

'Pass the Word'

The Davistown RSL sub-Branch Newsletter

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



Vol 5 | Iss 2 - February 2025

N.B.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 11 FEB 25

Lest We Forget!!

*All our mates who have
completed their tour of duty!*

Reach out!!

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

**Sub-Branch 'Active'
Members for 2025**

It is that time again when you need
to let me know if you wish to remain
'Active' as a member of RSL NSW for
2025.

You call me, tell me, or email me, or
if you attend a meeting this year,
that will also be an indicator.

More on Scams

I cannot be clearer on this topic!
Please be very careful when you're
doing anything that involves a link(s)
in text messages or emails. Do not
click on them, until you have verified
that they are from a reliable source.
I recently received an email from a
friend (yes, I have one!) in the US, but
it didn't seem right. So I checked
with Dennis and his account had been
compromised.

**Remember to check once, check
twice, and if money is involved, check
thrice!!!**



Wear Red Day!!!

This February, we (Heart Research Australia) invite you to wear RED for someone close to your heart.

Heart disease is still Australia's leading cause of death and affects families and communities around the country.

REDFEB is a month dedicated to raising awareness for heart health and raising much-needed funds for research.

To find out more go to: <https://www.heartresearch.com.au/redfeb/>

DVA White Card and/or Claims Assistance

Deej from Veterans and families Hub Wyong attended 'The Davo' on Fri 17 Jan. Deej provided a thorough and informative presentation relating to the DVA process and took several bookings from the attending members for further assistance at The Hub. There were eleven of our members who attended, and I feel they will benefit greatly from the commencement of this process. Yes, it can seem onerous, but that is expected as DVA is a government agency. Don't let that deter you from starting! If you have problems, and many of us do, then you owe it to yourself to avail yourself to the entitlements you are due. Even if you don't think you are eligible, at least start the process to confirm that thought.

Military terms/slang:

Gangway: A free path through a barrier or obstruction, but not a word to be confused with the brow. The cry Gangway! onboard means an officer or sailor on some important mission needs to get past a group of sailors blocking a passageway or hatch. A free gangway is the usual usage pertaining when a ship is alongside, or in Naval Establishments operating normally; this can become a closed gangway for ceremonial or security reasons. The phrase 'Gangway before I make a bastard!' is a rather neat piece of double meaning, inviting someone to get out of the way - or to be knocked!

February {Aquarius until 18 Feb/then Pisces} - Key characteristics: Detached, progressive, humane, intellectual, flamboyant, sympathetic, and unpredictable **Birthstone:** Blue Sapphire, Amethyst, Green Emerald, Green Tourmaline, Diamond, and Lapis Lazuli. **Lucky days:** Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. **Zodiac Totem:** The Water bearer



George Jackson - 8

Gary Coleman 1968-2010 - Child star who became famous for his role on TV's Diff'rent Strokes, which in turn launched his career upwards before battles with health and finances struck.

Before Fame: He suffered from a kidney disease and underwent a few unsuccessful operations before becoming an actor. **Trivia:** Because of problems with his kidneys and hormones, he reached a height of just 4'8".



Dean Woodruff - 12

Sigrid Thornton 1959 - Logie Award-winning actress known for her work in films such as Face to Face and TV shows like SeaChange and Over the Hill. **Before Fame:** She was discovered by theatre director Joan Whalley while a member of the Twelfth Night Theatre Junior Workshop.

Trivia: She is well-known for her work with charities like Royal Children's Hospital.

Kevin Summerson - 19

Fay McKenzie 1918-2019 - Most well known for her performances in the 1940s Gene Autry films Down Mexico Way, Sierra Sue, Cowboy Serenade, Heart of the Rio Grande, and Home in Wyomin.' She is also notable for her supporting role in the 1968 Peter Sellers film The Party.

Before Fame: She appeared in her first film, Station Content (1918), when she was less than three months old and went on to make childhood appearances in several other silent movies.

Trivia: During the World War II years, she travelled to combat areas and performed for Allied troops.



Rachael Stokeld - 20

Miles Teller 1986 - Actor known for his role in the film Rabbit Hole and for starring alongside JK Simmons in the 2014 film Whiplash. His performance in The Spectacular Now earned him a Dramatic Special Jury Award at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. In 2020, he was cast in Top Gun: Maverick alongside Tom Cruise. **Before Fame:** He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Tisch School of the Arts at New York University.

