

MARCH 2017 EDITION 23

DISPATCHES

Sunbury RSL Sub Branch



Cover pic by Deb:

This is where I've been



Good day everyone, I had a wonderful holiday
on the cruise ship Explorer of the Seas.

My husband, my son and his wife.

I have to wonder how people can eat and drink
so much. But I guess the people doing the
eating and drinking also do some growing.

Damn, all ups have a down.

Again I'm sorry for February being so late.



THIS ISSUE

Summary

Committee

Happening

Aust. 1919

That's Funny

Stan Miller

What's On

Aust. Sniper

What's on @ the Shrine

Sunbury History

Sponsors

Members Update



President: Graeme Williams Mobile: 0417 556 687



Vice President: Dieter Jankovic Mobile: 0408 343 051



Vice President: Peter Bennett Mobile: 0438 020 348



Treasurer: Phil Morgan Mobile: 0408 994 594



Secretary: Harry Beckwith Mobile: 0419 003 649



Appeals Phil Morgan 9744 3310 0408 994 549

Pensions & Welfare

Harry Beckwith 9744 4886 0419 003 649

Historians

Dieter Jankovic 97409736 0408 343 051

Harry Beckwith 97444886 0419 003 649

Bob Bond 97442237 0448 807 155

Geoff Rose 93727709 0419 328 210

Ethen Brailsford 0431 103 118

Jim Rae 97442358 0413 606 744

Deb Williams 0404 020 525

Nola Williams 97443008 0417 296 411



Happening @ Your R.S.L.

Mar 12	Labour Day	
13	General Meeting	7:30pm
21	Dinner @ Footy Club	6:30pm
22	Region 7 Forum	Castlemaine
29	Bus Tour Ambulance Museum	
31	Nibble Night	7:30pm
April 10	General Meeting	7:30pm
12	C.O.M.	2pm
14	Good Friday	
15	ANZAC Day sales commence	
21	Dinner @ Footy Club	6:30pm
24	Set up venue—sales finish	
25	ANZAC Day March	10am
	ANZAC Service	10:45am
28	Nibble Night	7:30pm
May 8	General Meeting	7:30pm
18	Dinner @ Footy Club	6:30pm
22	Region 7 forum	Inglewood/Bridgewater
26	Nibble Night	7:30pm



Australia 1919

Thanks Harry

- January Peace Conference begins in Versailles with W.M.Hughes and Sir Joseph Cook as Australia's delegates.
- March War Service Homes Act becomes operative
- May Electric Trains beginning in Melbourne (Sandringham-Essendon).
- July Peace Day processions throughout Australia.
- Aug Hudson Fysh and P.J. Mc Guinness leave Longreach Qld in a T model Ford to Survey an air route to Darwin.
- Sep F.H. Gordon and co. of Sydney begin producing the Australian sic cab.
- Nov H.M. Wrigley & A.W. Murphy make the first transcontinental flight from Pt Cook, Vic to Darwin. (16/12-12/12)

Victoria's State Electricity Comm. Decides to establish a powerhouse on the Morwell Brown Coal Field in the Latrobe Valley.

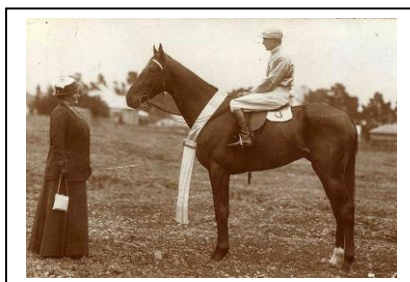
AIF cricket team tours England and South Africa

AIF Rowing eight wins the first King's Cup at Henley-on-Thames.

Average Weekly wage men: 3pound, 14 shillings and 11pence

Women: 1pound, 17 shillings and 1 penny

Artilleryman won the Melbourne Cup



That's Funny



The husband had just finished reading a book, Man of the House.

He stormed into the kitchen and walked directly up to his wife. Pointing a finger in her face, he said, "From now on, I want you to know that I am the man of this house, and my word is law!

