



**CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE
CORPS ASSOCIATION
MARCH 2020**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Remaining Positive and Choosing Kindness

When we got together on Remembrance Day last year, we could never have imagined what would transpire over those months until now. It has definitely been a very sad and worrying time for Australians with our terrible bushfires, drought and even flooding, and now with the global pandemic we are all experiencing.

Many of us are feeling overwhelmed and brought down by all the bad news, which is understandable as the issues we are facing are serious ones. Not to trivialise people's very real concerns, but I do think it's important that we take time to think about the things we can be grateful for and try and see the positives that still exist around us every day.

Be it the kindness from a neighbour offering to do groceries for us and collect those much-prized packets of toilet paper (who would have thought!) to the warm, sunny Autumn weather we are enjoying and the large number of butterflies that seem to be fluttering around.

Times are undeniably challenging now but, as Helen Keller is quoted as saying: "A bend in the road is not the end of the road." I hope that you are able to find some comfort, support and kindness to help get you through knowing that we are all in this together. I am here if anyone would like to talk. My phone numbers are below (please note my new home number).

ANZAC Day Commemorations 2020

As I am sure you have now heard, very unfortunately, in light of COVID-19, all Anzac Day commemorations have been cancelled. With this in mind, and the health of our CBers, which is paramount, I am sad to say that our CB Anzac Day Reunion Lunch will not be going ahead this year. Our Reunion Lunch is always a highlight on the calendar of our Association, so it is a big blow, but we do, however, very much hope to be able to arrange a lovely CB get together later in the year around Remembrance Day. More details will follow in our next issue of Newsletter.

For your reference, the official statement from the RSL regarding Anzac Day 2020 is below:

FOLLOWING UPDATES FROM THE NSW GOVERNMENT, RSL NSW HAS TAKEN THE DIFFICULT DECISION TO CANCEL ALL PUBLIC ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION SERVICES ACROSS THE STATE. ACTING STATE PRESIDENT RAY JAMES HAS ADVISED THAT THE RISK TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND OUR SUB-BRANCHES IS TOO GREAT.

GIVEN THE SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS AROUND THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, WE SIMPLY CANNOT ALLOW SUCH LARGE GATHERINGS AS WE SEE EACH YEAR ON ANZAC DAY TO GO AHEAD. THIS IS NOT A DECISION WE HAVE TAKEN LIGHTLY. THE RSL HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF VETERANS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

THIS IMPACTS THE ANZAC DAY MARCH, CONSULAR STAR CEREMONY, COMMEMORATION SERVICE AND SUNSET SERVICE.

WHILE THESE TRADITIONAL COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES WILL NO LONGER GO AHEAD, ANZAC DAY IS STILL A DAY OF RECOGNITION AND FOR MANY AUSTRALIANS, THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY IN OUR COMMEMORATIVE CALENDAR.

ANZAC DAY AS A MARKER OF OUR RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR ANZACS PAST AND PRESENT WILL STILL BE OBSERVED SAID RAY JAMES. EXACTLY WHAT FORM THIS WILL TAKE WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS YEARS, BUT AS CUSTODIANS OF COMMEMORATION, THE RSL WILL STILL HONOUR THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF OUR BRAVE SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN. IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.
YOURS SINCERELY,

JEFF O'BRIEN
STATE SECRETARY
THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH)
ANZAC HOUSE
LEVEL 5, 341 GEORGE STREET
SYDNEY NSW 2000
(02) 9264 8188

Donations for CB

Since our last issue of Newsletter, we have received many generous donations and I thank all of those people for their wonderful support. Thank you so very much for your kindness.

We received a generous direct debit donation from Diana Brooks. Despite all our efforts, we are unable to identify Diana's link with CBICA. If anyone recognizes her name, or knows Diana, could you please let me know so her name can be included in our records and we can acknowledge formally her generosity.

“Long live CB!”

Katy Denis, President

Please note new address and home phone number

2 View Street, Forestville NSW 2087

M: 0414 388 879 P: (02) 9453 9343 E: katy@extollo.com.au

SECRETARY’S REPORT

It is certainly a disappointment that we are unable to commemorate ANZAC Day across our Nation in the usual way. Nevertheless we must be guided by our Government through the medical advice of our Chief Medical Officers at Commonwealth and State levels.

The Pullman Hotel has been very understanding, completely refunding our deposit.

ANZAC Commemoration Service in Canberra

Please be aware of the modified arrangements for this year’s Commemoration at the Australian War Memorial. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic the Memorial will hold a private, nationally televised, ANZAC Day commemorative service. The traditional Dawn Service, National Ceremony and Veterans’ march will not take place.

