

# 'Pass the Word'

## The Davistown RSL sub-Branch Newsletter

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



Vol 5 | Iss 5 - May 2025

### N.B.

### NEXT GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 13 MAY 25

### Lest We Forget!!

*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.**

### Certificate of Appreciation

Steve Laing was presented an  
RSLNSW Certificate of Appreciation  
at our March General Meeting, for his  
efforts within the sub-Branch over  
many years, and his recent work with  
RSL Zone 5 Bowls.



This year we celebrate Mum's past, present, and future on Sunday 10 May.

A day to honour mothers has existed for as long as, well, there have been mothers. Festivals honouring mothers in ancient times were often tied to gods and goddesses and maternal symbols of fertility, birth, creativity, and growth cycles. The mother is the protector and nourisher of children and, by extension, of all humanity. The Phrygians held a festival for Cybele, the Great Mother of the Gods. The Greeks and Romans also honoured the mother figure of their gods. Even today, an important festival in India, Durga-puja, honours the goddess, Durga.

- Mother's Day is a day to recognize and appreciate the unique contributions and sacrifices of mothers.
- It's a chance to celebrate the enduring power of maternal love and care.
- The holiday acknowledges the profound influence mothers have on shaping their children's values, character, and overall development.

### Military terms/slang:

**ACE**, spelt ASM, Warrant Officer Class 2 of a RAEME unit, Artificer Sergeant Major. "G'day ace, how are ya Sir?"

**Adgie** - Refers to a RAAF Airfield Defence Guard. Commonly understood to not be seen past the FLOSS (see FLOSS). Are told by everyone else that, "no, they're not Special Forces".

**FLOSS** - Forward Line of Shower Support. Common delineation between "Poges" and "Warfighters". Also understood to be the limit of RAAF ground personnel

**Nav Ex** - RAAF term for a "Navigation Exercise" usually an excuse for the aircrew to fly somewhere and overnight at the casino at public expense. Also used by the Army.

**Anchor Wanker** - A derogatory term to describe Navy personnel by the members of the other two services. A synonym for Seaweed Sucker.  
Ed note: Never heard of it in my time! Although, I expect I were one 😊

## Victoria Cross Awards for May:

6 May 1917 - Corporal G.J. Howell, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion originally of Enfield, NSW, performs the action for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross in fighting near Bullecourt.

6 & 11 May 1969 - Warrant Officer Class 2 R.S. Simpson, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, originally from Chippendale, NSW, performs the action for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross in fighting in Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

12 May 1917 - Lieutenant R.V. Moon, 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion, of Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, performs the action for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross in fighting at Bullecourt.

12 May 1945 - Corporal J.B. Mackey, 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Pioneer Battalion, originally from Leichhardt, Sydney, performs the action for which he was awarded Victoria Cross in fighting on Tarakan. It was a posthumous award.

15 May 1945 - Private E. Kenna, 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, originally from Hamilton, Victoria, performs the action for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross in fighting near Wewak, New Guinea.

16 May 1901 - Lieutenant F.W. Bell, 6<sup>th</sup> West Australian Mounted Infantry, of Perth, Western Australia, performs the action for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross in fighting at Brakpan, South Africa.

19 May 1918 - Sergeant W. Ruthven, 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, originally from Collingwood, Victoria, performs the action for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross in fighting at Ville-sur-Ancre, France.

19-20 May 1915 - Lance Corporal A. Jacka, 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, originally of Winchelsea, Victoria, performs the action for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross in fighting at Courtney's Post, Gallipoli. Jacka's was the first VC to be awarded to an Australian in WWI. He also went on to win the Military Cross and Bar.

24 May 1969 - Warrant Officer Class 2 K. Payne, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, originally from Ingham, Queensland, performs the action for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross in fighting in Kontum Province.