Trivia: He appeared in the stage version of Footloose, which led to him being cast in the film remake. He was also cast as Peter in the Divergent film series and as Reed Richards in the 2015 blockbuster Fantastic Four.

Don Molloy - 21

Tyne Daly 1946 - Actress who played strong characters in the TV series Cagney & Lacey and Judging Amy. She received a Tony Award for Best Performance for her acting in the 1989 stage play Gypsy: A Musical Fable. **Before Fame:** She started performing in summer stock with her family as a teenager. **Trivia:** Many revered her as a feminist actress. She played a role alongside Clint Eastwood in the Dirty Harry sequel The Enforcer.



Roy Lindsay - 22

Niki Lauda 1949-2019 - Austrian Formula One racer who won three F1 World Championships in 1975, 1977, and 1984. He became the first driver in F1 history to have been a champion for both Ferrari and McLaren. Also an aviation entrepreneur, he founded three airlines. **Before Fame:** He was raised by a wealthy Austrian family who disapproved of his choice of racing as a career. **Trivia:** The story of his duel with James Hunt was made into an American movie called Rush, directed by Ron Howard and released in 2013.

Mike Byrne - 28

Mark Ferguson 1961 - Actor who has made multiple appearances in Xena: Warrior Princess, Hercules: The Legendary Journeys, and various Power Rangers roles. **Before Fame:** Shortly after graduating from the National Institute of Dramatic Art, he appeared in the TV series Sons and Daughters. **Trivia:** He has carried out hosting duties on Big Brother Australia and The Mole. You may also have seen him on Channel 7.



March Birthdays

Vic Morrow - 1

Gwyn McMillan - 8

David Munckton - 13

Toby Cook - 16

Kerry Hutchison - 29

Troy Klinar - 31

Awards



5 Feb 1917 - Lieutenant Colonel Henry 'Harry' William Murray, VC, CMG, DSO (and Bar), DCM (1880-1966) - Captain H.W. Murray, 4th Division, originally from Launceston, Tasmania, received the Victoria Cross at Stormy Trench north-east of Gueudecourt, France. He described his occupation as a "bushman" when he joined the 16th Battalion AIF in 1914, but Harry was already a mature and independent leader of men. He worked at Manjimup, Western Australia, employing sleeper cutters and had earlier been an armed escort for a mining company north of Kalgoorlie. It was soon evident that he was also a natural soldier. On Gallipoli he was promoted, awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, then commissioned as an officer in the 13th Battalion.

The following year, in France, Murray's reputation grew, and he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for his work at Mouquet Farm. Later, in Jan 1917, near Gueudecourt, in a night attack at Stormy Trench, he won the Victoria Cross. There, in fierce fighting, he fought off enemy counterattacks and led a "brilliant charge". At Bullecourt in Apr, leading his troops with the cry, "come on men, the 16th are getting hell", he got a second DSO.

Murray was not a reckless hero, but rather a quiet and charismatic leader who believed in training and discipline and who possessed sound tactical skills. In May 1918 he was promoted lieutenant colonel to command the 4th Machine Gun Battalion.

Further honours came; he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre and appointed Companion in the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Charles Bean described him as "the most distinguished fighting officer of the AIF".

Following the war Murray became a grazier; eventually, in 1928, he bought a property, "Glenlyon", at Richmond, in Queensland. In the Second World War he commanded first a militia battalion then a Volunteer Defence Corps home-guard unit until he retired in 1944. He died following a car accident on 7 January 1966.

23 Feb 1967 - Major Peter John Badcoe (1934-1967), Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, originally of Adelaide, South Australia, leads an attack against Viet Cong troops - it was the first of three acts of bravery between Feb and Apr 1967 for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross. Peter Badcoe grew up in Adelaide. Always wanting to join the army, he entered the Officer Cadet School at Portsea, Victoria, in 1952. Major Peter Badcoe was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Australian Staff Corps in Dec 1952.



Between 23 Feb to 7 Apr 1967, Badcoe repeatedly performed extraordinary feats. While under fire he attacked across open ground; he rescued an American adviser; he captured a machine-gun; he led attacks; and he provided leadership and an example to wavering troops. He was eventually killed by a burst of enemy fire as he rose to throw a grenade. "His valour and leadership were in the highest traditions of the military profession and the Australian Regular Army." He was buried at Terendak Cemetery, Malaysia.

Badcoe was awarded the Victoria Cross, service medals for the Vietnam War, the United States Silver Star, the South Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and the South Vietnamese Wound Medal.

Lest we forget!!