I want you to prepare me a gourmet meal tonight and when I'm finished eating my meal, I expect a sumptuous dessert. Then, after dinner, you're going to draw me a bath so I can relax. And when I'm finished with my bath, guess who's going to dress me and comb my hair?"

His wife replies....."The Funeral Director."



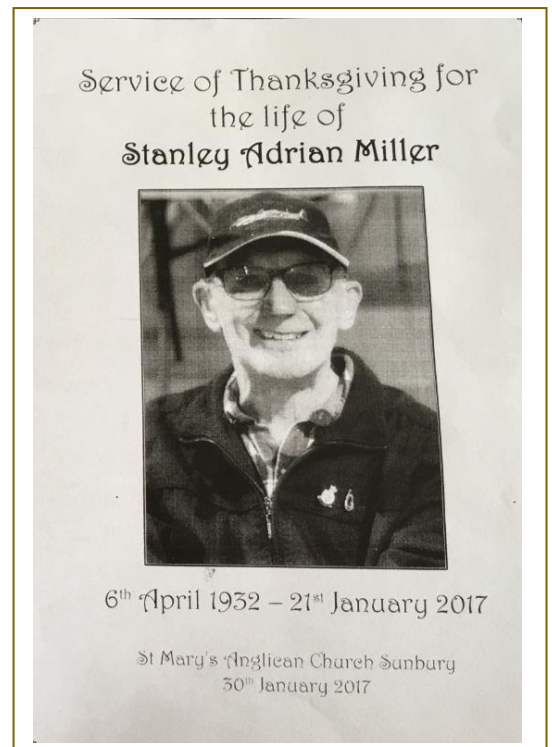
An elderly couple had been dating for some time and decided it was time to marry. Before the wedding, they had a long conversation regarding how their marriage might work. They discussed finances, living arrangements and so on. Finally the old man decided it was time to broach the subject of their physical relationship. "How do feel about sex?" he asked, rather hopefully, "Well, I'd have to say I like it infrequently," she responded. The old guy paused....then asked, "Was that one word or two?"



Not sure where those came from, but you know who you are so Thank You

*When we lose an elder,
it is like a library has burnt
to the ground.*

anthropologist



Irish blessing

May the road rise to meet you

May the wind be always at your back

May the sun shine warm upon your face

The rain fall soft upon your fields

Until we meet again

May God hold you in the palm of his hand

Amen

@ The R.S.L. in Sunbury:



Wednesday afternoons: Refreshments, & great company from 1pm ish.

Sausages in bread usually available \$1.

Last Friday of the Month: From 7:30pm refreshments available. Please bring nibbles to share. This is a very informal evening, sitting around the table enjoying the company.

March 21st

April 18th

May 16th

June 20th

July 15th

August 15th

September 19th

October 17th

November 11th

Dinner at the Footy Club: The dates for this are listed in this newsletter. This evening can be as late or as early as you choose. Senior meals are available, we have the small room. It is a very pleasant evening and not having to cook makes it even better.



Bus Tour: Every other month your RSL organises a bus tour, it is free, usually we have lunch somewhere, which you have to pay for.

29/03/17 The Ambulance Museum

All of this is done not only to help nurture the mateship which already exists, but also to give you an opportunity to go somewhere different.



Australian Sniper Billy Sing



William "Billy" Sing was born in 1886 to an English mother and Chinese father. He and his two sisters were brought up in Clermont and Proserpine, in rural Queensland. Life on the land was tough, and from a young age Billy had to help his parents with their market garden and milk deliveries. He was also a talented horse rider and skilled at shooting.

When war broke out in 1914, Billy rushed to sign up.

He was sent to Egypt in December 1914 and onto Gallipoli in May 1915.

