



Croydon Despatches

NEWSLETTER OF THE CROYDON Sub-Branch RSL Inc

June 2020 Edition

STATE OF

VICTORIA

CHARTER FOR BRANCH

The RETURNED SAILORS and SOLDIERS
IMPERIAL LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA.

VICTORIAN BRANCH.

*In pursuance of the powers and authority
in it vested and of the Rules and By-laws by
it adopted and approved*

Doth Hereby Establish and Constitute the

CROYDON BRANCH

*as a Sub-Branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers
Imperial League of Australia (Victorian Branch) subject
to the Rules and By-laws for the time being in force of the
Victorian Branch and to the rules and Constitution of the
League and this Charter is granted to the Sub-Branch and*

*It is Established and Constituted
upon the conditions expressly hereby contained and implied and
subject to its compliance with and observance of the said Rules and
By-laws and to the powers of cancellation therein contained.*

Dated this Eleventh day of December 1924

Ernest Turnbull President

Les Joyce Secretary



Croydon RSL, 1 Civic Square, Croydon. Phone: 03 9723 1315 AH: 0437 797 122

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Croydon RSL Sub-Branch - NOTICE BOARD

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

I hope you are all coping with being locked up and I am looking forward to seeing you all when the RSL is fully open.

We are open on Wednesdays and Fridays but have limited numbers, we will keep you informed as to when meal nights, bus trips, and live music returns.

Our condolences and thoughts are with the families of those members who are no longer with us.

Due to the circumstances we were unable to attend the funerals but our thoughts were with you.

To those members that are not well, we wish you a speedy recovery.

Our thanks go to Kate Mangano who ran her Physiology classes at the RSL and with the lifting of restrictions has now returned to Genesis Fitness in Ringwood.

Also thanks to Chris for his kind donations of the military models. Our special thoughts are with two of our long time members Anne and Bram.

Hope to see you all very soon.

John Hexter
President

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Although we have been in lockdown since the end of March, there are still bills to pay and maintenance to carry out.

With no income coming in through our loss of meal nights and bar, our Subs help us to keep going.

At this time we still have 24 Members who have not paid their 2020 Subscriptions

This newsletter will include a reminder for all those who have not paid, to consider renewing for this year. If anyone feels that due to our compulsory closure, that they should not or cannot pay, due to loss of income, please contact me at the club number 9723 1315 and discuss what arrangements can be made to keep you on our Membership records.

Given that all membership data is electronically recorded through League Headquarters, if payment is not made, your membership is automatically lapsed.

I thank you all for your continued support.

John Woolhouse

Croydon RSL Contacts

WELFARE OFFICER

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Email: welfare@croydonrsl.org.au

BEREAVEMENT OFFICER

Sam BERRIE

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES OFFICER

Richard GOLDSMITH

SOCIAL COORDINATOR

Edie CARROLL

HALL MANAGER

Nigel EDWARDS/Ken NICOLSON

MEMORABILIA & LIBRARY

JonathOn DUCK

PARADE MARSHALL

Ray AGNEW BEM

FLAG MARSHALL

William JOHNSON JP

CARERS

Helen KING

APPEALS OFFICER

Tamara MYORS

BAR MANAGER

Ken NICOLSON

CHAPLAIN

Troy HARRIS

Duty Officer: 0437 797 122

President: 0437 602 003

CALENDAR 2020

Veterans Lunch 15 July

Vietnam Veterans Day March 16 August

Vietnam Veterans Day 18 August

Remembrance Day 11 November

Christmas Lunch 2 December

2020 Final Night 11 December



The Adventurous Maud Butler

07 March 2016 by Dianne Rutherford

In 1915 Maud Butler was a young 18 year old with a bit of an adventurous streak, who wasn't happy with the type of contribution society decided young ladies could and should make to the war effort. She came to notoriety in the press for her attempts to disguise herself as a soldier and stowaway to Egypt.

Maud Butler in uniform (but with the black boots that helped give her away) on her first attempt to stow away to the war in December 1915.

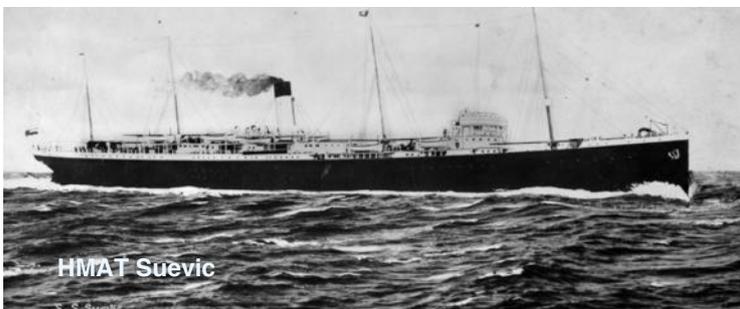
Her first attempt was in late December 1915. She purchased a private's uniform and cut her hair to look like a young man. On the night of Wednesday 22 December she snuck on board HMAT Suevic by a gangway not watched by the sentries. The ship departed Sydney the next day and Maud hid herself for over a day in a life boat on the deck but was discovered the following morning during a parade.

