



# The Military Historical Society of Australia Albury - Wodonga Branch

*Newsletter 1/2009*

**Next Meeting Date: – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009**

**Dinner (optional):** *Blazing Stump Hotel, Wodonga 6.00 -6.30pm*

**Meeting: - 7.30pm** *Army Museum Bandiana, South Bandiana*

## **Agenda:**

- Quiz.
- Guest Speaker TBA.
- Raffle, Chinwag and Supper

## **Attendance:**

Family and guests are most welcome at dinner and the meeting. Please RSVP by 12 Noon Friday 30 January on 0410453278, so Base Security can be given a list of names.

## **Report on last meeting**

1. Dinner at the Blazing Stump Hotel was enjoyed by members, prior to the meeting on 1 Dec 2008.
2. The venue, for meetings was 4/19 PWLH Depot Bandiana North and 7 members attended the meeting.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed

## **Minutes of the Meeting dated 1 December 2008**

### **Present**

The following members attended; Russ Johnston, Chris Seymour, Israel Pass, Nigel Horne, Doug Hunter, Brian Scanlan, Terry Spinelli and Don Campbell.

### **Apologies**

John Neale, Gary Johnson, Don Horne.

### **Correspondence**

Email MHS Federal Council Meeting Agenda,  
Email MHS Fed Council Treasurer Tom Babington resigned,  
Email MHS Fed Council Minutes Meeting 190,  
Email MHS Fed Council Minutes Meeting 191,  
Email MHS ACT Branch Newsletter LE GROGNARD

## **General Business**

1. Due to the election of officers not being confirmed at the AGM the positions were confirmed at this meeting.
  - a. The position of President was filled by Russ Johnston who volunteered to fill the position. Carried
  - b. The position of Vice President;. Terry Spinelli was nominated by Doug Hunter seconded by Israel Pass, Carried
  - c. The position of Secretary was filled by Chris Seymour was nominated by Don Campbell, seconded by Nigel Horn Carried
  - d. The position of Treasurers was again filled by Pass Israel who volunteered to remain in the position Carried
2. The outgoing president Nigel Horne made a presentation of a Certificate to Russ Johnston for his contribution of 32 years service as the Vice President of the branch.
3. Doug Hunter proposed that the MHSA Albury Wodonga branch have a combined meeting with the Albury and District Historical Society as both societies share the same interest in history of the Albury /Wodonga area. After general discussion it was decided that the secretary of the Albury and District Historical Society should write to the MHSA for the next meeting in Feb for the meeting in April 09.
4. Israel Pass proposed that the MHSA Albury/Wodonga should look for a permanent meeting room instead of rotating between three locations. This meeting room also could house the branch library. It was decided to discuss it at the next meeting in Feb.
5. Russ Johnston asked that members make suggestions, for guest speakers for future meetings. Please let him know at the next meeting.

## **From the members**

6. Brian Scanlan enquired if any information had been found regarding the Special Medals for Sister McCallister of the Albury Hospital. Russ Johnson is going to enquire about it.
7. Terry Spinelli raised a question as to where the OBE and MBE originated from and how the different Divisions were instituted, also where does the actual VC of Australia come from. Is it the same material as the original VCs issued from UK?
8. Brian Scanlan spoke about conducting a mid week tour of Kapooka.
9. Doug Hunter spoke about a book launch he attended that was held at the Albury Library and Museum by Don Tate titled 'The War Within' This book is the story of his service in the Army and his battle with the War Memorial and Department of Veterans Affairs for recognition for himself and 39 other Vets to be acknowledged as having fought in Vietnam as a formed unit, part of the Task Force HQ, No 2 Defence and Employment Platoon. In Oct /Nov 2008 it was officially acknowledged (39 years after the event) that this platoon did exist, but a lot of official documents and After Action Reports about the action that they were involved in made no mention of their participation.

The book is available at the Army Museum Bandiana.

10. Doug also gave us one of his knowledge quizzes which caused some general interest and it was decided that at each meeting a member would give a 10 question quiz. Brian Scanlan nominated to prepare the February meeting quiz.
11. Raffle was conducted and a bottle of wine was won by Chris Seymour.
12. The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

### **Noticeboard**

#### **Army Museum Bandiana:**

- The AMB has received an interesting exhibit of a Radio Receiver/Transmitter used by the SOE in Europe (the one in the suitcase you see on the movies) and by the Commandos and Coastwatchers in the Pacific. This Radio has some pretty amazing equipment with it. It has a battery charger operated by steam. The radios were destroyed in most cases but there is only a couple left in the world.
- A new acquisition to the museum is Long Range Patrol Vehicle (LRPV) presented by Land Rover Australia, who used this vehicle as a show piece around the world as a example of what they could supply.

#### **Army History Unit**

- The Army History Unit (AHU) has been involved with successful returning home of the Missing Australians from Vietnam. There are still two RAAF members who have yet to be located at this time. The RAAF has asked AHU to assist in the continued search for them. Two members have now returned to Vietnam to start the official talks with the Government for the commencement of the search for the missing aircrew.

#### **Shrine of Remembrance Travelling Exhibition**

- The Story of the Shrine of Remembrance. This travelling exhibition is at the Art Space at the Wodonga Library. The Official opening was at 5.30pm on Friday December 19th, followed by a 30min talk from Denis Baguley CEO of the Shrine, at 6pm. The exhibition told of the story of the building of the Shrine between 1927 and the opening in 1934.

Does anyone have something interesting that they would like to talk about, put in the newsletter, maybe a question, a rumor or a furphy that you have heard, that could be discussed /answered at the next meeting? If you do let me know and I'll put it in the newsletter.

## **MHSA around the traps**

### **From the Federal Council**

- Graham Wilson from the ACT Branch President has resigned.

### **MHSA Website:**

- Log onto [www.mhsa.org.au](http://www.mhsa.org.au) for more information about the Society and links to other military- related organisations

### **New Postal Address:**

- Please note that our Branch now has a new postal address:  
**PO Box 5221 Wodonga Plaza. VIC 3690**

## **Meetings in 2009**

Please mark your calendars/diary with the following dates:

*February 2<sup>nd</sup>   April 6<sup>th</sup>   June 1<sup>st</sup>   August 3<sup>rd</sup>   October 5<sup>th</sup>   December 7<sup>th</sup>*

Details of the venue and activities will be provided in the newsletter prior to each meeting.

## **Branch Officers Contact Details**

### **President:**

Russ Johnston      E-mail: [medals@bigpond.net.au](mailto:medals@bigpond.net.au)  
Phone (Home): (02) 6056 7027      Mobile: 0427 234 007

### **Vice President**

Terry Spinelli  
Phone (Home): (02) 6021 2465

### **Secretary:**

Chris Seymour      E-mail: [elseymour@bigpond.com](mailto:elseymour@bigpond.com)  
Postal: PO BOX 5221 Wodonga Plaza VIC 3690  
Phone (Home): (02) 6024 68670      Mobile: 0410 453 278  
Fax: (02) 6055 2886

### **Treasurer:**

Israel Pass  
Phone (Home): (02) 6021 6030