

CHARGE SHEET

MAGAZINE OF THE COFFS HARBOUR RSL SUB-BRANCH

SISTER ASSOCIATION OF PAPANUI RSA NEW ZEALAND



Serving Coffs Harbour Veterans for over 100 years.

- Our JUNE Monthly Meeting is Sat 18th June 10.25am. All Members and partners are invited. The meeting will be followed by lunch in the Bistro.
- The JULY Monthly GM is Sat 16th July at 10.25am which is also our 'Christmas In July', still subject to confirmation of cost and location within the Club.
- ChargeSheet is available at the C.ex Reception.
- Join our "Coffee@C.ex" every Thursday from 10am.
- We have moved our deferred 2021 Christmas party to a 'Christmas in July' on Sat 16 July due to COVID.
- VJ Day Mon 15 August: A wreath laying ceremony will take place at the Cenotaph at 11.00AM.
- Long Tan Day Thursday 18 August: A wreath laying ceremony will take place at the Vernon Street Cenotaph in the afternoon.

ISSUE No. 197 JUNE 2022

Email: coffsrsl@hotmail.com Phone: 02 6691 9234

<https://cex.com.au/community/rsl-sub-branch/>

2022 Executive

President:

John Lloyd
0438 325 205

Hon. Secretary:

Vacant

Hon. Treasurer:

Garry Heskett
0414 512 302

Assistant Treasurer:

Margaret Black

Vice Presidents:

Garry Heskett
Ian Johnston

Assistant Secretary:

vacant

Office Hours:

Mondays: 10.00am-12.00pm. Other times by appointment.

Thur. Office closed; but catch us at "Coffee at C.ex" every Thursday: 10am – 12pm, ground floor. Members and partners always welcome.

Visitation Team:

Rev. Dr. Graham Whelan OAM
Ray Squires
Darrell Groth

Indigenous Liaison Officer vacant

Cenotaph Custodian:

Paul Bamford Jr.



VALE: George William Rose

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



North Coast Veterans Centre Pensions and Welfare Matters

All Pensions officers are TIP or ATDP-trained, which means they have completed training accepted by Department of Veterans Affairs, are authorised to practice and follow a strict Code of Ethics.

An appointment is preferred for pension interviews, please contact our Pensions officers.

LOCATION: 4 Scarba Street. (Inside the Legacy Shop). Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

POSTAL: Veterans Centre Mid North Coast

PO Box 736, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450.

Phone: 02 5621 8108

The Centre is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays (10.00AM - 2.00PM) to assist with welfare matters at the Veterans Centre. Other times by appointment.

Sub-branch Monthly General Meetings

2022 Sub-branch Monthly Meetings are held on 3rd Saturday of the month at 10.25AM.

Location: in the Ground Floor Entertainment Lounge (for the moment) followed by lunch in the Bistro. Partners always welcome.

Dates: 18 June, 16 July, 20 August, 17 September etc; Partners cordially invited.

E-mail: coffsrsl@hotmail.com, President: lloyd_adapt@yahoo.com.au

Members Payments may be paid directly to our BCU Account as below:

A/C name: "Coffs Harbour RSL Sub-branch"

BCU BSB: 533 – 000 **A/C number:** 3285 6268

Sub-branch Office is open Mondays 10.00am till 12.00noon; but we are happy to make an appointment to suit at any mutually convenient time. Keep in touch by advising any changes to mobile phone numbers and E-mail addresses.

Booked Car with Driver (BCWD) Scheme.

DVA will pay for your travel for your travel to and from your home to medical treatment by a taxi car. Veteran Gold Card and Veterans White card Holders are eligible. We call this the Booked Car with Driver (BCWD) Scheme. **Ph: 1800 550 455**

Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling.

*Provides 24/7 free confidential crisis support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families on **1800 011 046**. Safe Zone Support provides anonymous counselling on **1800 142 072**.*

Veterans' Home Care Services Available.

