

'Pass the Word'

The Davistown RSL sub-Branch Newsletter

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



Vol 4 | Iss 10 - October 2024

N.B

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 8 OCT 24

Lest We Forget!!

Dave Fergusson - 17 September

Reachout!!

To a mate to see how he or she is doing!

Must Have Apps

BOM

BOM Weather app for access to hourly and 7-day forecasts, radar and warnings - wherever you are.

Live Traffic NSW

Use this App to Find incidents along a route by entering the origin and destination points below.

Use 'Map Options' to turn different layers of information on or off.

Opal Travel

Opal Travel is the official app for managing your travel across the public transport network in Sydney (Australia), and surrounding regions. Use the app to plan trips, top up your Opal balance, view trip and transaction history, and access other useful information all on your Android or Apple device. Opal Travel can be used with both registered and unregistered Opal cards.

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.



Halloween

Halloween (less commonly known as **All Hallows' Eve**) is a celebration observed in many countries on 31 October, the eve of the Western Christian feast of **All Hallows' Day**. It is at the beginning of the observance of **Allhallowtide**, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including **saints** (**hallows**), **martyrs**, and all the faithful departed. In popular culture, the day has become a celebration of **horror**, being associated with the **macabre** and **supernatural**.

One theory holds that many Halloween traditions were influenced by **Celtic harvest festivals**, particularly the **Gaelic** festival **Samhain**, which are believed to have **pagan** roots. Some go further and suggest that Samhain may have been **Christianized** as All Hallow's Day, along with its eve, by the **early Church**. Other academics believe Halloween began solely as a **Christian** holiday, being the **vigil** of All Hallow's Day. Celebrated in **Ireland** and **Scotland** for centuries, **Irish** and **Scottish** immigrants took many Halloween customs to North America in the 19th century, and then through American influence various Halloween customs spread to other countries by the late 20th and early 21st century.

Scamming Hits Home

A very important site to become friends with is: www.scamwatch.gov.au

Scamwatch, led by the National Anti-Scam Centre, has your back. We'll show you the warning signs of a scam and scammer tactics so you can stay one step ahead.

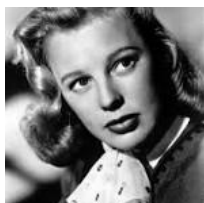
The more we talk, the less power scammers have. Let's build our defence with more scam sense. Even 'free' NRMA car safety first aid kits are doing the rounds now. It is a scam!

Scammers are criminals. There's no shame in getting scammed. It can happen to any of us. At Scamwatch, we'll guide you through it with the information and connections you need.

In fact, I just spoke to a friend, yes, I have one, who was scammed last week out of \$7354, when he was convinced he was talking to his bank's security/fraud department. He gave away details which should not be passed to anyone when the call is unsolicited, no matter how convincing it seems. If you have an unsolicited communication from anyone, e.g. a bank, government agency, phone company, etc just hang up and call the company direct and follow it up that way. NEVER click on a link in a text or email that you do not trust, and even then, I would think twice. The links will usually take you to a well set up website that could look to be genuine, but it will not be.

October {Libra until 22 Oct/then Scorpio - Sapphire}

Key characteristics: Their symbol, the scales indicate that the Libras are the most balanced zodiac sign. Libra signifies balance and they rightly do justice to their name. If the Libras take a decision, you must know they will be fair and correct. Libras are born charmers. Their magnetic appearance is the first trait, which you will notice in them. For this reason, they do not have to exert extra effort to get noticed or recognized. **Motto:** "No person is an island."



Les Westbrook & Leonie Osborn - 7

June Allyson 1917-2006 - American actress best known for her starring role in The Glenn Miller Story. She also appeared in films such as Girl Crazy, Two Girls and a Sailor, and Music for Millions. **Before fame:** She worked as a night club dancer. **Trivia:** She won a Golden Globe Award for her acting in Too Young to Kiss. **Family life:** She was three times. Her longest marriage, to [Dick Powell](#), lasted from 1945 until his death in 1963. The couple had two children, a son and daughter.

Doug deFreitas - 12

Hugh Jackman 1968 - Australian actor best known for playing Wolverine in the X-Men film series. In 2018, he'd star as Gary Hart in the film [The Front Runner](#). His other credits include [Prisoners](#), [The Prestige](#), [Les Misérables](#), [Pan](#) and [Van Helsing](#). **Before fame:** He studied at Pymble Public School while growing up in Australia. He turned down a role on the soap opera [Neighbours](#) so that he could attend the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. **Trivia:** He hosted the 81st Academy Awards ceremony in 2009.



