



The quarterly newsletter of Geraldton City RSL Sub Branch





What's On



Theme meals on alternate Fridays. See bar notice for details

Veterans Day

* BAR HOURS Fiday 1200 - 1400 Friday 1200 - 1500 *PLEASE NOTE:

It is at the discretion of the Bar person on duty at the time if s/he remains open beyond the nominated closing times. OCTOBER Tuesday 1st : Workshop by RSL Advocate 9:30am

> **NOVEMBER** Tuesday 5th : Melbourne Cup Day

> > Friday 8th : Poppy Day

Sunday 10th : RSL Pilgrimage to Utakarra Cemetery

Monday 11th : Remembrance Day

Tuesday 19th : HMAS Sydney II Commemoration Service

Sunday 24th : RSL General Meeting 11am

DECEMBER Sunday 1st : Kid's Christmas Party 11am

Birdwood House once again was the venue for this years Veterans Day Service held on Sunday 18th August. After it rained on and off all weekend, fortunately it was fine for the commemoration service.

This year the service was supported by the 11th Battalion Catafalque guard - the first time they have been at a Veterans Day service, under the command of Stuart Adamson. Many thanks to each of the members.

Following the guard, Parade Marshall Glenn Law, marched the veterans to the parade ground.

All those in attendance were welcomed by the RSL Geraldton sub-branch President Glenn Law, who introduced the guest speaker, Bevan Suckling—President of the RSL Northampton sub-branch and Vietnam Veteran. Bevan spoke about freedom and peace and drew our attention to the lack of peace in our world. Since 1945, there have been only 26 days without a war happening somewhere. Those 26 days were in September 1945. He said peace leads to freedom.

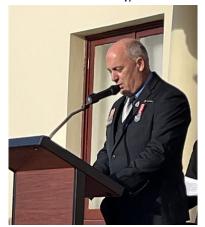
Chaplain Scott Norman led those assembled in prayer and then wreaths were laid on behalf of the City of Greater Geraldton, the NAA, Legacy, VVAA and Geraldton RSL.

Following the Last Post, Glenn Law recited the Ode of Remembrance, this was followed by a Minutes Silence, Scott Norman bought a Benediction prayer and the National Anthem was played.

At the conclusion, Glenn invited everyone to enjoy fellowship in Birdwood House where many stayed on to a dinner catered by Paul and Joyce Nevill.



Veterans Day







Scott Norman

Glenn Law

Bevan Suckling







President's Report

-presented at the AGM 25th August 2024

My first year has been a mixture of excitement but time consuming, with high commitment and sadness. We lost one of our committee members to cancer, another is receiving cancer treatment and his wife has fallen victim to dementia. We say farewell to long serving committee member in Ken Morris. Ken has filled multiple tasks as Vice President, editor of the Bugle, Media/publicist and Poppy Manager. Another member, Phill Morgan has elected not to continue on the committee. Thank-you gentlemen.

The first six months as President (apprenticeship) was indeed a very busy one with multiple functions and events leading up to Christmas. In early January I commenced preparations for ANZAC Day 24 with the events coordinator from the City of Greater Geraldton. We began planning and organized various parties such as the Dept of Defence and "F" Troop Army unit. I secured their participation for the very first time at the dawn service as the Catafalque party at the cenotaph. 11th Battalion reenactment troops conducted the main service. This ANZAC ceremony was reported as the largest ever and a huge success. Yes, there was one "glitch", fixed, thanks to Barry and the Guides/Scouts, thank you. Visitors from the east told me they were very impressed and a family from Scotland said the same.

Another first we had at the Veterans Day ceremony on the 18th of August was the 11th Battalion reenactment troop who provided the catafalque party at the cenotaph. This ceremony was followed by the Diggers Dinner.

Our computer systems filing platform required simplification and upgrading. After a talk with our IT Guru Karl Edwards, the system was updated and the filing system made a lot easier to manage. Still needs fine tuning but it is a big improvement. BZ Bravo Zulu (well done) Karl.

I am just mentioning some of the positive things that have occurred during my time as President. Recently I publicly resigned my Presidency because I am finding it more difficult to cope—as the Welfare Officer, I had to follow my own advice. I will stay and assist the new Welfare Officer.

