



Highgate Highlights

Official Newsletter of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
Returned & Services League of Australia (WA)
www.highgate-rsl.org.au

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From our President

A DAY TO REMEMBER

No, not Remembrance Day on 11 November but the previous Sunday when Highgate held its annual service at the State War Memorial, followed by luncheon at Frasers Restaurant.

Our commemorative service was just as solemn and moving as that on Remembrance Day, with a full complement of the Warden, Deputy Warden and Sub-Wardens. Wreaths were laid by Police Commissioner, Chris Dawson, by Roger and Annette Buddrige, and by me on behalf of the members of Highgate.

ANZAC of the Year and Highgate member, David Scott, sounded the Last Post, superbly as usual, with Mick Coyle excellent on bagpipes. Our Chaplain, Reverend Jeff Astfalck, gave a commemorative prayer and an outstanding address.

A superb lunch with beer, wines and soft drinks was enjoyed by 126 members and guests and even though alternate drops is not my favourite way of serving a meal, it seemed to work well on the day and there were no complaints. As a labour of love, Clare Curtis provided hand-knitted poppies she had made for each table, adding a colourful and appropriate addition to the decorations.

Our guest speaker at the lunch was Warden of the State War Memorial, Hon. Kerry Sanderson AC CVO and she spoke enthusiastically about the important role Highgate has for Veterans and in the wider community. There was a great sense of camaraderie in the room and I received many compliments from people saying how much they had enjoyed the lunch.

However, the success of the lunch is the result of all the work done by Leon Griffiths and his unofficial team. Events such as these do not just happen; they are the result of months of planning in the lead up to the day. Leon did a superb job and is congratulated.

November is likely the busiest month of the year for Highgate as it contains the Remembrance Day service, Poppy Day and the Highgate luncheon. November also included an Honour Avenues Group ceremony on Saturday, 14 November with



Bill Munro



Due process must be assured in ADF investigation says RSL Australia

The Returned & Services League of Australia says (20 Nov) despite horrific and reprehensible allegations, all personnel suspected of alleged war crimes in Afghanistan are entitled to due process and this must be assured in the pending further investigations. This follows release of the Inspector-General's report and the investigation by New South Wales' Justice Paul Brereton into alleged unlawful killings and other possible breaches of the laws of armed conflict.

The RSL views the allegations as extremely serious but speculation has already impacted adversely on Veterans who served in Afghanistan, the vast majority of whom are in no way involved in the alleged conduct.

RSL National President, Major General Greg Melick AO RFD SC (Retd), said the organisation was aware of the significant strain this matter had placed on all Veterans and their families, and that the further investigations must ensure Service personnel are treated with procedural fairness, in accordance with due process, and not pre-judged.

"Australian Defence Force personnel serve in a unique and highly challenging environment and the allegations, resulting inquiry, report, subsequent announcements and media speculation have caused considerable distress and mental health concerns.

"The RSL is committed to supporting all serving and ex-serving members of the ADF through the provision of wellbeing and general support to Veterans and their families.

"We encourage any former or serving personnel suffering adverse impacts and distress to immediately contact their local RSL Sub-Branch for assistance in accessing wellbeing or support services or call Open Arms on 1800 011 046," said Greg Melick.

*(See also **Special Forces issues have deep historical roots** by Neil James, Executive Director of the Australian Defence Association, on pages 8-9)*

Remembrance Day commemorative address

By Hon Kim Beazley AC | Governor of Western Australia

We gather to pay our respects to those who went to war and never returned; and to those who did return, many bearing the physical and mental scars of armed conflict. We promised them and their loved ones they would never be forgotten. This is a sacred duty we must perform, and this annual Remembrance Commemoration further reminds us of the need to build and maintain community spirit in time of adversity. We know through what transpired in the trenches and on the battlefields of the First World War, and in conflicts ever since, that freedom has its price. In the four years of the 1914-18 War, more than 416,000 Australians enlisted. More than 60,000 were killed, with another 156,000 wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. That dreadful war cast a long shadow for decades and generations to come.

Continued page 2

Important events | please diarise now

- 1100 | **Mon 14 Dec** | Committee Meeting - Grosvenor Hotel
- 1200 for 1230 | **Mon 14 Dec** | Monthly Luncheon - Grosvenor Hotel
- 1100 | **Mon 18 Jan** | Committee Meeting - Venue to be confirmed
- 1200 | **Mon 18 Jan** | Monthly Luncheon - Venue & Speaker to be confirmed

See page 4 for Wreath-Laying Services at the State War Memorial

Last Post | Lest We Forget

We remember with deep sadness and affection our departed Members and convey our sincere condolences and sympathy to their families and friends

Continued page 2

Governor Beazley's Remembrance Day Address (cont.)

In 10 years of that shadow, another 60,000 passed from war-caused effects. Of those West Australians who went overseas to fight in that global war, more than 5,200 were killed – their names depicted on the walls within our State War Memorial. For Australia, there was more deep sadness to come. The Second World War saw almost one million Australians serve in the armed forces with more than 39,000 giving their lives. This year is the 75th anniversary of that conflict.

Our whole nation was mobilised – arguably the most extensively of all combatant nations. Our men and women, including our Aboriginal people, were deeply engaged. In both world wars, we demonstrated unsurpassed national resilience.

In the Korean War, of the 17,000 Australians who served, 340 were killed and over 1,200 wounded. In the Vietnam War, some 60,000 Australian service personnel left our shores, and about 500 of them never came home. And in Afghanistan, 43 Australian soldiers paid the ultimate sacrifice – once again, a signal to us all of what armed conflict can inflict on our national psyche.

Remembrance Day is also a time to affirm the need to stand tall when tyranny threatens. As uncertainty now surrounds our international environment, we are challenged morally and intellectually to draw on our national resilience. To demonstrate effectiveness – not only to deter – but to reach out with an open heart to friends and neighbours with a conviction that the prosperity, peace and security we wish for ourselves, we wish for them.

War in any form is a dreadful thing. Yet there have been times in the past – and regrettably probably in the future – when such a stand is essential for freedom and the democratic society we enjoy today.

As wartime leader, Winston Churchill said, *To show how easily the tragedy of the Second World War could have been prevented (was) how the malice of the wicked was reinforced by the weakness of the virtuous.* Churchill took this conviction to his grave.

