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The Bugle

**TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED
EX SERVICEPERSONS ASSOCIATION (TOWNSVILLE) INC.**

ABN 69 008 600 579

MARCH 2023 EDITION

HIMARS MEANS ARMY WILL GROW BY ONE NEW ARTILLERY REGIMENT

See Page 9



**ROYAL COMMISSION LAWYERS
LOOKING INTO VETERANS SUICIDE
HERE IN OUR BOARDROOM**

See Page 7

**TPDESA GENERAL MEETING AT BROTHERS LEAGUES CLUB
Thursday 20TH APRIL 10.15hrs**

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AFTER HOURS DIRECTORY – 2023

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Warren (Pop) Duscha	L-	0428 799 922
Vice President	Allan Dare	L	
Vice President	Steve Walker		
Secretary	Derek Smith OAM	L	
Treasurer	Vance Palmer, JP (Qual)	L	

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Due to the fact that I will be in New Zealand at the time of the AGM and won't be back until 14th March, I had to prepare this by 22nd Feb the Management Committee which will go to a vote will appear in the April Edition

Editor Ron Boaler email editor@tpitvl.org.au 0409 487 756 L

Welfare Team	Luke Adamson
Advocate	Troy Rogers Geoff Brown Amanda Jones
Hospital Visitors	Ken Onslow Steve McMahan Ray Truntic Tin Legs

Please note: For all after hours contact with the Association, please phone 0428 799 922

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Alan Barrett
0417 780 071
**007 Keeps our
TPDESA Office free
from pests**

HYMN 365

A minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, 'If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.' With even greater emphasis he said, 'And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.' And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he Said, 'And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.'

Sermon complete, he sat down..

The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, 'For our closing song, let us sing Hymn 365, 'Shall We Gather at the River.'

"The Bugle" is produced with the object of keeping every member abreast of the more important actions taken by the Association on behalf of its members, as well as keeping them informed about matters of interest.

The magazine is published monthly. A copy of each issue is posted free of charge to every member of the Association.

Members are particularly encouraged to submit brief articles for consideration for publication in "The Bugle".

Articles by members about their own views or experiences often stimulate wide discussions and alert other readers to particular points not previously highlighted or appreciated.

Members are also invited to send letters (preferably no longer than 200 words) for publication as "Letters to the Editor".

Material for inclusion in the next edition should reach the Editor at editor@tpitvl.org.au ideally as a MS Word document attached to an email, no later than 25th each month.

The views expressed in individuals' signed articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Association.

Liability. Although material used in "The Bugle" is checked for accuracy, no liability can be assumed for any losses due to the use of any material in this magazine.

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TPDESA 2023 SOCIAL CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time	Venue
4th to 11th April	CANCELLED Einasteigh		
20th April	General Meeting	1015	Brothers Leagues Club
25th April	ANZAC Day.. 1200hrs Raffles at Cowboys Club		
18th May	Cheaters Cup Cardwell	0800	Bus departs RSL
15th June	General Meeting	1015	Brothers Leagues Club
27th June to 3rd July	Oak Park Races		Volunteers Needed
August	Proposed Trip to Canberra		
24th August	General Meeting	1015	Brothers Leagues Club
20-24th September	Ewan Races		

2023 APRIL BIRTHDAY LIST

Mr KEMP	Wayne	1	Mr THOMPSON	Patrick	12
Mr FORBES	Ian	2	Ms VERHEIJ	Yoka	12
Mr FITZSIMMONS	John	3	Mr PHILP	Brenton	13
Mr LENNOX	Allan	3	Mr KEALLEY	Tony	19
Mr DALMAU	Peter	5	Mr WEBB	Kevin	19
Mr HARDACRE	Rodney	5	Mr GULLO	Vincenzo	20
Mr SUNNER	Robert	5	Mr PERRY	Bruce	20
Mr WILSON	Alan	5	Mr HALL, MBE	Kenneth	21
Mr GRAY	Malcolm	6	Mr KLEIDON	Paul	22
Mr SPARROW	Charlie	6	Mr ROWE	Phillip	25
Mr BARRETT	Raymond	10	Mr FITZSIMMONS	Brett	27
Mr HERRING	Robert	11	Mr WADWELL	Kelvin	28

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**IF YOU ARE ADMITTED TO
THE TOWNSVILLE MATER HOSPITAL
ASK FOR A VLO [Veteran's Liaison Officer]**

The Mater is being paid to supply a VLO trained in the requirements of Veterans but only has 1 nurse on a Monday. We are asking you to request this nurse which notification must be recorded and is more fodder for our case. A VLO helps you with transport to & from hospital. Ensure you are cared for when you get home or if those conditions aren't in place adequately, to keep you in hospital.