Mike Mattatall - 18

Jean-Claude Van Damme 1960 - Bodybuilder whose action movies included Kickboxer, Cyborg, and Bloodsport. He also appeared in Universal Soldier, Sudden Death, and [The Expendables 2](#). **Before Fame:** He studied martial arts at the age ten and ballet at age sixteen. He made his debut as Gay Karate Man in the 1984 film Monaco Forever. **Trivia:** He became well known for his role in the martial arts film Double Impact. He appeared as himself in an episode of the series [Friends](#).

Richard Thornton - 26

Bob Hoskins 1942-2014 - English actor who played the role of Detective Eddie Valiant in the film Who Framed Roger Rabbit? He won an International Emmy for his work in the BBC drama, The Street. **Before Fame:** He landed his first audition after being referred while drinking beer in a pub. **Trivia:** He played the character Smee in the film Hook alongside [Robin Williams](#).



Colin Yates - 27

Nanette Fabray 1920-2018 - Tony Award-winning Comedienne who campaigned for closed captioning on TV. She gained fame for appearing in the 1953 film The Band Wagon and the 1950s series Caesar's Hour. **Before Fame:** She attended the Max Reinhardt School of the Theater on a scholarship in her youth. **Trivia:** She was [Sid Caesar](#)'s comedy partner on Caesar's Hour.

November

Ken Graham - 1	David Cameron - 5	Guyen Kent - 14	Jim Smail - 15
Cameron Eccleston - 17	Ted Stilton - 23	Stephan Pucek - 24	Kevern Rowe - 26
Keith Frazer - 29			

V.C. Awards:

- 3 Oct 18: Lieutenant J. Maxwell, 18th Battalion, on the fortified 'Beaurevoir line', near Estrees, France.
- 4 Oct 17: Sergeant L. McGee, 40th Battalion, near Ypres, Belgium. It was a posthumous award.
- 4 Oct 17: Lance Corporal W. Peeler, 3rd Pioneer Battalion, at Broodseinde Ridge, during the battle of Ypres, Belgium.
- 5 Oct 18: Lieutenant G. Ingram, 24th Battalion, at Montbrehain, east of Peronne, France.
- 12 Oct 17: Captain C. Jeffries, 34th Battalion, at Passchendaele, Belgium. It was a posthumous award.
- 23-31 Oct 42: Sergeant W.H. Kibby, 2/48th Battalion, at the battle of El Alamein, Egypt.
- 25-26 Oct 42: Private P.E. Gratwick, 2/48th Battalion, at El Alamein, Egypt.

George Medal

- 22 Oct 46: Corporal J. Sewell, 10th Australian Bomb Disposal Platoon, British Commonwealth Occupation Force, for his rescue of Japanese survivors after an explosion in a boat carrying high explosives.

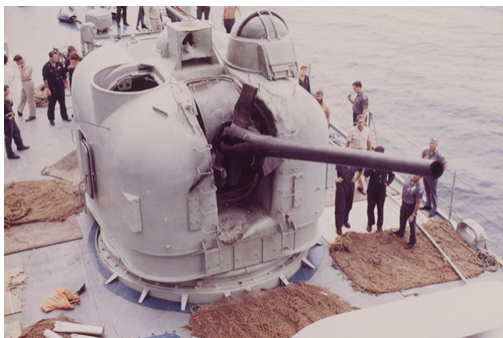
We Will Remember Them!! Lest We Forget!!

This Month in Military History:

1 Oct 1918 - Australian Light Horsemen take Damascus. The Light Horse advances into the Syrian capital, at the end of the long and victorious advance that ended the First World War in the Middle East.

3 Oct 1992 - Dedication of the Australian Vietnam Veterans' National Memorial. The Vietnam Veterans' National Memorial, Anzac Parade, Canberra, was opened by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Paul Keating, MP, and honours those Australians who served and died in the war in Vietnam.

7 Oct 1950 - UN command forces authorised to cross 38th parallel. In the northern autumn of 1950 when it seemed that the North Koreans had been defeated, the United Nations General Assembly authorised UN command forces to pursue North Korean troops across the parallel. The subsequent advance precipitated China's entry into the war.



