



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION OCTOBER 2019

Remembrance Day & Official Opening of Blair Wark VC Community Centre

Ku-ring-gai Council cordially invites you to the Commemoration of Remembrance Day and Official Opening of Blair Wark VC Community Centre with special guest speaker Lieutenant Colonel Phil Pyke.

Monday 11 November • Commencing at 10.30am

Blair Wark Community Centre • 1 Dunstan Grove • Lindfield

RSVP Before Friday 25 October 2019

phone • 9424 0980

email • events@kmc.nsw.gov.au



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Spring seems to be taking its time to arrive fully weather-wise, but I have definitely been celebrating my beautiful new lavender and orchid buds! I am also just back from a lovely trip with my Mum to Floriade and Tulip Top Gardens – I hope you are enjoying the spring vibes and beauty too. Being October already, I am very pleased to say that we are working towards our next commemoration - Remembrance Day.

I extend a warm invitation for you to join us for our annual Remembrance Day ceremony that will be held at a **new location** this year - the **Blair Wark Community Centre, 1 Dunstan Grove, West Lindfield - off Eton Road (just 10 minutes' drive from Roseville Memorial Club)**. The service will commence at **10.30am on Monday 11th November** with morning tea to follow at approximately 11.30am.

Please note there is limited parking available directly outside the community centre, so it is advised that you arrive in plenty of time. For any questions regarding Blair Wark Community Centre, please contact Ku-ring-gai Council on (02) 9424 0980.

The new location is 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.

The ceremony will follow the format of past years with involvement from the local school children that is always so lovely, the laying of poppies and morning tea to follow. There will also be a special guest speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Phil Pyke. Please see below for the official invitation from Ku-ring-gai Council. You are not required to RSVP to the council, however, as I can do that on your behalf.

As always, your loved ones are welcome at this and all CB functions, so feel free to invite family members along. The more the merrier!

It would be helpful to know how many CBers plan to attend on Remembrance Day, and if you are able to please RSVP to me via phone or email – my contact details are at the end of this report – that would be appreciated.

We had a wonderful day last year and we really hope to see as many of you as possible this year. November's just around the corner!

Katy Denis, President

10/75 Stanley Street

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TREASURER'S REPORT

How time flies since Anzac Day, and what another amazing day to see all that attended, and how well the CBICA group is supported.

Our next event is Remembrance Day on the 11th November and I look forward to seeing those who can join us.

On the Treasurer side, it has been very quiet, with only a little accounting to be done. Our books were audited by Alan Bentwitch. I send a mighty thanks to Alan for doing this for us.

I want to thank all those who keep supporting CBICA; your membership fees are important to help go towards paying for Newsletter and the Wreaths for the Anzac Day Dawn service and Remembrance Day.

If you have relatives or know someone with a special interest in Central Bureau, please encourage them to join as Associate Members.

To every one of you, I hope the next few months are full of joyous and healthy times.

Cathryn Gibson (Hon. Treasurer) email: cathryn.a.gibson@gmail.com
4 Buckra Street, Turramurra NSW 2074 Phone: 0468484504

SECRETARY'S REPORT

My apologies for the delay in preparing this edition of Newsletter. There have been some issues for the organisers of Roseville's Remembrance Day Service with the change of venue, but all is now clear, and I refer you to the specific details contained in President Katy's Report above.

We look forward to seeing you at Roseville, and equally, if you meet in other places across this vast and great country, do send Newsletter a report.

May I draw your attention to the beautiful ceremony held every day at 5.00 pm. at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. It is a simple commemoration, Sunset Service, with the Last Post, wreath laying and short eulogy in the forecourt and around the Pool of Remembrance. Having been there a month ago, I can wholeheartedly recommend it to you when you are next in Canberra.