General John Monash, best known for his role as commander of the Australian Army Corps in France during World War I, also reflected that victory comes at a terrible cost. In his memoirs, he made clear his view on the terrors of armed conflict. He said, *Let it not be assumed that the part that fell to my lot afforded me any satisfaction nor enthusiasm for war. Quite the contrary. From the far-off days of 1914 until the last shot was fired, every day was filled with loathing, horror and distress. I deplored all the time the loss of precious life and the waste of human effort. Nothing could have been more repugnant to me than the realisation of the dreadful inefficiency and misspent energy of war. Yet it had to be. And the thought uppermost was the earnest prayer that Australia might be forever spared such horror on her own soil.*

Now, we live in peace. Yet the words of General Monash still ring true in that the price of peace is eternal vigilance. But we still have a lot more to do. While we remember those who never returned, we have a duty to look after those who did. And for that matter, every Veteran of the Australian Defence Force.

During the playing of The Last Post and the ensuing One Minute's Silence, let us reflect on the red poppies that adorn the Memorial and the Flame of Remembrance....that symbolise the blood shed on battlefields by brave Australians far from home.

Lest We Forget

From our President (cont.)

another seven plaques presented to the descendants of West Australian Servicemen who have given their lives and are buried overseas.

The plaques are mounted on posts under trees in the Honour Avenues and add to the existing 1,800+ already in place.

The presentation ceremony, followed by the affixing of the individual plaques to posts in their final location, are extremely moving and mean much to the relatives and friends. The Honour Avenues Group has planned services in February, August and November next year with two of them already having a full complement of plaques.

In this edition of Highgate Highlights, there is an article by Geoff Hourn on the history of poppies around Remembrance Day. It is well researched and details the background to firstly the wearing, then selling of poppies.

This year, our Poppy Day collections were down about 30% on last year although we had the same locations and sufficient volunteers. The selling day was on the preceding Monday and I would argue, contrary to Geoff's piece, that our collections should always be on a Friday for a bunch of reasons. I also note that suburban Sub-Branches have their tables out all week in shopping centres and the official collection day does not matter to them.

Also in this edition, there are details of our December meeting with guest speaker, Craig Challen SC OAM who is best known for his involvement in the Thai soccer team cave rescue. Not quite as well known is that he is a retired veterinarian, a helicopter and aircraft pilot and motivational speaker. It promises to be a memorable lunch and I look forward to seeing you there.

- Bill Munro

War Widows' Guild celebrates 75 years of support

The War Widows' Guild is celebrating 75 years of supporting war widows and widowers around Australia. After the Second World War ended, nearly 10,000 women were widowed, with many left on payments that were less than the lowest Army pay.

The War Widows' Guild, now known as Australian War Widows, was founded to support these women by Mrs Jessie Vasey, following the death of her husband, Major-General George Vasey. Their first meeting in Melbourne marked the start of an organisation now an

integral part of Australia's Veteran support framework. Australian War Widows now has chapters in almost every State and Territory, and supports more than 50,000 war widows. More information at warwidowsnsw.com.au

Not forgotten

A great British video reflecting on Remembrance Day

[https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=375a88b6ef&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1682843404294200303&th=175aa928fd909bef&view=att&disp=safe)

[ui=2&ik=375a88b6ef&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1682843404294200303&th=175aa928fd909bef&view=att&disp=safe](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=375a88b6ef&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1682843404294200303&th=175aa928fd909bef&view=att&disp=safe)

Governor Kim Beazley AC opens ANZAC House Veteran Central



I t is an honour for me as Patron of RSLWA, to join in the official opening of ANZAC House Veteran Central. As I do so, I contemplate the long road that brought us

here. The women's and community groups and the soldiers associations that preceded them, with some crossing over with the RSL. There were many distinguished but never adequate gathering points.

And now we have this building, which does the organisation and its membership proud. We now share the same spiritual site with Government House just over the road, ready to welcome you all into the gardens during our regular lunchtime openings in the week (Tuesday-Thursday) and to hopefully provide you with relaxing garden views from the upper levels here.

This extraordinary facility is the first of its kind in WA and will be central to effective service delivery to Veterans and their families. In a sense, those who join and lead the RSL continue to serve the nation. With your building confidence among our would-be serving personnel that they and their families will be supported where needed, both during and after service, is important for recruitment and confidence in battle, and an important component of our national resilience.

There are 25,000 Veterans in WA. In practical terms, their needs and challenges must be met by us all where we can, for that is our contribution. One need only think of the life of ADF members to understand the value of the Veteran Central model.

Arguably one of the most challenging things for our ADF Veterans after concluding their service, is adjusting to civilian life. From the time they sign up to the Australian Navy, Army or Air Force, they are immersed in a highly ordered, extremely structured lifestyle streamlined for efficiency. At the end of their military careers, this order and structure has become so familiar to ADF personnel that civilian life appears chaotic.

The ANZAC House Veteran Central model serves as a one-stop shop for all medical and wellness needs, ensuring the needs of Veterans and their families are met.

The Veteran Central model will cater to four crucial pillars of service delivery:

Health and Wellbeing A military career can be incredibly challenging on the body and mind. Veteran Central will have facilities to help cater for the physical and mental health of Veterans and their families.

Advocacy and Welfare The complexities of claims processes within the Department of Veteran Affairs can be stressful. Welfare and advocacy services will be available to Veterans and their families at Veteran Central, providing them with invaluable assistance and guidance throughout the DVA claims process and other supports available to them.

Transition I understand Veteran Central will also be home to the ANZAC Club, ensuring Ex-Service men and women are able to stay socially engaged and connected, within a community that understands them. Consequently, the families of Ex-Service men and women will also find within ANZAC House that they are able to connect with individuals who have an intimate understanding of the challenges they may face in supporting their loved ones.

Employment Finding and securing employment can be challenging for many men and women leaving the Australian Defence Force.

I am informed that Veteran Central will have facilities to assist this process, providing both training and support services where required. The opening of ANZAC House is a signal to those of us prepared to make a career of the profession of arms.

We make today a statement that you are valued and honoured. As a community, we have inherited the freedoms forged by our forebears. And as a community we need to continually strive to support those who have supported us for so long.

We will honour you by supporting the RSL in doing things better, together with other Veteran organisations, as well as government and community-based service providers, to ensure the care of families who bear the burden of a loved one's supreme sacrifice or wounds mental and physical; and to ensure a worthwhile social and economic life for our Service personnel after their service.

