



VETERANS SUPPORT and ADVOCACY SERVICE AUSTRALIA INC. 'WARWICK AUSPICE' 'MONTHLY NEWSLETTER'



Vol: 04/018

Email Address: warvet02@bigpond.com

APRIL 2018

President's Report

This will be our last newsletter under the customary banner of 'VSASA Warwick Auspice,' as we gradually changeover to SDESA Qld Inc from next month. We have done this as we will be advertising in the May Edition of our newsletter, for subscriptions for SDESA Qld Inc 2018-2019, plus our A.G.M for 2018-2019, under the SDESA Qld Inc identity, including nominations forms for all positions.

We welcome new sponsors; (John) from **May's Mobile Mechanical**, (Ben) from **BJR Concrete Constructions**, (David & Kerry) from **Warwick Sand & Gravel Supplies**, (Bob & Debbie) from **Warwick Carpet Shampoo Service**, (Lou) from **R&F Steel Buildings**, and (Rob & Terease) from **Rob Wallace Electrical & Air Conditioning** for 2018-2019 - all come highly recommended by our own members.

We also want to acknowledge our steady sponsors, **Warwick RSL Memorial Club**, **Warwick Yellow Cabs** and **Golden West Limousines**, **Warwick Westside Foodworks**, **Warwick Funerals**, **Warwick Physioworks**, **Country Smiles Denture & Mouthguard Clinic**, **Traxscope Track Assessment**, **Southern Downs Regional Council** and **Jeff Hannaford Pty Ltd Chartered Accountant** our auditor. We encourage our members, to utilize our sponsors where possible, as they are the financial supporters of our monthly newsletter.

Dine-In-Out at the 'Horse & Jockey Hotel' on the 14th March, was well attended with nineteen members, wives and friends. This month we are heading for the **Warwick RSL: Memorial Club on Wednesday the 11th April** commencing at 6.00pm.

VSASA Warwick will again be coordinating the ANZAC Service at the **Eden Gardens Memorial Park Lawn Cemetery**, Willi Street, at **0930hrs on the 25th April**, Eddie Marshall LM has volunteered to be the MC for the morning service.

We wish the Warwick RSL Sub Branch, the Warwick RSL Memorial Club Inc, the Southern Downs Regional Council and the Community of Warwick, success for a great **ANZAC Day 2018**.

VSASA Warwick will also coordinate the **ANZAC Service** in **Maryvale Park**, Taylor Street, (*opposite the Maryvale Hotel*), on **Friday the 20th April at 2.00pm**. The Maryvale State School students, will walk down and take part in the ceremony, one student will act as the flag attendant and another to recite the Ode of Remembrance. All members are invited to attend, if you require transport, please ask the secretary.

MAJGEN Iain Spence CSC, RFD will be the guest of honour at the **Warwick ANZAC Day** march this year. The General has indicated through Paddy Costigan, that he would like to revisit the VSASA Centre and display, on **Thursday the 26th April at 10.00am**. All members are invited to attend and express our hospitality with the General and enjoy a cuppa.

We hope to have all the new SDESA signage and other items finished by the 29th June, as we contemplate having an '**Open Day**' to announce the new association to Warwick, on **Saturday the 7th July 2018**, from 10.00am until 3.00pm. We anticipate having all emergency services with displays and optimistically the Army Reserve or Australian Army Cadets involved. We will have a continuous 'BBQ sausage sizzle' and all being well, a new plaque to be opened by a VIP dignitary.

I will be having some holidays with my family commencing from the 20th April, until mid -June 2018. Our Vice President Margaret Trahair, will be maintaining the garrison in my absence and I trust that you will give her your support during this time, as you have supported me.

Secretary Barry Kelly will also be away overseas in Vietnam with Terry Smart, from the 1st May until the 31st May 2018. We will therefore cancel the May 2018 committee of management meeting and resume with business on the 8th June.

*Your mate,
Ken Ashton*



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CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2018

Wed 4th 9.00 am – 1.00pm
Military Memorabilia Display

Wed 11th 9.00 am – 1.00pm
Military Memorabilia Display

WED 11TH 6.00 PM "DINE IN/OUT NIGHT"
AT THE 'WARWICK RSL MEMORIAL CLUB'

Fri 13th 9.00 am Drop In Centre & 'Committee'

Wed 18th 9.00 am – 1.00pm
Military Memorabilia Display

Fri 20st 9.00 am Drop - In Centre

WED 25th



Thurs 26th 10.00am Drop-In Centre
Morning Tea with MAJGEN Iain Spence CSC, RFD

Fri 27th 9.00 am Drop - In Centre and
a 'BBQ Steakettes on a Roll'



LEST WE FORGET

APRIL 2018



BRIAN MILLER (14TH)

KEN ASHTON (16TH)

PETER ASHTON (16TH)

STEVE MACKIE (17TH)

YVONNE EDMUNDS (18TH)

ALAN DOUST (27TH)

VSASA LADIES MONDAY LUNCHEONS for 2018

*VSASA Ladies meet each month on a
Monday at 12 Noon, to have a luncheon.*



30th April 2018.