## This Month in History:



10 May 1900 - New South Wales Mounted Rifles in action at Zand River, South Africa.

11 May 1945 - Wewak was captured by the 6<sup>th</sup> Division in a combined land and amphibious operation. Its fall marked the beginning of the end of the Aitape-Wewak campaign, the last major campaign on mainland New Guinea in the Second World War.

14 May 1943 - The hospital ship *Centaur* was sunk by a Japanese submarine off the south Queensland

coast. Only 64 of the 333 on board survived.

24 May 1966 - Private Errol Noack killed in Vietnam. Private Noack, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, was the first Australian national serviceman to be killed in the Vietnam War.



31 May 1942 - Of the three Japanese submarines that attacked Sydney Harbour, two were destroyed or disabled during the raid; the third disappeared and was located off Sydney's northern beaches by a group of amateur divers in Nov 2006. Little material damage was caused by the attack, but 21 sailors were killed when the depot ship HMAS *Kuttabul* was torpedoed.

***The about are repeats for most of you.....I'm so very sorry!***



## May {Taurus till 20 May/then Gemini - Emerald & Agate} -

**Key characteristics:** Smart, ambitious, and trustworthy, Taurus is the anchor of the Zodiac. Amazing friends, colleagues, and partners, Taureans value honesty above all else and are proud that their personal relationships tend to be drama free. Bulls get the reputation of being stubborn, but they're not always stuck in their ways. This searching sign is willing to see another point of view, but they won't flip-flop on an opinion just to make someone else happy. They will shift their thinking only if they truly have a change of heart. **Zodiac Totem:** The Bull!!

**Taurus' Motto:** "Nothing worth having comes easy."



### Dave Halliwell - 6

Orson Welles 1915-1985 - Best known for his seminal 1941 film *Citizen Kane*, which he co-wrote, directed, produced and starred in. The film is widely considered one of the most important films in cinema history. He also directed the features *The Magnificent Ambersons*, *The Lady from Shanghai* and *Touch of Evil*. **Before Fame:** He received a scholarship to attend Harvard University after high school, but chose instead to travel through Europe. He first gained recognition for his narration of classic literary works in the 1938 CBS Radio series *The Mercury Theatre on the Air*. **Trivia:** His *War of the Worlds* radio broadcast during the *Mercury Theatre on the Air* series became one of the most

famous incidents of mass panic in history as many radio listeners believed Welles was reading a shocking news bulletin that featured alien invasions when really he was reciting the H.G. Wells novel *The War of the Worlds*.

### Joan Brian - 7

Breckin Meyer 1974 - Actor, writer, producer and drummer who earned an Emmy for his writing on the TV episode *Robot Chicken: Star Wars*. His films credits include *54*, *Rat Race*, *Go*, *Clueless*, and *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare*. **Before Fame:** He attended elementary school with actress Drew Barrymore and was eventually signed by her agent. **Trivia:** He has played drums with the band The Street Walkin' Cheetahs and for Tom Morello's solo project *The Nightwatchman*.



### Billy MacLean - 9

Glenda Jackson 1936-2023 - She won a Best Actress Oscar in 1970 for her starring role in the 1969 film *Women in Love*. She was nominated for a total of 4 Oscars for her acting. She amassed over 50 acting credits throughout her long career. **Before Fame:** She worked at a chemist shop before studying at RADA in Bloomsbury. **Trivia:** She became a member of the British parliament in 1992 and has won multiple Academy Awards. In 1971, she played Queen Elizabeth in the movie *Mary, Queen of Scots*.

### John Hughes - 14

Cate Blanchett 1969 - She played an acclaimed role in *Elizabeth* in 1998 and appeared in *Lord of the Rings* as Galadriel. In 2014, she won the Oscar Award for Best Actress for her performance in *Blue Jasmine*. In 2017, she appeared as the character Hela in the blockbuster film *Thor: Ragnarok*. **Before Fame:** She studied Economics and Fine Arts at the University of Melbourne. **Trivia:** She played Katherine Hepburn in the film, *The Aviator*, and was one of multiple actors to portray an aspect of Bob Dylan's persona in the 2007 art film *I'm Not There*. Her portrayal of Sheba Hart in the 2006 film *Notes on a Scandal* earned her a Florida Film Critics Circle Award for Best Supporting Actress.