I applaud RSLWA for championing the cause of Ex-Service men and women and constructing ANZAC House Veteran Central. I have no doubt that it will provide invaluable assistance to Veterans and their families for generations to come.

ANZAC House Veteran Central now open

Veterans and their families in Western Australia will benefit from a new chapter in supporting wellbeing and support services with the official opening of the first Veteran Wellbeing Centre, ANZAC House Veteran Central, in Perth.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester congratulated RSLWA and all those involved for creating a welcoming environment for Veterans and their families, where their unique experiences are understood and supported.

"The key to these Veteran Wellbeing Centres is that they provide local solutions to local issues, bringing together all the support services Veterans and their families may require under the one roof," said Mr Chester.

"ANZAC House Veteran Central will provide access to health providers specialising in hearing, physiotherapy, dental, occupational therapy and mental health support, as well as financial, legal and employment support, home care and aged care services.

"In addition, it will see services provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Open Arms — Veterans & Families Counselling, providing easy access to services and information when and where Veterans and their families need it.

"This is a great example of what can be achieved when we all work together — governments, Ex-Service Organisations and the broader community."





Sub Warden Duties | 2020

Wreath-Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park

POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD
Deputy Warden State War Memorial

Sun 14 Feb 1030 for 1100 Women's Royal Australian Army Corps



The case for selling poppies on Poppy Day by Geoff Hourn

While selling poppies on Monday 09 November, I was asked by a member of the public "Why aren't we selling poppies in two day's time – on Remembrance Day?"

It is a question many people wonder about. The link between the poppy and Remembrance Day is well known but worth briefly reiterating. Armistice Day was first observed in 1919 and Armistice Day remains the name of the commemoration in France and Belgium.

In 1931, the name was officially changed in the United Kingdom to Remembrance Day. The Australian Government agreed to change the name to Remembrance Day after World War II, to commemorate those killed in both World Wars.

It was not until 1997, however, that the Governor-General issued a proclamation formally declaring 11 November as Remembrance Day. Other nations not members of the Commonwealth, such as Poland, also observe commemoration day on 11 November. And in the United States it is called Veterans Day.

Throughout the world, commemoration of those in the armed forces who gave their lives for their country or suffered in the Allied cause is held at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month each year. It is such an apt time, as it is when the guns fell silent in World War I and we reflect on how peace can be achieved.

Canadian physician John McCrae, in his poem *In Flanders Fields* realised the significance of the poppy as a lasting memorial to the fallen because it was one of the only plants to grow on barren World War I battlefields in Belgium after the carnage. In most Commonwealth nations, the poppy is a symbol of remembrance, as well as in France and other Allied countries.

The American Legion adopted the poppy as their official symbol of remembrance in 1920. The poppy has been a commemorative symbol each year since Armistice/Remembrance Day began, and has been worn on 11 November ever since.

Armistice/Remembrance Day has always been informally known as Poppy Day.

A Frenchwoman, Anna Guerin, is credited with originating the idea of remembrance poppy day sales to benefit the widows and orphans of the war-devastated regions of France by initiating an Inter-Allied Poppy Day. What subsequently developed was a commercial aspect to selling poppies, as monies collected are a valuable contribution to welfare funds.

Veterans' associations in many parts of the world, particularly in the UK and in Commonwealth nations, have trademarked the modern Remembrance Poppy to fund their services.

There are, therefore, two aspects to selling poppies: the very important commemorative aspect and the commercial aspect.

The best way to link the commercial aspect with the commemorative aspect was resolved by the RSL in WA more than 15 years ago but has been forgotten. In those days, it was argued by some that State law only allowed vending for charities on Fridays. When 11 November fell on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, this meant situations where poppies were sold up to six days before Remembrance Day. What was previously overlooked, however, is that there is a proviso in the law for the relevant State Minister to grant an exemption. There is no politician in Australia who would not permit the RSL to sell poppies on Poppy Day and, when asked, the relevant Minister always grants an exemption.

Another argument at the time was that Veterans would not be available on 11 November to sell poppies, as they would be attending commemorative services. This reason, however, is not rational. The best time to sell poppies is when people are going to work, between 0600 and 0900, and commemorative services on

11 November are held at 1100. It is actually more convenient for many Veterans to combine both on 11 November.

Selling poppies early produces a situation where many people do not wear a poppy on 11 November.

When rushing to work, many forget previously-purchased poppies, or leave them in another bag or on the dresser table, or attached to other clothing. They then find none are available to purchase on the morning of Remembrance Day.

People like to wear a poppy on 11 November! People going about their business on 11 November also like being reminded that it is Remembrance Day.

A solution is simple. When Remembrance Day falls on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, sell poppies on the actual day of remembrance. In years when Remembrance Day falls on a Saturday or Sunday, sell poppies on the previous Friday.

Such an arrangement will not lead to any extra effort by the magnificent people at Branch and Sub-Branch level who work so hard to successfully organise poppy sales each year.

Poppy Day Report

By Mike Harness Poppy Day Organiser

Results of Highgate Sub-Branch Poppy Day collection by 17 of our members: Elizabeth Quay - \$4,065 (2019 - \$5,414) Wellington Street - \$2,748 (2019 - \$3,556) for a total of \$6,813 (2019 - \$8,970).

Although disappointing, compared to last year, it was noticed that pedestrian traffic was about one third of that in 2019 (probably because of reduced workers and shoppers in the CBD due to the pandemic). Most of the younger generation did not contribute, but those who did, gave generously.

Monday is probably not the optimum day to collect, especially as hospitality venues open on the weekend usually have time off on Mondays.

EFTPOS blades were inoperable, although givers sometimes switched to cash.



Useful news from the Department of Veterans' Affairs

150 more unmarked WW1 graves now identified



Graves of about 150 Veterans of the First World War have been identified and appropriately marked through the Government's *Unmarked First World War Graves* program. The two-year pilot program is attracting interest from associations and individuals throughout Australia and recently received its 200th application.

One of the successes of the ANZAC Centenary is that many Australians discovered unknown family connections they had to the First World War, as well as members of the general community becoming more interested in military history.

This has led to organisations and individuals across the country discovering First World War Veterans from their local communities who might lie in an unmarked grave.

After the First World War many Veterans came back to Australia seeking a quiet life in the country or they took up a Soldier Settler farm, in regional areas and often separated from family.

Many of these Veterans when they died may have been buried without a funeral or a permanent headstone and were not provided an official commemoration.