To ensure our RSL is viable and serves our members in the strongest manner, I would like to see more volunteers take up a position on the committee to actively assist the President and key staff. To the incoming President and new Committee members, I wish you all the very best.

Thank You

GLENN LAW President 2023-2024

AGM

As a result of the elections held at the AGM, the Committee members are now: President: Mike Reymond Vice President: Karl Edwards Secretary: Natalie Norman Treasurer: Barry Stinson Welfare Officers: Paul Shearer and Glenn Law Publicity Officer: Scott Norman Warden: Ken Morris Committee: Barry Lapham, Tanya Yaksich, Andrew Broadley and Rita Stinson



Welfare Assistance

On 2nd October, a DVA Advocate will be coming to Geraldton to do a presentation and meet with veterans with regard to applying for a DVA white card. The presentation will go for about 20 minutes and will discuss the legislation and lodgment of claims with DVA.

For Veterans with no White Card:

Please go to the following Link to create a MyService Account.https://www.dva.gov.au/myservice#sign-in-or-register-with-mygovThis will be explained in detail on the day.

To access Defence Records (Medical, Dental, Psych, Service Record and Personnel file) go to the following link <u>http://www.defence.gov.au/about/accessing-information-requests/personal-information-request-form</u>

If you are going to speak to the Advocate and lodge a DVA claim, can you please bring a certified true copy of your drivers license (with photo) or passport and medicare card.

The October visit will be followed up with a DVA representative visiting approximately 6 weeks later to review and help eligible veterans submit applications.

Eligibility for a White Card: (from the DVA website)

https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/veteran-healthcare-cards/veteran-white-card

You may be eligible for a White Card for your service-related injuries or conditions if you are:

- a current or former Australian Defence Force (ADF) member, including reservists and cadets, with a service-related injury or condition accepted by us; or
- a Commonwealth or Allied veteran with a service-related injury or condition accepted by your country of service

You may be eligible for a White Card to cover treatment for any mental health condition if you:

- have at least one day of continuous full-time service (CFTS) with the ADF; or
- are a reservist and have completed disaster relief service, border protection service, or were involved in a serious service-related training accident.

You may be eligible for a White Card to cover treatment for cancer (malignant neoplasm) or pulmonary tuberculosis if you have:

• a diagnosis of cancer (malignant neoplasm) or pulmonary tuberculosis; and certain types of service with the ADF

This presentation is not just for RSL members, but for any veterans who have served in any capacity even just for one day, please pass this info on to anyone who needs it.

New Trees



Regular visitors to Birdwood House may have noticed four new trees have sprung up in the lawn strip between our car park and Forrest St. There are two KurrajongPopulneus and two Tuckeroos. The plantings were organized by Debbie from Geraldton Tree Canopy Advocates who actively plant footpaths, verges and bus stops to create a cooler, greener city.

It is a volunteer run group and financed through donations and fundraising.

When more mature the trees should soften the appearance of our car park and provide some useful shade in the summer.

Naval Association—Geraldton Sub-Section

Since our outing to Food Bank in May activities have been limited apart from theatre or movie trips arranged by our Social Secretary Sue Harms.

The Naval Association Sailing Club was able to set sail in June. Unfortunately the inclement weather has prohibited numerous forays to sea.

On 10th August our General Meeting was held with 15 members in attendance. We adjourned to Mia's for lunch on completion.

Members attended Veterans Day where Bevan Suckling gave the address and laid our wreath. The Digger's Dinner was enjoyed by those who participated.

Events for the remainder of August are a Wildflower trip and a visit to Dongara to catch up with our members there.

Pat McLeod

President



Bevan Suckling laying NAA Wreath

NAA members lunch



Meet the Members-Mike Reymond

Mike was born in Perth, his father worked for the Department of Civil Aviation and as a family they moved around a lot. They spent 5 years in Kalgoorlie when Mike was a teenager and he attended the Eastern Goldfields High School.