The Veterans' Home Care (VHC) program provides eligible DVA clients and eligible dependants with access to services to help them remain independent and in their homes. It offers the following services: Domestic Assistance, Personal Care, Respite Care, and Safety-related Home and Garden Maintenance. You're eligible for an assessment if you hold either a Veteran White Card for an accepted service-related injury or condition or a Veteran Gold Card.

Call the VHC Assessment Agency directly on 1300 550 450 for an assessment.

From the Padre

A Prayer for our Military in these trying times.

Father, we lift up our military to you today. We recognize, Lord, that we cannot control the world around us. We cannot control the regions where war breaks out or where our men and women in uniform will serve. However, since you are sovereign, you can.

We appeal to you Lord that you will direct the path of each service member and inspire every decision made that affects our military. We pray that our military gets the job done with no casualties.

We ask, that you guard the hearts and minds of our service members from the evil they may witness during the course of their duty, especially during combat operations. But most of all, we pray that they will keep YOU Lord at the centre of their thoughts. May they seek to depend on you and trust in your power. Amen.

RSL NSW Membership is now fee-free and available online.

RSL NSW is not just for members and veterans of the ADF or Armed Forces. There are options for partners, spouses and families to join some sub-Branches as Affiliate or Auxiliary Members so they can feel a part of their loved one's post-service life and can support other members who are on the road to recovery from mental or physical health issues, need help with Department of Veteran Affairs claims, employment support, or just need a good mate to lean on.



THE Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) is introducing a pilot program to enable veterans and their families to more effectively access vital services and support to improve their lives.

The RSL has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Australian veteran-owned technology provider, **Servulink**, to pilot the 12-month digital 'Catalogue of Services' initiative.

RSL Australia President Greg Melick said the League recognised the need to deliver on new solutions for veterans and their families, and the **Servulink** 'Catalogue of Services' presented an innovative use of technology to provide timely information about where services are in any area through an app and web-based system.

The **Servulink** platform has been endorsed by the Departments of Veterans' Affairs and Defence and is supported by hundreds of veteran support organisations and charities nationally. "**Servulink** offers an online, agile, user-friendly solution that can be further developed and easily adjusted during the year-long pilot," Greg Melick said.

"The Australian veteran service and support environment is large, diverse and complex, comprising some 2800 ex-service organisations, and approximately 4000 registered charities nation-wide. There is also a growing number of government and corporate entities focused on supporting and employing veterans," he said. "Identifying the relevant local support and services for particular needs can be challenging, often resulting in service delivery failure, confusion, frustration, and negative mental health impacts – ironically among the very people that these services are designed to assist.

“Servulink is a digital solution specifically designed to help overcome the complexity many veterans face when seeking support, making it easier for them to identify and access vital services wherever they may be.”

Veteran and **Servulink** Co-Founder, Matt Brennan, said the catalogue would empower veterans and their families to successfully discover and navigate the network of support and services available, accessing those they need, when and where they need them.”

“The pilot project will integrate RSL sub-branches nationally, alongside the hundreds of high-value Australian veteran-and-family supporting organisations already part of Servulink’s existing national digital service catalogue,” Mr Brennan said.

“The Servulink platform combines services and support available across a range of holistic wellbeing, personal, professional, community network and family needs. Providers are geographically located, along with their key contact and navigation details.”

Greg Melick said the current Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide provided a strong focus on the need to deliver clear and easy access to mental health, general health and other support services for veterans and their families.

“This is an important need for all veterans and is particularly urgent for our younger veteran community.

“Servulink will facilitate access to services tailored to best meet individual and family needs in a simple and stress-free manner.”

“The RSL Digital Catalogue of Services pilot will enable veterans to quickly find, navigate and access the right services and support at the right time for them, their families and their mates, anywhere in Australia – improving lives every day.”

Greg Melick welcomed the collaboration that is also occurring between RSL and Legacy, Bravery Trust, Soldier On, and War Widows so that these organisations will also share data on the catalogue.