Australia can never repay the debt owed to those who served and gave their lives, but we demonstrate our gratitude and respect in our cemeteries in Australia and overseas.

This program makes funding available to individuals or associations to assist in marking unmarked graves and the program has now been extended for a further six months.

The program offers up to \$450 to assist with the cost of a grave marker or as a contribution towards a larger cost and has been extended until 30 June 2021. More information on eligibility at [DVA website](https://www.dva.gov.au) or email War.Graves@dva.gov.au

Grants help preserve our wartime heritage

Community groups and organisations across the country committed to preserving Australia's wartime heritage will share in more than \$1 million in funding through the *Saluting their Service* Commemorative Grants Program.

Community-led commemorative projects play a very important part in helping Australians learn about the crucial role of our Service personnel and recognising their courage and sacrifice.

Recipients of this round of grant funding are making a vital contribution to preserving our military history and bringing the community together through commemorative projects and activities.

The projects will leave a lasting legacy in communities and educate the next generation.

More information at [Community Grants Hub website](https://www.dva.gov.au/community-grants).

WA RECIPIENTS

RSLWA | Update WA State War Memorial with missing names, and make alterations to current names - \$83,715

RSLWA | Contribute to restoration of the Joondalup War Memorial - \$10,000

Shire of Bruce Rock | Construct a new memorial dedicated to the service and sacrifice of Australian military personnel in all wars, conflicts and peace operations - \$25,000

Albany RSL | Contribute to costs for 75th Anniversary of end of Second World War commemorative event - \$2,315

WA Country Women's Association | Housing of information panels commemorating service and sacrifice of local military personnel during Second World War - \$7,120

Pingrup War Memorial | Upgrade to commemorate local service personnel who served during the First and Second World Wars - \$6,305

Canning RSL | Install additional flagpole in commemorative garden - \$2,000

National network of mental health first aiders

Australians who support Veterans and their families are being trained as Mental Health First Aiders, through free training offered by Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling and Ex-Service Organisations around the country.

Mental Health First Aid and suicide prevention training offers Veterans and the people who support them an opportunity to 'square away' their own mental health so they can take care of themselves and those around them.

More than 1,400 members of the Veteran community have participated in mental health and suicide prevention training in the last 12 months.

Family members, friends and colleagues are often the first to notice subtle changes in someone's behaviour and training in Mental Health First Aid or suicide intervention equips them with skills and confidence to identify signs, start a conversation and encourage them to seek professional help.

This RSL-initiated training is now being delivered in partnership with Ex-Services Organisations across Australia.

Open Arms also provides suicide prevention training including the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), Suicide alertness for everyone (safeTALK), and Suicide Prevention Start, a 60-90 minute self-paced online workshop.

Former Warrant Officer of the Air Force, and now a national director in Open Arms, Rob Swanwick, said Open Arms is proud to provide training that can save lives.

"In the same way we are trained in physical first aid, we want to upskill people in mental health first aid.

There's a great sense of camaraderie and mutual support in the Veteran community that comes from shared experiences. Being able to strengthen the ethos of covering each other's back is incredibly important and rewarding."

Open Arms offers a variety of free training opportunities to those seeking to help family, friends, co-workers or others in the Veteran community. More information at 1800 011 046 or openarms.gov.au

More useful news from the Department of Veterans' Affairs

Applications open for Veteran and community grants

Projects supporting health and wellbeing of Veterans and their families may be eligible for funding, with applications for the Veteran and Community Grants (V&CG) program now open.

The grants support Ex-Service Organisations and partner community organisations in providing local solutions.

Local communities know best what will benefit Veterans and their families, whether that is improvements that make community spaces safer and more accessible, equipment that will enable COVID-safe activities, or assistance to connect online.

Applications are encouraged this year for practical projects and activities that support safe

accessible environments for Veterans and their families to enable social connection and positive engagement to improve wellbeing.

ESOs and community organisation partners can apply for grants of up to \$20,000 for local, community-based projects and activities. A small number of large grants of up to \$150,000 are available for projects that deliver wellbeing support services and activities of broad-scale benefit to the Veteran community.

Grant applications close 29 January 2021. More information at www.communitygrants.gov.au. Assistance with grant application queries available at **1800 020 283** or support@communitygrants.gov.au

Interim National Commissioner appointed



The next step has been taken in the Federal Government's efforts to combat suicide in Veterans and serving members of the Australian Defence Force with the appointment of

Dr Bernadette Boss CSC as the interim National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention.

The appointment is a significant step forward to ensure ADF personnel and Veterans have the help they need, when and where they need it, when it comes to their mental health.

The National Commissioner will make recommendations to the Government about actions and strategies to prevent future suicides, and will report publicly on their findings to Parliament each year.

The Government will be required to report on the progress of these recommendations, and the National Commissioner will have an ongoing role in monitoring implementation of the recommendations it makes.

Dr Boss will start working to identify and understand the factors and systemic issues that may contribute to suicide risk and provide recommendations to improve prevention efforts.

She started her career as a nurse, completing a Bachelor of Science in London and later studying law. She had a distinguished military career and has held inquests and hearings into complex deaths, including suicides.

As a current Magistrate and Coroner in the ACT, Dr Boss has skills and expertise to examine tragic instances of ADF and Veteran suicides to understand practical actions to reduce suicide risk.

Following passage of legislation to establish the role permanently (currently before Parliament), the National Commissioner will have enduring power, scope and resources to inquire into deaths by suicide, and will support future wellbeing and suicide prevention efforts, by identifying the need for any system-wide reforms, or new approaches to support ADF members and Veterans.

Supporting wellbeing of Veterans and their families

Support for Veterans and their families has now been enhanced with the passage of the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Supporting the Wellbeing of Veterans and their Families) Bill 2020.

The legislation implements three changes to ensure policy was meeting the needs of Veterans - recognising in legislation the Veteran Family Advocate, changes to better support transition from the ADF to civilian employment, and ensuring all Gold Card holders are treated equally in terms of their benefits.

The legislation provides for the Veteran Family Advocate, Ms Gwen Cherne, to be appointed as a Commissioner on the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, as well as the Repatriation Commission, putting the Advocate at the heart of DVA policy.

Ms Cherne will directly engage with families of Veterans of all generations and draw on their advice to help shape programs, policy and services, with a focus on building understanding of the factors that can enhance or detract from the mental health of Veterans and their families, particularly during transition from service.