**SO REMEMBER: ASK FOR A VLO & TICK THE BOX FOR A VISITOR.
IN HELPING YOURSELF YOU WILL HELP OTHERS**

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DEPRESSED MOODS

FORGETFULNESS

LACK OF ENERGY

TIREDNESS

POOR CONCENTRATION

HEADACHES

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EINASLEIGH RACES CANCELLED

Raffle Ticket sales will have to go up a notch to make up for the fourteen thousand dollars approx. that we will forego with the cancelling of this year's Raceday and Rodeo.

Einasleigh and the Oak Park Races provide the bulk of our annual income and when they are cancelled or rained out as Oak Park was last year, our financial situation suffers. Fortunately, we have been the recipients of some grant monies. Although these monies are for dedicated programs like the replacement of our dualcab ute upgraded to a four wheel drive after the old one couldn't pull the coffee van out of a bog.

Apart from bank robbery please put your thinking caps on and come up with a money spinner that will increase our ability to provide the services that we do for our members.

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO VETERANS SUICIDE LAWYERS HERE IN OUR BOARDROOM

Lawyers will be here in our boardroom on the following dates and times:

23rd March 0900 - 1230
18th April 0900 - 1230
23rd May 0900 - 1230
29th June 0900 - 1230

The Lawyers are coming to TPI for members to discuss any concerns to put to the Royal Commission.

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide is continuing, and will recommence in Perth on 15th May 2023. The interim report was provided by the Commissioners on the 11th August 2022. The final report is due to be tabled on 17th June 2024.

LAST ORION SEARCH MISSION SAVES TWO

A Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3K2 Orion crew has successfully located two Kiribati fishermen in what will probably be the New Zealand Orion fleet's last search-and-rescue mission before retirement.

Two Kiribati fishermen found after a search by crew on a Royal New Zealand Air Force Orion



RNZAF No. 5 Squadron, about to hand over search-and-rescue responsibilities to No. 40 Squadron and its C-130 Hercules aircraft until new Boeing P-8A Poseidons become operational, was tasked on Monday to look for the men who had been missing at sea for six days.

The Orion crew found the two men in their dinghy shortly after arriving in the search area on Monday afternoon.

RNZAF Base Commander Auckland Group Captain Mike Cannon said the flight was expected to be the last search-and-rescue mission using an Orion.

"Our Orion aircraft and the generations of people who have flown, maintained and supported them have certainly proved their worth over many years of service, conducting long-range maritime surveillance patrols in a range of theatres," Group Captain Cannon said.



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HIMARS MEANS ARMY WILL GROW BY ONE NEW ARTILLERY REGIMENT

For the first time in its history, the Army will have the ability to accurately hit surface targets hundreds of kilometres away with guided missiles.

The high mobility artillery rocket system (HIMARS) will be acquired as the first land-based, surface-to-surface missile system, which will be a component of Defence's future long-range strike capability.

The American-designed Lockheed Martin system has a range of 300km, with plans to make munitions capable of even longer distances.

Major Stephen Bowles from Fires Modernisation-Army said HIMARS could eventually be a primary, combined-arms weapon.

"They're impressive, they're battle-tested. We can see them being used in Ukraine and they are constantly being exercised in the Indo-Pacific," Major Bowles said.

Seeing them live-fire during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2021 at Shoalwater Bay, Major Bowles said Australia had big enough training areas to support firing the long-range ammunition. "It looked lethal, looked impressive and was just a rapid insertion," he said.

"Shoot and move. It was something that I'd never seen before, beyond any sort of live-fire engagement I've ever seen in Defence."

The artillery contains a launcher module with either six guided rockets or a single tactical missile, with the six-wheel-based chassis having all-terrain manoeuvrability.

"It's survivable because you can shoot and move far quicker and use all existing roads," Major Bowles said. "It's lighter as well. We can get it on to LHDs [landing helicopter docks] and especially C-130s and C-17 aircraft for transporting."

"What we're looking at is a truck that carries an integrated launcher-module system. "So for operators, any of the issues they will come across will most likely be simple, mechanical ones."

With the ADF receiving 20 of the wheel-based launchers, the Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) will increase its force.

"We do plan to grow the RAA by one battery in phase one of the acquisition," Major Bowles said. "In later phases we're looking to grow to an additional regiment over the next decade."

"It'll reinvent how Army fights."

"We currently operate by fires supporting manoeuvre."

"After HIMARS, it'll potentially be manoeuvre supporting fire."

COVID TESTING

I went for a walk with my new girlfriend and we saw dogs mating.

She said: "How does the male know when the female is ready for sex?"

I replied: "He can smell she is ready. That's how nature works."

We then walked past a sheep field and the ram was mating the ewe.

Again my girlfriend asked: "How does the ram knew when the ewe is ready for sex?"

I replied: "It's nature. He can smell she is ready."

We then went past a cow-field and the bull was mating with the cow.

My girlfriend said: "This is odd. They are really going at it. Surely the bull can't smell when she is ready?"