After leaving school, Mike entered the Air Force Academy and went to Victoria. As part of his Air Force training he gained an aeronautical engineering degree from Sydney University. He has also completed a postgraduate Diploma in Financial Management.

Mike's first posting was to Mirage aircraft squadrons at Williamtown (NSW) for three years. He was then posted to the Support Command in Melbourne as an Air Worthiness Engineer On various aircraft and engine types.

Subsequent postings saw him move to Avalon airfield (Government Aircraft Factory) as the Resident Engineer, followed by a promotion and posting to Butterworth (Malaysia) as the Senior Engineering Officer of 75 Sqn (Mirages). A highlight of this tour was to fly supersonic – over Mach 1.

After this Mike came back to Melbourne and took up senior



management positions in the Air Worthiness branch and the Repair and Overhaul branch with the rank of Wing Commander. His last RAAF posting was to the Aircraft Research and Development Unit at Laverton (Vic). After 22 years in the Air Force, Mike's subsequent civilian jobs have included – CEO of a small manufacturing company in South Australia, IT Trainer with a software development company in Brisbane and a maintenance superintendent role at an Aluminum smelter in Northern Queensland.

Mike then came back to WA in 1995 to be closer to family. He's worked for Iluka and Rio Tinto, done some FIFO jobs at remote mines in maintenance and engineering roles and his last position, before retiring, was with Water Corp in Geraldton.

Mike married Diana in 2005 and they have a blended family. He enjoys being dad and step-dad to 5 children and granddad to 9 grandchildren.

It is safe to say that Mike likes to pack a lot into life.

In the past he has taken part in extreme sports – parachuting, gliding, white water rafting, bungee jumping and swings.

He has walked to Everest Base Camp, climbed Mt Kinabalu in Malaysia and did the Kokoda Trail in 2014 without assistance.

He was a keen ultra-light aircraft flyer and as well as local flights, he flew from Albury (NSW) to Perth and also to Port Hedland. Unfortunately, a flying accident nearly 4 years ago resulted in a smashed up ankle, which led to his lower leg being amputated and a prosthesis was fitted about 12 months ago. Not that this seems to have slowed Mike down ... he enjoys gardening, travel and cycling (on the morning of this interview he had cycled 64km).

Mike and Diana are active members of the Geraldton Baptist Church and he has served on the board of Geraldton Christian College.

He was heavily involved with local government committees whilst a Councilor with the City of Greater Geraldton for 6 years. He is also a JP for those who want documents witnessed.

In the past he was involved with several youth organizations in Geraldton – Air Force cadets, Navy cadets, SES cadets and Police Rangers. Currently, he is on the local council Heritage Committee, Cemetery Board and helps FROGGS (Friends of Geraldton Gardens) and Geraldton Tree Canopy Association.

In the past 12 months, Mike has been the secretary here at Geraldton RSL and has just taken up the position of President.

Poppy Day in Geraldton

Jenny and I have coordinated Geraldton RSL's poppy day for some years now but with my age and deteriorating health it is time for someone else to take over. I am hoping someone will assist me this last year of my doing it, with a view to taking over in 2025. The job involves checking the existing quantity of collection containers and poppies left over from last year, calculating our need for this year and ordering those and any other merchandise we will need from RSL WA. This is around September. Geraldton's Poppy Day is usually the Friday prior to 11th November, Remembrance Day.

Starting about two weeks prior to Poppy Day, I distribute poppies and collection containers to schools and businesses and sporting clubs from Walkaway to Drummonds Cove. This takes a couple of days and burns a fair bit of fuel. Around that time I write to

the operators of 10-11 retail venues seeking written approval to place volunteers on their premises to distribute poppies on Poppy Day. I have computer files of the schools, businesses and venues to hand on to my successor.

The next job is finding volunteers to staff the manned venues. I try to recruit enough volunteers so that each venue is manned from 8.00am until 4.00pm with most doing a 2 hour shift but some stalwarts (you know who you are and you have my lasting gratitude) have manned a booth all day on their own. As you may know Karl Edwards and Mark Long dress up in period military uniform complete with disabled rifles and are massively successful collectors as they roam the streets of our CBD.

