.”

By this time, the English general had enough and was about to send down his elite soldiers, when he saw a lone Englishman crawling up the hill. He was battered to a pulp. As he reached his general he said, “Don’t send any more troops down. It’s a trap – THERE’S TWO OF THEM!”

\* \* \*

Sandy was drinking at a pub all night. When he got up to leave, he fell flat on his face. He tried to stand again, but to no avail, falling flat on his face. He decided to crawl outside and get some fresh air to see whether that would sober him up. Once outside, he stood up and, sure enough, fell flat on his face. So, being a practical Scot, he crawled home.

When he got to the door, he stood up yet again, but fell flat on his face. He crawled through the door into his bedroom. When he reached his bed, he tried once more to stand upright. This time he managed to pull himself to his feet but fell into bed. He was sound asleep as soon as his head hit the pillow.

He woke the next morning to his wife shaking him and shouting, “So, ye’ve been oot drinkin’ as usual!”

“Why would ye say that?” he complained innocently.

“Because the pub called an’ ye left yer wheelchair there again!”

\* \* \*

After discovering they had won ten million pounds on the National Lottery, Mr and Mrs McKenzie sat down to discuss their future. “After twenty years of washing other people’s stairs to earn money,” said Mrs McKenzie, “At last I can throw away my old scrubbing brush.”

“Of course you can,” said her husband. “We can easily afford to buy you a new one now.”

\* \* \*

An American was hopelessly lost in the Highlands and wandered about for nearly a week. Finally, on the seventh day he met a kilted inhabitant. “Thank heaven I’ve met someone,” he cried. “I’ve been lost for the last week.”

“Is there a reward out for you?” asked the Scotsman.

“No,” said the American.

“Then I’m afraid you’re still lost,” was the reply.

\* \* \*

A Scots boy came home from school and told his mother he had been given a part in the school play. “Wonderful,” says the mother, “What part is it?” The boy says “I play the part of the Scottish husband!” The mother scowls and says: “Go back and tell your teacher you want a speaking part.”

\* \* \*

Did you hear about the thoughtful Scotsman who was heading out to the pub? He turned to his wee wife before leaving and said, “Jackie, put your hat and coat on, lassie.”

She replied, “Aw, Iain, that’s nice. Are you taking me to the pub with you?”

“Nah, just switching the central heating off while I’m out.”



# Naval War in the Pacific

by George Odgers (author of *The Royal Australian Navy: an Illustrated History*.)

The Royal Australian Navy was heavily engaged in wide-ranging hostilities at sea, and the nine months from November 1941 to August 1942 embraced the darkest hours in the history of the Service. It was a period in which the RAN suffered great loss of life and witnessed the sinking in combat of no less than three of the six cruisers with which the Service began the war: *Sydney*, *Perth* and *Canberra*. Except for the 24 officers and men lost in the auxiliary minesweeper *HMAS Goorangai* in a collision in Port Phillip Bay in November 1940, RAN losses had been light up to that point in spite of intense periods of combat in the Mediterranean where its outnumbered warships, fighting alongside the Royal Navy, covered themselves in glory.

Disaster struck on 19 November 1941 when off the Pilbara coast of Western Australia, on a placid sunny afternoon, *HMAS Sydney*, now back in Australian waters after arduous service in the Mediterranean, encountered by chance the German commerce raider *Kormoran* cleverly disguised as a harmless Dutch merchantman. The loss of *Sydney* and its entire complement of 645 in the action which followed when *Kormoran* dropped the disguise and suddenly opened fire, shocked the Australian nation.

In terms of the death toll and the loss of a distinguished warship, the sinking of *HMAS Sydney* was the heaviest blow suffered in Australian naval history. Another severe loss followed swiftly on the sinking of *Sydney*. Eight days later, on 27 November 1941, *HMAS Parramatta* was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat off North Africa.

*Parramatta* was the third Australian warship to be sunk by enemy action in World War II. (The first was *HMAS Waterhen* in June 1941, also off North Africa.) When she was attacked, *Parramatta* was escorting a fully laden transport carrying ammunition to relieve an acute shortage of that commodity at Tobruk. Of her total complement of nine officers and 151 ratings, only 23 survived the attack.

After combining with a Dutch, American and Royal Navy force in the Battle of the Java Sea in February 1942, *HMAS Perth*, in company with the American cruiser *USS Houston*, was sunk with the loss of 466 of her crew in the Sunda Strait in action in which it was opposed to an overwhelming Japanese force on the night of 28 February/1 March 1942.

Shortly afterwards, in one of the bravest actions in the annals of naval history, *HMAS Yarra* (Commander Robert Rankin), was sunk with the loss of 137 crew south of Java after sacrificing herself in a vain attempt to protect her convoy of defenceless merchantmen.

