

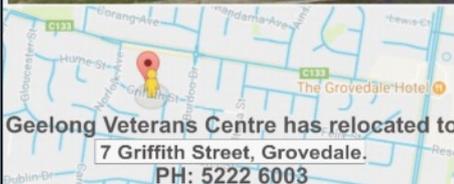


Ocean Grove Barwon Heads RSL Sub-branch

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter will be produced periodically to keep members informed as to what is planned in the way of upcoming events, both regular and special, and to showcase events that have taken place and the people participating in those events.

****The Geelong Surf Coast Veterans Centre has a new home. For all matters relating to welfare and pensions call on 035222 6003, all visit the centre at 7 Griffith Street, Grovedale.**



The centre is open every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (except public holidays). If you have a few minutes to spare, consider dropping in to the centre for a chat and a coffee, or update yourself with the latest

gossip. Also, we are always looking for a few more volunteers to keep the centre open, so if you have a free day, and would like to be a part of the team, call or drop in and find out more about how you can help.

News You May Have Missed

Latest News from The Victorian

Government: *The free public transport travel arrangement which has applied to ANZAC Day has now been extended to include Vietnam Veterans Day and Remembrance Day. This includes Veterans, war widows, school students, ADF cadets, Scouts and Girl Guides, and serving ADF personnel. Veterans will also receive free travel on public transport during Veterans Health Week. This applies Victoria wide. To receive the free travel, you must be wearing your medals, or be in uniform, or produce a membership or valid I.D. card.*

Scouts Overseas Servicemen Christmas Parcels

The Ocean Grove Scouts are again intending to repeat their efforts of last year, and distribute Christmas boxes to ADF members serving overseas. The sub-branch will again fund the items to send and the scouts will pack each parcel.

Probus Club Presentation

On Monday 28th May OGBH RSL Sub-Branch Treasurer Tony Wheel delivered a presentation to the Point Lonsdale Combined Probus Club in their meeting venue at the Point Lonsdale Golf



Club. The presentation is part of his work as the Sub-Branch Community Support Volunteer and in this capacity he

provides presentations to schools, Lions, Rotary and Probus Clubs and other interested organisations. While he has delivered presentations on a wide range of historical military topics, in this case the subject was RAAF 9 Squadron Operations in Vietnam where he served as a helicopter pilot during 1969-70.

Research Project.

The research project is ongoing with WW1 list of names now completed. However, WW2 is a bit more difficult. Most of the military records are closed and so we are relying on the National Archive, WW2 nominal roll and the new version of the DVA nominal roll to narrow down our list of names, we have also added the names from the various Honour Boards in Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads & Connewarre. Also to make it a little more challenging we find that the Navy did not record the Location on Enlistment of their recruits and so we need to research a little deeper to find the individuals. Most Honour Boards show the married name of women that served, but in fact they may have enlisted under their maiden names and married later also increasing the research effort.

Air Activities Night

On Wednesday 22nd August saw our hard working Treasurer / Presentations man Tony Wheal speaking at OG Scout meeting about flying air craft and what flaps, rudders and ailerons do to keep you in the air.

The presentation included an activity, where each Scout made a paper dart glider. Once this task was complete each Scout "test flew" their glider to make sure it performed satisfactorily and adjustments were made where necessary.

A discussion on the various controls followed after which each control was simulated by lightly folding that part of the glider approximating the controls of an actual aircraft. Once a particular control had been simulated, the results of the test were predicted. After each test flight the controls were returned to the neutral position.



After that activity, the session was opened for questions most of which concerned the effects of weather on an aircraft's performance and the problems associated with flying in bad weather.

The presentation concluded with the Scouts watching U-Tube video clips on how a rubber band powered aircraft, capable of remaining airborne for 30 seconds or more, might be made.

DID YOU KNOW???

GST on a car or car parts – Veterans with disability

If you are an eligible veteran with disability buying or leasing a car, or purchasing car parts GST-free, you can complete this declaration and present it to your car or car parts supplier. **Factsheet DP79 - Supply of Cars or Car Parts GST-free.** More information is available at the below link or contact the ATO (03) 9275-4322.

dva.gov.au/compensation-and-support-policy-library/part-6-veterans-compensation-allowances-and-benefits/69-gst-exemption-motor-cars-and-spare-parts

Younger Veterans.

A sub-committee, headed by Richard Lewis, has been formed with the intention of commencing a relationship with the younger 'Veterans' (this includes all current and ex-service personnel), so they become aware of the assistance available through the RSL and its volunteers.