This Month in History:

10 Feb 1964 - HMAS *Voyager* collides with HMAS *Melbourne* and sinks south-east of Jervis Bay, killing 82. Rogers Park in Woy Woy (adjacent to Everglades BC) was named after Chief Petty Officer Jonathan Rogers. A new memorial recognising Chief Petty Officer Jonathan Rogers and the HMAS *Voyager* was unveiled on 11 Feb 23 with a large number of ex Naval, RSL and National Service personnel in attendance. The unveiling was conducted by Central Coast Naval Sub Section President Colin Ward.

CPO Rogers was posthumously awarded the George Cross as a result of his actions in helping many of the crew escape through a porthole as the HMAS *Voyager* sank. Unfortunately, CPO Rogers and a number of the crew were unable to use this method of escape and perished with the ship.

When last seen, CPO Rogers had linked arms with those remaining to sing the Naval Hymn as the ship sank below the surface.



13 Feb 1946 - Main Australian contingent of BCOF sailed for Japan from Morotai. Australian personnel played a prominent role in the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan at the conclusion of the Second World War in the Pacific. They were allotted the devastated Hiroshima Prefecture on the island of Honshu. The British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) was the British Commonwealth taskforce consisting of Australian, British, Indian and New Zealand military forces in occupied Japan, from '46 until the end of occupation in '52. Both Wes Weir and Ralph Ryan were part of the BCOF deployment in the first couple of years.



At its peak, the BCOF committed about 40,000 personnel, that comprised 25% of the occupation force, which was equal to about a third of the number of US military personnel in Japan.

Left: Commander Yuzo Tanno hands over the keys of the Yokosuka Naval Base to Captain H. J. Buchanan, RAN on 30 Aug 45.

19 Feb 1943 - First Japanese air raid on Darwin. The city was bombed 64 times between Feb 1942 and Nov 1943. The Bombing of Darwin, also known as the *Battle of Darwin*, on 19 Feb 1942 was the largest single attack ever mounted by a foreign power in Australia. On that day, 242 Japanese aircraft, in two separate raids, attacked the town, ships in Darwin's harbour and the town's two airfields in an attempt to prevent the Allies from using them as bases to contest the invasion of Timor and Java during World War II. Right: This 4" gun was salvaged from the USS *Peary* in the 50's and was restored by the RAN for the NT's 1992 War Service Memorial. The gun now pints towards the *Peary's* grave. In her last action she sank with her guns still blazing and represents the USN's greatest loss of life in Australian waters. The two Japanese air raids were the first, and largest, of more than 100 air raids against Australia during 1942-1943.



ship USNS *Comfort*.

28 Feb 1991 - Gulf War ends. With Iraqi forces having been driven from Kuwait and defeated in the field the coalition forces called a halt to the fighting. Over 1800 Australian Defence Force personnel served in the Gulf War. The Australian naval contribution comprised 3 frigates, a guided-missile destroyer, 2 supply ships and a team of Naval Clearance Divers. The Australian Army and the Royal Australia Air Force (RAAF) made smaller contributions. The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) selected for deployment: the frigates HMAS *Adelaide* and HMAS *Darwin*, each with 2 helicopters, the supply ship HMAS *Success* with one helicopter (replaced by HMAS *Westralia*), and two 10-person surgical teams to serve aboard the US hospital

HMA Ships *Adelaide* and *Darwin* remained in the region until early December 1990. The 2 ships were replaced by: guided-missile frigate HMAS *Sydney*, and guided-missile destroyer HMAS *Brisbane* aka "The Steel Cat".

The Australian ships became part of a multinational fleet of some 90 warships and more than 100 logistic, amphibious, and smaller craft. It was the largest concentration of warships since the end of World War II. An Australian officer who served on USS *Blue Ridge* recalled: "It was just huge ... an amazing collection of ships and firepower ... impressive to look at ... amazingly complex to coordinate."



Funnies and more....??

No trouble singing along with it at this end 🤔👍 nor in relating to it. Wish some of us didn't understand the following so well!

To commemorate her 69th birthday on 1 Oct 2004, actress/vocalist, Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall. One of the musical numbers she performed was 'My Favourite Things' from the legendary movie 'Sound Of Music'. Here are the lyrics she used - If you sing it, it is especially funny!!!

Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favourite things.

When the pipes leak, When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favourite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favourite things.

When the joints ache, When the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.

(Ms. Andrews received a standing ovation from the crowd that lasted over four minutes and repeated encores.) You can go on YouTube and find some of the covers of this!