### Chris Salakas and Peter Darling - 15

Joseph Cotten 1905-1994 - Actor who appeared in several of director Orson Welles films, including *Citizen Kane*. His other credits include the 1943 film, *Journey into Fear*, which he wrote. **Before Fame:** He worked as an advertising agent in Washington, D.C. **Trivia:** Like many actors of his time, he started on Broadway and went on to the silver screen in films like *Duel in the Sun*.

### Brian Ward - 18

Priscilla Pointer 1924 - Portrayed Rebecca Barnes Wentworth on *Dallas* and appeared in the 1976 film *Carrie* and the 1981 film *Mommie Dearest*. She has amassed over 90 different acting roles throughout her long career. **Before Fame:** She had her first starring TV role as Adrienne Harris Rainey on *Where the Heart Is*. **Trivia:** She played the onscreen mother of Amy Irving, her real-life daughter, in the films *Carrie*, *Honeysuckle Rose*, and *Carried Away*. She played Mrs. Beaumont in the 1986 film *Blue Velvet*.





## John Shaw - 27



Vincent Price 1911-1993 - American actor best known for his numerous roles in horror films, most notably *House of Wax*. He appeared in over 75 films during his career, which spanned 7 decades. **Before Fame:** After graduating from St. Louis Country Day School, he studied art history at Yale University. He made his debut professional acting performance in 1935 as a stage actor. **Trivia:** He performed the spoken word section of Michael Jackson's 1982 hit, "Thriller."

## June Birthdays

Charles Lindstrom - 1

Barry Price - 2

Doug Hair - 6

Steve Laing - 9

Barry Waite - 10

Graham Moss - 12

Stan Morton - 14

Colin Pollard - 21

Paul Osborn - 23

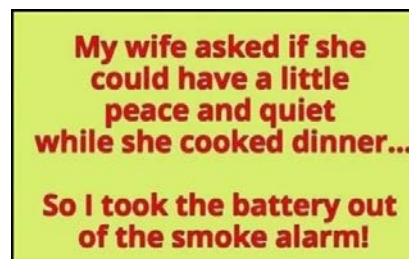
Jock Dalgarno - 25

Steve Tobin - 26

John Syer - 30



Thank God they put a cone up...I would've drove right into this mess...



## 'HMAS Melbourne - 25 Years and Beyond'

You are invited to the launch of a new book by Ross Gillett.

His latest book, 'HMAS Melbourne - 25 Years and Beyond' will be launched at the Australian National Maritime Museum on Friday 9 May from 2:30 to 4:pm.

Guests including Commodore Terry Morrison, DSM, RAN representing the Chief of Navy, former commanding officers, and aviators will recount their experiences in Melbourne. Ross Gillett will describe the book and what you can expect to find in it.

Copies of the book will be on sale at the Museum. Alternatively, orders for a posted copy can be placed online for delivery in early May.

This is a free event, but prior registration is required through Eventbrite. For more information about the book, the event and registration, please click on the link below.

[https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/book-launch-hmas-melbourne-25-years-beyond-tickets-1289163134639?aff=oddttdcreator&mc\\_cid=7c61625ef9&mc\\_eid=5a5f48b487](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/book-launch-hmas-melbourne-25-years-beyond-tickets-1289163134639?aff=oddttdcreator&mc_cid=7c61625ef9&mc_eid=5a5f48b487)



## Changes to DVA

I am writing to give you the heads up on some changes the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has made to the claim's submission process – changes that I reckon have been poorly communicated and are potentially harmful to the very people they are supposed to support.

Here's what's happened.