She was arrested and interrogated. Newspaper reports claimed she had stowed away in order to get to Egypt to help the Red Cross. However, in the record of her interrogation on board the Suevic (citation NAA: MP16/1, 1915/3/1785) she told authorities that she was trying to get to Egypt to be with her brother Maitland, who was in the 19th Battalion.

However, there is one problem with this story - according to service records, Maud's younger brother, Maitland, did not enlist until March 1917, aged 18. Soon after he enlisted, their mother Rose complained he was under age and had enlisted without parental permission, so he was discharged. He successfully enlisted later under the alias Frank Emerson, although not long afterwards he reverted to his real name and served with the 2nd Battalion on the Western Front. So unless Maitland enlisted underage in 1915 under another assumed name and returned to Australia by 1917 to re-enlist, he could not have been serving at the time of Maud's stowaway attempt.

Regardless of her motives, after her interrogation Maud was transferred from ship to ship to the Blue Funnel liner Achilles, which was heading for Melbourne. Miss Dunlop, the Matron of the Young Women's Christian Association in Melbourne looked after her until she could be returned to Sydney.

A life belt is being placed around Maud's waist before she is transferred at sea from HMAT Suevic to the Achilles 24 December 1915.



Within months of getting home she tried again. One of the reasons the military quickly realised she was a stowaway the first time was she had no identity discs and was wearing women's black boots (The AIF wore brown boots). She did not make the same mistake again! This time she wore the correct boots and forged an identity disc. She also acquired a revolver, which would have been a giveaway to an eagle eyed Military Policeman - Maude may not have realised only officers had revolvers.

On 7 March 1916 she bluffed her way on board HMAT Star of England, pretending to be a drunken soldier returning from leave. The next morning she was caught again during a routine check - her service number did not match any on the officer's list. The ship embarked from Sydney without her. She was charged with having wrongfully worn military uniform and found guilty.



After this attempt, Maud gave up the idea of stowing away overseas, and tried to help the war effort by collecting money for charity. However, even in undertaking these good works, she could not escape the long arm of the law. On 25 April 1916 she was collecting money while wearing an AIF uniform when she was arrested by Military Police. They initially thought she was a soldier contravening a recent military order that men in uniform could not collect money for the war effort, not realising she was female.

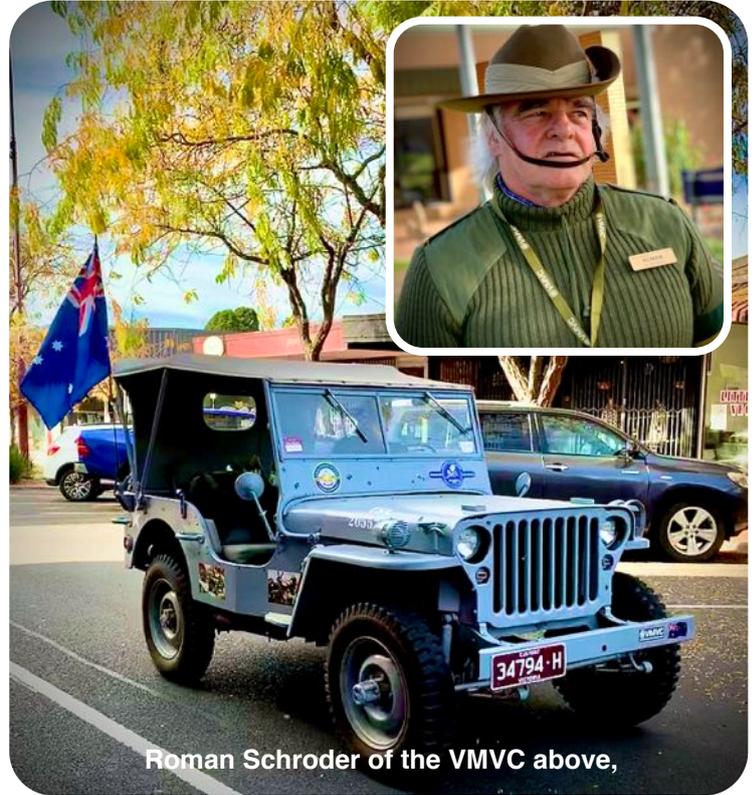
Maud was authorised to collect funds for the Returned Soldiers' Association and had collected £200 in Sydney and Newcastle while wearing the AIF uniform. During her trial the assistant secretary, Lieutenant Thomas Bathurst, spoke on her behalf. He advised the court that the association knew of her attempts to go overseas, but were satisfied about her good character. She had worn the uniform in Newcastle with no complaints and there was thought to be around 200 women and girls collecting money for the war effort in uniform as a novelty. In an age of long skirts, the magistrate, Mr Macfarlane, was shocked to hear about women and girls going about in trousers!

