

# 'Pass the Word'

## The Davistown RSL sub-Branch Newsletter

Website: <http://www.davistownrslsb.org.au>



Vol 4 | Iss 8 - August 2024

### **N.B.** **NEXT MEETING IS** **SUNDAY 11 AUG**

### **Sub-Branch 'InActive'** **Members**

**It's so easy to remain 'Active', just reach out and let me know so I can update you for 2024. You call tell me, call me, or email me.**

### **Reachout!!!**

**Give your mates a ring, send an SMS or an email, I am sure they would appreciate it!!**

### **Wellbeing Support**

Are you looking for a way to provide hands-on support to your local veteran community? Consider becoming an RSL NSW Wellbeing Support Officer (WSO).

While RSL NSW has more than 30,000 members who stand ready to provide mateship, connection, and support to their fellow veterans and families.

WSOs are equipped with the specific knowledge and skills to support, listen and refer a veteran to the services they need.

Register your interest here:

[https://rslnsw.org.au/how-we-support-you/wso-project/#msdyntrid=8-DXZpYuD\\_n1AfEJvHhxDawESBvtSAY3TpTsmXLfNg](https://rslnsw.org.au/how-we-support-you/wso-project/#msdyntrid=8-DXZpYuD_n1AfEJvHhxDawESBvtSAY3TpTsmXLfNg)

### **Lest We Forget**

*Brian Williams - 4 July*

*Stan Heares - 7 July*

*Ken Whetton - 22 July*



## **Vietnam Veterans Day**

Vietnam Veterans Day was originally known as Long Tan Day, chosen to commemorate the men of D Company, 6RAR who fought in the battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966.

Now 58 years later we pause on 18 August to reflect on the bravery, teamwork and endurance that Australians displayed throughout the war. It's a day when we recognise all who served in Vietnam.

Our commemorative service commences at 1100 at the 'The Davo' Memorial Wall on Sun 18 Aug. A lunch and/or beverages will be available on completion of the service via a \$10 per head contribution on the day.

**Please note:** This is only for sub-Branch members and a maximum of one guest.

## **Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) of NSW**

RUSI has been promoting understanding of defence and national security since 1888. We draw your attention to the latest **defence news**, our future **lectures and services** and the RUSI **Special Interest Group on Strategy** report on pages 4-9 (of the newsletter), as the geopolitical landscape is always fluid.

We hope you will enjoy this newsletter, and explore all the other services that RUSI NSW has to offer.

This newsletter may be of interest to many of you, and may be accessed at:

<https://rusinw.org.au/Newsletters/202407.pdf>

### **Jackspeak**

Fix - Enter an accurate position on a navigational chart.

Flag Eight - Warning signal: 'Women on board'. To flag a problem means that someone has drawn attention to it, in writing.

Fitted - Hit a person: 'Nobby fitted him one.' Can also be used in a more passive sense: 'He got fitted up a bramah, while he was home on leave.

Five finger salvo - A well landed punch. Note that a bunch of fives is a frequent but similar usage.

## August {Leo until 22 Aug/then Virgo - Onyx & Sapphire}

**Key characteristics:** Bold, intelligent, warm, and courageous, fire sign Leo is a natural leader of the Zodiac, ready to blaze a trail, vanquish injustice, and make a name for themselves along the way. Blessed with high self-esteem, Lions know that they possess enviable traits—and they're proud of them. **Zodiac Totem:** The Lion!!

**Key Life Phrase:** "If you know the way, go the way and show the way—you're a leader."



### David Ferry - 4

Louis Armstrong 1901-1971 - Father of Jazz who replaced The Beatles on the Billboard Hot 100 chart with "Hello, Dolly!" when he was 63 years old; he was the oldest person at that time to hit the #1 ranking.

**Before Fame:** The grandson of slaves, he worked as a paperboy and sold food he salvaged to restaurants. Bunk Johnson taught him how to play by ear when Armstrong was eleven and had dropped out of school. **Trivia:** "Bout Time," a song he wrote in his 60s, was featured in the film Bewitched.

**Before Fame:** She worked at a U.S. Embassy after earning a degree in international relations.



### Robert Poole - 8

Connie Stevens 1938 - Actress and singer who played Cricket Blake on *Hawaiian Eye* and appeared in *Fantasy Island*. **Before Fame:** Her real name is Concetta Rosalie Ann Ingoglia, but she adopted her father's stage name as her own. **Trivia:** In 2005, she was elected secretary-treasurer of the Screen Actors Guild, the second-highest elected position within the union.