The legislation also facilitates flexible programs designed to assist transition of former ADF members to the civilian workforce. This includes

establishing new programs, such as the Support for Employment Program, through the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Regulations 2020.

The Regulations will contain the details of the employment assistance or benefits, as well as who they will be provided to and in what circumstances they can be provided.

The final part of this legislation fixes an unintended omission that has meant some Gold Card holders have not been eligible for the Energy Supplement because they are covered under different legislation.

To ensure all Gold Card holders are treated equally, the legislation extends the Energy Supplement to Australian participants in the British Nuclear Tests and British Commonwealth Occupation Force, and to Australian residents who worked as part of Australian surgical-medical teams in Vietnam.

Interested in Naval history?

The WA Chapter of the Naval Historical Society meets at 18:00 on the third Monday of each month in the Claremont Lawn Tennis Club, Shenton Road, Claremont. Visitors are most welcome and there is ample parking at the Club. A donation of \$5 per person is requested to cover the cost of refreshments.

Reflections on Indigenous Military Service

NAIDOC Week (08-15 November) was a time for all Australians to pause and remember the legacy and valuable contribution of Australia's First Nations' Service men and women.

NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, cultures, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and is observed each year by Australians from all walks of life.

This year's theme *Always Was, Always Will Be* recognised First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for many tens of thousands of years.

The contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to our modern military history dates back to the Boer War, over 120 years ago.

Many Indigenous Defence personnel have served with distinction, such as Torres Strait Islander, Kapiu Masi Gagai, who was renowned as a skilled boatman and fearless soldier. In late 1943, he was seconded to the 11th Infantry Brigade and took part in a hazardous expedition led by Donald Finlay Fergusson Thomson in Netherlands New Guinea, where he was twice placed in charge of an outpost at Caledon Bay and promoted to acting sergeant. Sergeant Gagai became an expert Vickers gunner and was praised by Thomson for his sense of responsibility, devotion to duty,

leadership, loyalty, selflessness and setting an example to others.

NAIDOC Week is a good time to recognise those Indigenous Australians who have donned the uniform and for all to celebrate their achievements, culture, and history; and to acknowledge, remember and thank our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Defence personnel and Veterans for their service.

The Australian War Memorial in Canberra held a Last Post Ceremony on 10 November 2020 as part of NAIDOC Week, to commemorate Indigenous man, Private Christopher Wilson Carter, who served with the Australian Imperial Forces in France. He died, aged 30, on 09 May 1917 in one of the bloodiest campaigns of the Western Front during the First World War.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' proud history of participation in the ADF continues today. This year, we commemorated the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in which it is estimated 6,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people served. In 2019-20, almost 200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have participated in Indigenous ADF pre-recruit and development programs.

Worrying delay in DVA claims assessments

By Geoff Hourn, who served on the Veterans Review Board for about 18 years over a 25 year period

Pensions Officer, David MacLean (a very experienced Pensions Officer for both Highgate RSL and RAAF Association), has highlighted a worrying delay in the processing of Veteran claims by DVA.

Last October, DVA advised there was a backlog of 22,178 Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA) claims, 5,378 Defence Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (DRCA) claims and 5,691 Veterans Entitlement Act (VEA) claims. There were also about 1,000 emergency claims yet to be processed, once processed by a special DVA unit, now apparently disbanded.

David says the backlog is unprecedented in his long service, and points out that as always, DVA does its best, but the situation is significantly detrimental to Veterans.

David also reported that Veterans Affairs Minister, Darren Chester MP, had said the Productivity Commission report *A Better Way to Support Veterans* (tabled in Federal Parliament in October) will not be addressed until 2021-22 Budget.

He also reports the Productivity Commission Report, the Veterans' Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study, and the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade report on Transition from the ADF have been down for almost a year and will be heading for two years on the spike, by the time the next Budget is framed.

DVA Secretary, Brigadier Liz Cosson AM CSC, has explained that while Veterans' mental health issues were addressed in the current Budget, the other matters were deferred to allow more time for the economic and fiscal impact of the coronavirus to be better understood.

David MacLean says an unintended consequence of the DVA *Work from Home* policy is that trainee delegates are working in isolation without immediate reference to their supervisors, colleagues or their training officer, and this has led to some unfortunate misunderstandings.

Applications open for young Veteran grants

Improved community services and support for younger Veterans and their families is the focus of the latest round of the Australian Government's \$1 million Supporting Younger Veterans (SYV) grants program, now open.

The program focuses on ensuring younger Veterans receive more support from their local Ex-Service Organisations and other Veteran community organisations, with a particular focus on mental health.

This can include social inclusion and connectedness activities for younger Veterans and their families, mentoring or other support to assist with transition to civilian life and employment, and online activities that address stigma and highlight mental health issues faced by younger veterans.

ESOs and community organisation partners are invited to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 for local, community-based projects and activities.

A small number of large grants of up to \$150,000 are also available for projects that deliver wellbeing support services and activities of broad scale benefit to the younger veteran community.

Applications for the SYV grants close 05 February 2021.

More information at www.communitygrants.gov.au, 1800 020 283 or support@communitygrants.gov.au.



Special Forces issues have deep historical roots

By Neil James, Executive Director - Australia Defence Association
Published in the Federal government part-funded Australian Strategic Policy Institute's
The Strategist in October last year (2019) and reproduced here with Neil James' permission

Allegations of misconduct and worse by ADF Special Forces personnel have resulted in an independent Inquiry by the Inspector-General ADF (under administrative law) and an investigation by the Australian Federal Police (under criminal law). Media and public interest in these inquiries has tended to focus, often sensationally, on personalities alleged to be involved, rather than discuss the allegations in their full contexts.

Media coverage and public discussion of alleged breaches of the laws of war by Australian special forces is heavily focused on individual personalities. Little attention has been paid to longstanding collective, structural and cultural drivers, nor to decisions made over decades by the chain-of-command up to Cabinet level.

After World War II, two reservist commando companies were raised in each of Melbourne and Sydney in the mid 1950s and tasked with maintaining Army's capacity for raiding from the sea or by parachute. The UK's re-forming of its Special Air Service regiment during the Malayan Emergency led to Australia raising its first full-time special forces unit, the 1st Special Air Services Company, in 1957. After experimentation on extensive military exercises, this became the 1st Special Air Service Regiment in 1964.