13 Oct 1969 - HMAS *Brisbane* returns to Sydney. This was the end of the *Brisbane*'s first deployment to Vietnam. The bridge and a gun mount from HMAS *Brisbane* are on display outside the Australian War Memorial. While firing on enemy positions on 22 July 1969, HMAS *Brisbane* suffered an in-bore (premature) explosion of a 5-inch shell in Mount 51.

18 Oct 1967 - HMAS *Perth* struck by return fire near Cape Lai, Vietnam, while on the United States 7th Fleet 'gunline'. This was the only occasion on which an

Australian warship suffered casualties from 'enemy fire' during the Vietnam War.

24 Oct 1942 - Eora Creek, Kokoda Trail. The 16th Brigade, 7th Division, continued to drive the Japanese back along the Kokoda Trail but met heavy resistance at Eora Creek in late October.

27 Oct 1950 - Chinese enter the Korean War. Having secretly moved at least 180,000 men into North Korea, Chinese forces began attacking south, surprising UN Command.

29-30 Oct 1950 - Australians reach Chongju. Australian troops of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, reach Chongju, the most northerly point of their advance into North Korea. In two days fierce fighting against determined North Korean opposition the Australians clear Chongju and the surrounding ridges.

30 Oct 1918 - Armistice signed with Turkey, ending Turkish involvement in the First World War. Australian troops had taken a prominent part in the war against the Ottoman empire, especially on Gallipoli and in Sinai-Palestine.



October Phacts:

1 Oct **1908** - Henry Ford introduces the Model T car (costs \$825)

5 Oct **1962** - "Dr. No", 1st James Bond film based on the novel by Ian Fleming and starring Sean Connery and Ursula Andress, premieres in London

12 Oct **2001** - Eighty-eight Australians are killed in Bali in bombings committed by Jemaah Islamiyah.

16 Oct **1962** - Cuban Missile Crisis begins as JFK is shown photos confirming the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba

20 Oct **1987** - The Black Monday stockmarket crash causing the All Ordinaries Index to fall 25%, the single biggest one day drop in the market's history.



21 Oct **1944** - The heavy cruiser HMAS *Australia* is rammed by a Japanese aircraft while operating in the Philippines, in what is claimed to be the first kamikaze attack. On 31 August 1954, *Australia* was paid off and marked for disposal. She had been in service for 26 years, the longest career of a RAN warship to that date. The ship was sold on 25 January 1955 to the British Iron & Steel Corporation for scrapping.

25 Oct **2003** - Australia defeat Namibia in the 2003 Rugby World Cup by a record 142 points to nil.

27 Oct **1980** - The Great Barrier Reef is listed as a World Heritage Site.

Funnies....??



Welfare Contacts

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

Welfare Officer(s):

Paul Osborn - 0418 645 715

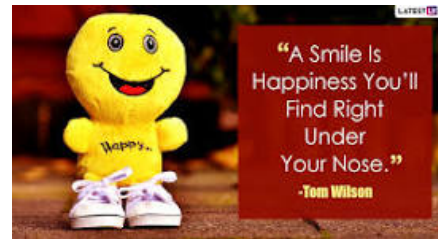
Secretary:

Pete Grothen - 0412 702 700



Fun October Days:

4th is **World Smile Day** - First started in 1999 by the creator of the smiley, Harvey Ball, the holiday celebrates the intent behind the now universally recognized icon - to bring a smile to the faces of people around the world. The purpose of the holiday was the move away from the commercialization of the smiley and to use it as a symbol of kindness and affection. **Morale Booster:** The smiley made its debut in 1963 as a way to increase the morale of the employees of a life insurance company. Today, it is one of the most popular nonverbal ways to convey joy, happiness and cheer. The smiley face began as a bright yellow circle with two dots to represent eyes and a black line that represents a smiling mouth. **Did You Know...**that babies are born with the ability to smile?



16th is **Dictionary Day** - Born on October 16, 1758, Webster is best known for publishing *An American Dictionary of the English Language*, the precursor of the now famous and widely used Merriam-Webster Dictionary. **Reference Book:** A dictionary is a reference book that lists words in a language and provides the meaning, origin and pronunciation of each listed word. The book also informs users on how to use a word in different circumstances. **Semasiological, of Course:** Dictionaries are semasiological. Semasiology is the branch of linguistics that deals with the definition of words and phrases in a language. This is different from onomasiology, which deals with what things and concepts are called. A [thesaurus](#) is an onomasiological reference book because it provides users the different terms that can be used to express a specific idea. **Did You Know...**that *pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis* is the longest word in the Merriam-Webster dictionary? At 45 letters, the word refers to a lung disease.