### Mal Brian - 9

Gillian Anderson 1968 - Golden Globe-winning actress who starred alongside David Duchovny, portraying FBI agent Dana Scully on the television series *The X-Files*. She reprised her role in the 1998 film *The X-Files*, its 2008 sequel *X-Files: I Want to Believe* and a 2016 *X-Files* miniseries. **Before Fame:** She started her acting career by joining an amateur actor group while in high school. **Trivia:** She starred in the 2000 film *The House of Mirth* and also appeared in the movies *The Mighty Celt*, *Sister*, and *Mr. Morgan's Last Love*.

### Bob Stoddart - 14

Susan Saint James 1946 - Achieved fame for portraying detective Sally McMillan in the series *McMillan and Wife* in the 1970s. The following decade, she played a role on *Kate & Allie*.

**Before Fame:** She began her career modelling as a teenager before moving to California to pursue acting at age twenty. **Trivia:** She starred in numerous TV sitcoms, commentated for the WWF Wrestlemania and volunteered for the Special Olympics.



### Ray Bracken - 19

Jill St. John 1940 - Starred as Bond girl Tiffany Case in the 1971 film *Diamonds Are Forever*. She received a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actress for her role in the 1963 comedy *Come Blow Your Horn* and also played leading roles in such 1960s films as *The Lost World*, *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* and *Tony Rome*. **Before Fame:** Growing up in Los Angeles, she was a member of the Children's Ballet Company alongside fellow future actresses Natalie Wood and Stefanie Powers. **Trivia:** She made her television debut in the 1948 TV short *A Christmas Carol* at age eleven. Her big screen debut came in the 1952 feature *Thunder in the East*.



### Les Baker - 21

Princess Margaret 1930-2002 - Countess of Snowdon who was the youngest daughter of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. She stirred the world's heart with her tragic private life and caused controversy within the royal family for getting divorced. **Before Fame:** She was the younger sister of Queen Elizabeth II, the heir apparent to the throne of England. Her sister married Prince Philip, a navy officer, but it would be an unhappy union. **Trivia:** She fell in love with Captain Peter Townsend, an employee of her father's equerry, but because divorce was still

taboo in the upper crust circles, she caused a scandal.

### John Collins - 29

Ingrid Bergman 1915-1982 - Swedish actress who was immortalized when she played Ilsa Lund in the 1942 film *Casablanca*. She was ranked as the fourth greatest actress of all time by the American Film Institute. **Before Fame:** She studied at Sweden's Royal Dramatic Theatre School. **Trivia:** She was in many hit movies, including *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *Gaslight*.

## September

Peter Grothen - 1

Mick Allen - 2

Mike Fletcher - 11

Mac M'Larty - 17

Chris Jones - 18

Catherine Lincoln - 21

Doug Ramage - 30

## Awards:

8 Aug 1915 - Lance Corporal Leonard Maurice Kyezor (Keyzor, Keysor)  
8 Aug 1918 - Lieutenant Alfred Edward Gaby  
8-9 Aug 1915 - Lieutenant Colonel William John Symons  
9 Aug 1915 - Corporal Alexander Stuart Burton  
9 Aug 1915 - Corporal William Dunstan  
9 Aug 1915 - Lieutenant John Patrick Hamilton  
9 Aug 1915 - Captain Alfred Shout  
9 Aug 1915 - Major Frederick Harold Tubb  
9 Aug 1918 - Private Robert Matthew Beatham (1894-1918)  
9-12 Aug 1916 - Private Martin O'Meara (1885-1935)  
10 Aug 1919 - Corporal Arthur Percy Sullivan (1881-1916)  
12 Aug 1918 - Sergeant Percy Clyde Statton  
23 Aug 1918 - Lieutenant William Donovan Joynt (1889-1986)  
23 Aug 1918 - Lieutenant Lawrence Dominic 'Fats' McCarthy  
27 Aug 1918 - Lance Corporal Sidney "Bernie" Gordon  
29 Aug 1919 - Sergeant Sam George Pearse (1897-1919)  
29 Aug 1942 - Private Bruce Steel Kingsbury  
29-30 Aug 1915 - Lieutenant Hugo Vivian Hope Throssell  
31 Aug 1918 - Private George Cartwright (1894-1978)

*We Will Remember Them!! Les We Forget!!*

## This Month in History:

**5 Aug 1944** - Mass breakout of Japanese prisoners at Cowra prisoner-of-war camp, NSW. This was the largest ever mass escape from a prisoner-of-war camp. Some 378 Japanese prisoners succeeded in escaping the camp; of these, 234 were killed and 108 were wounded. Three Australian guards died in the fighting immediately following the escape, and another was killed during attempts to round up escapees in the surrounding countryside.