While sharing many attributes, the reservist commandos and the full-time SASR naturally developed cultural cleavages based on separate roles and conceptual development, Army-Army Reserve distinctions, and the then legislative restrictions limiting the employment of ARES units short of major war.

A further factor stemmed from the decision to base 1SAS Company in Perth. Both West Australian political pressure, and the perceived need to be based near the sea and a RAAF airfield (RAAF Base Pearce), meant the beachside Campbell Barracks at Swanbourne seemed ideal.

However, this decision has had periodic cultural and professional consequences. Over decades, an elite unit developed, sometimes in relative isolation from the rest of the army and the Defence Force. It's also long been the army's only full-time combat unit in WA and has much support among WA politicians and society generally.

In the early years, isolation was tempered by being part of the Royal Australian Regiment and, later, the respect the SASR won operationally in Borneo 1965-66 and Vietnam 1966-71, mainly in their primary role of long-range reconnaissance in enemy areas. Moreover, SASR squadrons came under the command of the 1st Australian Task Force in Vietnam, as all units did, not separate chain-of-command or tasking.



Neil James SASR initially struggled to adapt its highly successful jungle warfare methodologies for long-range patrolling to strategic doctrine that was then focused on defending the Australian continent directly, especially across our large and arid north. In 1979, the peacetime and wartime contingency task of assisting civil police with assaults on terrorist strongholds during siege-hostage incidents added a significant and burdensome role. Special recovery roles naturally followed. Significant resourcing eventually flowed, as did ministerial interest and great public curiosity.

The counter-terrorist role also led to personnel receiving additional financial allowances tailored to very-high-readiness, additional training and dangerous conditions. This added a financial incentive to the general unwillingness to serve elsewhere in the army when soldiers and NCOs had won a place in an elite unit.

The Directorate of Special Action Forces (DSAF) in Army Headquarters was also created in 1979 to lead the SASR, the ARES commando units and, initially, the ARES's Norforce as per Defence-of-Australia doctrine. This creation of a quasi-brigade headquarters effectively broke the last technical control link with the conventional infantry.

In 1981, the commando companies and their signal squadron were grouped to form the 1st Commando Regiment with a full-time commanding officer, often from the SASR. A full-time commando regiment, now known as 2 Commando Regiment, formed in 1997.

Operations in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan saw DSAF morph into Special Operations Command. Its command level influentially rose from brigadier to major general, largely from an election promise rather than ADF decision.

Some context

In Iraq and Afghanistan under governments of both political persuasions, concern about possible political blowback from ADF casualties led to a ministerial preference for using SF units instead of conventional ones. Given the SF's necessarily much smaller numbers relative to conventional forces (otherwise they wouldn't be special), this meant a high operational tempo, though

tours were shorter than for conventional troops.

Our Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) in Afghanistan's Uruzgan province combined both SASR and commando elements. It was under local Australian command but tasking was increasingly integrated with coalition SF arrangements. Some physical segregation at Tarin Kot, between the SOTG and other ADF elements also hampered wider interactions.

In SF units, there's naturally a high dependence on small-group cohesion through mutual trust. However, throughout a career, officers tend to be posted in and out of the unit far more often than NCOs and soldiers. With high operational tempos, dependence on group culture tends to increase. The professional continuity provided by longer-serving NCOs and soldiers is a pillar of unit resilience. But, if a culture becomes too elitist or inward-focused, wider perspective and accountability risks can develop among such tribal-elders.

The SASR has a high ratio of senior NCOs to officers because most of its small-group patrol operations are necessarily led by them, and were often dispersed geographically in Afghanistan. Commando units tend to operate in larger groups, with a higher likelihood of on-scene command decisions being made by officers and more senior ones at that.

Interplay of factors

The interplays of rank, responsibility, perspective and accountability can vary between the two main types of SF unit. Unit cultural longevity also plays a part. Since near-continuous operational service for the ADF began in 1999, and especially in the 2007-13 period, a combination of factors seems to have been at play:

Australia tried to fight its modern wars without a whole-of-nation focus and commensurate community engagement.

Even within the ADF, and unlike previous wars, much greater reliance was placed on SF rather than conventional forces.

Australia sent its SF personnel 'to the well too often'. The high operational tempo taxed individuals psychologically, pressured their families, stressed unit cultural norms, strained unit resilience and seems to have diluted accountability mechanisms.

There was governmental reluctance to take coalition responsibility for Uruzgan Province after our Dutch partners left in 2010, and institute command arrangements accordingly.

Continued page 9

Special Forces issues have deep historical roots *(cont.)*

Highly-motivated and highly-trained SF personnel finally got to undertake a range of combat tasking they'd long prepared for, and they performed very professionally. Units were keen to prove their Tier-1 SF status to allies.

SASR elements were used for direct action tasks (principally a commando role) as well as covert reconnaissance. While good for morale and individual skills in the short term, this risked necessarily distinct individual specialisations and unit functions over the longer one.

High operational tempo fostered both worthy and risky elements of elite-unit culture. As did regular tax-free pay and allowances when deployed, protected-identity status and public curiosity about personnel and their necessarily high-security operations. Individual and collective recognition of these risks became obscured.

The war in Afghanistan was fought under particularly difficult operational, legal and environmental conditions. Afghan society is riven with major and often intractable socio-cultural divisions.

Enemy personnel were and remain often difficult to distinguish from the general populace.

Even if captured, they could not be easily interned by international forces for more than three days. As capture invariably involved life-or-death risks for our personnel, the 'catch and release' situation was professionally and morally frustrating.

Conclusions

The ADF is the disciplined defence force of a democracy and rightly subject to the rule of law, both domestically and internationally.

Our troops and their leaders are rightly accountable for their combat actions, even in difficult situations. And our political leaders are also responsible for their decisions.

But great care must be exercised in publicly judging whether allegations of misconduct or breaches of the laws of war are valid or not.

Analysis of why they may have occurred must acknowledge the actual context.

Neither simplistically excusing possible fault by claiming 'bad things happen in war', nor context-free criticism of our troops using peacetime civil standards, meet the mark.

All allegations and any consequences need to account for complex structural causes stretching back to the mid-1950s.

These include decisions made by the highest levels of government - particularly those that led to over-dependence on special forces personnel in meeting Australia's contemporary strategic challenges.

New members

We welcome our new members **Oliver Lovelle** has transferred from Mt Lawley-Inglewood Sub-Branch. Oliver is their former President and was awarded RSL Life Membership on 24 April 2020.