31st is **Magic Day** - Best known for his escapist acts, Houdini died on this date in 1926 and this unofficial holiday was created a year after Harry Houdini's death as Houdini Day. The Society of American Magicians also organizes a National Magic Week every year from October 25 to October 31 as a way to celebrate and appreciate the art and science behind magic. **Magic Events:** Practitioners of magic and magic enthusiasts all over the world celebrate the day by organizing magic events and performances. Born as Erik Weisz in [Hungary](#), Harry Houdini is still one of the world's best known escapologist and stunt performer. His famous escape acts include the milk can escape where he escaped after being sealed in a milk can filled with water and the straitjacket act, in which he escaped after being straitjacketed and suspended by his ankles from a crane.



In addition to being an escape artist, Houdini was also a silent film actor and an avid aviator.

Did You Know...that historians believe that the first magic performance was held in 2700 BCE by an Egyptian magician called Dedi?

sub-Branch Event Calendar:

October	Tuesday	1	Committee Meeting	1100
	Tuesday	8	General Meeting	1100
November	Tuesday	5	Committee Meeting	1100
	Friday	8	Remembrance/Poppy Day Appeal	0900-1500
	Sunday	10	General Meeting	1100
	Monday	11	Remembrance Day	1055
December	Tuesday	3	Committee Meeting	1100
	Sunday	8	General Meeting and Veterans Luncheon	1100



A man visits his doctor about a windy issue

A man goes to visit his doctor. "What seems to be the problem today?" the doctor asks.

"Doc, I've got the farts. I mean, I fart all the time."

The doctor frowns and nods.

"My farts don't smell, and you can't hear them. The issue is that I just can't seem to rid myself of the urge to pass wind," the man says. "I mean, I've been here for one minute and I've farted five times."

The doctor picks up his pen. "Hmm," he says, taking notes and writing out a prescription. The man is thrilled that the doctor is taking his complaint seriously.

"Thank you, Doc! Will this prescription really clear up my farts?"

"No," sighs the doctor. "The prescription will clear your sinuses. It smells like a fermenting diaper in here. And next week I want to see you for a hearing test."

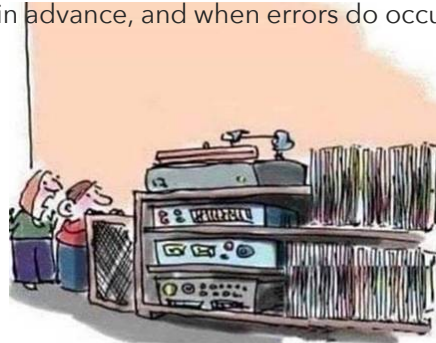


Editor's Note: Any comments, complaints, or if you would like to provide any items or information for inclusion in future issues of 'Pass the Word', please send an email to: davistownsb@rslnsw.org.au

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



"You put a round thing on a spinning plate with a needle and then you play with buttons and knobs ... only old people know how to do it!"

Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship - Lily Arendse 2024

Australia has always had heroes, exemplary Australians who have shown true Anzac values: Courage, Endurance and Sacrifice. These values are reflected through enduring artisans documenting the humanity of conflict; First Nations medics epitomising courage, and service personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice. This all encompassing lens into the past is made up of the lesser acknowledged portion of Australia's Military, Women. Women as well as men add a full and diverse aspect to Anzac commemoration, through their contribution to war-time and peacekeeping operations.

Throughout the 19th century, Australia relied mostly on imported heroes. However, during 1914 - 1919 we emerged with our own. Historian Charles Bean called this development "*the great test of war,*" where brave men fought valiantly to secure a national identity for an emerging Australia. Stories of British heroism were quickly succeeded by the tales of John Simpson and Sir William Bridges, two heroes who earned their place in Australian history for their endurance, sacrifice and courage. This was the beginning of a diverse commemoration image.