The revised service will be held in the Commemorative Area and Hall of Memory at 5.30 a.m. on ANZAC Day. It is anticipated dignitaries representing the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, current and former serving veterans will attend. This event will not be open to the public but will be broadcast live across Australia by the ABC and streamed online.

So could I encourage you to make the effort to watch it live on the ABC, or, if you have the technology, stream it to your TV or computer.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish all CBers, their friends and families, a happy, safe and healthy ANZAC Day, during which we can reflect and remember those in our Defence Forces, both long ago, and in the present, who have served and sacrificed so we have the freedom that is ours today.

Bruce Goudge

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

A Contribution from Valerie Falconer

[Subsequent to the article in December Newsletter about the CB Plaque in Melbourne, Valerie provided the following for publication and general interest. BJJ]

I am Valerie, wife of Keith Falconer "ZerO".

Oh how I wish Keith was here today he could answer my questions in a flash.

Geraldine Cole's article about the Plaque and Casuarina tree at The Shrine in Melbourne - I was there when they planted the tree.

It all came about through Roy Ward, a Victorian politician at the time. (Somewhere here in my house are photos of all that were there as well as the date.)

At this moment, where the tree and plaque are and all the side of The Shrine is covered in scaffolding and will be till about 2022 when our newest underground in Melbourne will join many suburbs.

Keith photographed everything that was important in our lives and I can still see us standing in the freezing cold planting the tree. Roy Ward knew the right people which is how the tree was planted - it is not something that they did for everyone.

The Shrine in Melbourne is to us in Melbourne like the War Memorial in Canberra. I was a bit shocked where Geraldine said the overgrown grass needed a haircut and she would recruit her family in Melbourne to tidy it up a little.

It is really sacred property.

So my next project is to climb up to the top of our library at home, where all our 150 photo albums are, and find the photos and the dates of who was there. (The library is 9ft tall) Of course I know most who were there but they have all died including my wonderful Keith.

Now I think Geraldine's Father was Jock McCorkell, the famous North Melbourne Footballer. He was a star for many years and he died on 29th March 1987. I will call into the Shrine if I find the date and the photos and see Rebecca Dixon. The Shrine staff were the people that gave permission for the piece of land for CBICA Melbourne to use.

Keith talked about everyone who was a member of the Melbourne CBICA and he was President for many years. Then Roy Ward took over. I never recall hearing Jock McCorkell's name as a member although I had 32 years with Keith talking about the War etc. I am just back from 5 months in Vietnam so I am not in Australia much. If I find proof of the tree planting, I will send it to you.

*Kind regards,
Valerie Falconer*

Two People Researching CB

Alli Sinclair

Alli is a multi-published author with Harper Collins (Australia), and international publishers. Her award-winning books have been published in multiple languages and this, her sixth book, *The Codebreaker*, is planned for release in September 2020.

Your CB Executive received a request from Alli Sinclair to interview Veterans or Members of CB for a forthcoming documentary she is preparing on Central Bureau.

Alli is working in conjunction with documentary and feature film producer, Yael Bergman whose productions have appeared on ABC TV, Channel 10 and Channel 7.

Alli has been in communication with President Katy, and your Executive is excited by this project. Alli is anxious to interview as many CB Veterans or Members as possible. We will not give any of your contact details, but would encourage you to contact Alli, either by her phone... number: 0466 254 600 or her email: allisinclair@gmail.com

I am enclosing an extract from one of her emails for your information, viz:-

WE (ALLI & YAEL) ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT CENTRAL BUREAU AND WOULD LOVE TO SPEAK WITH MEMBERS AND VETERANS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES. THIS IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORY, AND OUR DOCUMENTARY WILL GIVE THE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC A CHANCE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INCREDIBLE WORK UNDERTAKEN AND THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO WORKED FOR THIS ORGANISATION. THE DOCUMENTARY IS BEING MADE WITH THE VIEW TO BEING BROADCAST ON COMMERCIAL TELEVISION.

WE WILL BE TRAVELLING AUSTRALIA AND FILMING THROUGH FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL AND WOULD LOVE TO INTERVIEW INTERESTED MEMBERS OF CENTRAL BUREAU.