Mr Macfarlane was reluctant to continue the matter and Maud, pleading guilty, promised never to appear in uniform again. The public story of Maud Butler's war efforts quieten down after this and in 1918 she married George Hulme and had a family.

2020 ANZAC Day Commemorations around Croydon



ANZAC Day at Edith Carroll's house. Eddie was joined by neighbours. One smart couple had actually started up a fire pit which turned out to be a smart move as the breeze was quiet cold.



Roman Schroder of the VMVC above,

The Victorian Military Vehicle Club has been around for some 40 years now. In that time it has built up an extensive collection of military vehicle dating back to the Second World War. Their collection of Jeeps, Hummers, APC's and Tanks are very impressive. Roman Schroder and friends make it a point to compliment commemorative events with their collection of Jeeps making for a more realistic feeling on the day.

Due to the Covid 19, ANZAC Day 2020 was restricted mainly to driveway commemorations all around Australia. To make the occasion a little more memorable on the day Roman drove his Jeep equipped with an Australian Flag, from Mt Evelyn through Croydon, Lilydale, Healesville, Coldstream and finally ending at Yarra Glenn. It was certainly a sight to see this lone Jeep making it's way through Croydon, a very moving gesture.



REFUGEE WEEK 2020

Recollections of Viv Nguyen - Victorian Multicultural Commissioner

“Everyone, it’s prayer time.”

That was my Mum’s routine call for all of us kids to come together for our evening prayer. My Dad was in prison at the time, for his time in the service with the former Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam).

Somewhere in the middle of the prayer, Mum would call out, “Khoa (my brother’s name) have you closed the chicken house?” ... “Has Huyen (my older sister’s name) fed the pigs?” ... On occasions she would doze off in the middle of the prayers. Then the prayer would continue. This is one recollection of my life in Vietnam. Life was tough without Dad. Mum tried her best.

There were too many chores, too many boring tasks that got in the way of running around with friends. I was interested in dancing, playing with the neighbours or taking part in adventures like letting a dragonfly bite my belly button so that I could swim.

Instead, I had to find worms to feed the ducks, collect green vegetables for the pigs or clean them. This was despite me being the lazy one compared to other siblings. I felt it was much more fun doing other things.

To say that I understood the danger of that life, the risks of escaping, or seeing the need to leave for my future would not be true.

The fear was around being watched, but the future of his children is what drove Dad’s decision to have 5 of his 6 children and a daughter in law leave Vietnam.

Like all my siblings, I remember those words. “You must be able to live in a place free from persecution and have a future.” Those words still ring in my ears decades later.

The time spent in the refugee camp and the early years in Melbourne gave me the ability to strive, keep fighting, and not take anything for granted. That true sense of who I am as a person today has been a composition of works from many. And I fully embrace my heritage to be a better Australian. The environment that supported and aided me to settle in Australia has shifted.

In some ways positively and in many ways not for the better. We seem not to apply the lessons learnt from one wave of refugees and migrants to another.

Racism was rampant when I was growing up and the same thing is happening to many members of the Asian and African communities today. Some settlement policies and programs that worked well seem to have disappeared to be replaced with short-term approaches to settlement and integration.

The temporary nature of different visa classes and the amount of time it takes to receive approval for permanency status creates a much stronger sense of a transactional connection between the visa holders and this country.

It becomes harder to feel like you belong, to feel connected and to feel accepted into this country.

I leave you with the words from a letter I received in 2014 from the late Malcolm Fraser (to whom I owe an enormous debt of gratitude) where he addressed young Australians of Vietnamese background for the Dual Identity Leadership Program that I founded:

“Under current policies, multiculturalism and much else is at risk. I encourage you to participate and engage.

Whatever path you choose, have your say, take action. You are the beneficiary of this multicultural nation, where everyone is free to be who they want to be without compromising their heritage. History will not judge kindly those who stand on the sideline, and more so those doing it knowingly.”