On the day, I make sure everybody is at their venues and I deliver tables, chairs and poppies to them if required and I spend the day on call to deliver extra poppies, replace full containers, fill in for lunch or toilet breaks etc. and help wherever needed. Our treasurer begins counting the donated cash.

As soon as possible after Poppy Day I collect the (hopefully full) containers and left over poppies from the schools and businesses, pack and store the leftover poppies for the next year and let all the participants know how much we collected. Usually somewhere around \$10K.

Please give some thought to taking over this useful role. I'm happy to chat with anyone is interested in giving it a go; it is the sole source of funds raised to assist veterans in financial distress and something we should all support.

Ken Morris

Geraldton and District Senior Citizens Action Group (Inc) News

Seniors Action Group meets 2nd Tuesday of the month for a meeting and lunch (\$15) Venue: QE2 Centre, Durlacher Street. Time: 10am Morning Tea Come and join us, have fun and make new friends. Next Lunch Meeting: Tuesday 10th September, 2024

<u>CARPET BOWLS</u>: All day Mondays from 8.30am <u>DARTS</u>:9am Monday mornings. <u>TABLE TENNIS</u>: 1pm Monday afternoons <u>CARDS</u>:1pm Friday afternoon

AGE GROUP: 55 YEARS AND OVER Cost \$5 ALL WELCOME Enquiries: phone 0498 999 406 Trevor Email : gtonsag@gmail.com





Valé Norm Chant

547947 Norman Chant 19th November 1949 - 16th June 2024



Norm was born in Geraldton to Mabel and Richard Chant. He completed his schooling in Geraldton and then served a Turner and Iron Machinist apprenticeship with the WA Government Railways workshop at Midland, qualifying in 1969. Norm and Sheryl were married in 1971 and have two adult sons. He worked in the railways for 9 years after which he joined the Public Works Department Country Water Supply in Geraldton. This PWD department later became the Water Authority and later still the Water Corporation. He had an ambition to work there for 50 years and managed 49 years and 9 months before ill health forced his resignation.

During Norm's apprenticeship in Midland a lot of his workmates were in the CMF and Norm joined to fulfil his National Service Obligation.

In RAEME he was attached to 10th Light Horse Regiment. He reached the rank of acting sergeant. He served in the CMF from 1969 until 1974. Norm enjoyed his time in the CMF and would have continued had there been a posting available in Geraldton. Norm served as a Geraldton RSL committee member from 2018 until he passed away in June. He is sadly missed by his family, colleagues and friends.

Max Boyle

545985 Maxwell Richard Boyle 5 July 1951—9 July 2024. Interred at Utakarra Lawn Cemetery on 23rd July 2024.





In 1970 at the age of 19 Max joined the Army Reserve whilst still working on the family farm, until he joined the regular Army in 1971, with this the adventures began, including going AWOL from the ARMY in 1971 and then handing himself in.

After recruit training at Wagga Wagga in NSW, Max was posted to the school of catering where he gained training as a cook. He was then posted to 5th Battalion Holsworthy NSW as a cook. Max stayed there until March 1972 but didn't enjoy it and with his parents help gained a discharge from the Army.

After working as a cook for a while, he re-joined the Army December 10 1972. Following Infantry training at Ingleburn NSW Max was posted to 8th Battalion based at Enoggera, where he was deployed to Malaysia in 1973 for three months as a ready deployment force to guard the air base at Butterworth or to deploy to Vietnam to reinforce Australian troops. He was promoted to Lance Corporal in 1975 where he stayed till 1977 when he was

posted to Singleton and promoted to the rank of Corporal Instructor in the Art of Warfare. He married Maree on 23rd April 1978. Along with Maree's children, Desmond and Natalie, their family was complete with the arrival of two more children, Rowena and Gavan. Max was promoted to sergeant in January 1980 and was posted to Townsville in January 1983. With promotion to Warrant Officer Class II came a posting across Australia to Newman WA.

In 1986 it was another move across the country to Bradbury –Sydney for Max to work at 5/7 Battalion RAR Holsworthy for the next 2 years as Company Sergeant Major, administrative Company.