I'M SO GLAD EVERYONE IS EXCITED ABOUT THE DOCUMENTARY AND THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR PUTTING WORD OUT THERE WITH THE VETERAN MEMBERS. WE ARE KEEN TO CHAT WITH MEN AND WOMEN, AS WELL AS ANY FAMILY MEMBERS WHOSE PARENT IS NO LONGER WITH US. WE WOULD LIKE THEM TO CONTACT ME AS WELL. WE'D LIKE THEIR PERSPECTIVE ABOUT HOW THEY FELT WHEN THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT WHAT THEIR PARENT/GRANDPARENT DID WITH CENTRAL BUREAU OR IF THEY HAVE ANY STORIES THEY CAN RELATE TO US ABOUT THEIR PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS. WE ARE HOPING TO WORK FROM LOTS OF DIFFERENT ANGLES.

If you feel you can contribute to this amazing work, we encourage you to contact Alli. She is willing to visit. In fact Alli has already visited two of our marvellous Veterans, and both visits have been extremely rewarding for all parties.

This is a wonderful opportunity to promote the amazing story of CB!

Diana Thorp

[Diana was a journalist with The Australian for 16 years in Melbourne and Sydney before moving to secondary teaching with an interest in History. She is currently teaching Yr 9 English & History in a Melbourne Girls' School. Your Committee has been in contact with Diana, and feels her research could do much to support "Long Live CB". If you would like to share your CB ideas, history or experiences with Diana, you are encouraged to do so, using her contact details below. BJJ]

I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY GUARANTEES ABOUT MY PROJECT AS IT'S IN EARLY STAGES AT THE MOMENT, BUT I CAN TELL YOU MY BROAD IDEAS. AT THE MOMENT, I HAVE THREE MAIN IDEAS:

1. TO RECORD THE STORIES OF THESE MEN AND WOMEN WHILE THEY ARE STILL HERE TO VOICE THEIR OWN STORIES. I REALISE THIS IS TIME-SENSITIVE AND I WORRY THEIR STORIES WILL BE LOST AS THEY AGE. I WOULD LOVE THIS TO BECOME A BOOK, HOWEVER THAT WOULD DEPEND ON THE NUMBER OF MEN AND WOMEN I FIND - AND ALSO A PUBLISHER!
2. TO VIDEO THESE INTERVIEWS SO WE HAVE A LIVING MEMORY. I WOULD LOVE THIS TO BE USED TO INFORM AUSTRALIA ABOUT THE WORK OF THESE REMARKABLE PEOPLE, E.G. TO BECOME PART OF A MUSEUM EXHIBITION OR EVEN A DOCUMENTARY WHERE WE SEE THESE VETERANS TELLING THEIR OWN STORIES. AGAIN, THAT IS A DREAM AT THIS STAGE. A COLLEAGUE OF MINE WHO MAKES VIDEOS IS AS EXCITED ABOUT THIS PROJECT AS I AM AND WOULD LOVE TO FILM THE INTERVIEWS. THIS WILL ENSURE WE HAVE A PERMANENT RECORD.
3. TO WRITE A NOVEL THAT WOULD ENGAGE THE CURRENT GENERATION OF STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY GIRLS. THIS WOULD BE HISTORICAL FICTION, WITH FICTIONAL CHARACTERS INFORMED BY REAL LIFE EVENTS OF COURSE. THE NOVEL WOULD BE AIMED AT YOUNG ADULTS. THE WORLD WARS ARE A COMPULSORY PART OF THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 9 AND 10 AND I THINK THIS WOULD REALLY HELP TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN THIS HISTORY.

AGAIN, THESE ARE THE IDEAS I HAVE AT THE MOMENT, PERHAPS SOME OF THESE IDEAS COULD BE MERGED, PERHAPS THERE IS A BETTER IDEA. I HOPE TO APPLY FOR A GRANT OR RESIDENCY TO FURTHER MY PROJECT.

I WAS SO SURPRISED, AND DELIGHTED, TO LEARN OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE INTELLIGENCE BUREAU RECENTLY, AND TO HEAR THEY WERE SECRET FOR SO LONG. (BLETCHLEY PARK HAS BEEN KNOWN ABOUT FOR A WHILE.) I THINK THIS IS A STORY THAT DESERVES TO BE TOLD. I REALISE THERE HAS BEEN SOME INFORMATION PUBLISHED. THE DIFFERENCE IN WHAT I PROPOSE IS THAT I WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS ON WOMEN AND WORLD WAR II.

I REALISE SOME OF THESE PEOPLE ARE IN SYDNEY. I GREW UP IN ST IVES, SYDNEY, SO AM A REGULAR VISITOR. THANKS VERY MUCH FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU,

DIANA

Contact details: diana.thorp@bigpond.com mobile: 0417 246 305

FROM AN EARLIER CB NEWSLETTER

On Rob Moore's suggestion, Newsletter will publish extracts from previous Newsletters. I thought this was an informative choice to commence the series.