I said: "Oh, yes; it's nature. All animals can smell when the female is ready for sex."

Anyway, after the walk, I dropped her home and kissed her goodbye. She said: "Take care and be sure to get yourself checked out for Covid-19."

Surprised, "Why do you say that?" I asked her.

She replied: "You seem to have lost your sense of smell."

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Royal Australian Air Force mobile air operations team setup next to the taxiway at Fitzroy Crossing Airport



RAAF HELPS MANAGE FLOODED AIR SPACE

The ADF has set up a mobile air traffic control centre in the Western Australian town of Fitzroy Crossing to manage the high volume of flights – delivering stores and personnel – following the devastating Kimberley floods.

Four Royal Australian Air Force air traffic controllers and two technicians, with an adapted Mercedes G-Wagon pre-packed with radio and communications equipment have relocated to the edge of the town’s air strip, where they are managing both ADF and civilian air traffic.

Officer in charge of the mobile air operations team Flight Lieutenant Peter Hartley said the air traffic controllers were overseeing about 200 air movements a day at the airport.

“Fitzroy Crossing airport authorities requested the mobile facility through the Department of Fire and Emergency Services liaison office,” Flight Lieutenant Hartley said. “It has now been approved by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

“In remote areas such as this, aircraft normally negotiate landings with each other directly but, with so many general aviation and Defence flights because of the flood emergency, we can use our capability to add to the safety of these operations.”

The four RAAF air traffic controllers were brought in from different bases in Australia, including Darwin, East Sale and Amberley, and are experienced working with civilian and Defence aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Hartley said the team was also experienced in remote operations through exercises such as last year’s Vigilant Scimitar in Charters Towers and previous deployments such as Operation Bushfire Assist in Gippsland, Victoria.

“Dealing with these types of situations in remote parts of the country is why we train and it’s why we’re in the ADF, so we’re very happy to bring our skills and help in an emergency situation,” he said.

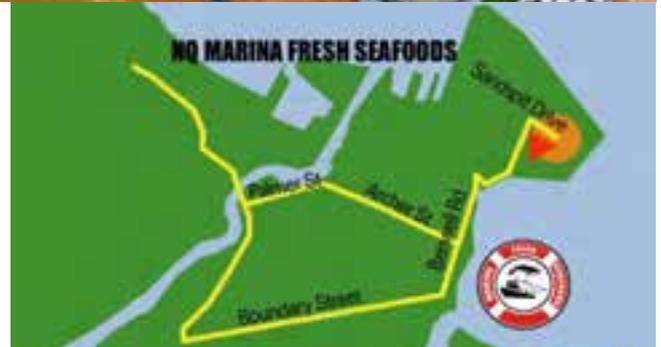
Fitzroy Crossing was at the centre of the state’s worst flood event on record, with the main highway and many surrounding communities isolated by floodwater and damage to infrastructure.

RAAF C-27J Spartan aircraft and Army MRH-90 Taipan and CH-47F Chinook helicopters have been flying into Fitzroy Crossing with supplies, personnel and equipment to aid the flood response efforts, while the Department of Fire and Emergency Services is also using small commercial aircraft and helicopters from the general aviation sector.



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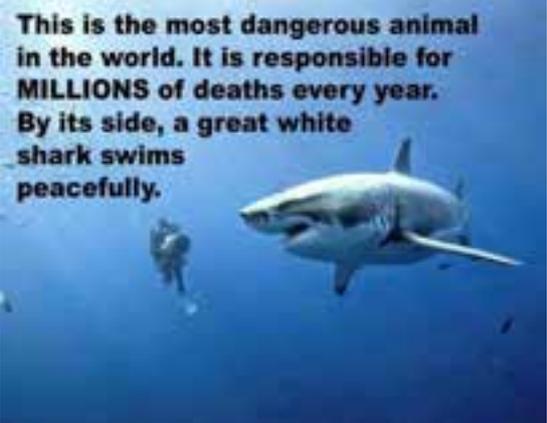
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See Lee
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Granma says



Think Positive - it keeps you young. For example, I fell down the stairs today and I thought WOW - that's the fastest I've moved in years.



This is the most dangerous animal in the world. It is responsible for MILLIONS of deaths every year. By its side, a great white shark swims peacefully.

WHICH CATEGORY ARE YOU?

"The world's population is about 7.8 billion people. That's a big number for most people, that's all. _* However, if you count 7.8 billion people in the world as 100% human, those percentages become clearer. *Of 100% of the people. 11% are in Euro

The world's population is about 7.8 billion people. That's a big number for most people, that's all. _* However, if you count 7.8 billion people in the world as 100% human, those percentages become clearer.

*Of 100% of the people.