**6 Aug 1915** - Battle for Lone Pine begins on Gallipoli. The Lone Pine operation was planned as a diversion to draw Turkish reserves away from a major British attack to be launched at the northern end of the Australian and New Zealand position on Gallipoli. The Australians suffered more than 2,200 casualties at Lone Pine and the Turks over 5,000. Seven Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross.



**6 Aug 1945** - First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Hiroshima was chosen as the target for the dropping of the first atomic bomb as, to that point, it had not been subjected to US air raids. It was believed that attacking a hitherto untouched city would demonstrate the awesome power of atomic weapons. The bomb was dropped by a US B-29 bomber nicknamed "Enola Gay"; it was estimated to have killed some 140,000 people by Aug 1946.

**9 Aug 1942** - HMAS *Canberra* was sunk in the battle of Savo Island. The *Canberra* was among a fleet of US and Australian warships supporting the US

Marines' landings on Guadalcanal. \*A new USS *Canberra* (LCS-30) was commissioned at GID last Saturday.

**13 Aug 1941** - The Australian Women's Army Service was established to release men from certain military duties for service with fighting units. Members of the Australian Women's Army Service served in a variety of roles including clerks, typists, cooks, and drivers. In 1945 a contingent was sent to Lae and another group was sent to Holland.

**18 Aug 1966** - Battle of Long Tan, South Vietnam. Amid a tropical downpour, 108 men of D Company, 6 RAR, supported by artillery and a timely resupply by the RAAF, fought off an attack by an enemy force of more than 2,000 in a rubber plantation near the abandoned village of Long Tan. The arrival of Armoured Personnel Carriers carrying reinforcements brought the action to an end. Seventeen Australians were killed, one died of wounds, and 24 were wounded. More than 245 enemy bodies were later counted, but many more had been taken away.



## August Phacts:

2 Aug 1851 - Gold is first discovered in Ballarat, Victoria, leading to the Victorian gold rush.

7 Aug 1994 - The Tasty nightclub raid in Melbourne sees 463 patrons strip searched during police raids. I remember it like it was yesterday!!

9 Aug 1962 - The Federal Government bans the drug, thalidomide.

13 Aug 1940 - Three members of the Australian Cabinet, Air Minister James Fairbairn, Information Minister Sir Henry Gullett and Army Minister Brigadier Geoffrey Street, were killed, along with the Chief of the General Staff of the Australian Army, General Sir Brudenell White in the Canberra air disaster.

18 Aug 1984 - The Fine Cotton scam is discovered at Eagle Farm Racecourse, Brisbane.

22 Aug 1770 - Captain James Cook claims the east coast of New Holland in the name of King George III, naming the site Possession Island.

24 Aug 1915 - The town of Holbrook, New South Wales was renamed from Germanton.

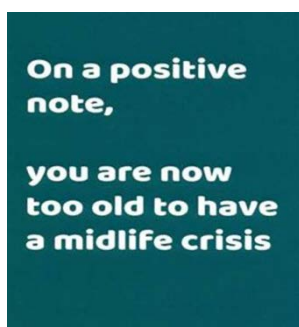
27 Aug 1908 - Birth of Donald Bradman in Cootamundra, New South Wales.

29 Aug 1882 - Australian cricketers win The Ashes for the first time.

30 Aug 1992 - The Sydney Harbour Tunnel officially opens.



## Funnies....??



They ask me why I don't have tattoos, so I told them, "Have you ever seen a bumper sticker on a Ferrari?"

## Welfare Contacts

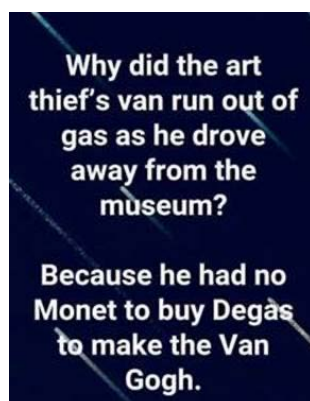
**Club Ltd** - 4363 0199 (ask them to contact the sub-Branch for you), or

**Welfare Officer(s):**

Paul Osborn - 0418 645 715

**Secretary:**

Pete Grothen - 0412 702 700



## Fun August Days:



3<sup>rd</sup> is **Watermelon Day** - Made of almost 92% water, the fruit is full of Vitamins A, C, and antioxidants. So what are you waiting for? Go get yourself a few slices of watermelon to celebrate this delicious holiday.