I stress the importance of the payment of your annual subscription. Our records indicate there are still some memberships unfinancial, and if there is a subscription form with this Newsletter it indicates our records show you as unfinancial. If this is the case, please send you subscription (\$25 for Associates / \$15 for Veterans) to Cathryn – her details are noted in her report above. Without your membership, we will be unable to continue publishing Newsletter (Printing and Postage about \$400 per edition), as well as buying wreaths for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services.

Reluctantly your Committee has decided that if outstanding subscriptions remain unpaid, no further editions of Newsletter will be provided.

I was delighted to receive the following contribution (*CBICA In Melbourne*) from Robert Brown in Melbourne for publication in Newsletter. (I leave you to guess who the speaker was!!) Thanks indeed Robert.

Now the prime source of material for Newsletter [H.K.] has left us, it would be marvellous if other members would contribute either historical news or other interesting factual information such as Robert's below, for use in Newsletter. Please email or snail mail items of interest to me – my contact details are below. Thank you BG.

Thank you indeed for your support and co-operation.

Bruce Goudge

(Hon Secretary) bgoudge@optusnet.com.au Ph: 0412 579 160

CBICA IN MELBOURNE

There have been three occasions, at least in the memory of the present writer, when a delegation from Sydney visited Melbourne to join with local resident members in celebrations. At the first, a service in the Shrine was addressed by Alan Langdon. The second and third were held near the Casuarina tree on the border of the Shrine grounds which has at its base a plaque acknowledging the Association.

In the first of these two, sound reinforcement was by loud hailer, with all standing. In the second, the Shrine had provided chairs and a microphone and operator, and the speaker was backed by two uniformed personnel with rifles and bayonets at the slope.

The service was followed by luncheon with a relevant speaker. There was opportunity for conversation, and for visits to other significant installations. At the second, we were given details of the progress of what was to be the long-awaited history of Central Bureau, which unfortunately did not materialise.

Since then, death or debility have thinned the ranks even further. Veterans rely on the Newsletter as a valued means of keeping contact.



They provide copy when asked by authors for information especially about war-time people and events. Last year, the publisher at Allan and Unwin requested a 5-minute television spot on “The Project” on Anzac evening, to promote Craig Collie’s “Code Breakers”. This was viewed even internationally, and contributed a little more to meeting the popular interest in Signals Intelligence and in Central Bureau in particular.

..... Robert Brown

VALE

BRIAN THOMAS LOVETT

15th March, 1924 – 25th May, 2019

Family and Friends

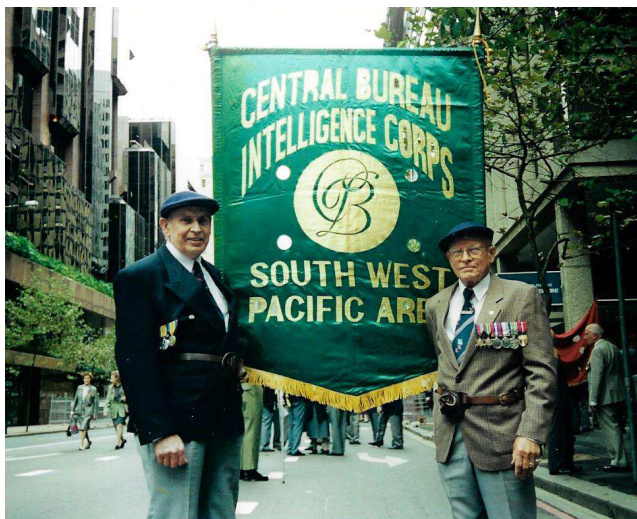
As I stand before you today, not to mourn, but to celebrate the life of a remarkable man, I am reminded of that song that came out of the Vietnam war - “He Ain’t Heavy, – He’s my Brother”.

Brian Thomas Lovett is and will always be – My Brother.

Brian was born on the 15th March, 1924, in Hobart, Tasmania, the second son of Kendall and Dorothy Lovett. It was obvious from the start that Brian was the “black sheep” of the family, as, not only did he have black hair, whereas the rest of us have fair hair, with a few grey hairs these days, he was always getting into mischief. It would take a long time to list all the mischief he got up to over many years.