Then in 1988 there was a twelve month posting to Mildura, Victoria as Training Officer 8/7 RVRa Reserve Unit. Another promotion to the rank of Warrant Officer Class 1 Regimental Sergeant Major brought with it another move, this time to Sydney where Max worked at Ingleburn as RSM 4/3 RNSWR.

Then in 1992 there was another trip across the country, this time to South Hedland where Max worked at Pilbara Regiment Headquarters, as RSM Pilbara Regiment this then moved to Karratha and so did the family.

During the September school holidays 1994 on a visit to Geraldton, Max and Maree decided it was time to stay put with no more moves and they purchased their very first home.

Max retired from the Army in December 1994. This was a very sad time for him as it had been his life and he had loved it. Max continued to be able to do some Army Reserve work.

Max was a very loving kind caring husband, father, father-in-law, brother, brother in law and uncle and the best Papa ever, just ask the grand kids.

The Sabre in RAAF Service

The **CAC Sabre**, sometimes known as the **Avon Sabre** or **CA-27**, was an Australian variant of the F-86F Sabre fighter aircraft.

In 1951, CAC obtained a licence agreement to build the F-86F Sabre. Due in part to the technical investigations initiated by CAC Manager, L J Wackett, the RAAF decided to modify the Avon Sabre making it different from the North American Sabre. The following list of modifications made a huge improvement over the original Sabre:

installation of the Rolls Royce Avon RA.7 turbojet engine, later replaced by the Rolls Royce Mk 26 Avon engine, giving substantially more power

- increased diameter of the nose air intake to accommodate the larger engine
- revised cockpit layout
- heavier armament cannons instead of machine guns
- increased fuel capacity
- fitting of the Plessey isopropyl nitrate liquid fuel combustion starter, which allowed the aircraft to start without an external power source.

The resultant aircraft, sometimes called the Avon-Sabre, became arguably the best of the numerous Sabre variants built throughout the world. During a test flight of this aircraft at Avalon Airfield on 21 August 1953, the pilot, Flight Lieutenant Bill Scott, took the aircraft to a height of 42 000 feet (12 800 metres), put it into a dive and at 36 000 feet (11 000 metres) exceeded the sound barrier (at an approximate speed of 1042 kilometres per hour), thus becoming the first aircraft in Australia to exceed the speed of sound.

The production aircraft were designated the **CA-27 Sabre** and first deliveries to the Royal Australian Air Force began in 1954. The first batch of aircraft were powered by the Avon 20 engine and were designated the **Sabre Mk 30**. Between 1957 and 1958 this batch had the wing slats removed and were redesignated **Sabre Mk 31**. These Sabres were supplemented by 20 new-build aircraft. The last batch of aircraft were designated **Sabre Mk 32** and used the Avon 26 engine, of which 69 were built up to 1961.

The RAAF operated the CA-27 from 1954 to 1971. The Sabres progressively equipped No. 75 Squadron RAAF, No. 3 Squadron RAAF, No. 77 Squadron RAAF and No. 76 Squadron RAAF. From 1958 to 1960, CAC Sabres of No. 78 Wing RAAF undertook ground attack sorties against communist insurgents during the Malayan Emergency. Afterwards, they remained in Malaysia at RAAF Butterworth. Armed with Sidewinder missiles, the Sabres were responsible for regional air defence during the *Konfrontasi* between Indonesia and Malaysia from 1963 until 1966, though no combat took place. Between October and December 1965, a detachment of six Sabres, initially from 77 Sqn and later from 3 Sqn, was based at Labuan to conduct combat patrols over the Indonesian–Malaysian border on Borneo.

From 1962, Sabres were sent to Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, to assist the Thai and Laotian governments in actions against communist insurgents. Australia and Thailand were allies of South Vietnam and the United States during the Vietnam War; 79 Sqn was responsible for local air defence at Ubon, where United States Air Force attack and bomber aircraft were based. The squadron never engaged North Vietnamese aircraft or ground forces. Two Sabres were lost to engine failure there. 79 Sqn ceased operations and was deactivated in July 1968.