*HMAS Vampire* was next to go, sunk on 9 April 1942 (13 dead), when attacked by 16 Japanese bombers off Ceylon. Sunk in the same action was *HMS Hermes*, the British aircraft carrier.

Four months later on 9 August 1942, *HMAS Canberra* was sunk in the Battle of Savo Island off Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands (84 dead), an action in which three American cruisers were also sunk.

Thus the RAN, which began the war with six cruisers, had lost three of them in combat within nine months, together with a number of smaller warships (such as *HMAS Nestor*, sunk 16 June 1942) – grievous losses for a comparatively small navy. But for the RAN the worst was now over. Moreover on the battlefields of the war, the tide was about to turn decisively against the Japanese forcing them henceforward on the defensive.

Source: *Navy News* Vol.25, No.11, 2 July 1982

*Anzac Day Report (continued from Page 1)*

– as did the President, still somewhat hobbled after his hip operation. With both attending events elsewhere, current Secretary, John Moller, and former Secretary, Alan Evered, were prominent absentees.

Other little annoyances...a minor but embarrassing duplication of the raffle ticket numbers, a brand new camera which, just like the old one, seemed to focus on everything but the subject of the picture, and the usual foil of the Editor's warped sense of humour, KVAA Inc. Patron, Jim Hughes, not doing anything warranting a caption. Really! If you can't make fun of Major Generals, who can you make fun of?

Those who attended the *Stella Maris* after the march would have noticed a television camera recording part of the proceedings. This was Young Chol Yun from the news division of YTN World, a television station which delivers independent 24-hour real time domestic and international news across the world, so it is likely that some of your (presumably) smiling faces made it onto Korea television, albeit probably as a 30-second filler piece. So don't start thinking of a late career in Hollywood yet.

Finally, a big thanks to the Cadets who held the flags and banner aloft, and especially to Insung Chang, representing the ladies of The Korean Society of Victoria, who whipped up the deserts – a tiramisu-style moist cake topped with cream and fruit – enjoyed by many at the *Stella Maris*, and also for providing a large fruit platter as well. Most appreciated.

All 41 Anzac Day photos are available for viewing or download on the KVAA Inc. website.

## **HMAS Bataan Reunion**

(HMAS Bataan Veterans National Assoc. of Aust.)

23rd Annual Reunion

(New members welcome)

**Where:** Grand Chifley Hotel Adelaide, 208 South Terrace

**When:** 11-14 September 2014

**Contact:** John Laughton 03 9704 7799 or  
0417 336 423 to book or for details

## **Pozieres Appeal**

In an insane battle in 1916, the survivors of Gallipoli, divided into the 1st, 2nd and 4th Divisions, were thrown into battle in Pozieres, France. Six weeks later, all three Divisions had been destroyed, with a loss of 7,000 Men (4,000 of whom were never found or identified) and 16,000 wounded. This is over 10% of the losses for Australia in the whole war, and it happened in only 6 weeks. For the last 97 years, these men have been forgotten, with all attention thrown on Gallipoli, Villers Bretonneux and Fromelles.

The battle is not commemorated in Australia nor is it taught in our schools. Only the village of Pozieres, population of around 250, funds commemorations each year.

Our Association is working to honour the men of the 1st, 2nd and 4th Divisions, and we are building a Memorial Park in Pozieres to be opened at the Centenary in 2016. We are seeking the help of all Australians to make the Memorial Park a reality.

We are asking that you go to our web page [www.pozieresremembered.com.au](http://www.pozieresremembered.com.au) - read what we are trying to achieve, consider buying a brick and tell all your friends. If you want to know more, please contact Barry or Von on [pozieres1916@bigpond.com](mailto:pozieres1916@bigpond.com)

Finally, I would like to invite ALL Australians to visit Pozieres for the Centenary in July 2016. Everyone is welcome.

## **Annual Korean War Ceasefire Memorial**

**Where:** Shrine of Remembrance, Post 1945 Memorial

**When:** Sunday 27 July 2014 at 12.45pm

Note: Due to renovations at the Shrine, this event has been moved from the Sanctuary back to its traditional location.

## **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 Don Edgar, will be held on Friday, 15th 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.

we honour their sacrifice, than by making sure that they are always in the forefront of our minds. That we in our generation pass on their lessons to our children, by example and to remember for all time that the standards they set for us by their sacrifice are the foundations upon which Australia has become the great nation she is. Then they can rest at peace.

Since then, willingly and unconditionally, many men and women of the Australian Defence Force have continued to answer the call to serve their country. Thus, today is also an opportunity to acknowledge their service and sacrifice and hope that those who serve find strength and resolve in the support we lend them from afar. Our thoughts and prayers turn to those currently posted abroad. We pray for their protection and, more importantly, their safe and speedy return.

I would encourage everyone here today and indeed every Australian, to remember those who left the comfort and security of their homes to serve their country; who left the warm embrace of their wives, children, friends and other loved ones.