It was published in Newsletter of March 1992, and written by the President, Jim Williams.

IN MY LAST REPORT NO. 4 NEWSLETTER (DECEMBER 91) I MADE MENTION OF A PROPOSED AMALGAMATION INTO ONE BODY BY THE INTEGRATION OF CENTRAL BUREAU, A.S.W.G. AND STATE WIRELESS UNITS. OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS I HAVE HAD MANY STRONG OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL AND THE SUBJECT WAS DROPPED. AT OUR LAST EXECUTIVE MEETING I ONLY MADE BRIEF MENTION ON THIS TOPIC. SO ENDS THIS MATTER—WE WILL RETAIN OUR OWN IDENTITY AND REMAIN CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION.

YOUR COMMITTEE HAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH OUR VENUE FOR THIS YEAR'S INTERSTATE VISIT TO ADELAIDE WAS DISCUSSED, BUT I HEAR ON THE GRAPEVINE (AS LATE AS 5 MARCH) THAT RESPONSE WAS NOT GOOD AND THAT PERHAPS CANBERRA WOULD BE MORE SUITABLE. A DECISION ON THIS TOPIC WILL BE MADE AT OUR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING ON 6 APRIL. AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, STAN WINN RAISED THE MATTER OF OUR REUNION ON ANZAC DAY. AS YOU KNOW IT WILL BE HELD AGAIN THIS YEAR AT "PHILLIP'S FOOTE". STAN WAS APPROACHED BY A.S.W.G. THAT WE JOIN WITH THEM AT THE JOURNALIST'S CLUB IN CHALMERS ST. I HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BILL WILLIAMS, ACTING SECRETARY, WHO WILL MEET WITH NORMA KEELING, MADELINE CHIDGEY AND I, INSPECT THIS PROPOSED VENUE AND REPORT BACK TO COMMITTEE ON 6 APRIL.

OUR VICE PRESIDENT, AUB ROBERT'S, WIFE, GWEN IS IN THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST'S HOSPITAL AT WAHROONGA RECEIVING SPECIALISED TREATMENT FOR HER DISTRESSING AILMENT, AFTER HAVING HAD PREVIOUS

THERAPY AT RYDE DISTRICT HOSPITAL. I SPOKE TO AUB TODAY (6 MARCH) AND SHE IS IN A STABLE CONDITION AT PRESENT WE WISH HER WELL.

I WAS INDEED MOST UNHAPPY ABOUT LEARNING OF LEN CARRIGG'S DEATH (HE WAS 76). I HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIS WIFE MARGARET ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS PRIOR TO HIS DEMISE. MARGARET INFORMED ME OF HIS DEATH AFTER ANOTHER OF MY CALLS. I KNEW NOTHING AT ALL OF LEN'S PASSING WHICH WAS SOMEWHAT OF AN EMBARRASSMENT TO ME. I KNEW LEN VERY WELL WHEN WE WERE IN 3 WIRELESS UNIT AT BATCHELOR N.T.IN 1944. APPARENTLY STAN KING AND MAC JAMIESON ATTENDED HIS FUNERAL. IF ANY MEMBER HEARS OF ANY OF OUR MEMBERS ON THE SICK LIST, PLEASE INFORM ME ON 02 398 7413 OR GORDON GIBSON ON 02 449 9450. THIS IS IMPORTANT, MORE PARTICULARLY TO ME AS YOUR PRESIDENT.

SINCERELY,
JIM

V.P. DAY : ANNIVERSARY SERVICE
MEMORIAL WALL CLUBMULWALA

THURSDAY, 15TH AUGUST, 2019

Stan Clarke OAM kindly sent us the Programme and this photo of him laying a wreath at the above ceremony on behalf of CBICA.



CAPTAIN STAN CLARKE, THE AUSTRALIAN HEAD OF TRAFFIC ANALYSIS, TRAVELLED TO CONFERENCES AT BLETCHLEY PARK AND ARLINGTON HALL ON THE WAY BACK; BY AIR AND SEA IN AN ODYSSEY OVER SEVERAL WEEKS IN APRIL 1944. SOMETIMES IN THE UNPRESSURISED BOMB BAY OF A B-24 LIBERATOR BOMBER.

I reproduce above, a short paragraph from the speech made on Thursday, 9th July 2015, by Steve Meekin, then Deputy Secretary, Intelligence and Security, Department of Defence, The occasion was the unveiling of a Commemorative Plaque at Nyrambla, to recognise the sacrifice and service of the members of **Central Bureau**. Indeed, a lovely and memorable day.