'Mussels Restaurant'

*For further information -
coordinator;*

Mrs. Helen Nielson

Ph: (H) 07.4661.5772

Mob: 0429.615.772



WARWICK'S 'ANZAC' PROGRAM' 2018:

- 5.30am – Dawn Service at 'Leslie Park Cenotaph'
- 9.00am – Ceremony at 'War Graves Warwick Cemetery'
- 9.30am – VSASA Ceremony at 'Eden Gardens Memorial Park'
- 10.45am - March commences from 'Warwick RSL Memorial Club'
- 11.00am – ANZAC Day Service by RSL at the Cenotaph, Leslie Park

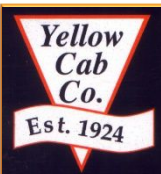
STANTHORPE'S 'ANZAC' DAY PROGRAM for 2018:

- 5.30AM – Dawn Service at Memorial, Weeroona Park.
- 10.30am – Parade commences at the corner of Folkestone & Maryland Streets
- 10.50am-Civil Service, Civic Centre, Marsh Street
- 11.30am – Laying of Wreaths at the Memorial, in Weeroona Park.

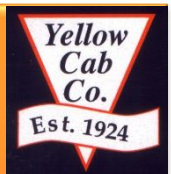


"Lest We Forget"

Services will also be held in Wallangarra,
Killarney, Tannymorel, Emu Vale, Yangan, Allora and Leyburn.



'ANZAC DAY 2018'



Are you attending the **'ANZAC Services'** this year in Warwick?

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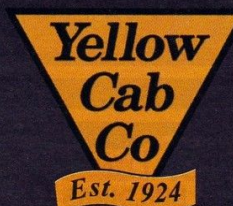
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In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*



The poem was written by a Canadian Medical Corps doctor, Major John McCrae, who was serving with a Field Artillery Brigade in Ypres. The death of one of his friends in May 1915, buried in the cemetery outside his dressing station, affected him severely and he wrote his poem as a way of expressing his anguish at the loss. He was dissatisfied with the poem when he finished it and threw it away, but one of his fellow officers retrieved it and was so moved that he sent it to the media in London, where it was published by Punch on 8 December 1915. It's simple but evocative encapsulation of the horror of the trenches has made it the most famous of the war poems.



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Republic of Korea War Service medal

Veterans of the Korean War have been approved to wear the Republic of Korea War Service medal by Governor-General General Sir Peter Cosgrove. Minister for Defence Personnel [sic – surely, in this instance, this should say Minister for Veterans' Affairs] Michael McCormack said the approval to wear this medal after initially [sic] refused by the British Government in 1951 shows the Australian Honours and Awards system has evolved to become its own unique system of recognising our service men and women.



"The Australian Council of Korea Veterans Associations has campaigned have [sic] the decision reconsidered from an Australian perspective," Mr McCormack said. "The approval to wear the Republic of Korea War Service Medal demonstrates Australian Defence Force's willingness to consider and accept change. "During the Korean War, in which more than 15,000 Australians served, Australia used the Imperial Honours and Awards system and was therefore subject to the award policies set by the United Kingdom." Mr McCormack said the Republic of Korea War Service medal was introduced by South Korea in 1951 to recognise the assistance provided by members of the United Nations forces in combatting communist aggression in Korea.

"It has been policy to accept only one foreign award for a particular service or campaign," Mr McCormack said. "In this case the United Nations Medal KOREA had been accepted and therefore the offer of the Republic of Korea War Service Medal from the South Korean Government was refused." As a foreign award, the Republic of Korea War Service Medal is not administered by Defence and is no longer issued by the Republic of South Korea. Eligible veterans may *purchase* a replica medal from any reputable medal dealer. Veterans who have been awarded the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with clasp KOREA (AASM KOREA) are eligible for the Republic of Korea War Service medal.

The eligibility criteria as directed by the Republic of Korea are as follows:

- served between 25 June 1950 and 27 July 1953
- service prescribed must have been performed while:
 - on permanent assignment
 - on temporary duty within the territorial limits of Korea or on waters immediately adjacent for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days
- as crew members of aircraft in aerial flight over Korea participating in combat operations or in support of combat operations.

(The United States did not authorize the medal for wear until August 20, 1999.)