11% are in Europe

5% are in North America

9% are in South America

15% are in Africa

60% are in Asia

49% live in villages

51% live in cities

12% speak Chinese

5% speak Spanish

5% speak English

3% speak Arabic

3% speak Hindi

3% speak Bengali

3% Portuguese

2% in Russian

2% in Japanese

62% in their language.

77% have a place to live.

23% have nowhere to live.

21% of people overeat.

63% can eat as much as they want.

15% of people are malnourished.

The daily cost of living for 48% of people is less than \$2.

87% of people have clean drinking water

13% either do not have clean drinking water or have access to a contaminated water source.

75% have cell phones

25% do not.

30% have internet access

70% do not have Internet access.

7% have a college education

93% did not attend college or university.

83% can read

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17% are illiterate.

33% are Christian

22% are Muslim

14% are Hindu

7% - Buddhists

12% - other religions

12% have no religious beliefs.

*26% live less than 14 years

*66% die between the ages of 15 and 64

*8% are over 65 years old.

If you have a place to live, eat nutritious food and drink clean water, have a cell phone, can travel on the Internet, and have graduated from college or higher education, you are in a tiny privileged group.

(In a category of less than 7%)

*ONLY 8% OF 100% OF THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD CAN LIVE TO AGE 65.

*_If you are over 65, be content and grateful. Cherish life, seize the moment. You didn't leave this world before the age of 65 like the 92% of people who have gone before you. You are already a blessed person.

*Take care of your own health. Cherish every moment you have left!!!

A large study in the U.S. found that:* a person's productive age is between 60 and 70;

The 2nd most productive stage of a person is age 70 to 80;

The 3rd most productive stage is 50 and 60 years old.

Before that, a person has not yet reached his or her peak.

The age of Nobel Prize winners is 62;

The age of the presidents of the world's top 100 companies is 63;

The pastors of the 100 largest churches in the U.S. are 71 years old;

The age of popes is 76.

This confirms that a person's best and most productive years are between the ages of 60 and 80.

This study was published by a team of doctors and psychologists in the NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE.

It found that at age 60 you reach the peak of your emotional and mental potential, and this continues until age 80.

Consequently, if you are 60, 70 or 80 years old, you are at your best.

SOURCE:* New England Journal of Medicine.

"The benefits of age 60 and over."

I would never trade my great friends, my beautiful life, my beloved family for less gray hair or a flatter stomach.

As I got older, I became friendlier and less critical of myself.

I became my friend...

I don't blame myself for eating an extra cookie, not making my bed, or buying something stupid that I didn't need.

I have a right to be messy and extravagant.

I have seen many dear friends leave this world too soon, before I realized the great freedom of aging...

Who will blame me if I decide to read or play on my computer until four and sleep until noon...?

Who will make me happier if I stay in bed or in front of the TV as long as I want?

I'll dance to those wonderful hits of the '70s and '80s, and at the same time I'll want to cry for lost love...

I'm going.

If I want to, I'll walk down the beach in shorts too tight on my flabby body, and selflessly dive into the waves despite the judgmental looks of others...

They will get old, too.

I know I forget things sometimes, but there are some things in life that should just be forgotten!..!

I remember the important things. Sure, my heart has been broken many times over the years. But broken hearts give us strength, understanding and compassion.

A heart that has never suffered is flawless and barren and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I have been fortunate enough to live long enough to have my gray hair and youthful laughter on my face forever.

Many never laughed, many died before their hair turned silver.

As you get older, you find it easier to be positive.

You care less about what others think of you.

I don't doubt myself anymore.

I've earned the right to be wrong.

Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version) from our Russian friends

NOTE FROM THE TEACHER

Our six-year-old handed us a note. His teacher had called my wife and I in for an emergency meeting.

We asked our son if he had any idea why and he said, "She didn't like a drawing I did."

We went in the next day.

His teacher pulled the drawing below out and said, "I asked him to draw his family and he drew this.

Would you mind explaining?"

"Not at all." my wife said. "Family vacation. Snorkelling off the Bahamas."





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A RAAF KC-30A refuels a No. 6 Squadron EA-18G Growler during a ferry from Australia to the United States for Exercise Red Flag



AUSSIES GROWLING AT ANOTHER RED FLAG IN NEVADA

The first Exercise Red Flag Nellis of 2023 is off to a flying start at the Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, USA, with the Royal Australian Air Force deploying up to five EA-18G Growler aircraft from No. 6 Squadron and approximately 100 aviators in support of the Exercise to enhance Australia's air-power interoperability with partner nations

[If they are already in Nellis, why the non-specific number? Can't anyone actually count?]

RAAF's Director General Air, Air Commodore John Haly said combined-force training between the Royal Australian Air Force, the United States Air Force and the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force provided a critical opportunity for partner nations to enhance their skills.

"Exercises such as Red Flag Nellis are an opportunity to advance relationships and interoperability with the United States and United Kingdom," Air Commodore Haly said. "Although Australia conducts similar training activities domestically, the scope and scale of Red Flag Nellis cannot be replicated within Australia."