Charles Bruce Dellit sought to pay tribute to the '*nobler attributes of human nature.*' His creation of the Anzac memorial in Hyde Park, became a stepping stone for further commemoration from future artists. Nora Heyson built upon Dellit's intention by commemorating war-time heroines. Heyson was Australia's first ever female war artist and the epitome of 'endurance.' Appointed on Oct 18 1943, she travelled to Papua New Guinea to document human experiences through paint. During her deployment, Heyson grew frustrated at her inability to access the front line action. However, Heyson persisted; diligently completing upwards of 100 paintings, depicting the various roles of women during conflict. Nora Heyson's remarkable commemoration of the female contribution during World War 2 lies in her extensive documentation, and is a true testament to the Australian military value of endurance.

At its core, history is personal; history is human. This attribute is personified by Nora Heyson, an inspiration to me as her art infuses history with a sense of emotion and empathy. Heyson's documentation reflects my passion to chronicle and give back to my community. Through my volunteer work, I have carefully transcribed over 100 documents

spanning medical attestations, death certificates and enlistment history of countless Anzac soldiers. Every transcribed name breathes life into a person and ensures that their legacy '*Liveth Forever More.*' The work I've catalogued benefits families and historians; while allowing me to pay tribute to the services of everyday soldiers through a personal lens.

To sacrifice yourself for someone else is the '*noblest attribute of human nature.*' Mary Eleanor McGlade stands out for her commitment to serving others. Stationed in Singapore during Pearl Harbour, McGlade nursed the wounded while all other service personnel were evacuated. On the 16th February 1942, McGlade succumbed to Japanese forces upon the unprotected shores of Banka Island. McGlades heroic act is commemorated within the roll of honour alongside Susan Felsch; the first Australian woman to lay down her life in international peacekeeping operations. Felsch worked tirelessly in the Western Sahara during 1991- 94, where she contributed to the famous 'Operation Cedilla', working with Swiss medics in Laayoune. Both Mcglade and Flesch exemplify Anzac values, as the definition of sacrifice. This unwavering devotion and selfless sacrifice is a true testament to their '*nobler attributes*', which inspires me to champion for others.

Like women, First Nations Australians are another underrepresented group within the military. As a proud Dharug woman; Marion Leane Smith's courage and determination led her to be the sole Indigenous nurse to serve during World War 1. Various 'barriers' faced by First Nations women resulted in Smith's relocation to Canada. Upon enlistment in 1917, Smith served in France aboard the 41st Ambulance Train, infamous for unhygienic and cramped conditions. Smith's supervisor noted "*Nurse Smith has given complete satisfaction...she is most capable in every way.*" Despite obstacles and hardships, Smith's courage and determination in the face of adversity is worthy of recognition. Marion Smith's tenacity and commitment inspired me to present an Anzac speech commemorating her service and legacy to my entire school body. Similarly to Smith, I have a desire to pursue my passion in history, taking every opportunity to build upon my studies. An example being the production of my podcast '*History Buff's Corner.*' Which serves as a monthly outlet for me to delve into historical topics of personal interest.

A true understanding of history comes from people and their stories. Volunteering at my local Legacy Centre allows me to connect with my community and commemorate their experiences. I supported widowers through gifting hand-made Christmas cards and hearing their stories. This was expanded upon further by interviewing a lovely lady

Bridget, to record, document and transcribe her story of oppression and refuge during World War 2. I believe commemoration is important; without acknowledgement, these stories may go untold lessening our understanding of history.

My ambition is to become a museum curator, specialising in military history. I am fuelling my curiosity through the production of documentaries and drafting of *'Fierce & Forgotten'* - A book chronicling forgotten Queens of history. This scholarship opportunity would greatly benefit my future goals by allowing me to tangibly connect classroom lessons with physical places. For me, history is more than a textbook, it is real people who all deserve recognition for their sacrifice, courage and endurance during wars and peacekeeping operations.

The word 'commemoration' comes with the connotations, heroism, courage, endurance and sacrifice. These values are present throughout all aspects of Australian military, including the lesser known stories of First Nations and women's service. Commemorating Heysen, McGlade, Flesch and Smith alongside Simpson and Bridges is important as it strengthens our empathy and perspectives towards history. Acknowledging all defence personnel builds a rich narrative reflecting modern day Australia, as *'we are one and free'*.

* This was provided by Frank Latham - Lily's essay was placed in the top 20 and was rewarded with a trip to Japan.