- *(Editor's Note) Korean veterans are authorised to wear the new medal with your Australian medals, however, you must 'buy' and 'pay' from an authorised dealer, (not being issued by Government,) and then pay extra for the mounting of your medals, all over again.)*



Australian Vietnam veterans are now waiting to see if the same approval will be given to wear the South Vietnamese medal, (**Vietnam Cross of Gallantry**). Sometimes, the powers that be are confused that we served under USARV and not **MACV**. Australians **did not** serve under USARV (United States Army, Vietnam) which was created by the United States, to govern US Army personnel which many Australian units operated alongside. But **Australia, and ALL nations** with military units operating in Vietnam, were subordinate to **MACV** (Military Assistance Command, Vietnam) which was created by the United Nations. MACV was the highest-level military government in Vietnam. It was under MACV and not USARV, that the Vietnamese Congress issued its, 'Vietnam Cross of Gallantry' (VCOG,) Vietnamese; Anh Dũng Bội Tinh and other medals like, the **Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with clasp 1960**, which Australia and all other military units operating in Vietnam, are approved to wear, including Americans.



All other nations who served in South Vietnam, including America, have been granted approval to wear the VCOG, but not the Australian Government, you may ask why?



New DVA Pension Rates 20th March 2018.

The new pension rates will be fully effective from payment date 12 April 2018. These rates are updated on 20 March and 20 September each year and include the Clean Energy Supplement.

	Old rate (fortnightly - effective 20 March 2017)	New rate (fortnightly - effective 20 September 2017)	Increase (fortnightly)
Service pension			
Single person	\$888.30	\$894.40	\$6.10
Couples (each)	\$669.60	\$674.20	\$4.60
Single person - transitional	\$748.00	\$752.40	\$4.40
Couples (each) - transitional	\$603.40	\$607.00	\$3.60
War widows			
War widow(er)'s pension	\$902.80	\$909.10	\$6.30
Income support supplement	\$266.60	\$268.50	\$1.90
Disability pension			
TPI (Special Rate)	\$1,364.30	\$1,373.80	\$9.50
Intermediate rate	\$926.20	\$932.70	\$6.50
EDA	\$753.60	\$758.90	\$5.30
100 per cent	\$485.00	\$488.40	\$3.40
10 per cent	\$55.43	\$55.77	\$0.34
MRCA			
Wholly dependent partner payment	\$902.80	\$909.10	\$6.30
Special rate disability pension (SRDP)	\$1,364.30	\$1,373.80	\$9.50



'Slouch Hat'

The slouch hat is an object strongly associated with Australian identity. The Army refers to the slouch hat by its official designation; Hat khaki fur felt (KFF) - to everyone else it is a '*Slouch Hat*'. The word '*slouch*' refers to the sloping brim. The brim is made from rabbit-fur felt or wool felt and is always worn with a puggaree.



History has it that the origins of the Slouch Hat began with the Victorian Mounted Rifles; a hat of similar design had been worn in South Africa by the Cape Mounted Rifles for many years before 1885. The design of the Victorian Mounted Rifle hat originated from headgear of native police in Burma where Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Price had recognised its value.

The Victorian hat was an ordinary bush felt hat turned up on the right side. The intention of turning up the right side of the hat was to ensure it would not be caught during the drill movement of "shoulder arms" from "order arms". By 1890, State military commandants had agreed that all Australian forces, except the artillery corps, should wear a looped-up hat of uniform pattern that was turned up on the right side in Victoria and Tasmania, and on the left side in all other States to allow for different drill movements.

The Slouch Hat became standard issue headgear in 1903 and its brim position was mostly standardised. The slouch hat became a famous symbol of the Australian fighting man during World War One and continued to be worn throughout World War Two. Its use since that time has made it a national symbol. General Bridges, the first commander of the 1st Australian Imperial Force, was found wearing his slouch hat back to front when he was fatally wounded at Gallipoli. As a mark of respect and remembrance for Bridges, when the slouch hat is worn at Royal Military College - Duntroon, it has become traditional to wear the chinstrap buckle on the right side of the face and the brim down.

This tradition commenced at the Royal Military College in 1932. However, when the slouch hat is worn ceremonially, for example on ANZAC Day, it is worn in accordance with the wider Army custom - brim up and chinstrap buckle on the left-hand side. Today, Army members wear the slouch hat with the brim down to provide additional protection from the sun when not performing ceremonial duties.

'The Puggaree'

The term 'puggaree' originates from the Hindu word, 'Pagri,' meaning a turban or thin scarf of muslin. Intended for insulation, the puggaree was a traditional Indian head-wrap, adapted by the British for headgear worn in hot, sunny regions.

During World War One (1914-1918) a plain khaki cloth band was worn, and this practice continued until compulsory training was suspended in 1929. Following the introduction of Voluntary Training in 1930, new puggarees were issued to the Commonwealth Military Force with different coloured folds denoting Arm or Service.