As of 31 March 2025, DVA has decommissioned the Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) portal which many of your authorised advocates have been using for years to lodge claims. According to veteran groups, DVA is requiring all claims to be submitted through MyService via MyGov. This means that methods like email, fax and verbal lodgements in some cases are no longer being accepted or are being discouraged.

This change was rolled out without any proper notice or consultation. No heads up and no engagement with the veteran community. As a result, advocates are confused, and veterans are left in the dark.

In my opinion, these changes:

- undermine your right to lodge claims through authorised advocates;
- create barriers for veterans who don't have the digital access or confidence to use MyGov; and
- isolate some of our most vulnerable veterans from accessing the support they need and deserve.

Over the past few weeks, my office has been flooded with calls and emails from veterans and advocates who are deeply concerned about these changes. The message is clear, it's making life harder and it's just not on.

I have raised these concerns directly with Minister Keogh and asked for urgent action to reinstate proper, accessible claims lodgement pathways. Importantly, the Minister has clarified that this change will not affect the ability of any veteran to lodge a claim with DVA using the different methods previously available and DVA is not refusing to accept any claims lodged through any other channel by an ESO. You can read his full response in the letter attached to this email.

Now, I have heard from the veteran community that what's happening on the ground doesn't match up with what the Minister is saying. So, I want to hear from you directly:

- have you or your advocates had trouble lodging claims;
- have you been told that MyService is now the only way to submit claims; and
- have your claims been rejected, delayed or not processed through traditional methods like email, fax, etc?

Your feedback matters. I need your stories so I can go back to Parliament and hold the Minister and DVA to account. This isn't just about forms and websites, it's about fairness, dignity, and respect for those who've served. Feel free to contact my office at [Senator.Lambie@aph.gov.au](mailto:Senator.Lambie@aph.gov.au) or by phoning (03) 6431 3112.

On Friday 25 April, we will mark 110 years since the Gallipoli landings. This is a time to honour every Australian who has served in war and peace and to remember those we have lost.

As always, I'll be thinking of you. Of all those who have served, those who continue to serve and the sacrifices we continue to make.

You have given more to this country than most. The least we can do is make sure you are treated properly when you need a hand.

Lest we forget.

## ***Funnies and more....??***

### **The crowded waiting room to Heaven...**

It got crowded in heaven one day that God decided to only accept people who had really had a bad day on the day they died.

St. Peter was standing at the pearly gates when a downtrodden man came up to him.

Saint Peter asked him: "Tell me about the day you died."

The man said, "Oh, it was awful. I was sure my wife was having an affair, so I came home early to catch her with him. I searched all over the apartment but couldn't find him anywhere."

He went on: "So I went out onto the balcony, we live on the 25th floor and found this man hanging over the edge by his fingertips. I went inside, got a hammer, and started hitting his hands. He fell but landed in some bushes."

He continued: So, I got the refrigerator and pushed it over the balcony, and it crushed him. The strain of the act gave me a heart attack, and I died."

St. Peter couldn't deny that this was a pretty bad day, so he let the man in.

Another man arrived looking scared and St Peter asked him about his day.

The man said: "It was terrible. I was doing aerobics on the balcony of my apartment when I twisted my ankle and fell over the edge. I grabbed onto the balcony of the apartment below, but some maniac came out and started pounding on my fingers with a hammer. Luckily, I landed in some bushes. But then the guy dropped a refrigerator on me!"

St. Peter couldn't deny that this was a pretty bad day, so he let the man in.

A third man arrived at the gates of heaven and looked very confused.

St Peter asked the man: "Tell me about the day you died?"

The man says: "OK, picture this, I'm naked, hiding inside a refrigerator..."

## May Phacts:

In other Languages: French – mai, Greek – Μάιος (Máios), Maori – Haratua, Polish – maj, Spanish – mayo, Ukranian – травень (traven')

3 May 1840 – New Zealand is officially proclaimed a separate colony from New South Wales.

5 May – Celebrated in Mexico as Cinco de Mayo, a national holiday in remembrance of the Battle of Puebla in 1862, in which Mexican troops under General Ignacio Zaragoza, outnumbered three to one, defeated the invading French forces of Napoleon III.



