



THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE of AUSTRALIA

FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH

NEWSLETTER for JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to you all. The past two months have just flown by, and we are now paying the price for enjoying the festive season. The Committee wish you all a prosperous and more importantly a healthy 2017. This year will be the Centenary of the RSL in NSW when in April 1917 NSW became part of the National Body which had formed in 1916.

Our annual sub Branch Christmas Dinner was held on Sunday 4th December and was a great success. Members and their partners enjoyed the meal and the company and were on their best behaviour.

The sub-Branch office reopened on the 9th January, and we have been busy preparing for the upcoming AGM in March, the Australia My Country Competition, and ANZAC Commemorations. This year our ANZAC Sunday Service and the Dawn Service on ANZAC Day will be held at Forestville as usual.

Nominations for your sub-Branch Committee at Forestville for the Congressional Term 2017-2020 will close on 31st January 2017. We are looking for new Committee Members so don't be shy. I will be retiring as President after 13 years in the position and 15 years as a member of the committee. Alistair Turnbull will be retiring as Treasurer having been brought into that position 12 months ago. Mervyn Whiting has retired from the committee having served in various positions for some 7 years. All three members will not be renominating for the committee. Check with Tony Mooney who will provide nomination forms.

I have yet to check with Bob Connors, but I am sure that another bus trip will be planned for March. We have had a warm summer this year so let us hope that it will cool down over the coming weeks.

If you require any pension advice, please contact myself, Bob Lunnon or Robin Tapp. We will look after your needs until appointments to the pension area are made.

On a sad note, the President of Avalon sub-Branch Commodore Graham Sloper AM (Retd) passed away on 4th December aged 74 years. Graham was involved since 2002 at Avalon and at District level and was a founding member of the Veterans Centre. He will be sadly missed.

I wish you all continuing good health. Check for the coming events in this newsletter and the Sub Branch website www.forestvillersl.org.au Remember, if you require any assistance, do not hesitate to contact us.



Bill Hardman...President

DOUBLE VC WINNERS



Only 3 men have won two VC's in the history of the medal. The double VC holders were Surgeon Captain Arthur Martin-Leake, Captain Noel Chavasse and Captain Charles Upham.

Surgeon Captain Arthur Martin-Leake won his first VC in 1902 during the Boer War. He treated a wounded soldier just 100 metres from the enemy's line. He was shot and wounded by the Boers but continued treating men until he collapsed with exhaustion, having first ordered that the wounded received water before he did. Martin-Leake's second VC was won in 1914 near Zoonebeke in Belgium. He was awarded his second VC as a result of showing conspicuous bravery near enemy lines rescuing men while under constant fire. His commanding officer wrote in his recommendation "His behavior on three occasions when the dressing station was heavily shelled was as such as to inspire confidence both with the wounded and the staff. It is not possible to quote any one specific act performed because his gallant conduct was continued."

Surgeon Captain Arthur Martin-Leake died in 1953 aged 79.

Captain Noel Chavasse won two VC's in World War One. Qualified as a doctor, Chavasse joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) when World War One broke out. His unit of the RAMC was attached to 10th Battalion King's (Liverpool) Regiment which fought at the Battle of Hooge near Ypres in 1915. The ferocity of this battle was such that out of 900 men in the 10th Battalion just 140 men and 2 officers survived. For his gallantry, Captain Chavasse was awarded the Military Cross. On day 1 of the **Battle of the Somme**, the battalion was ordered to attack the fortified village of Guillemot. Along with many other units, the 10th Battalion suffered major casualties. Chavasse tended as many of the wounded as he could even into the night-time. He was hit by shrapnel twice and on one occasion carried a wounded man 500 metres back to safety. Chavasse also collected as many dog tags as he could of men killed in the attack. The citation for his first VC stated: "Altogether he saved the lives of some twenty badly wounded men, besides the ordinary cases which passed through his hands. His courage and self-sacrifice were beyond praise." Chavasse received his VC from King George V in February 1917.

In July 1917, Chavasse saw action at the **Battle of Passchendaele**. With his men, he set up an advanced first-aid post in a captured German dugout. The Germans shelled this position and Chavasse was hit in the head, fracturing his skull. He received treatment for this serious injury and despite advice to the contrary, returned to his first-aid. Further shelling led to two more head injuries. On his orders, stretcher bearers took other wounded men back to relative safety, as Chavasse believed that he had to stay where he was to support men who were there. On August 2nd, 1917, another shell resulted in a severe stomach wound, which required treatment at a casualty clearing station. However, the wound was so severe that Chavasse died on August 4th aged 32. The citation for his second VC stated: "Though severely wounded early in the action whilst carrying a wounded soldier to the dressing station, he refused to leave his post, and for two days not only continued to perform his duties but went out repeatedly under enemy fire to search for and attend to the wounded who were lying out. During these searches, although practically without food, he assisted to carry a number of badly wounded men over heavy and difficult ground. By his extraordinary energy and inspiring example he was instrumental in rescuing many who would have otherwise

undoubtedly succumbed under the bad weather conditions."