On Gallipoli, Billy was given the nickname "the Murderer" or "the Assassin" for his skill as a sniper. Fellow soldier Ion Idriess described him as, "a little chap, very dark, with a jet black moustache and a goatee beard. A picturesque looking mankiller. He is the crack sniper of the Anzacs." Every morning in the darkness before dawn Billy would find a place to hide and watch over the Turkish soldiers in their trenches. Waiting patiently with a "spotter", usually Tom Sheehan, or Ion Idriess, he would wait for an enemy soldier to come into view. To avoid becoming a target of the Turkish snipers, the Australians would stay in their position until nightfall. The ANZAC war diary for 23 October 1915 states:



Our premier sniper, Trooper Sing, 2nd L.H., yesterday accounted for his 199th Turk. Every one of this record is vouched for by an independent observer, frequently an officer who observes through a telescope.

The Australian soldiers were evacuated from Gallipoli in December 1915, and Billy was sent first for training in England and then to fight in France as part of the 31st Battalion.

The type of warfare on the Western Front, was different to that on Gallipoli. It is unlikely that, as a sniper, Billy spent much of his time on the battlefield, nevertheless, his skills were put to good use. In 1917, he was recommended for, though not awarded the Military Medal for his actions leading an anti-sniper fighting patrol at Polygon Wood, in Belgium. He was again Mentioned in Dispatches for gallantry, this time by the Commander of I ANZAC Corps, General Birdwood, and in 1918, awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre.

Billy's health suffered during his service, and he was frequently hospitalised to treat ailments ranging from serious infections to influenza. He was wounded on a number of occasions, and one gunshot wound to the leg caused him problems for years.

Billy returned to Australia in July 1918 as a submarine guard on board the troopship SS *Boonah*. Shortly afterwards he was permanently discharged as a result of being unfit for duty due to ongoing chest problems. He returned to Proserpine, Queensland, to a hero's welcome, which included the presentation of a purse of sovereigns from well-wishers.

Billy Sing died of heart failure at the age of 57. All that remained of this one-time famous sniper was a miner's hut (worth around £20), and 5 shillings found in his room in a boarding house. There was no sign of his medals or awards from the war. Billy was buried at Lutwyche Cemetery in Brisbane. His headstone highlights his skills as a sniper, and reads:

His incredible accuracy contributed greatly to the preservation of the lives of those with whom he served during a war always remembered for countless acts of valour and tragic carnage.



What's on @ the Shrine

1966

The year that changed the world

4 April 2016 - 26 March 2017



Helping hands 8 October 1966
photographer Winston Coates
Eleven soldiers were wounded when two separate booby traps exploded during Operation Canberra, a search and destroy operation which uncovered a large Viet Cong base in hilly jungle terrain.

REPRODUCED COURTESY OF THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL COA/66/0877/VN



1966 was the year that Australia sent a Task Force to Vietnam, the year the first National Servicemen served in the war, and the year of the battle of Long Tan. Australia felt the heat of the Cold War and the throes of a youth revolution, in the year the first baby boomers came of age. Fifty years on, this exhibition tells the story of a year that changed Australia and the world.



Sunbury

(3429, 36 km N, Hume City)

One of the earliest European settlements in Victoria, Sunbury dates from 1836, when John Aitken, George Evans and Samuel and William Jackson arrived from Van Diemen's Land. The Jacksons settled on the banks of a stream (now Jacksons Creek) and named the district after Sunbury-on-Thames near London. It has also been suggested that the local Aboriginal name for the creek was *sunburra*. William ran sheep on the property, and Samuel was an architect whose designs included St Francis' Church in Elizabeth Street, the first St Patrick's Cathedral and the original (Royal) Melbourne Hospital. George Evans settled nearby, calling his property by the Aboriginal name Buttlejorrk. His homestead, later known as Emu Bottom, is reputedly the oldest in Victoria, surviving several bushfires including a devastating one in 1980.