Watermelon is an ancient food that is believed to have originated in tropical Africa. Historians have found evidence of watermelon cultivation as far back as 4000 years ago. Today, many varieties of the fruit are grown in warm parts of the world.

**Did You Know...**that watermelon is the official vegetable of the state of Oklahoma in the United States? There is some debate between the botanical and gardening community as to whether to classify watermelon as a vegetable or a fruit. Botanists all agree that watermelons are a fruit, while gardeners usually tend to believe that it is a vegetable given that it is closely related to the squash, gourd, and cucumber families.

8<sup>th</sup> is **Happiness Happens Day** - The holiday is based on the premise that happiness is unlimited and contagious and that sharing one's happiness can bring a lot of joy into other people's lives. In addition, the unofficial holiday commemorates the day the first member joined the Secret Society of Happy People. In 2000, the Society expanded the celebration of happiness and declared August as Happiness Happens Month. **Did You Know...**that in 2012 the United Nations declared March 20 as the International Day of Happiness?



28<sup>th</sup> is **Bow Tie Day** - A type of necktie, the bow tie became a part of a fashionable man's wardrobe in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is believed that tie evolved from another type of male neckwear called the cravat. The cravat originated in Croatia in the 17<sup>th</sup> century as a band of cloth that was wrapped around the neck and was possibly worn as a way for soldiers to close the fronts of their shirts or to hide any stains on the front of their shirts. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the cravat had become popular among fashionable circles in France and Europe.

In the early days, the bow tie was specifically reserved for formal occasions. Black tie attire became a term synonymous with tuxedos worn with black bow ties.

Outside of formal events, bow ties gained a reputation of being associated with stodgy intellectualism, thought to be worn by people who did not care much about what others thought of them. In recent years, bow ties have become cool again. Today, they are part of the daily attire of many men and women. **Did You Know...**that a very fashionable person is known as a clotheshorse?

## sub-Branch Event Calendar:

|                  |         |    |                      |      |
|------------------|---------|----|----------------------|------|
| <b>August</b>    | Tuesday | 6  | Committee Meeting    | 1100 |
|                  | Sunday  | 11 | General Meeting      | 1100 |
|                  | Sunday  | 18 | Vietnam Veterans Day | 1055 |
| <b>September</b> | Tuesday | 3  | Committee Meeting    | 1100 |
|                  | Tuesday | 10 | General Meeting      | 1100 |
| <b>October</b>   | Tuesday | 1  | Committee Meeting    | 1400 |
|                  | Tuesday | 8  | General Meeting      | 1100 |

According to a statistic:  
1 out of 4 men is happy



I don't  
understand  
why people  
have to "get  
ready" for bed.  
I'm always  
ready for bed.



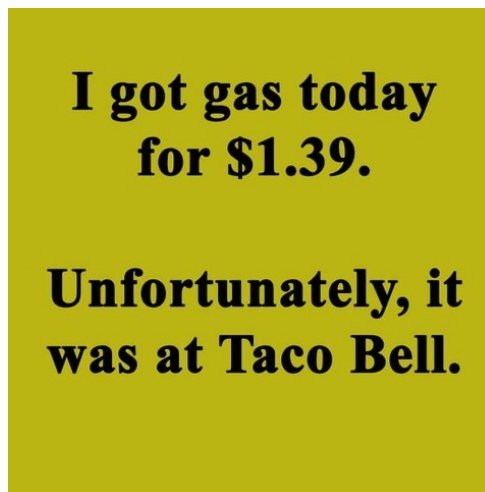
## **A passenger tapped his driver on the shoulder**

The passenger tapped the cab driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the sidewalk and stopped centimetres from a shop window.

For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said: "Look mister, don't ever do that again. You scared the daylights out of me!"

The passenger apologised and said he didn't realise that a little tap could scare him so much.

The driver replied: "You're right. I'm sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years".



**Editor's Note:** Any comments, complaints, or if you would like to provide any items or information for inclusion in future issues of 'Pass the Word', please send an email to: [davistownsb@rslnsw.org.au](mailto:davistownsb@rslnsw.org.au)

\*\*\*I am especially keen for members to provide any interesting facts/stories of a military nature which can be included\*\*\*

**Disclaimer:** While every care is taken to check spelling, dates, facts, information, etcetera, errors will undoubtedly occur. Please accept my apologies in advance, and when errors do occur rest assured that no offence is intended, and I trust none will be taken.

Yours aye, Pete G

Racism explained for dummies