Victorian Multicultural Commission celebrates

REFUGEE WEEK 2020

14 - 20 June 2020



WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Hope you are all well and surviving our enforced lockdown.

Maybe we will soon be like the rest of Australia and be allowed to socialise.

There are no activities and no auxiliary meetings until further notice.

When these restrictions are lifted it will be great to see you all back at the club.

Please take care of yourselves and try to keep warm. Hopefully I will see you soon.

Beryl Turner.

President, Women's Auxilliary



The Social Scene

How nice it is to be in touch with you again. I hope this finds you happy and well and totally relaxed now that we are able to visit family and they may visit us.

I've definitely managed to cope with these withdrawal symptoms in relation to not seeing you all for our fortnightly gatherings. It's been a blessing in disguise, as most of my time has been spent deciding whether to spend these "holidays" in the lounge room, knitting, or absorbing the sunshine in the great outdoors of the soggy backyard and repotting the orchids.

At this stage I cannot plan any outings, although Bendigo is on hold. As much as we would like to go on any bus trip, we may not in fact be welcome yet, as lunches also have to be considered.

Our fortnightly dinners are also on hold and may need to be differently formatted. But as soon as we are able to come up with a solution, we will let you know.

So meanwhile I would like you to keep well and warm as we approach the winter months and definitely "watch this space".

Edith Carroll

Social Co-Ordinator.

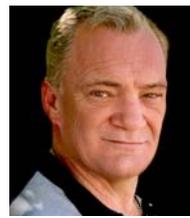


Looking to join a great bowling club? Mooroolbark are always looking for new members. So if Lawn Bowls is your game, give it a try and call:

Henny Cotenbach on 0418 530 247

<http://www.mooroolbark.bowls.com.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/mooroolbarkbowlsclub/>



MEMORABILIA & LIBRARY

Hello all,

I hope this finds you all well in these trying times, but the R.S.L and the people involved are tough and we will become a better organization after all of this is finished, we will learn that there is a new normal and will adapt to that.

Some time ago John Hexter and myself started to look at the history of the Croydon R.S.L.

I started looking for anything we had, but found very little in a structural history, nothing has been deliberately designed to keep the story since the 11th of December 1924 until now, if they have, I have not found it.

So, I will seek to start a written dialogue of the events and circumstances that occur from now, and hopefully for a long time into the future. Any persons who would like to help this process is very welcome.

But what we seek the most is to find our story of the past, I believe it starts before 1924, as a photo that we have shows a meeting of returned soldiers in full uniforms suggesting it may have been as early as 1916. Where this meeting took place is unknown.

So, this is where the fun starts, because I'm asking all members of the R.S.L to tell me what they know, and I believe some of you will help us put the picture together, and I look forward to that.

We can arrange any oral information to be recorded for the future as well as documenting any other information that we receive.

The Croydon R.S.L is 96 years of age, that we know so far. Any information, of any type is very welcome.

In these times of uncertainties certain people from the R.S.L, behind the scenes have continued to communicate, work and plan for the future, nothing has stopped for those people. Thank you.

Jonathon Duck

Email: jonathon.duck@hotmail.com

Phone: 0400 493 697



Depression, anxiety and panic attacks are NOT a sign of weakness. They are signs of having tried to remain strong for way too long. Would you post this on your wall, at least for one day? Most people won't but it's Mental Health Awareness week. Did you know that 1 in each 3 of us will go through this at some point in our lives? Share the support! Let those who struggle know they're not alone, that they are loved and surrounded by a lot of people who care...

OPEN Veterans & Families Counselling ARMS

Call us 24Hr 1800 011 046

A service founded by Vietnam Veterans,
now for all veterans

CONFIRMATION OF EMAIL ADDRESSES

A reminder to all members who have given their
EMAIL addresses to the Sub-Branch.

*We will now be forwarding the branch Newsletter
to you via Email.*

Please ensure you have the RSL email address in
your contact list.

admin@croydonrsl.org.au

If you have not received your copy of the
Newsletter, please check your **Junk mail** folder and
if it is in there, make sure you change the status to **this
is not junk.**



J.J & K Cafe

3/540 Mt Dandenong Road, Kilsyth
3137.

Shop 3, Churinga Shopping Centre,
Kilsyth.

Phone: 03 9723 3812

Thank you to **J.J & K Cafe,**
Kilsyth for their kind donation to the Croydon RSL of
50c of all biscuits sold during the months of April and
November each year.

<https://www.facebook.com/jjkcafe/>



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5 Years \$35 | 3 Years \$25 | 1 Year \$10

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All Welcome T 9761 4233 | W clubkilsyth.com.au

Veteran Wellness Program



Kate Mangano, an Exercise Physiologist for NJF wellness has been 1:1 running exercise sessions for Veterans with an acute or chronic health condition.