February Phacts:

February comes from the Latin word *februa*, which means "to cleanse." The month was named after the Roman *Februalia*, which was a month-long festival of purification and atonement that took place this time of year.

1 Feb 1984 - Medicare comes into effect.

3 Feb 1954 - Queen Elizabeth arrives in Australia with Prince Philip on a royal tour.

7 Feb 1788 - The Colony of New South Wales is officially created with Arthur Phillip as the first Governor.



10 Feb 1906 - British battleship HMS Dreadnought launches after only 100 days, renders all other capital ships obsolete with its revolutionary design.

13 Feb 1907 - The Northern Territory is transferred to the Commonwealth by South Australia.

14 Feb 1929 - The St. Valentine's Day massacre occurred in Chicago as seven members of the Bugs Moran gang were gunned down by five of Al Capone's mobsters posing as police.

18 Feb 1885 - Mark Twain publishes the "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" in the US

20 Feb 1952 - "African Queen" film directed by John Huston, starring Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn is released in the US.

24 Feb 1582 - Pope Gregory XIII corrected mistakes on the Julian calendar by dropping 10 days and directing that the day after October 4, 1582 would be October 15th. The Gregorian, or New Style calendar, was then adopted by Catholic countries, followed gradually by Protestant and other nations.

29 Feb 1968 - Beatles' "Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" wins Grammy Award for Album of the Year, the first rock LP to do so



Welfare Contacts

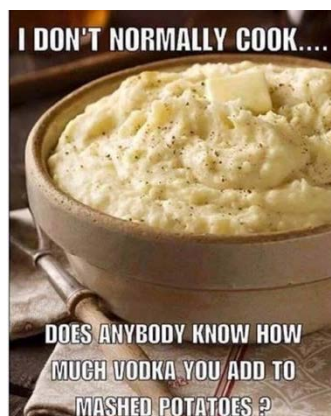
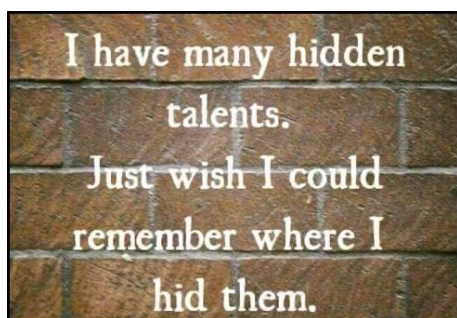
Club Ltd - 4363 0199 (ask them to contact the sub-Branch for you), or

Welfare Support Officer:

Paul Osborn - 0418 645 715

Secretary:

Pete Grothen - 0412 702 700



Not all girls are made of sugar and everything nice.

Some are made of adventure, dark chocolate, intelligence, cuss words, and courage.

Funnies....??

The man and the gang

A man died and went to the afterlife, at which his soul was to be judged for his deeds.

At the pearly gates, an angel spoke to him and told him, "Before you meet with God, I should tell you – we've looked over your life, and... to be honest, you really didn't do anything particularly good or bad. We're not really sure what to do with you. Can you tell us anything you did that can help us make a decision?"

The newly arrived soul thought for a moment and replied, "Yeah... Once I was driving along and came upon a person who was being harassed by a group of thugs. So I pulled over, got out a bat, and went up to the leader of the thugs.

"He was a big, muscular guy with a ring pierced through his lip. Well, I tore the ring out of his lip, and told him he and his gang had better stop bothering this guy or they would have to deal with me!"

The angels ooh'ed and ahh'ed, with the one asking, "Wow that's impressive! When did this happen?"

"About three minutes ago," came the man's reply.

A Sunday Drive

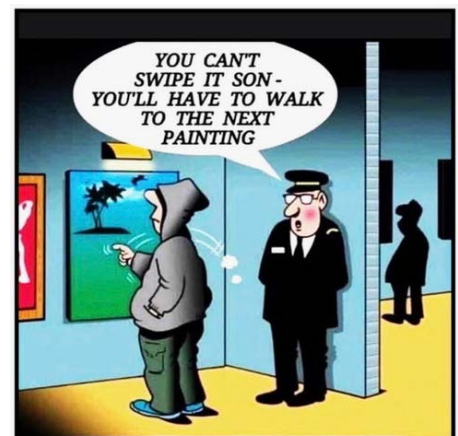
Mildred and Alice, two little old ladies barely able to see over the instrument panel, are out for a Sunday drive. The car approaches an intersection. The light is red but they drive straight through, thankfully without hitting anything.