“This is a real example of the Ex-Service Organisation (ESOs) working together to support veterans and their families.

“Importantly, the platform has the flexibility to allow for other applications being developed by other ESOs and veterans through the pilot year of the project.”

“The pilot provides a valuable opportunity to ease the existing complexities involved in navigating information within the sector; using technology to transform the national veteran support landscape.” Greg Melick said.



From DVA – Veterans Home Care

CHANGES TO HOME GARDEN MAINTENANCE LAWN MOWING SERVICES –

VETERANS' HOME CARE (VHC) Talking Points

- Previously, lawn mowing was only approved for eligible VHC clients where a health and safety hazard existed.
- Following a 2020-21 DVA review, the Repatriation Commission agreed to the provision of non-safety related lawn mowing services.

Lawn mowing services are provided as part of the home and garden maintenance services package. There is no change to the 15 hours per year service limit for home and garden maintenance.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the changes to VHC home and garden maintenance?

A. VHC clients can now receive non-safety related lawn mowing services, where there is an assessed need. Lawn mowing services are provided under the VHC home and garden maintenance services. Lawn mowing can be one-off or on a regular/scheduled basis.

Previously, lawn mowing services could only be provided where a health and safety hazard existed, this requirement has been removed.

Q. How can I get my lawns mowed?

A. If you are not a current VHC client, contact the VHC Assessment Agency on 1300 550 450 to request an assessment for VHC services.

If you are an existing VHC client, the VHC Assessment Agency will assess your need for lawn mowing services at your next biannual assessment. If you have an urgent need for lawn mowing services, you can call the VHC Assessment Agency on 1300 550 450 to discuss your needs.

If you are assessed as needing lawn mowing services, they can be added to your home and garden maintenance service plan.

Q. How often can I get my lawns mowed?

Eligible VHC clients can receive up to 15 hours per year of home and garden maintenance services. This includes lawn mowing, gutter cleaning, changing light bulbs, external window cleaning and minor repairs that can be completed by a handyman.

Where there is an assessed need, VHC clients can decide which services that they would like to receive to utilise the 15 hour per year services limit. You can discuss the amount of time that you would like to allocate to lawn mowing with your assessment agency during your assessment.

Q. How can I receive additional lawn mowing services if my home and garden maintenance service limit is exhausted?

If you require additional lawn mowing services, you may be able to access these services through your local community or ex-service organisations.

You may also wish to contact My Aged Care on 1800 200 422 to apply for an assessment to receive services, which can include lawn mowing. If you already receive services through My Aged Care, you may wish to discuss your eligibility to receive lawn mowing services with your provider.

Additional hours can only be approved by DVA under exceptional circumstances, for example clearing of debris following a severe storm or natural disaster.

Q. Will DVA increase the service limit for home and garden maintenance to allow for more frequent lawn mowing services. A. DVA is not currently considering increasing the service limit for home and garden maintenance services.

Q. Can I choose my own non-VHC service provider to deliver the lawn mowing services? / Can I seek reimbursement for private arrangements with lawn mowing providers?

A. No. VHC services can only be provided by a contracted VHC service provider. DVA cannot reimburse you for any services you choose to seek privately outside of the VHC program.

VHC operates under the *Veterans' Entitlements (VEA) Act 1986* and people with a Veteran Gold Card or a Veteran White Card (for an accepted service-related injury or condition) are eligible to be assessed for services.



Remembering a WWII hero continued from our May edition.



Mike “Lofty” Carr, who has died aged 101, was one of the top navigators in the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG);

In the next 10 years, he established himself as the foremost expert on the Western Desert. He invented the sun compass, a primitive but effective navigational device. The metal in vehicles and ferrous deposits, he discovered, made magnetic compasses unreliable. At night, using a theodolite, he took bearings from the stars. The British

Army had adopted his sun compass, but few soldiers had much idea how to use it effectively. By 1939, the expertise in desert navigation was in great demand.