Chavasse was buried in the military cemetery at Brandhoek in Belgium. His headstone is the only one in the world engraved with two VC's.

Captain Charles Upham won his first VC for outstanding leadership and courage during fighting in Crete in May 1941. Despite being wounded by a mortar shell, he carried a wounded man back to safety. Eight days after this, he killed twenty-two Germans with a sub-machine gun during an attack.

In 1942, Upham, fighting in North Africa, captured a German position, destroying a tank and several vehicles with grenades despite his injuries. His arm had been shattered by a machine gun but he only stopped fighting when blood loss made him faint. Only then did he have his wounds dressed. Regardless of his wounds, Upham stayed with his men, continued to fight and suffered further injuries.

Captured during the war, Captain Charles Upham was sent to Colditz where he spent the rest of the war as a prisoner of war.

Mervyn Whiting...editor

PETER JOHN BADCOE, VC **Fifty Years ON**



Peter Badcoe c. 1950s
Nickname: "The Galloping Major"

Born; 11 January 1934

Malvern, South Australia, Australia

Died; 7 April 1967 (aged 33)

**Phu Thọ, Thừa Thiên-Hue
Province, South Vietnam**

Buried at; Terendak Military Cemetery

Allegiance; Australia

Service/Branch; Australian Army

Years of service; 1952-1967

Rank; Major

Unit; Australian Army Training Team

Vietnam (1966-67)

Royal Australian Artillery (1952-65)

**Battles/wars; Indonesia– Malaysia confrontation
Vietnam War**

**Awards; Victoria Cross
Silver Star (2)**

Peter John Badcoe VC (11 January 1934—7 April 1967) was an Australian recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry "in the face of the enemy" that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces.

Early Life and Career

Badcoe was born as Peter John Badcock on 11 January 1934 in the Adelaide suburb of Malvern, South Australia, to Leslie Allen Badcock, a public servant, and his wife Gladys Mary Ann May (nee Overton). He was educated at Adelaide Technical High School, before gaining employment as a clerk with the South Australian Public Service. Despite his father's opposition to the prospect, Badcock held ambitions to join the Australian Army; he did so in April 1952. He was called up for National Service (4/702401) and served for a period of seven weeks with the 16th National Service Training Battalion, prior to receiving acceptance as an **officer cadet** at the **Officer**

Cadet School, Portsea on 15 June that year. Following six months of training, Badcock graduated nineteenth in his course out of forty-nine cadets on 13 December and was **commissioned** as a **second lieutenant** into the **Royal Australian Artillery**. In his assessment of Badcock, Portsea's commandant noted that he was a "very keen and sound student" and would "make a capable officer".

On 26 May 1956, he married his wife Denise MacMahon in the Methodist Church, Manly, Sydney, and in 1961 he changed his surname to Badcoe. He also played hockey for South Australia while at school and played in the school band. His first car was a little red MG.

He was survived by his wife Denise and three daughters: Carey, Kim and Susanne. He also had a sister, Thelma. His grandchildren include Connor, Nicky, Peter, Josie, Michelle, Lucy and D'Arcy.

Vietnam War

He was 33 years old, and a major in the **Australian Army Training Team Vietnam** during the **Vietnam War** when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

On 23 February 1967, in **Huong Tra, Vietnam**, Major Badcoe rescued, under heavy fire, a United States Medical Advisor. On 7 March, he led his company in an attack and turned what seemed to be certain defeat into a victory. Again, on 7 April, he attempted to lead his company against more powerful opposition. This final act of bravery resulted in his death. The main hall at Officer cadet School, Portsea, was named in his honour, as is the main lecture theatre in the Military Instruction Block at the **Royal Military College, Duntroon**.