Sunbury was a pastoral area until 1851, when it was surveyed and proclaimed a village. It became a changing place for the gold escort, and bushrangers were imprisoned here, but it was bypassed by the more direct route through Diggers Rest. A new township developed two miles (three km) east, temporarily threatening Sunbury's ascendancy. The Gap or Aitkens Gap was named after the local pioneer sheep-farmer John Aitken. It is the site of one of Caroline Chisholm's shelter sheds, and although it thrived for some years, there is virtually no trace of it now.

In 1853 W.J.T. Clarke was granted 31 000 acres (12 400 ha) in the district. His influence brought the railway to Sunbury in 1859, rather than to Bulla. In 1874 his son, Sir William, benefiting from his father's wealth, built Rupertswood mansion. A pivot of upper-class society, it had its own railway siding. After visiting English cricketers played a local team in December 1882, Sir William's wife Janet is said to have burnt a bail in 'remembrance' of the 'death' of English cricket (which had been announced earlier that year in the London *Sporting Times* after the English team was defeated on their home soil), creating the 'ashes' for which Australian and English teams have fought ever since. After Sir William's death, his son Rupert sold off most of the estate, retaining Kismet Park and its racecourse, which hosted regular race meetings until World War II. Rupertswood later became the Catholic Salesian College, and another part of the holding, Clarkefield, was subdivided for soldier settlement after 1945.

Following a decline in gold yields in the 1860s, the government gave assistance to new industries. For a time Sunbury was a major Victorian wine-growing area, whose vineyards included Goonawarra, first planted in 1863 by James Goodall Francis, later Victorian premier. Although phylloxera did not affect Sunbury, the vines were removed when grazing became more profitable by the late 1920s. Although the town had a flour mill, two creameries and, briefly, a rabbit-canning factory, by the turn of the century its major employer was its mental hospital, which began as a children's industrial school in 1865 before being converted to a lunatic asylum in 1879. Later the Caloola Training Centre for the Intellectually Disabled, it became a campus of Victoria University in 1994.

Industry began to move to Sunbury in the 1960s, attracted by the proximity of the new Melbourne Airport at Tullamarine. In the 1970s the Sunbury Pop Festival attracted national attention. Although residential estates have proliferated, much of the area remains rural, with wineries established at the replanted Goonawarra and Craiglee vineyards.

JENNY KEATING

<http://www.emelbourne.net.au> eMelbourne the city past & present





PH 97404448

109 O'Shanassy Street All day breakfast



Hours:
Mon-Fri 7-4
Sat-8-3
1st & 3rd Sunday
8:30-2:30

Raine&Horne.

Sunbury VIC 3429

Phone: 03 9744 6334

Fax: 03 9744 7827

Email: info@sunbury.rh.com.au



**Sunbury
Trophy Centre**

Fast & Efficient

Phone Kim: 0403085072

Est 1989

AUTOLUBE

Service & Repair centre

4/99 Horne St Sunbury Vic 3429

Liam Boyle

97453799



PJ's PET

WAREHOUSE & AQUARIUM

Open 7 Days a week

Phone 97403500

104 Horne Street, Sunbury Vic 3429

pjspet@gmail.com



**For All Enquiries
(03) 9373 7000 (24 Hours)**



The RSL would like to thank these companies for their financial contributions towards the cost of distributing 'Dispatches' to the Sub-Branch members.

RSL Sunbury

The RSL needs to keep the details of members up to date (securely retained).

There have been instances in the past when members are recouping from matters but not knowing their whereabouts, we the RSL are unable to contact them.

Please complete the following details and return to the Secretary

Thank you.

MEMBER

Name: _____ Spouse: _____
Address: _____ Suburb: _____
Postcode: _____ Phone: _____
Mobile _____ Email _____

Type of Membership (circle One) Service L/S Affiliate Associate Social

Armed Forces (circle) Army Navy Air Force

Theatre _____

Time Frame _____

Date Joined R.S.L. ___/___/___

NEXT OF KIN

Name: _____ Spouse: _____
Address: _____ Suburb: _____
Postcode: _____ Phone: _____
Mobile _____ Email _____

Office Use Only

Received: ___/___/___ Updated On: ___/___/___ By: _____