In June 1940, Italy declared war on Britain and France. A large Italian garrison was stationed at Kufra in south-east Libya and served as an air base for Italian East Africa. It was then that General Archibald Wavell, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Middle East Command, accepted Bagnold’s proposal that a Long Range Patrol be established, for reconnaissance and to find out what the Italians were up to.

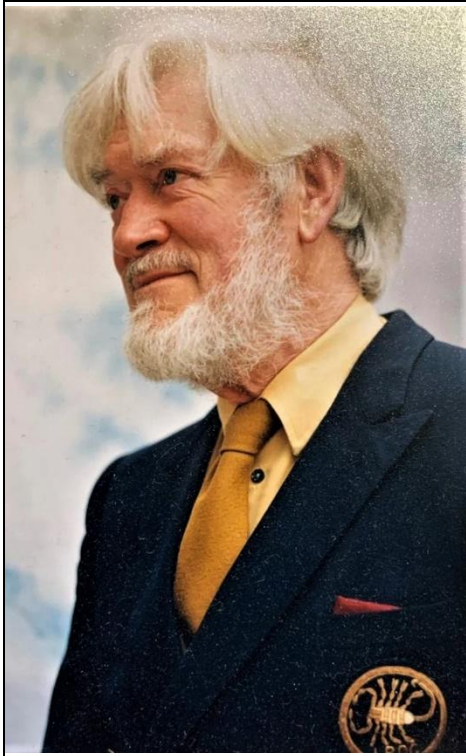
The men, mostly New Zealanders at this stage, were selected for intelligence, self-reliance, resourcefulness, resilience and the ability to live in close proximity with each other. Their vehicle was a modified Chevrolet truck, crewed by three men, equipped with a machine gun and carrying rations, fuel and equipment to last 2,500 miles.

With his specialist skills, Carr became an important figure in the unit, soon renamed the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG), much celebrated at the time and photographed by Cecil Beaton. It quickly expanded into two squadrons, each with three patrols. The trucks were equipped with Bofors guns, anti-tank rifles and Lewis guns.

Early in February 1941, Y Patrol of the LDRG was formed out of volunteers from Yeomanry regiments. It was commanded by Captain Pat McCraith from the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, and Carr, with his navigational flair, was quickly recruited.

The Patrol trained on sand dunes. Some of them were 300 ft high and given names like “whaleback” or “razorback”: they had to be negotiated adroitly if disaster was to be avoided.

In the summer of 1941, Bagnold handed over command of the LRDG to Lieutenant-Colonel Guy Prendergast, but he continued to stay in Egypt and took Carr on missions as his driver and navigator. The two men formed a close bond.



They crossed the desert to Kharga, about 375 miles south of Cairo. The town was a hotbed of espionage and Bagnold had many contacts there among headmen of the Senussi people. Desert nomads, they had been ill-treated by the Italians and were a valuable source of information for the British.

Later that year, Y Patrol was split into two units, Y1 and Y2, each comprising 15 men and five trucks. They were commanded by Captain (later Major General) David Lloyd Owen from the Queen's Royal Regiment and Captain (later Colonel) Frank Simms from the Warwickshire Regiment. Simms, in command of Y1 Patrol, selected Carr as his navigator.

In November, three Beaufort fighter planes mistook the patrol for the enemy and made three runs, concentrating their machine-gun fire on Carr's navigation truck with its prominent aerial poles. They flew so low, he said later, that it looked as if their propellers were being polished by the desert. The truck was set ablaze and Carr and Simms ran for their lives. The next day, two German fighters came in low, took them for allies, wagged their wings and flew off.

On December 1, they discovered a large enemy camp near the coastal town of Derna, Libya. Raiding parties attacked at sundown, destroying 15 vehicles. When Carr got back to his truck he found that part of the patrol was missing. He was searching for the men when a German soldier leapt down at him from the back of a truck. Firing from the hip, Carr dealt with him.