At the tender age of five Brian attended school in Hobart and again in Sydney at Bondi Primary school when our family of six “migrated” from Tasmania in 1930.

Later he attended Sydney Technical High School where he completed the Intermediate Certificate with a very good pass of two “A”s and six “B”s. This came as a complete surprise to not only Brian but also to his parents as Brian, in his own words said “Especially me as I wasn’t a particularly brilliant scholar”.



On leaving school he joined the Postmaster Generals Department – Telephone Division in 1940 under pressure from his father who joined in 1937. Having a technical leaning Brian progressed well and then Japan attacked Pearl Harbour on the 7th December, 1941, forcing the United States into the Second World War with an immediate threat to Australia.

On the 15th March, 1942, his 18th Birthday, Brian presented himself at the Royal Australian Air Force recruiting centre in Martin Place, Sydney. He was

accepted and when his “callup papers” for the army arrived two weeks later he said “I had great pleasure in returning the papers and telling them I was a member of the R.A.A.F.”

After training in freezing Ballarat, Victoria, Brian's travels took him to Sydney, then Queensland, the Highlands of New Guinea and finally Luzon, in the Philippines and all places in between. Brian was a member of the Central Bureau Intelligence Corps of the R.A.A.F., a very “cloak and dagger” operation sworn to secrecy. Their role was to intercept Japanese Morse Code messages as they had “cracked” their code unbeknown to them early in the war, translate the messages into English of course and pass the information onto the Australian and American forces.

The Supreme Commander in the Pacific Area General Douglass Macarthur said after the war ended “The work that Central Bureau carried out under severe conditions shortened the war and saved countless lives on both sides”.

One week after the war ended Brian was promoted to Acting Corporal and had the pleasure of closing down their operation in Luzon, the Philippines.

He returned to Australia via Brisbane and was finally discharged at Sydney Showgrounds on the 3rd January, 1946, after almost 4 years’ service in the R.A.A.F.

Being an ex-serviceman he was entitled to claim his pre-war job, so, he re-joined the P.M.G. as a telephone technician. But settling back into peacetime after the scars of war was not easy for many veterans including Brian, however, with the support of his family and friends the transition was achieved.

On the 1st March, 1947, Brian and Heather walked down the aisle at St. Thomas's Anglican Church at North Sydney, as Mr. and Mrs. B.T.Lovett. Together they purchased a block of land in Kissing Point Road, Turramurra, where Brian built a temporary dwelling while he built their home. In due course Christine, David and finally Jennifer arrived to swell the Lovett family.

Brian completed the house where they spent many happy years watching their children grow up, marry and move away.

Brian was able to retire early as he was an ex-serviceman, so, they decided to escape from the hustle and bustle of life in Sydney and opted for a much quieter and relaxed lifestyle to a new house in Tuncurry. Before he retired Brian took up the sport of lawn bowls, so, Heather took up the sport and they enjoyed the sport together both becoming very proficient at the game. Another of Brian's achievements was painting, not the house type, but the art of painting, mainly landscapes with the occasional building thrown in for good measure. He was also a bit of a cartoonist with some of his cartoons finding their way into certain publications. Another of his talents was poetry. For family birthdays, anniversaries or sadder occasions, Brian would do his research and produce a poem that was very fitting for the occasion. I have a number of those poems which I cherish.

When Heather passed away he stayed on in their home at Tuncurry and busied himself with his family, his painting, his bowls and his membership of the Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association. He was very proud of his service to Australia in the R.A.A.F. and together with his son David and myself participated in many Anzac Day Marches in Sydney.

Brian loved his wife and his family. Although he had his ways, but don't we all, he worked extremely hard to provide the best for them in so many ways.

I would like to finish this tribute to a wonderful husband, father and brother with a poem from an unknown poet.