Alice, in the passenger seat, wonders about it. They soon come to another intersection and again the light is red. Once more the car drives straight through.

Alice thinks, "I must be dreaming. I'm pretty certain we've just driven through two sets of red lights". Moments later she is sure they do the same again. She decides to be more watchful, to pay more attention. It isn't long and sure enough, the car drives through red lights without stopping.

Now alarmed, Alice turns to Mildred and says, "Do you realise you've driven through at least four red lights? You could have killed us!"

Mildred turns and says, "Oh sh*t, am I driving?"



Fun February Days:

5th is National Weatherperson's Day - honours the women and men who keep an eye on the weather so that you don't get caught unawares by changing or extreme weather.

Primarily celebrated in the US, the holiday commemorates the birth anniversary of John Jeffries, thought to be America's first weatherman. A physician by profession, Jeffries started collecting weather data in Boston in 1774. Ten years later, in 1784, he became the first person in the world to collect weather data from a weather observation balloon over London.

How to Celebrate?

- Learn more about weather patterns and meteorological events.
- Visit a weather or meteorology museum.

Did You Know...

...that the first weather forecast was printed in The Times of London on August 1, 1861?



10th is Clean Out Your Computer Day - Have you been putting off cleaning out those old files on your desk or laptop? Well, today is the day you should do it, because it is Clean Out Your Computer Day. Started in 2000 by the Institute of Business Technology, the day falls on the second Monday in February.

How to Celebrate?

- Backup your computer, including all your files, documents, and pictures.
- Clean out your desktop. Delete or archive files that you have no use of or haven't used in several months.
- Organize your folders, files and bookmarks.
- Uninstall all the programs you no longer use.

Did You Know......that the Perottina was the world's first commercially marketed desktop? Launched in 1964, the computer was named after its inventor Pier Giorgio Perotto.

Old Timers Bar

Guys are walking down a street. They turn a corner and see a sign that says, Old Timers Bar - "ALL drinks 10 cents."

They look at each other and then go in, thinking this is too good to be true.

The old bartender says in a voice that carries across the room, "Come on in and let me pour one for you! What'll it be, gentlemen? "There's a fully stocked bar, so each of the men orders a martini.

In no time the bartender serves up four iced martinis shaken, not stirred, and says, "That's 10 cents each, please."

The four guys stare at the bartender for a moment, then at each other. They can't believe their good luck. They pay the 40 cents, finish their martinis, and order another round. Again, four excellent martinis are produced, with the bartender again saying, "That's 40 cents, please."

They pay 40 cents, but their curiosity gets the better of them. They've each had two martinis and haven't even spent a dollar yet.

Finally, one of them says, "How can you afford to serve martinis as good as these for a dime apiece?"

"I'm a retired tailor from Phoenix," the bartender says, "and I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the Lottery Jackpot for \$125 million and decided to open this place. Every drink costs a dime. Wine, liquor, beer it's all the same."

"Wow! That's some story!" one of the men says. As the four of them sip their martinis, they can't help noticing seven other people at the end of the bar who don't have any drinks in front of them and haven't ordered anything the whole time they've been there.

Nodding at the seven at the end of the bar, one of the men asks the Bartender, "What's with them?"

The bartender says, "They're retired people from Florida. They're waiting for Happy Hour when drinks are half-price."

Equaco will be here on
Fridays Fortnightly
commencing
24th January 2025
12pm-3pm

The more of you that want
to come the longer we
will stay

STEADY GROUND

SUPPORT FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

"At Steady Ground Support, veterans and their families are welcome to drop in anytime—whether it's for a quick coffee, a casual chat, a deeper debrief, or just a moment of connection—stay as long or as short as you like; we're here for you, in whatever way you need."

For more information or to
register interest

Ph: 02 4313 1873

SMS: 0401 768 905

E: reception@equaco.com.au

We Accept:

White Card, Gold Card, situation pending, currently
feeling stuffed around :-)

Any Card
Medicare Referrals and No Referral - We will provide
you support in a way that suits you



Equanimity
Psychological Services

sub-Branch Event Calendar:

February	Tuesday	4	Committee Meeting	1100
	Tuesday	11	General Meeting	1100
March	Tuesday	4	Committee Meeting	1100
	Sunday	9	General Meeting (incl AGM)	1100
April	Tuesday	1	Committee Meeting	1100
	Sunday	13	General Meeting	1100
	Wednesday	23	ANZAC Day Appeal	0900-1500
	Friday	25	ANZAC Day Dawn Service	0555

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

