



**CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE
CORPS ASSOCIATION
DECEMBER 2019**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Remembrance Day Commemorations 2019



This year we had a change of venue for our Remembrance Day ceremony, the Blair Wark Community Centre. It was a most lovely venue and all the usual school children took part, which was wonderful.

The new location was due to the fact that Roseville Memorial Club is soon to close for major refurbishments, and the new Blair Wark Community Centre at West Lindfield honours Ku-ring-gai's Victoria Cross recipient Major Blair Wark VC, DSO who was awarded the highest award for bravery on the frontline at Bellicourt France in October 1918. As many of you may remember, Major Blair Wark VC was honoured at last year's Remembrance Day ceremony at Roseville. This year, after the official proceedings, the Mayor of Ku-ring-gai officially opened the Blair Wark Community Centre.

The room was full with people, young and old, paying their respects, seven of whom were our CB members. We were fortunate to have a beautiful sunny day, not too hot and not smoky, thank goodness. The respectful involvement of the school children from many local schools, and the moving display of poppies were lovely to see. Ku-ring-gai Council did an excellent job bringing everything together so well.



Following the formal proceedings there was a delicious morning tea out on the balcony. A special thank you to Noelene Hansen for attending. Noelene is such a loyal supporter of CB and had just had a busy week leading up to Remembrance Day,

celebrating a rather big birthday milestone. Such a sweet and impressive lady, and I actually thought she was ten years younger!

End of Year Reflection

Personally, this year has been very hard with the loss of my dearest, much-loved and missed Dad, Gordon Gibson (past longest serving CB President). The wider CB family has also had to come to terms with the loss of dear Helen Kenny (long serving Publicity Officer) and dear Bruce Bentwitch (past long serving Treasurer). Three CB Greats lost in one year, truly devastating. To all those who have lost loved ones this year, may they rest in peace – forever in our hearts.

It is an honour to serve all our CBers and I want to thank those who have sent letters, photos and books, and also those who have called. It is with much gratitude that I also acknowledge those who have made kind donations. Extra special and heartfelt thanks of course to our brilliant, dedicated CB committee. Thank you very much Bruce, Cathryn, Rob, Annette, Mark and David. You're wonderful! Bruce, I know Helen would be very proud of how well you are carrying on Newsletter.

I hope you and your families cherish your time together at Christmas and I'm wishing you a peaceful New Year.

I also invite anyone who is able to attend our **AGM at The Runaway Spoon (12 Tryon Road Lindfield) on Wednesday 22nd January at 1.00 p.m. (close to Lindfield station with plenty of parking also available out the front).**

Your input would be most welcome, and I hope to see you there.

My very best wishes to you all.

Katy Denis, President

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

This has been a sombre year for CB, as Katy has mentioned, with the loss of three staunch and active members, Gordon, Helen and Bruce, and the advice from Greg Brown of the passing of his mother, Anne Brown, in South Australia. On behalf of us all, I conveyed our sympathy and condolences to Greg.

In other ways we have had a good year. ANZAC Commemorations in Sydney were very special, and, while I was in Houston, Katy and others assured me Remembrance Day at Lindfield (Sydney) was very moving, and well attended. A report of Remembrance Day in your own district would be welcomed for publication in Newsletter!

Newsletter received from Members two contributions which I am delighted to publish. The first, following, from Geraldine Cole, is a lovely follow up to Robert Brown's article in September Newsletter. Thank you Geraldine. The second is from Geoff Parker, whose mother's 100th birthday will be celebrated on 27th December. Diana Parker, a Garage Girl, was a dear friend of the late Helen Kenny. Diana visited Sydney for ANZAC Day every year until this year, latterly accompanied by Geoff. Diana has lead a wonderful life! Congratulation and best wishes to Diana from all at CB.
100 years - what a wonderful achievement!

On the subject of Remembrance Day, I have a small personal anecdote. My wife and I were unexpectedly called to Houston for a family illness. We missed Remembrance Day in Australia and were in Houston for 11th, which in U.S. is known as Veterans' Day.

I took our two grandsons to school on 11th, and when I returned to collect them, was met by one very excited teacher – my 6 year old grandson had filled the class with news of his Great Grandmother (Helen Kenny) and that she had been a “spy” in WWII. In June the family had flown to Sydney for Helen’s funeral, and I was amazed how much the young boy had taken on about Helen’s life. He certainly amazed his class and his teacher with the ‘story’. (This grandfather was quite chuffed!)