No overt encouragement for them to join the RSL is intended. It was suggested at the first YV sub-committee meeting that we support the therapy dogs training foundation, who train and provide therapy dogs to Veterans requiring them. The cost of each dog is \$7500.00, and we would encourage the foundation to select a local Veteran as the recipient of the dog.

The SBS program 'Insight', recently had a very good series named "Coming Home". It focused on the issues that young Veterans are dealing with when leaving the Defence Force. If you are interested, it is well worth watching.

The first of what we hope will be regular activities is a "BAREFOOT BOWLS VETERAN'S FAMILY DAY" at the Ocean Grove Bowls Club on Sunday 18th November, commencing at 1.30pm.

All Veterans, current and ex-service personnel of the Bellarine Peninsula are encouraged to come along to the fun day, with their families. Afternoon tea will be provided in the Bowls Club and refreshments provided throughout the day.

To register for the event, go to:

<https://oceangrove-barefootbowls.eventbrite.com/>



Geelong a target in WWII? Noel Murphy reports on a . . .

Secret Tojo push

THE darkest days faced by Australia in World War II were in 1942.

But who in their wildest reckonings might have considered the Japanese brazen enough to fly over Geelong?

Yet that's when the Japanese flew a remarkable reconnaissance mission across the Bellarine Peninsula — from Point Lonsdale to Portarlington where they looked out for Geelong itself — up the western rim of Port Phillip Bay to Laverton, Altona and Melbourne before circling back out to Bass Strait and a waiting submarine off King Island.

The day was February 26 and Warrant Flying Officer Nobuo Fujita had been bunkered down in the submarine since flying his "Glen" float plane over Sydney Harbour nine days earlier when he emerged to scout across Melbourne.

Author David Jenkins records the flight in detail in his 1992 book *Battle Surface — Japan's Submarine War against Australia 1942-44*.

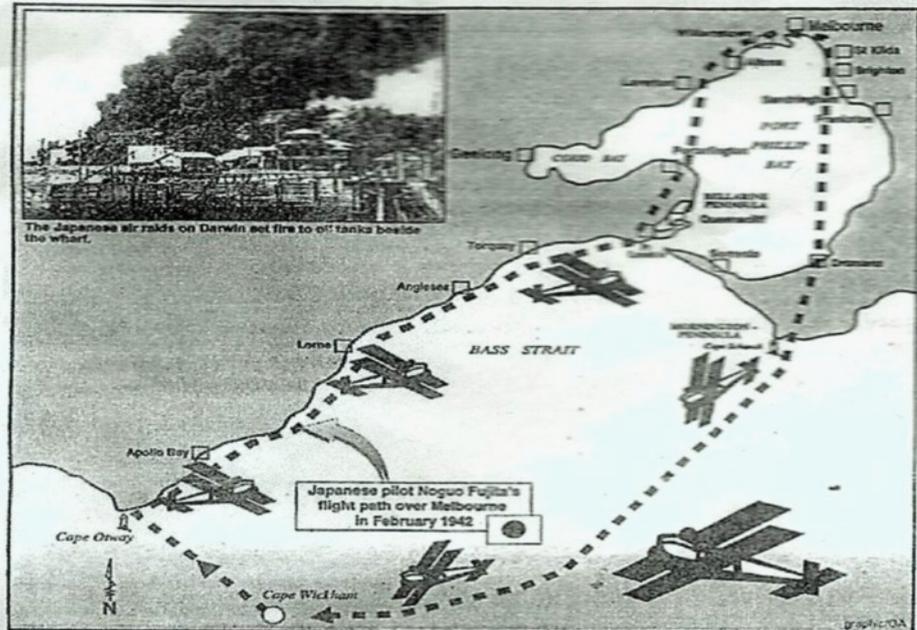
According to Jenkins, Fujita and another airman Shoji Okuda, were in the air two hours before dawn, flying north across Bass Strait toward Cape Otway.

"Here, he would bank to the northeast and follow the coast to Point Lonsdale lighthouse, a beacon which had stood for 80 years at the narrow entrance to Port Phillip Bay," he writes.

"Fujita crossed the coast to the west of the lighthouse, where concrete gun emplacements had recently been built among the tea-tree and sand dunes.

"There was little danger of detection. The heavy cloud hid his plane from view. The sound of his engine was drowned out by the booming of the surf.

"Fujita flew across the Bellarine Peninsula towards Portarlington,



everything still hidden by cloud. Off to the left lay Lake Connewarre . . . sixteen kilometres beyond the lake was Geelong, Victoria's second largest city.