11 May 1862 – To prevent its capture by Union forces advancing in Virginia, the Confederate Ironclad Merrimack was destroyed by the Confederate Navy. In March, the Merrimack had fought the Union Ironclad Monitor to a draw. Naval warfare was thus changed forever, making wooden ships obsolete.

9 May 1927 – The federal government moved to Canberra from Melbourne with the opening of the Provisional Parliament House.

20 May 1927 – Charles Lindbergh, a 25-year-old aviator, took off at 7:52 a.m. from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, in the Spirit of St. Louis attempting to win a \$25,000 prize for the first solo nonstop flight between New York City and Paris. Thirty-three hours later, after a 3,600 mile journey, he landed at Le Bourget, Paris, earning the nickname "Lucky Lindy" and becoming an instant worldwide hero.

19 May 1942 – The prototype CAC Boomerang, an Australian designed and built fighter aircraft, takes to the air for the first time. The Boomerang was rapidly designed as to meet the urgent demands for fighter aircraft to equip the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). It was the first combat aircraft designed and constructed in Australia.



### Welfare Contacts

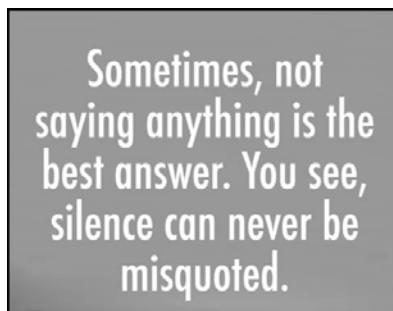
**Club Ltd** - 4363 0199 (ask them to contact the sub-Branch for you), or

**Welfare Support Officer:**

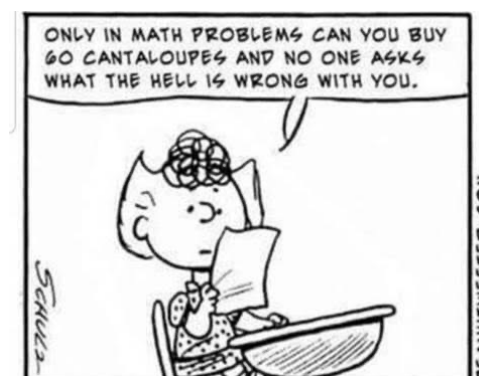
Paul Osborn - 0418 645 715

**Secretary:**

Pete Grothen - 0412 702 700



Always be proud of your children.





## Fun May Days:

**16<sup>th</sup> is Pizza Party Day** - Thought to have originated in [Italy](#), pizza today has become a popular dish served in restaurants and homes around the world. It is often considered by many as the perfect party dish – a single pie can feed a lot of people, it can be easily made at home or ordered from a restaurant, eating it does not require utensils or fancy dishware, and most importantly it is delicious even when consumed cold.

### How to Celebrate?

- By hosting a pizza party, of course! Order in pies from your favourite pizza place or make your own. Start off by serving bite size pizzas as appetizers. Offer a variety of pizzas next. May we suggest a selection of [cheese pizza](#), an Indian-inspired pizza made with a *naan* base topped with curried chicken, and a salad pizza topped with fresh vegetables and arugula? And of course, end the meal with a dessert pizza.
- Why not have your guests make their own pizzas? Provide the bases and ingredients and let them unleash their creativity on their pie. Who knows, they may end up creating your new favourite pizza?



### Did You Know...

...that the month of October is celebrated as National Pizza Month in the [United States](#)?

## sub-Branch Event Calendar:

May	Tuesday	6	Committee Meeting	1100
	Tuesday	13	General Meeting	1100
June	Tuesday	3	Committee Meeting	1100
	Tuesday	10	General Meeting	1100
July	Tuesday	1	Committee Meeting	1100
	Sunday	13	General Meeting	1100

**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