The RAAF began re-equipping with the Mirage III in 1964. The last Sabres in Australian service, operated by No. 5 Operational Training Unit RAAF (5 OTU), were retired in July 1971. Former RAAF CAC Sabres were operated by 11 Squadron Royal Malaysian Air Force (11 Sqn RMAF) between 1969 and 1972. Following the establishment of better relations with Indonesia, 23 CAC Sabres were donated to the Indonesian Air Force (*TNI-AU*) between 1973 and 1975, and operated by No. 14 Squadron TNI-AU; five of these were former Malaysian aircraft. Of the 112 Avon Sabres built, two remain airworthy.

Sources

Wikipedia

HARS Aviation Museumhttps://hars.org.au/cac-ca-27-sabre/

My thanks go to the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society Aviation Museum for permission to use part of their article on the Sabre for my article.

Mark Gilligan

Replacement Medals and Replicas

There are a number of places where you can get replacement medals or replicas of service medals Here are three that come recommended:

Medal Mounting and Framing (Kalbarri) Email: medalmountingframing@gmail.com Phone: 0422 737 038

Medals, Mementos and More (Adelaide) Email: medalsmementosandmore@gmail.com Phone: 0405 672 714

National Medals Pty Ltd (Brisbane) Email: natmedals@bigpond.com Phone: (07) 3871 0600 or 0419 196172

Contacts

Executive Committee: President: Mike Reymond......0427 569 515 Vice President: Karl Edwards......0417 952 916 Treasurer: Barry Stinson 0408 222 653 Secretary: Natalie Norman...... 0409 973 391 **Committee: Bar Manager:** Paul Nevill......0427 418 003 **Public Relations Officer:** Scott Norman......0409 573 391 Welfare Officers: Glenn Law......0427 442 504

Paul Shearer..... 0498 486 270

Membership Officer: Mike Marsh0458 806 311

Warden:

Ken	Morri	<u>s</u> 0427	010 548

Barry Lapham	0438 954 190
Tanya Yaksich	0427 921 942
Andrew Broadley.	0499 983 929

Committee Meetings Monday 1700 hrs 9th September 14th October 11th November 9th December



Legacy



Orders have been placed for Legacy Xmas Puddings so in the near future they will be available for sale. They can be a pleasant present for friends or relatives as a Xmas gift. Further info will be available later.

Legacy is also looking for new members who will be warmly welcomed by the club. We are only a small organization but big at heart in supporting veterans' widows and children. If you are interested don't hesitate to contact Ross MacArthur, Secretary Geraldton Legacy 0437 393946

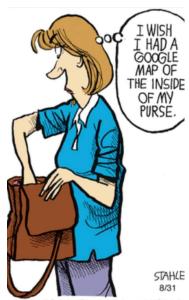
Birdwood Milita	ary Museum
President Barry Stinson	0408 222 653
Secretary Mark Gilligan	9938 1911
Treasurer <u>Mike Marsh</u>	0458 806 311

THE NEXT EDITION

Contributions for Summer Bugle 2024 (sent out 1st December 2024) can be emailed to Bugle Editor

editorbirdwoodbugle@gmail.com or dropped into the RSL at Birdwood House. Deadline for Summer Bugle is 25th November 2024. No articles can be accepted after that date. Earlier makes it easier for the editor to get the Bugle assembled, printed and circulated on time if you are able to do that.

Items generally should not exceed 400 words if there are to be pictures inserted; up to 500 words without picture(s) should be fine. *-Ed*



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RSL Service, Affiliate and Social Subscriptions Renewal 2025

Please fill in or tick the appropriate lines <u>and return this page</u> when renewing your subscription. PLEASE ensure you pay the correct membership rate. Being a financial member entitles you to legally attend Birdwood House bar and social activities. Your financial membership expires 31st December 2024.

RENEWING FOR:

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Please return this completed form with your payment at the bar or office. Payment may be made by EFTPOS, cash, cheque or online. BSB 633000, A/C 159564558. RSL Geraldton Sub Branch. Ref. Your name Affiliate and Social membership cards may be collected at the RSL Thank-you for your support. For any enquiries please contact the membership officer. Michael Marsh Geraldton City Sub-branch Membership Officer 0458 806 311

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