RAAF's detachment commander Wing Commander Steven Thornton said Exercise Red Flag Nellis would provide complex and advanced aerial training against simulated targets and realistic threat systems.

"This training helps ensure RAAF remains ready to deploy aircraft and personnel away from their home base and sustain high-tempo operations," Wing Commander Thornton said. "It also provides the necessary environment for testing and development of new work practices, systems or role expansion."

Exercise Red Flag Nellis concluded on 10 February 2023.

Paddy and Murphy fancy a Pint but only have a £1 between them.
Paddy goes off and buys a sausage.
Murphy says are You mad?
Now we're skint!
Come on says Paddy follow Me.
They go into the pub order two pints and drink them before they pay.
Paddy shoves the Sausage through the zipper of his Jeans and tells Murphy to get down on his Knee's and suck it.
The Barman go's berserk and throws them out.
10 pubs and 10 pints later Murphy says..
'I can't do this any more, my Knee's are too sore and I'm pissed.
How do you think i feel? Says Paddy, I can't even remember which Pub I lost the Sausage in.!!

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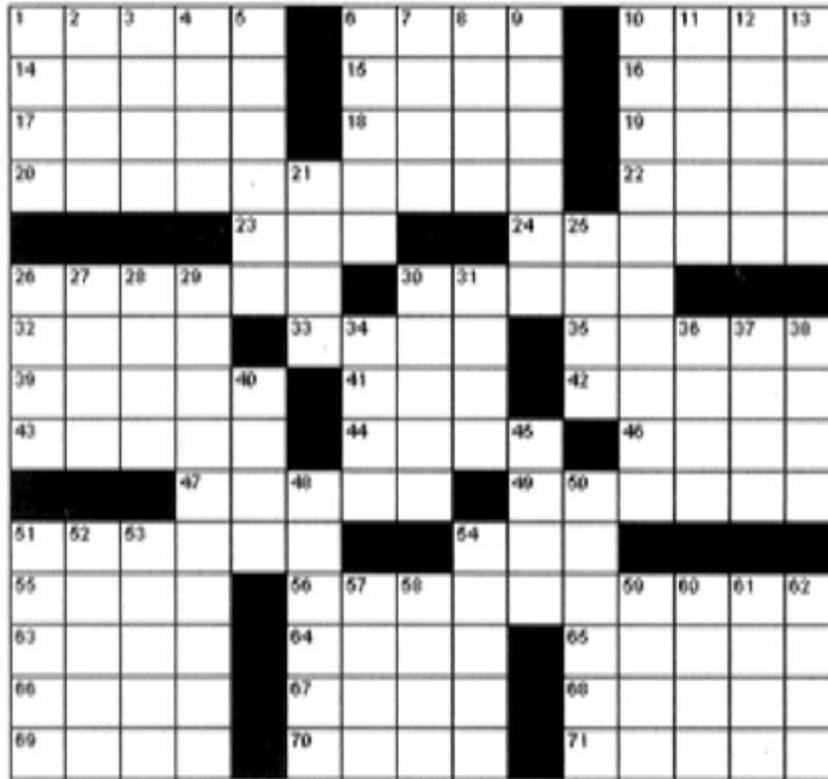
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BOOKINGS SUBJECT
TO AVAILABILITY



ACROSS

- 1. Humiliate
- 6. A secret scheme
- 10. A religious splinter group
- 14. In Christianity, these go to heaven
- 15. Ritual
- 16. Double-reed woodwind
- 17. Unit of measure for gold
- 18. Bypass
- 19. A natural satellite
- 20. Old form of transportation
- 22. Quick
- 23. Imp
- 24. Gives expression to
- 26. Generator
- 30. Commotion
- 32. Crucifix
- 33. Cog
- 35. Barrel part
- 39. Eagerness
- 41. A breed of small dog
- 42. Weary



- 43. Electrical pioneer Nikola
- 44. Holly
- 46. Require
- 47. Make into law
- 49. Whim
- 51. Static balance
- 54. Table napkin
- 55. After-bath powder
- 56. Nationalism
- 63. Impolite
- 64. Beige
- 65. Cowboy sport
- 66. Not closed
- 67. Talk
- 68. Step
- 69. Saucy
- 70. Sort
- 71. Not fresh

DOWN

- 1. Inquires
- 2. Ship
- 3. Emanation
- 4. Dross
- 5. High regard
- 6. Any factual evidence
- 7. City in Peru
- 8. Auditory
- 9. Leash
- 10. Satisfying
- 11. German submarine
- 12. Not tight
- 13. Canvas dwellings
- 21. Blockage
- 25. But not quite all
- 26. "Shucks!"
- 27. Bygone time
- 28. Gestures of assent
- 29. Teenager
- 30. Blame
- 31. Encourage
- 34. Majestic
- 36. Region
- 37. Swerve
- 38. Swirl
- 40. Hindu princess
- 45. Seventeen in Roman numerals
- 48. A characteristic to be considered
- 50. Terminates
- 51. Sharpen
- 52. Brownish gray
- 53. Birch relative
- 54. Savage
- 57. Stiff and sore
- 58. Snare
- 59. Civil wrong
- 60. Bright thought
- 61. Secure against leakage
- 62. Means