The exercise physiologists at NJF wellness are a team of highly qualified allied health practitioners that are passionate about seeing individuals overcome the physical hurdles that inhibit them from getting the most out of life.

During the restriction period due to Covid-19, the Croydon RSL committee have kindly allowed Kate to continue running sessions at the RSL while the gyms have closed their doors.

Kate provides individualised exercise prescription to entitled DVA clients when referred by their general practitioner, private paying clients through health insurance as well as Medicare Chronic Disease Management scheme plans are all eligible for exercise physiology services.

NJF also provide a personalised and holistic approach to health and wellness through the work of Exercise Physiologists, Physiotherapists, Dietitians and Occupational Therapists.

Photo above: Exercise Physiologist Kate Mangano with Vietnam Veteran Graham Fletcher who served in Vietnam with RAE 17 Construction Squadron from January 1969 until January 1970.

ANZAC Day Doorstep tribute in Croydon



Veterans Wellness Programs

DVA Pays

for the clinically necessary treatment

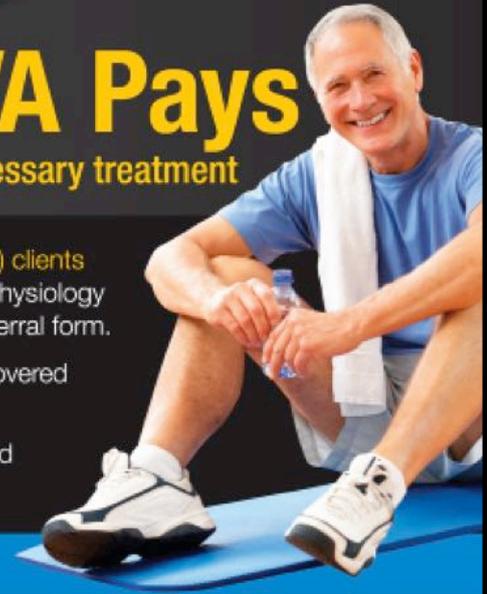
Entitled Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) clients may be referred for clinically necessary Exercise Physiology treatment by their General Practitioner on a valid D904 referral form.

Gold Card Holders are entitled to clinically necessary treatment covered by DVA's health care arrangements for all health conditions.

White Card Holders are entitled to clinically necessary treatment for an accepted disability ie: an injury or disease accepted by DVA as caused by war.

Start today and experience the benefits...

- ✓ Increase mobility and balance
- ✓ Reduce and manage age related illness
- ✓ Assist with the management of chronic health conditions, back pain, cardiovascular disease, arthritis, diabetes and more
- ✓ Exercise Physiology, Occupational Therapy, Dietetic & Physiotherapy services available.
- ✓ Operating out of Gym & Aquatic facilities, also with the option of home visits.



VICTORIA
NJF operates out of numerous locations, call to find your nearest location.

1300 890 507 or 0449 713 472
E admin@njfwellness.com.au

njfwellness.com.au

CROYDON RSL SUB-BRANCH REPORT

VALE

It is with sadness we announce the passing of the following members and our condolences go out to family and friends.

'MAY THEY REST IN PEACE'

22 March 20 Richard Shrimpton
25 March 20 Douglas Duffield
10 April 20 Annie Swaffield
19 April 20 Geoffrey Hollingworth

A special mention of our longtime member Geoffrey Hollingworth. Geoff has been a member of Croydon RSL for some 15 years now. In that time he has held many positions within the Sub-Branch. He was the Bar Manager/Nominee for many years, Appeals Officer for 4-5 years, assisted as Hall Manager and was a hard working member of the Committee.

Geoff was a worker willing to do anything, a real people's person who assisted with Welfare by taking member's to their doctor's appointments.

Respected by all who knew him he will be sadly missed.

'Rest in Peace Geoffrey'

Maroondah City Council

A lovely story from our Occasional Care team!

During lockdown, young Ruby was involved in Anzac Day activities with her family. When she began to attend Occasional Care in May, she stated that she 'missed the RSL' so educators helped her write a letter and a drawing as a special surprise for the local Croydon RSL members.

As a thank you, Croydon RSL President, John Hexter, visited the centre, personally thanked Ruby and presented her with a gift and card on behalf of his members.

Ruby's drawing is now framed and proudly on display at the Croydon RSL branch.

It's a special reminder of the bond between the RSL members and the Occasional Care children, and the importance of these inter-generational connections to carry on the memories of those who have served their country.

#bekindmaroondah #croydonrsl