"Still flying northeast, Fujita passed over Portarlington and began a 24-kilometre run across the western reaches of the bay. Light was beginning to seep into the eastern sky. But there was no let-up in the cloud cover and he could not be sure where he was.

"The cloud seems very thick", said Okuda.

"If you find a gap," said Fujita, "let me know".

"We must be over Port Phillip Bay.

"If there is a break in the cloud we should be able to see Geelong."

Fujita decided to descend through the clouds. What he saw, however, was not Geelong. Fujita and Okuda, was in fact directly on top of the former RAAF base at Laverton, where a dozen Wirraway fighters as

well as Hudson bombers and Avro Ansons were based.

"It was a terrible place to come down," Fujita recounts in Jenkins' book.

The twin-float single-engine Japanese plane was spotted by no less than nine RAAF personnel.

Two searches were mounted and three Wirraways ordered to Bairnsdale as a striking force to try to find the Japanese intruder — unsuccessfully as it turned out — as a now very nervous Fujita hightailed it back to the sanctuary of the clouds.

He dropped out of the cloud every so often to make observations. He flew unscathed but not unnoticed over Altona and Williamstown.

At the Williamstown rifle range — where four heavy anti-aircraft guns were in place — gun layer Aubrey Auton was on duty carrying out a routine inspection of the equipment. He recounts in Jenkins'

book how he watched Fujita in a leather flying suit and helmet as he leaned out of an open cockpit. He swears the pilot grinned down at them.

Fujita continued over to Melbourne before turning south for St Kilda, Brighton, Sandringham and Frankston.

Okuda spied 19 ships at anchor in the harbour plus five destroyers moving Indian file towards Port Melbourne led by a light cruiser.

He crossed the shore at Dromana, flying on to Cape Schank and on to Cape Wickham where he met his submarine without further incident.

Military authorities kept the Japanese flight quiet, for obvious reasons, but Okuda continued his spying, moving next to Hobart, then Wellington and Auckland in New Zealand and finally on to Suva and American Samoa.

Vietnam Veterans' Day.

Vietnam Veterans Day service was held on Saturday 18th August with only about 20 people in attendance. It was disappointing only a few bothered and the sub-branch will be reviewing as to the continuation next year. It is a lot of effort on the part of the committee to have such a small turnout of people.



CAN YOU HELP ?

The Ocean Grove Barwon Heads RSL Sub-branch has commenced a research program to provide an accurate data base of veterans of WW1, WW2, Korea, Malaysia-Borneo, Vietnam and other conflicts involving Australian Troops. It is to involve those veterans born and/ or gave the location of residence on their enlistment as, Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads or Connewarre and those who returned and resided in those districts at the end of their service for a minimum of 2 years. At the completion of the research, the veterans' names will be placed on Honour Rolls on the Memorials entrusted to the upkeep of the Sub-branch.

The Sub-branch would welcome the assistance of relatives, family members and friends of veterans. We seek details of Full Names, DOB, place of enlistment (if known), regimental numbers and final resting place (again, if known). If persons wish to be involved please make contact with the Sub-branch Secretary, David Gilroy (0417-366-191) , Public Relations Officer, John Dickinson (0409-432-331) or our Historical Researcher Martin Klabbers (0400 148007), or email to the Sub-branch : rsl@oceangrovebowls.com.au



Merchandise

Polo shirt without pocket: \$35.00

Polo shirt with pocket: \$35.00

(Size needed before order can be made)

Peaked Hat: \$20.00

Bumper Sticker \$2.00

Logo can be embroidered on Clothing \$12.00 per item

Is there an item that you think the club members may want with the club logo Contact John Dickinson (Dicko) for orders & ideas. 0409 432331 or dingopc@bigpond.com.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Meetings: General Meetings 3rd Monday of each Month, 2.00pm

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Remembrance Day Bowls Tournament. The Sub-Branch will be sponsoring a bowls competition on the afternoon of 11 November 2018. Organisation of the tournament would be managed by the OGBC who would ask for the donation at the appropriate time.

Barefoot Bowls Veterans Family Day: November 18th

Remembrance Day Service: 11th Nov at Ocean Grove Park 11.00am & Barwon Heads Community Hall

Annual Christmas Luncheon: 7th December 12 noon. Invitation letters will be coming out soon, please return ASAP so we know the numbers to cater for.

The Remembrance Day Service this year will focus on it being the Centenary of the last year of the Great War of 1914-18. We would encourage all people in the area to attend if possible. Services will be held in both Ocean Grove Park and Barwon Heads Community Hall beginning at 10.45am.

ALL WELCOME