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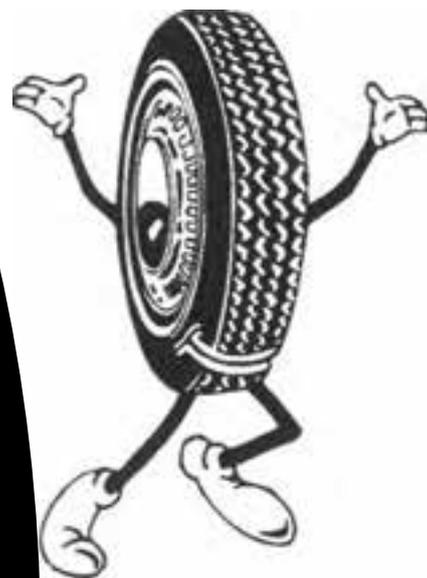
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An Australian Army rifleman from 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, conducts combat-shooting rehearsals at Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane.



SOLDIERS PREPARE FOR PHILIPPINES DEPLOYMENT

Members of 6th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment and 2nd Health Battalion have been preparing for their deployment as part of Joint Australian Training Team – Philippines (JATT-P) 2023, at Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane.

They will deliver lessons on combat shooting, urban clearance, tactical care of a combat casualty and explosive breaching drills.

As part of the preparation, the soldiers simulated working with the Armed Forces of the Philippines to help overcome language and cultural barriers.

Some members role-played as soldiers from the partner nation to enhance the realism of the training.

Private Jack McCombe, who was acting as an instructor, said it was a new experience.

“Interacting with soldiers from other nations is new to me in an instructing role so it’s really good to get this experience,” he said.

“We’ve done months of training and now we get to put it into practice.

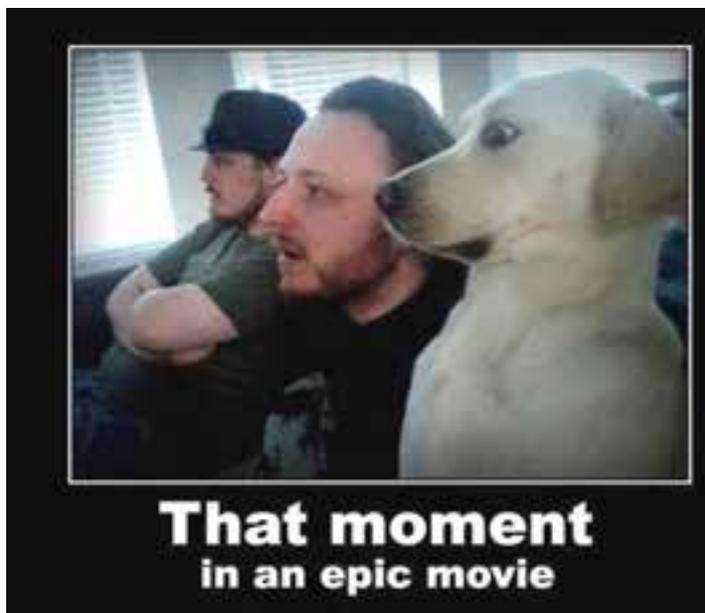
“I’m really excited about going over there, it’s a good start to the year and I’m keen to get a feel for something different.”

There will be several rotations as part of JATT-P 2023.

Contingent commander Major Michael Joseph said the deployment would enhance soldiers’ skills and provide a great opportunity to work with foreign forces.

“It’s absolutely important for a lot of the junior soldiers to get that experience and understand how to work with partner nations,” Major Joseph said.

“A lot of them have never been on a training exercise overseas before, or dealt with language barriers, so it’s important for them to learn how to overcome those challenges.”



81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF DARWIN

On 19th February, Australians pause to remember those who lost their lives, and those who served in the defence of Darwin during the Second World War.

Speaking at the official commemorative service in Darwin, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Matt Keogh said the bombing was the first time during the Second World War that the Australian mainland came under attack.

"On 19 February 1942, some 240 Japanese aircraft bombed Darwin in two separate raids, more than 250 people lost their lives including members of all three services, Allied personnel, merchant mariners and civilians," Minister Keogh said.

"This anniversary is an important opportunity to honour those who served, their sacrifices and the sacrifices of their families.

"By 1942, the Japanese forces were advancing swiftly through Southeast Asia and the southwest Pacific. In just two months they captured Thailand and Malaya and had invaded the Netherlands East Indies (present day Indonesia) and Papua and New Guinea.