Ronald Packer was an Army Lieutenant with 5 Royal Australian Regiment in the 1970s.

Rev David Noble served with the British Army in the late 1950s to early 1960s, including a posting to Dusseldorf Germany. He is now Chaplain of the WA branch of the Royal Military Police Association.

SES Award

And we congratulate Highgate member **Arthur Hutchinson** who, on 28 November, was awarded *Kalamunda State Emergency Services Member of the Year 2020*



Highgate Members celebrating Birthdays

October

Leon Newman, John Morriss, Phillip Skelton, Arthur Hutchison, Peter Rowles, Margot Harness, John Lindsay, Shirley Mooney, Ian Sutherland, Bill Munro, Richard Hooper, Howard Montagu, Stanley Stewart, Paul Brabazon, Glenn Darlington, Ian Mulholland, Roger Buddrige, Ian Healy, John Barnes and Jack Suriano

November

Kevan Barrett, Carmen Homer, Robert Bunney, Brian D'Cunha, Doug Farmer, Clare Curtis, Colin Hebbard, Graham Reynolds, Peter Farrell, Allan Downs, Judy Farrell, Joe Cicala, Susan Glasfurd and John Evert

Australian SASR and the Tizak Operation | June 2010

Watch Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG in the Shah Wali Kot offensive where his actions resulted in the awarding of the Victoria Cross.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k07GaFzfxwM&ab_channel=LiveThForEvermore

Our Christmas Luncheon Thai Caves Rescuer DR CRAIG CHALLEN SC OAM From 1200 on 14 December 2020

Our sold-out Christmas Luncheon will be a real treat this year, as we welcome special guest speaker, Dr Craig Challen SC OAM.



Along with South Australia's Dr Richard Harris, Dr Craig Challen SC OAM, Craig received the Star of Courage, the Medal of the Order of Australia, and both were jointly named the 2019 Australians of the Year for their unwavering and selfless bravery as part of an international rescue mission to save 12 boys and their soccer coach from flooded caves in Chiang Rai, Thailand, in July 2018.

For their outstanding courage and skills, Craig and Richard were also awarded the Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Admirable Order of the Direkgunabhorn, by His Majesty, the King of Thailand.

Craig was about to undertake a caving holiday on the Nullarbor Plains when called on to help the rescue mission with his technical expertise.

Working 10-12 hours a day in extremely dangerous conditions, he repeatedly risked his life as the children were swum, one by one, through the dark and narrow flooded caves.

One of Australia's leading technical divers, Craig has dived many deep wrecks and set diving depth records. He was awarded Technical Diver of the Year in 2009.

Craig has explored caves throughout Australia, New Zealand, China, Thailand, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands.

In addition, Craig has an avid interest in shipwreck diving, exploring sites throughout South East Asia and Oceania.

A retired veterinary surgeon and former CEO of Australian Animal Hospitals, Craig is also a helicopter and aircraft pilot.

Coffee-Spillers, Eye-Rollers and Warm Fuzzies

Waiting for overseas flight

Wife: You have the passports?

Husband: Yes.

Wife: Got the insurance?

Husband: Yes. But I forgot the piano.

Wife: What do you want that for?

Husband: The tickets are on it.

I went to the doctor with hearing problems. He said, "Can you describe the symptoms?" I said, "Homer is a fat bloke and Marge has blue hair."

I love you so much, I can't live without you. Is that you or the wine talking? It's me talking to the wine.

I saw a dwarf climbing down a prison wall and I thought to myself, "That's a little condescending."

Customer: May I have a plastic bag?
Fishmonger: It's already inside.

Glass coffins. Will they be popular?
Remains to be seen.

Sign outside USA church: Adultery is a sin. You can't have your Kate and Edith, too.

I'm so old that when I was a kid, we actually had to win to get a trophy.

One minute you're 21, staying up all night drinking beer, eating pizza and doing stupid stuff just for fun, then in a blink of an eye, you're 50, drinking water, eating kale and you can't do any stupid stuff because you pulled a muscle, putting on your socks.

Spend time with your elders. Not everything can be found on Google.

I survived playing in the mud, getting spanked, rusty playgrounds, secondhand cigarette smoke, toy guns, lead paint, no seatbelts, no helmets, bush-bashing in the back of a ute and drinking from the hose.

Today, eight-year olds are asking for the latest iPhone. When I was eight, I felt like I'd won the lottery if I had a biro pen.

I'm so old, I remember multiplication was called 'Times Tables'.

If Jesus tried to feed the 5,000 today, He'd be getting questions like: *I can't eat bread - I'm vegan. Is that bread gluten-free? Has that fish been tested for mercury?*

Make sure you enjoy your 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s, because in your 60s, that 'check engine' light is going to come on.

I'm old enough to remember when paper bags were being blamed for the destruction of trees - and plastic bags were the solution.

Back in my day, 'vaping' was when Mum rubbed Vicks Vaporub all over your chest.

Four out of three people struggle with mathematics.

EYES FRONT! - From the RSM Make your bed!

By US Admiral William McRaven

Every morning in basic SEAL training, my instructors would show up and they would inspect your bed. If you did it right, the corners would be square, the covers pulled tight, the pillow centered and the extra blanket folded neatly at the foot.

It was a simple task - but every morning we were required to make our bed to perfection. It seemed ridiculous at the time, particularly as we aspired to be real warriors, tough, battle-hardened SEALs, but the wisdom of this simple act has been proven to me many times.

If you make your bed every morning you will have accomplished the first task of the day. It will give you a small sense of pride, and will encourage you to do another task and another and another. By the end of the day, that one task completed will have turned into many tasks completed. Making your bed will also reinforce the fact that little things in life matter. If you can't do the little things right, you will never do the big things right.

And if you have a miserable day, you will come home to a bed that is made - that you made - and a made bed gives you encouragement that tomorrow will be better.

If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed.

See his full talk (15 mins) on how to change the world - it's one of the most powerful and exciting motivational speeches ever given:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBuIGBCF9jc>

I thought growing older would take longer.

Of course size matters. No one wants a small glass of wine.

I have sexdaily dyslexia.

To me, 'Drink responsibly' means don't spill it

My wife says I only have two faults. I don't listen, and something else...

My body is a temple. Ancient and crumbling. Probably cursed or haunted.

I'm so busy, I don't know whether I found a rope or lost my horse.