The family thought so much of the poem I had chosen, they decided to have it printed in your Order Of Service.

WE THOUGHT OF YOU TODAY, BUT THAT'S NOTHING NEW
 WE THOUGHT ABOUT YOU YESTERDAY AND THE DAYS BEFORE THAT
 TOO
 WE THINK OF YOU IN SILENCE
 WE OFTEN SPEAK YOUR NAME
 ALL WE HAVE ARE MEMORIES AND YOUR PICTURE IN A FRAME
 YOUR MEMORY IS A KEEPSAKE FROM WHICH WE'LL NEVER PART
 GOD HAS YOU IN HIS ARMS
 WE HAVE YOU IN OUR HEARTS

He was a good bloke.

Thank you.

B.E.Lovett, 3rd June, 2019

BRUCE HENRY BENTWITCH

8th August, 1924 – 22nd July, 2019

It was with great sadness we received news of the passing of Bruce. Those of us who had spoken with him on ANZAC Day at the Pullman Hotel in April, were all so impressed with his enthusiasm and vigour. A sad passing indeed. Bruce had been a foundation member of CBICA, and it was my privilege to take over the position of (Hon) Secretary from him.



On behalf of all CBICA Members we pass on our sincere condolences to his family, together with our appreciation for the magnificent commitment he has shown to CBICA over the years. [BG]

COMPASSIONATE HORSES

[This article was prepared for publication by H.K.]

In a book called “Award Winning Bush Verse and Stories” I came across a ballad called “Taffy Waits” written by Graham Fredriksen (1956-2010). It tells “the true story of Taffy,

the Remount Horse of trooper Austin Edwards (No 1090) of the 1st Light Horse Regiment, who was wounded in the Battle of Romani, 1916.

Written as if by a fellow trooper, this ballad describes how “I looked to that young wounded trooper and I swear that what I tell you now is true”

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Taffy’s rider, badly wounded had fallen to the ground, tried to reach the stirrup, then “Red Taffy” (red from his master’s blood) crouched down on all fours allowing his master to crawl onto the saddle and be carried safely away.”

This balladist said he’d never seen such compassion and love in a horse’s eyes.

The rider survived, but did Red Taffy?

Of the 136,000 Walers (Australian horses taken abroad) only one returned – Sandy, the horse belonging to Major-General Sir William Bridges.

After three months in the Remount Depot at Swaythling in England, Sandy was declared disease free, and returned to Central Remount Depot at Maribyrnong (Victoria) where he saw out the rest of his days until he was eventually put down in May, 1923. [H.K.]

## **BLETCHLEY PARK HONOUR ROLL**

The Bletchley Park Roll of Honour lists all those believed to have worked in signals intelligence during World War II, at Bletchley Park and other locations throughout the world.

As no single list of the personnel of Bletchley Park and its outstations was ever produced, the Roll of Honour has been compiled over the last few years from information in official sources, publications and, most importantly, that provided by the veterans themselves, their former colleagues and their families.

The Roll of Honour is by no means complete and Bletchley Park is very interested in hearing about anyone who should be added. This will make wonderful oral history.

Helen Kenny submitted her autobiography three years ago to the Wall of Honour – it is a digital Roll of Honour and is fascinating reading.

The Bletchley Park Roll of Honour aims to list all those who worked in signals intelligence for the United Kingdom and Commonwealth Countries during the Second World War.

A suggestion... any veterans reading this, or any friends or family of veterans reading this, should consider contributing their submission on the Roll.

Having provided Helen’s information to Bletchley Park I can assure you the process is extremely easy – if you have Internet access.

To lodge an entry, sign into the site through <https://www.bletchleypark.org.uk/roll-of-honour/add> and follow the links. (If the link doesn’t work, simply google Bletchley Park Roll of Honour.)

You will find a heading: “Add someone to the Roll of Honour” and follow the simple instruction. The effort is extremely worthwhile.

Bruce Goudge

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