Legacy

For his "three acts of heroism" and "outstanding leadership" between February and April 1967, Badcoe was **posthumously** decorated with the Victoria Cross. The full citation for the award appeared in a supplement of the **London Gazette** on 17 October 1967, reading in part:

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased on the advice of Her Majesty's Australian Ministers to approve the posthumous award of the VICTORIA CROSS to: Major Peter John BADCOE (41400), Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

On 23rd February 1967 he was acting as an Advisor to a Regional Force Company in support of a Sector operation in Phu Thu District. He monitored a radio transmission which stated that the Subsector Adviser, a United States Army Officer, had been killed and that his body was within 50 metres of an enemy machine gun position, further, the United States Medical Adviser had been wounded and was in immediate danger from the enemy. Major BADCOE with complete disregard for his own safety moved alone across 600 metres of fire-swept ground and reached the wounded Adviser, attended to him and ensured his future safety. He then organised a force of one platoon and led them towards the enemy post. His personal leadership, words of encouragement, and actions in the face of hostile enemy fire forced the platoon to successfully assault the enemy position and capture it, where he personally killed the machine gunners directly in front of him. He then picked up the body of the dead officer and ran back to the Command post over ground still covered by enemy fire.

On 7th March 1967, at approximately 0645 hours, the Sector Reaction Company was deployed to Quang Dien Subsector to counter an attack by Viet Cong on the Headquarters. Major BADCOE left the Command group after their vehicle broke down and a United States Officer was killed; he joined the Company Headquarters and personally led the company in an attack over open terrain to assault and capture a heavily defended enemy position. In the face of certain death and heavy losses his personal courage and leadership turned certain defeat into victory and prevented the enemy from capturing the District Headquarters.

On 7th April 1967, on an operation in Huong Tra District, Major BADCOE was with the 1st A.R.V.N. Division Reaction Company and some armoured personnel carriers. During the move forward to an objective the company came under

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY



Hoping you all had wonderful Christmas and wishing you all a Happy & Healthy 2017.

Our Lucky Hamper Winners were **Judith Smith, Sid Ashdown, Nancy Roper, Bob Connors, John Scifleet, Adele Donnelly, John Finlay, Jun Booker, Shirley Turner, Barbara Norton and Pat Kiernan.** We hope you all enjoyed them and congratulations.

We would like to thank you all for your support throughout the year with purchasing Badges, Poppies, and the Hamper Tickets as all the profits go to Life Care Narrabeen.

Also, our thanks to the sub-Branch for their support throughout the year and we look forward to working with them again in 2017.

Our thanks also to the Catering Staff for their help in making our functions a success and to Denis and staff who go out of their way to help with our Monthly Activities.

I would like to thank the Committee for all their hard work again making it a successful year, and we are all looking forward to the year ahead.

Our first Meeting is on **Monday 6th February at 1.00 pm** so come along and catch up on the Holiday Gossip and if possible bring something YUMMY for Afternoon Tea.

Our **AGM is on Monday 6th March at 11.30 with our very Popular BBQ** to follow, so looking forward to seeing you there. We will also have Nomination forms there for anyone wishing to join the Committee, and can be filled in on the day. Also, New Members are also welcome and those forms will always be available.

For those on the sick list we wish you a quick recovery and look forward to seeing you soon.

Regards,
President Annie



A Prayer for Peace

Almighty God, we remember with thanksgiving, those who made the supreme sacrifice for us in times of war.

We pray that their offering of their lives may not have been in vain.

May your grace enable us this day to dedicate ourselves to the cause of justice, and peace; and give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world.

Amen

heavy small arms fire and withdrew to a cemetery for cover, this left Major BADCOE and his radio operator about 50 metres in front of the leading elements, under heavy mortar fire. Seeing this withdrawal, Major BADCOE ran back to them, moved amongst them and by encouragement and example got them moving forward again. He then set out in front of the company to lead them on; the company stopped again under heavy fire but Major BADCOE continued onto cover and prepared to throw grenades, when he rose to throw, his radio operator pulled him down as heavy small arms fire was being brought to bear on them; he later got up again to throw a grenade and was hit and killed by a burst of machine gun fire. Soon after, friendly artillery fire was called in and the position was assaulted and captured.

Major BADCOE'S conspicuous gallantry and leadership on all occasions was an inspiration to all, each action, ultimately, was successful, due entirely to his efforts, the final one ending in his death. His valour and leadership were in the highest traditions of the military profession and the Australian Regular Army.

Badcoe's medal group and personal memoirs were offered for sale by auction in Sydney on 20 May 2008. Estimated at between A\$400,000-600,000, the group eventually sold for A\$488,000 to Kerry Stokes in collaboration with the South Australian State Government. Badcoe's Victoria Cross and associated medals were displayed at the South Australian Museum in Adelaide, prior to being toured to regional South Australia in 2009, before being displayed permanently at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Honours and Awards

Victoria Cross

Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975

Vietnam Medal

Australian Defence Medal

U.S. Silver Star (with oakleaf cluster)

U.S. Purple Heart

U.S. Air Medal

Knight of the National Order of Vietnam

South Vietnam Gallantry Cross (with palm, gold and silver star)

South Vietnam Wound Medal

South Vietnam Campaign Medal (with 1960 clasp)

South Vietnam Armed Forces Honour Medal, 1st Class.