Ladies and gentlemen, the memories of our veterans and those who made the greatest sacrifice will live on forever in our hearts and minds. If we can live by the values they fought for, and died by, we will have nothing to fear.

To forget is to do disservice to the memory of all who served and lived and died through the horrors of the Korean War and in all conflicts since. War is like love, easy to begin, difficult to end, but impossible to forget.

## **GU President Scholarship**

Here's one that arrived in my in-tray as I was printing *The Voice*, therefore I'm not going to provide much detail. This is one for the grandchildren, so if you have any, pass it on. One student from Australia (and 20 from other nations), who is a descendant of a Korea War veteran, is eligible to undertake an undergraduate degree at Cachon University in South Korea. All tuition is paid for by the South Korean government and full health cover provided. There are, however, a few caveats and conditions. Applications close in July, as you'll need to act quickly. For an application form or more information, contact the editor.

# Anzac Day 2014 Photos



Arthur Slee looking for a lift.



Richard Welsby (photo) with daughter and granddaughter



Our patron, Jim Hughes.. No funny caption this year. Very disappointing. Jack Philpot on the right.





The Johnson/Bryant Clan out in force.



The Lehman Family



The Kim Family



Noel 'Boots' Riley selecting his prize.



Happy winners!



## Evered Out & About



Monique Vagg with outgoing Secretary, Alan Evered, at an Anzac Day luncheon held in the Great Hall of the National Gallery of Victoria on 11 April. Monique was one of 16 Victorian youth presented with the Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize for 2014 by Governor Chernov. She is one of 472 to compete for the prize and enjoyed lunch with the Governor of Victoria and Mrs. Elizabeth Chernov, Maj. Gen. David McLachlan AO and Ted Ballieu, ex Premier of Victoria, standing in for Dr. Denis Naphthine, the Premier.



The Dawn Service at the Shrine of Remembrance was not the only 'dawn' service held in Victoria. Outgoing Secretary, Alan Evered, was present at one held in the Melbourne suburb of Box Hill at which 5000 people attended. He later assisted at an *Anzac Day Cup* Premier League (hockey) match between Doncaster and Essendon. His job was to conduct proceedings with The Ode then later adjudicate and present match day medals to each winner.

## Happy Anniversary To Us

Thirty years ago, on the 7th June 1984, the KVAA Inc. came into existence, formed from a combination of the Korean Veterans Association and KSEAVA (Korea and South East Asia Veterans Association). Membership built slowly and did not reach its peak until the late 1990s. The July 1988 edition of *The Voice* claims 120 members and lists names familiar to today's regular Committee meeting attendees, names such as Jim Boxshall, Ron Christie, John Dusan, Keith Langdon, Denis Lehman, Jack Philpot and a certain V. A. Dey. (Hmm, I wonder what ever became of him?). This same edition of *The Voice* contains articles by Vera Dunque and Des Guilfoyle. As there is unlikely to be a 40th anniversary in 2024, this is the milestone to remember and reflect upon. For the nostalgic amongst you, and compliments of Don Scally, here are some photos of these early days.



## Korea Festival 2014

The first Korea Festival was held in Melbourne on Saturday 17th May in surprisingly warm and dry conditions for the time of the year. The event brought the sights, sounds and taste of Korea to Federation Square in Melbourne. Events included a *Hanbok* (traditional Korean costume) Fashion Show, the Korea Festival K-pop Contest, and a Taekwondo and Hapkido (Korean martial arts) demonstration. Oh, and there were lots of food stalls.



### 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*.

## Track or Trail?

There has been considerable debate about whether the difficult path that crossed the Owen Stanley Range should be called the “Kokoda Trail” or the “Kokoda Track.” Both terms have been in common use since the war. “Trail” is probably of American origin but has been used in many Australian history books, including the official history, and was adopted by the Australian Army as an official “battle honour”. “Track” comes from the language of the Australian bush. It too is commonly used by veterans, and is used in some volumes of Australia’s official history. Thus, both are correct, but “trail” appears to be used more widely. The Memorial has adopted the term “trail” because it is favoured by a majority of veterans and because it appears on the battle honours of units which served in Papua in 1942.

Source: *Wartime*, Issue 19 2002, April 2003.

## Farewells

Milton “Cronk” Bernie, 11584, 3RAR  
on 7 December 2013

Ronald J. Davis, 32897, 3RAR  
on 26 January 2014

John Frederick Goldsmith, 39541,  
*HMAS Warramunga & HMAS Bataan*  
on 9 September 2013

William G. Killick, 52124, 3RAR,  
in early December 2013

John K. McCaig, 6400077, 3RAR,  
on 1 April 2014

Rodney A. McIntyre, 12258, 2RAR,  
on 2 December 2013

Frederick C. Tattersall, 23081, 3RAR,  
on 15 January 2014

John E. Welsh, 45902, *HMAS Sydney*,  
on 5 May 2014

## 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