During World War Two, a flat type of band was issued. Troops who were on active service in the Middle East at the time introduced a folded puggaree as a distinguishing mark of active service. Later, the Army reverted to various types of plain bands, green dyed puggarees for example, for jungle warfare. However, the official puggaree at the end of World War Two was still the flat band.

The current puggaree has seven pleats, one for each state and one for the Australian Territories. It is made from light khaki coloured cotton and is worn on the slouch hat with a unit colour patch sewn on the right side.



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No mention of 'Crispy' as Aussies head home from Red Flag

As Red Flag 18-1 comes to an end, nearly 300 Royal Australian Air Force personnel and multiple aircraft will soon be making the 8000-mile trek home. Deputy exercise director and RAAF task group commander Group Captain Tim Alsop said that as the pinnacle of advanced air-warfare training, Red Flag provided crucial joint training opportunities for the RAAF.



Technicians from Number 6 Squadron perform an after-flight inspection on an EA-18G Growler at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, during Exercise Red Flag 18-1. Photo by Corporal David

“Red Flag 18-1 allowed us to test our high-end missions as well as build trust and friendships that allows us to be far more effective far more quickly,” Group Captain Alsop said. “We use this training as a culmination of offensive roles, defensive roles and everything down to niche capabilities like personnel recovery.” Wing Commander Brett Ristrom, 114th Mobile Control and Reporting Unit commanding officer said one RAAF unit that received unmatched training opportunities was the Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) staff, which included air surveillance operators, air combat officers, and intelligence specialists who control and separate the Red Flag aircraft as well as ensure safe and expeditious flow of the exercise aircraft in and out of the Nevada Test and Training Range.

“The CRC provides the air-battle management of the entire air war,” Wing Commander Ristrom said. “All aircraft participating in Red Flag utilise the RAAF Control and Reporting Centre.” In addition to the CRC getting in-depth training from Red Flag 18-1, all RAAF units benefited from the realistic combat scenarios during the exercise. Group Captain Alsop said the RAAF gained so much as an organisation in terms of how it trains and how it operates as a deployed force in a multinational environment. “Among the RAAF fleet was an E-7A Wedgetail airborne early warning and control aircraft, EA-18G Growlers and an AP-3C Orion.



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Old Army Doctor

Doctor Gordon Geezer, an old Army doctor, became very bored in retirement and decided to re-open a medical clinic. He put a sign up outside that said; "**Dr. Geezer's Clinic. Get your treatment for \$500 - if not cured, get back \$1,000.**"



CPL Ashton, who was positive that this old Army doctor didn't know beans about medicine, thought this would be a great opportunity to get \$1,000 to go on leave. So, he went to Dr. Geezer's clinic.

CPL Ashton: "Dr. Geezer, I have lost all taste in my mouth. Can you please help me?"

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in Corporals mouth."

CPL Ashton: "Aaagh! -- This is Dish Water!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your taste back. That will be \$500."

CPL Ashton gets annoyed and goes back after a couple of days figuring to recover his money.

CPL Ashton: "I have lost my memory, I cannot remember anything." **Dr. Geezer:** "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in the patient's mouth."

CPL Ashton: "Oh, no you don't -- that is Dish Water!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your memory back. That will be \$500."

CPL Ashton (after having lost \$1000) leaves angrily and comes back after several more days on leave.

CPL Ashton: "My eyesight has become weak --- I can hardly see anything!"

Dr. Geezer: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that so, here's your \$1000 back" (giving him a \$10 note only).

CPL Ashton: "But this is only \$10!" **Dr. Geezer:** "Congratulations! You got your vision back! That will be \$500."

Moral of story -- Just because you're a "young Corporal" doesn't mean that you can outsmart an "old Geezer."



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President Ken Ashton has entered the 'Movember' 2018 challenge.

(Up-Date on the cat under the hat!)

Ken is keen to spread the message about prostate cancer and help find a cure.



The 'Movember Foundation' is the only charity tackling men's health on a global scale, year-round. We have one goal: to stop men dying too young. Your donation will help us to continue what we've started and fund world class programs that are saving and improving the lives of men.

"Thank you, members", – together we are changing the face of men's health.

The 'Movember Foundation' is authorised by the Australian Tax Office as a deductible gift recipient and tax-exempt health promotion charity.

Simply go 'on-line' at <https://au.movember.com> Go to the Aqua Blue button, click the 'Donate' button and where it says Search, type in Ken Ashton, click the new Aqua Blue Search Button and you will see his profile. Please donate to this very worthwhile cause.

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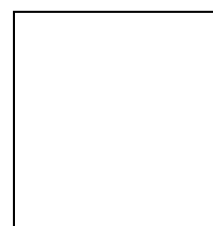
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