I wish you all a blessed and joyous Christmas, and good health and happiness throughout 2020.

Bruce Goudge

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CBICA IN MELBOURNE

Further to the article published in the last Newsletter, I was delighted to receive the following email from Geraldine Cole. My thanks to Geraldine, and I have included her email, unedited, with her two photographs.



*Dear Bruce,
Thank you for the recent edition of the newsletter. It is always a good read and I often wish I had something to contribute. However I wasn't aware of my Father Jock McCorkell's involvement in Central Bureau until about 2 years ago and he died in 1987 taking his secrets with him. I can't imagine what an Accountant could offer to the Intelligence Bureau but Dad obviously had some other talents which were useful to Central Bureau. I guess our family will never know what he was involved in. We are so proud he was part of it. I am able to add to the story entitled CBICA in Melbourne. I contacted the Shrine and the Duty Manager Rebecca Dixon who sent me a photograph of the plaque and said if ever I got the chance to visit, the staff would be more than happy to direct me to the Casuarina tree where the memorial plaque is placed in the section of the Shrine Reserve.*

I am certain this would go for anyone who visits. They don't have a date on record for this plaque dedication but the earliest mention she could find for a wreath laying service for the Central Bureau was 2006. Rebecca said she couldn't find anything in their records prior to then so that may well have been when the plaque was installed. The overgrown grass certainly needs a "haircut" so I am going to recruit my family in Melbourne to visit the plaque and tidy it up a little. I live in Queensland and only visit for a few days annually- usually mid-year.



Rebecca gave permission to forward the photo on and use it as needed. Thank you and the Committee for all the interesting stories and dedications.

*Kind regards
Geraldine Cole*

CONGRATULATIONS **Diana Parker turns 100**

[AS MENTIONED ABOVE NEWSLETTER IS DELIGHTED TO ADVISE READERS THAT GARAGE GIRL DIANA PARKER TURNS 100 ON 27TH DECEMBER THIS YEAR. IT IS MY PLEASURE TO RELAY INFORMATION IN A LOVELY EMAIL FROM HER SON GEOFF – AND TWO MARVELLOUS PHOTOS – ONE TAKEN QUITE RECENTLY. BJJ]

Di (Diana) Matthews, later Parker, was born in Wollstonecraft Sydney in December 1919. The family moved to Ivanhoe in Melbourne when Diana was about 6 and to Canterbury during school years. Diana loved sport at school rather than classes at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar, then Fintona. After school she worked with the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (now NAB). A goodbye letter from her colleagues at CBC when leaving to join the army shows Diana was very well respected and had a sense of humour.



*Diana volunteered for the AWAS and served on Continuous Full Time War Service from 14 Sept 1943 to 5 Feb 1946.
She was a Sergeant on discharge. Perhaps a rank or authority she would use with anyone with a wrong line call in tennis!*



Diana was one of the 'Garage Girls' at 21 Henry St Ascot. Di's memory is fading but we had a great laugh when she remembered the starching of uniforms. Starching uniforms was mentioned in a recent CB Newsletter or in Helen Frizell/Kenny's notes on the Bletchley Park Honour Roll website. Di made many friends in the army with a very special one being the amazing Helen Frizell/Kenny. (God mother to Di's favourite son Geoff - yes the only son.)

*There are some great photos of the Garage Girls. Di loved the CB ANZAC reunions in Sydney and catching up with Helen and the other Garage Girls. Whilst Di's memory is fading, she is still a lovely person who enjoys family activities and visits from friends. After the war Di married Gerry Parker from the RAN. They lived in Kew then Mont Albert in VIC before retiring to Tathra on the South Coast of NSW. Diana moved to Box Hill VIC in 1998, and in 2017 living alone no longer made sense so she moved to Lynden Aged Care in Camberwell VIC where she is now well cared for.
..... Geoff Parker (son)*

[FROM YOUR COMMITTEE, PLEASE ACCEPT OUR BEST WISHES FOR A LOVELY CHRISTMAS, AND SUPERB NEW YEAR. BJJ]