Mervyn Whiting...editor



PLEA TO OUR MEMBERS WE NEED YOUR HELP

We have an ageing membership here at Forestville RSL sub-Branch, with loads of ninety-year old's and many over eighty. This is great, but we also need a heap of younger veterans to ensure that our numbers don't fall until we reach the same sad state as our Manly colleagues.

Please look around and see who could be persuaded to join us. There must be many cheery souls around who have seen some service and who don't realise that they could join the RSL. In my possibly, slightly biased view, Forestville is the best sub-Branch in the district, and I can't see anyone ever regretting they joined.

We are very good at looking after people with welfare and pensions. We have delightful outings and excellent functions at remarkably low cost, and we are a convivial and friendly lot. Lastly, it doesn't cost us anything to be members except our time to reach out and welcome everyone.

Mervyn Whiting...editor

GUEST SPEAKER

sub-Branch GM Wednesday 1st February 2017

(Wives & partners welcome)

Information talk by world expert **Associate Professor Sheryl van Nunen** from **TiARA** (Tick induced Allergies, Awareness and Tick Bite Prevention).

Topics to be included are Tick induced Allergies, Awareness, and Tick Bite Prevention.

Geoff Brown...membership officer

MEMBERSHIP

Sadly, we report the passing of our dear members during the past two months;

BOYLE Anthony Francis ARMY,
GLADWIN George Thomas ARMY.
NEVELL Elizabeth Mary NAVY,
SHRIMSKI William Alfred ARMY.

Our sincere condolences are passed onto family and friends.

Current membership totals **464**.

Introductions from our members, family, and mates for new membership are always welcome.

CHANGES TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP DETAILS.

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!!!

To ensure that our records are maintained up to date we would appreciate your advice of any **change** as soon as possible including new address, phone number, e-Mail address, **next of kin and any other personal information**.

NB. For your information our sub-Branch MEMBERSHIP has a new E-Mail address;

membership@forestvillersl.org.au

Geoff Brown, Membership Officer

OUR CENOTAPH and MEMORIAL WALKWAY

Our new volunteer B Team will be commencing work in the cenotaph and memorial walkway in February, and we sincerely welcome Leonie Wright and Mike Lee.

Plants and lawn are all growing well however are needing a lot of water and attention.

MEMORIAL PAVERS;

Don't forget to think about your paver order for a past friend or relative.

Orders close at the end of March.

Cost for pavers for sub-Branch Members is \$35.

Geoff Brown,
Cenotaph and Memorial Walkway Coordinator.



FORESTVILLE RSL MEMORIAL

SPECIAL REQUEST TO MEMBERS

For those of us who are interested in receiving this Newsletter each month, we are able to send it to you electronically (via e-Mail)!

If you would like to provide your e-Mail address we can send the newsletter to you via e-Mail. This would save us the rising cost of postage and time spent with the preparation of envelopes and use of other resources.

To provide your details please contact;
membership@forestvillersl.org.au

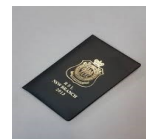
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(All non-urgent enquiries should be directed to the Office during normal office hours.)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday.....0900 to 1200 and 1245 to 1400
Friday.....0900 to 1200
(Except for public holidays and special occasions, or by special appointment.)



DATES TO REMEMBER 2017

Wednesday 1 February 1930 Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 1 March 1930 Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 14 March 1900 District Council Meeting
Wednesday 5 April 1930 Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 23 April 1440 ANZAC Sunday Street March
Sunday 23 April 1500 ANZAC Service at RSL Club
Tuesday 25 April 0530 ANZAC Dawn Service
Wednesday 4 May 1930 Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 6 May 1100 AMC Presentation
Wednesday 7 June 1930 Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 5 July 1930 Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 2 August 1930 Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 13 August VP Day Luncheon 12 noon
Wednesday 6 September .1930 sub-Branch General Meeting
Wednesday 4 October 1930 sub-Branch General Meeting
Monday 23 October sub-Branch Widow's Luncheon 12 noon
Wednesday 1 November .. 1930sub-Branch General Meeting
Saturday 11 November 10.40 am REMEMBRANCE DAY
Wednesday 15 November . 1200 Narrabeen War Vets Lunch
Sunday 3 December 1800 sub-Branch Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 6 December 1930 Monthly General Meeting

"And the world is a little poorer, for a soldier died today"

LEST WE FORGET