You are about to exceed the limits of my medication.

Ladies, buy the shoes. No point in being the richest woman in the cemetery.

My husband thinks I'm crazy, but I'm not the one who married me.

Patience is a virtue. It's just not one of my virtues.

Does running late count as exercise?

On your mark. Get set. Go away.

The best thing about the good old days was that I wasn't good and I wasn't old.

Scientists say the universe is made up of protons, neutrons and electrons. They forgot to mention morons.

Today, I was a hero! I rescued some beer that was trapped in a bottle.

If you can't laugh at yourself, let me do it. I may be wrong, but I doubt it.

At my funeral, take the bouquet off my coffin and throw it into the crowd to see who is next.

No, I don't need anger management. You need to stop upsetting me.

If you look in the mirror and see a beer belly, bald head, big red nose, varicose veins and a complexion like leather, look on the bright side. At least your eyesight is okay.

A penguin walked into the bar and said, "I'm looking for my brother".
"What does he look like," asked the barman.

Everyone was thinking it. I just said it.

I have a sign in my shed that says, "Where will your hands go if the object you're holding suddenly disappears?"

Tools explained

HOSE CUTTER A tool used to make hoses too short.

HAMMER Originally employed as a weapon of war, now used as a divining rod to locate the most expensive parts next to the object we are trying to hit.

PLIERS Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used to creat blood-blisters.

DRILL PRESS Useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, wrecking the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

DROP SAW: A portable cutting tool used to make timber too short.

BELT SANDER: An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

WIRE WHEEL: Cleans paint off bolts and then hurls them under the workbench at the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'AAHHH!'

MORE! Coffee-Spillers, Eye-Rollers and Warm Fuzzies

Secrets of a long and happy marriage

The relationship between husband and wife is psychological. One is psycho and the other is logical. Don't try to work out who is which...

Ladies. If a man says he will fix it, he will. You don't need to remind him every six months.

If you think women are the weaker sex, just try pulling the blankets back to your side.

Hold your wife's hand in the mall, because if you let go, she'll go shopping. It looks romantic but it's actually economic.

The boss isn't always right, but she's always the boss.

A wedding ring is the smallest handcuff ever made. So choose your prison mate carefully.

You can tell a lot about a woman by her hands. For example, if they're tightly round your throat, she's probably slightly upset.

I'm not really a control freak, but can I show you the right way to do that?

If you're right and you shut up, you're married.

Nine out of 10 men believe their wife is always right. The 10th man hasn't been seen since the survey was taken.

Guys: I'm arguing with my wife and she has just said I'm right. What do I do next?

Married 47 years and never considered divorce. Murder – yes. Divorce – no.

He asked why the house wasn't clean because I'm at home all day. I said why aren't we rich because you're at work all day?

Hi, Honey. Dinner is on the stove. The gas is turned on. You only have to light it. Love you.

No husband has ever been shot while doing the dishes.

In our marriage, everything is 50:50. I cook, he eats. I wash, he wears. I buy, he pays.

Secret of a happy marriage? The elderly man said, "My wife does exactly what she wants, and I also do exactly what she wants."

My husband is attractive, but he's *smoking hot!* in those rare moments when I see him doing the dishes or folding the laundry.

If a week goes by and your husband is not confused or terrified by one of your actions, you're just not doing your job properly.

If at first you don't succeed, try doing it the way your wife told you.

Sometimes I look at my husband and think, "Wow. You are one lucky man!"

The secret of a happy marriage is summed up in just two words: "Yes, Dear".

TENDJEWBERRYMUD

Memories of Asian holidays

Read this entire conversation out loud, phonetically. It's amazing, but you will understand the above word by the end of the conversation. For best results, have two people read it as a script. But be warned, you're may find yourself talking 'funny' for a while after reading this. The following is a telephone exchange between a hotel guest and room-service at a hotel in Asia:

Room Service (RS): "Morny. Ruin sorbees"
Guest (G): "Sorry, I thought I dialled room-service"

RS: "Rye..Ruin sorbees..morny! Djewish to odor sunteen?"

G: "Uh..yes..I'd like some bacon and eggs"

RS: "Ow July den?"

G: "What?"

RS: "Ow July den?...pry, boy, pooch?"

G: "Oh, the eggs! How do I like them?"

RS: "Sorry, scrambled please."

RS: "Ow July dee baychem...crease?"

G: "Crisp will be fine."

RS: "Hokay. An san tos?"

G: "What?"

RS: "San tos. July san tos?"

G: "I don't think so"

RS: "No? Judo one toes?"

G: "I sorry about this, but I don't know what 'judo one toes' means."

RS: "Toes! toes!, why djew Don Juan toes? Ow bow singlish mopping we bother?"

G: "English muffin!! I've got it! You were saying 'Toast.' Fine. Yes, an English muffin will be fine."

RS: "We bother?"

G: "No, just put the bother on the side."

RS: "Wad?"

G: "I mean butter, just put it on the side."

RS: "Copy?"

G: "Sorry?"

RS: "Copy...tea...mill?"

G: "Yes. Coffee please, and that's all."

RS: "One Minnie. Ass ruin torino fee, strangle ache, crease baychem, tossy singlish mopping we bother honey sigh, and copy,....rye?"

G: "Whatever you say"

RS: "Tendjewberrymud"

G: "You're welcome"

Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

Never buy a car you can't push.

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.

Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

The second mouse gets the cheese.

When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.

We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colours, but they all have to live in the same box.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Save the earth. It's the only planet with chocolate.

Your husband will always be your biggest and oldest child who requires the most adult supervision.

Being in a long marriage is like that first nice cup of coffee in the morning. I might have had it every day, but I still enjoy it.

And of all the futures she could have had, she didn't want a single one of them that didn't have him in it.

To keep your marriage brimming with love, whenever you're wrong, admit it. Whenever you're right, shut up.

Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave.

I have a sign in my shed that says, "Where will your hands go if the object you're holding suddenly disappears?"

Beware! Photographers are violent people. In fact, some shoot everything in sight. First, they frame you, then they shoot you, and then they hang you on the wall. And the meanest, cruellest, and most bloodthirsty actually process you after they've shot you and before they hung you on that wall. In the old days, they also dipped you in chemicals then water-boarded you in a dark room, before the hanging. Sometimes, they even cut off parts of you. And they make me look fat...



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Newsletter contributions are always welcome. Please send to editor@highgate-rsl.org.au

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