The patrol, assuming that he had been captured, moved off. Carr knew where the next night's raid was planned and decided to walk there. He stopped at a Senussi settlement to ask for food and water, but after drinking camel's milk he became ill and was put to bed on sheepskins.

It was almost a week before he recovered; then enemy patrols moved into the area and he had to hide in caves to avoid them. His narrowest escape was when six tanks came into the village. He was not sure whose they were and started walking towards them. The crews were wearing forage caps and, at almost the last moment, he realised that they were Germans. Dressed as an Arab, Carr quickly ducked into a tent.

A week later, a wounded Royal Australian Air Force officer arrived. The man would have died within two days if he had not been rescued, Carr said later. He managed to get a note delivered to a gunner regiment. A few days afterwards, the two men set off on donkeys and were picked up by a truck and returned to the Allied lines.

Next, Y1 Patrol was ordered to undertake a dangerous reconnaissance mission deep into enemy territory to Marada, about 60 miles south of El Agheila, Libya, where a radar direction-finding station, detecting allied shipping in the Mediterranean, had to be destroyed.

Carr had the task of navigating the three-vehicle patrol. When he and Simms were within five miles, they went forward on foot with Carr, using his theodolite and the stars to check his bearing. After Carr pinpointed the position of the radar station, Simms and a comrade, Harry Chard, decided to carry out a recce of the fort.

Two German trucks appeared, and an officer and his driver got out. They quickly spotted the tracks in the sand that Simms and Chard had made and set off after them. Chard fired at one of them, but his revolver jammed. The two men made a run for it, but Simms was shot in the thigh and both were taken prisoner.

Simms subsequently escaped by tunnelling out of Campo 35, the Italian PoW camp at the monastery of Certosa di San Lorenzo in Padula. He was recaptured and sent to the Forte di Gavi, the “Colditz” of northern Italy. After the Italian capitulation in September 1943, Simms jumped from an open-top cattle truck taking him to the railway station at Acqui Terme for transfer to a PoW camp in Germany.

The lorry stopped in a swirl of dust. The guard’s gun jammed. Another guard with a Tommy Gun pursued him into the woods, but Simms outran him and hid in the undergrowth.

For the next six weeks, he and a companion trekked hundreds of miles southwards down the Apennine range to the British lines near Campobasso.

Separated from Simms, Carr, who had orders to lead the patrol to safety if his CO was captured or killed, drove through the night, covering almost 300 miles. In daylight hours they hid from the eyes of enemy fighter pilots.

Meanwhile, the embryonic Special Air Service – after a disastrous first mission involving a parachute drop in 1941 during the North African Campaign – had switched from parachuting as a means of infiltration to using the LRDG as their “Libyan Taxi Service”.

But in early 1942 the SAS were not yet self-sufficient, lacking vehicles and trained navigators. David Stirling, their commander, tried to persuade Carr, with his skill at training them up in navigation, to join him, but Carr said no, just as he had always declined the offer of a commission. He wanted to stay with his friends and remain in the ranks as a lance-corporal.

In the first six months of 1942, with the support of LRDG’s “taxi service”, the SAS raided every important German and Italian aerodrome within 300 miles of the forward area and destroyed more than 140 aircraft.

Carr believed, however, that the SAS grew too quickly and that some of the new recruits were below standard. Stirling, he felt, was a brilliant fighting commander but did not want to be bothered with the humdrum business of administration and worrying about where food and water, fuel and ammunition were to come from. The LRDG, on the other hand, had first-rate administrators in Bagnold, Kennedy Shaw and Guy Prendergast, who was a sort of father figure to Carr.

Carr maintained that the LRDG had made the desert their accomplice and they could always outwit the Germans on the ground. The Germans, he said, were afraid of the desert; they were efficient but, in any given situation, their actions were predictable.

It was the low-flying aircraft that frightened Carr, particularly the slow, single-seater, Italian Fiat CR.42 biplane. On one occasion Carr's truck was strafed by a CR.42 that came in so low that he had a clear view of the pilot. Carr hugged the ground so hard that it left an outline of his body in the clay.