"By mid-February the Allied 'fortress' of Singapore had surrendered, the Australian mainland was under attack and Timor had fallen.

"The war had come to Australia, and for those here in Darwin at that time, they experienced firsthand the fear, devastation and loss that war brings. While 81 years may have passed, we will never forget the sacrifices of our service men, women and civilians who defended our country in the Second World War," Minister Keogh said.

"Just two weeks after the initial raids on Darwin, Japanese aircraft attacked Broome with dozens killed or wounded and more than 20 Allied aircraft destroyed.

"These were the first in a series of raids across northern Australia throughout 1942 and 1943, with some 97 attacks taking place on locations from Wyndham, Port Hedland and Derby in Western Australia; to Darwin and Katherine in the Northern Territory; Townsville and Mossman in Queensland, and Horn Island in the Torres Strait.

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RAAF REDUCES RECRUIT AND OFFICER INITIAL TRAINING TIMES

Australia's newest aviators will receive a modernised and streamlined introduction to the Royal Australian Air Force starting this year, with both 1 Recruit Training Unit (1RTU) and Officer Training School (OTS) revamping their Initial Military Training (IMT) courses.

The 1RTU initial recruit course has been shortened from 11 weeks to nine, and the OTS Initial Officer Course (IOC) has been reduced from 17 to 14 weeks.

Commanding Officer 1RTU Wing Commander David Borg applauded his team's efforts and said that while the initial recruit course now had fewer training days, the quality of graduate will not change.

"The team has worked tirelessly to produce a new program that achieves the learning outcomes of the previous version and holds 1RTU in good stead to increase training capacity over the coming years in accordance with the Australian government's strategic intent," Wing Commander Borg said.

He noted that while the course was shorter overall, some components received greater focus in the new program.

"One of the more challenging aspects of the course is meeting RAAF physical-fitness standards," Wing Commander Borg said. "The team recognised this and added more physical training sessions while keeping the summative assessment in the same week as the previous program."

Commanding Officer of OTS Wing Commander Garth Herriot also praised the work of his team and highlighted the benefits of the new course.

"The revision of the IOC has provided the opportunity to question how we develop our people, focus on approved learning outcomes and identify efficiencies within the course," Wing Commander Garth Herriot said.

"As an IMT school, our mission is not to produce a complete workforce package, but rather, deliver a solid foundation for resilient, fit-for-purpose war fighters who have the ability and drive to develop further through workplace engagement, specific employment training and the professional military-education framework."



"Further, the restructuring of the course reduces the duplication of training for commissioning aviators, minimising their attendance and providing personnel capability back to the Royal Australian Air Force."

The new versions of the courses will be trialled in the first part of 2023, after which feedback will be invited from key stakeholders before they receive final approval.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

The Australian Army reduced its recruit training from 12 weeks to nine several years ago, but eventually reverted to a 12-week program after much upheaval and complaint from up-line units and formations. Will RAAF follow suite? Taking bets now

Of course, each of Army's changes/reversals was accompanied by a positively-spun press release, as though no error was made in the initial change. I will of course remind you of my prediction when RAAF reverts



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RAAF SENDS SPARTAN CONTINGENT TO COPE NORTH 2023

The Royal Australian Air Force has deployed one C-27J Spartan aircraft and personnel to participate in Exercise Cope North in Guam, which will run from 8 to 24 February 2023.

The long-standing joint military exercise focuses on increased combat readiness and humanitarian assistance training with the United States and Japan.

RAAF will train alongside the United States Air Force and the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) at Andersen Air Force Base, Won Pat International Airport, and North West Field (Guam); Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands including Rota, Tinian, and Saipan; Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia; Iwo To, Japan; and the Republic of Palau.

Despite the much-reduced presence this year, RAAF Task Group Commander Group Captain Robert Graham said Cope North 23 would be an excellent opportunity to consolidate and further enhance interoperability with the United States and Japan.

"Exercise Cope North 23 will provide training opportunities and invaluable experience for our people in a challenging scenario, and we are looking forward to working with our friends from the United States and Japan again," Group Captain Graham said.

"We are focused on deepening relationships and strengthening engagement with the United States Pacific Air Forces and the Japan Air Self-Defense Force."

Exercise Cope North 23 will enhance the trilateral forces' capability for agile combat employment by operating from multiple locations on Guam and surrounding islands.

"A testing scenario involving humanitarian assistance and disaster relief will drive a range of planning and logistics challenges which will need our combined capability with the United States and Japan to deliver credible responses," Group Captain Graham said.

"The RAAF is committed to developing capable and skilled aviators – and exercises such as Cope North provide an excellent opportunity to train as a combined force with our allies and partners, improving our ability to deliver air power when and where required."

Established in 1978 as a quarterly bilateral exercise held at Misawa Air Base, Japan, Cope North moved to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam in 1999.