After Carr's capture at Jalo, he was handed over to the Italians and flown to Benghazi, where he was interrogated by a German officer. He insisted that he was merely a clerk in the Staffordshire Yeomanry who had lost his way in the trackless, featureless desert. The German listened patiently before revealing that he knew exactly who Carr was.

He was sent to a PoW camp in Italy, but after the Italian capitulation in September 1943, the Germans began moving PoWs north, and he made his escape from captivity in Poland. He walked several hundred miles south-west, subsisting mostly on carrots from farms and navigating by the stars. After two months, Carr was ready to drop from malnutrition when



a farmer told him that there were American soldiers in a church two fields away.

In the spring of 1945 he was flown back to England. His parents had been told by telegram on three separate occasions that he was "missing, believed killed" and they did not expect to see him again. By coincidence, he arrived home on the same day as his brother, Dan, who had been awarded an MC and Bar.

For many years Carr worked as a surveyor and valuer at the Liverpool office of Atlas Insurance,

Lofty Carr, born October 29th 1920, died April 5 2022

but in the 1960s he felt he needed a new challenge. He went to university and, having graduated from teacher-training college, he taught art until he retired. He was an accomplished artist as well as a woodcarver and potter.

Corn Corner and other stuff

One day a housework-challenged Husband decided to wash his Sweatshirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to me, 'What setting do I use on the washing machine?'

'It depends,' I replied. 'What does it say on your shirt?'

He yelled back, 'Brisbane Broncos !' And they say blondes are dumb...

A couple is lying in bed. The man says, 'I am going to make you the happiest woman in the world...'

The woman replies, 'I'll miss you..... '

Q: Why do little boys whine?

A: They are practising to be men.

Q: Why do men whistle when they are sitting on the toilet?

A: It helps them remember which end to wipe..

Q: How do you keep your husband from reading your e-mail?

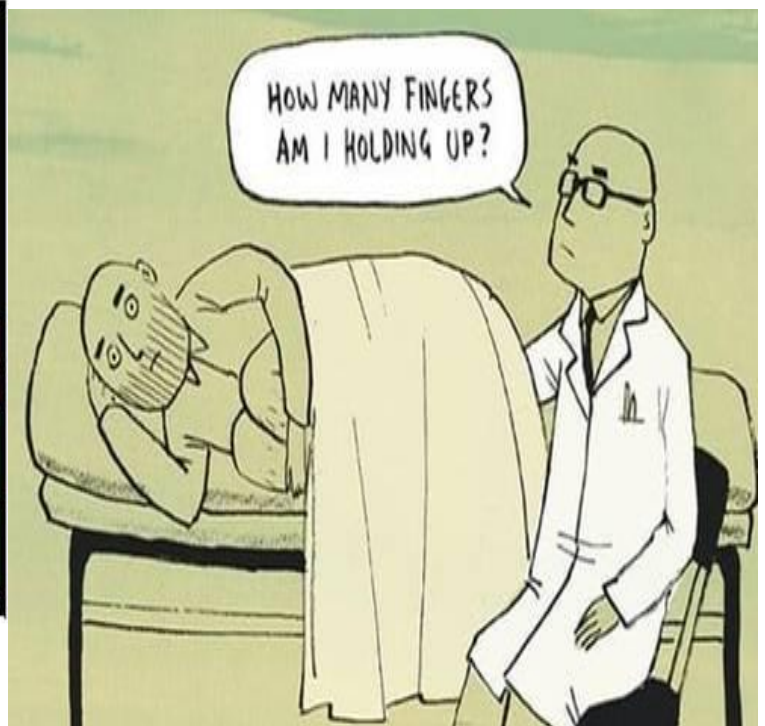
A: Rename the email folder 'Instruction Manuals'

GIBBLEGUTS.COM

By Dan Gibson



Herb's Doctor has a knack for making prostate exams pleasant and fun.





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