It is the United States Pacific Air Forces' largest multilateral exercise.



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2023 marks the 13th year the RAAF will travel to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam to participate in Exercise Cope North.

Approximately 100 aircraft and 2000 service members from the US, Japan and France will train alongside Australia’s one C-27J Spartan.

Australia’s contingent last year included E-7A Wedgetail, C-27J Spartan, KC-30A multi-role tanker transport and “a squadron-sized footprint” of F-35A Lightning II fighters, as well as air and ground crews and a contingency response squadron.

Navy Clearance Diving Team One and NSW Maritime Police conduct diving operations to recover unexploded ordnance off the South Coast of NSW



CLEARANCE DIVERS REMOVE 500LB BOMB FROM JERVIS BAY

Navy clearance divers have protected a marine park in the Jervis Bay area after removing and disposing of unexploded ordnance (UXO).

Clearance Diving Team One located and disposed of a 500-pound Mark 82 general purpose bomb that had laid dormant for more than 40 years.

It was discovered near a rock formation known as the ‘drum and drumsticks’ near the entrance to Jervis Bay on the NSW south coast.

PROSTITUTE FILING HER TAX RETURN.

A young woman walks into a Chartered accountant’s office and tells him that she needs to file her tax Returns. The accountant says, “Before we begin, I’ll need to ask you a few questions. He gets her name, address etc. and then asks, ”What’s your occupation?”

“I’m a prostitute,” she says.

The accountant is taken aback and says, “That’s too gross. Let’s try to re-phrase that.”

The woman says, “OK, I’m a high-end call girl”

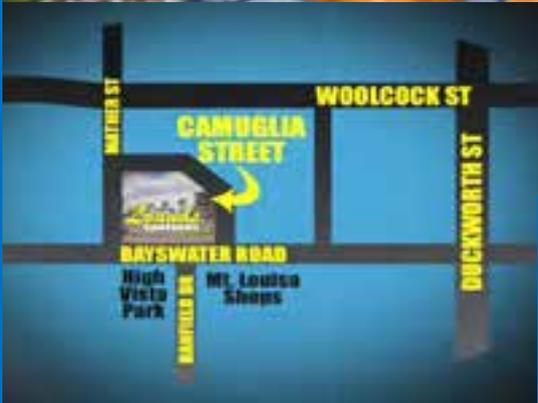
“No, that still won’t work. Need something more acceptable.”

They both think for a minute; then the woman says, “I’m an elite poultry farmer.”

The accountant asks, “What does poultry farming have to do, with being a prostitute?”

“Well, I raised a thousand cocks last year.”

Chartered Acct :“ Brilliant !!! Poultry Farmer it is !!! And agricultural income is tax free!!!



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I USED TO BE NORMAL.....

I used to think I was pretty much just a regular person, but I was born white, into a two-parent household which now, whether I like it or not, makes me privileged, a racist, responsible for slavery and Genocide of Aboriginals. .

I am a fiscal and moral conservative, which by today's standards, makes me a fascist because I plan, budget, and support myself.

I went to Public School and have always held a job. But I now find out that I am not here because I earned it, but because I was "advantaged".

I am heterosexual, which according to some folks, now makes me a homophobe. I am not a Muslim, which now labels me as an infidel.

I am older than 70, making me a useless eater who doesn't understand Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or Snapchat.

I think, and I reason, and I doubt most of what the 'mainstream' media tells me, which makes me a Right-wing conspiracy nut.

I am proud of my heritage and our inclusive culture, making me a xenophobe.

I believe in hard work, fair play, and fair reward according to each individual's merits, which today makes me an anti-socialist.

I believe our system guarantees freedom of effort - not freedom of outcome or subsidies which must make me a borderline sociopath.

I believe in the defence and protection of my nation for and by all citizens, now making me a militant.

I am proud of our flag, what it stands for, and the many who died to let it fly, so I stand during our National Anthem - so I must be a racist.

Please help me come to terms with the new me because I'm just not sure who I am anymore! Funny - it all took place over the last decade!

If all this nonsense wasn't enough to deal with, now I don't even know which toilet to use... and these days I gotta go more frequently!

OL' MAUD MAY HAVE BEEN A BLONDE!

I asked old Maud how she lost her husband.

She told me her sad story:

"Well, he needed a blood transfusion, but his blood type was not on record, so the doctors asked me if I knew what it was, as they urgently needed to know, in order to save my Norman's life.

Tragically, I've never known his blood type, so I only had time to sit and say goodbye.

I'll never forget how supportive my Norman was. Even as he was fading away, he kept on whispering to me, "Be positive, be positive!"

That was my Norman! Always thinking of others."



A police officer called the station on his radio. "I have an interesting case here. An old lady shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped."

"Have you arrested the woman?"

"Not yet. The floor's still wet."

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