



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION DECEMBER 2015

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NOVEMBER 11, 2015

On Remembrance Day in the centenary year of ANZAC Gallipoli roses in the Roseville Memorial Park were in full bloom.

Rain poured down on them, on the nearby Lone Pine and on the great Memorial Boulder. Kept dry though, under a canopy, was the Field of Crosses. These, according to the programme supplied were, "To Commemorate each of the men and women of Ku-ring-gai who enlisted in World War I. The Ku-ring-gai Council, in partnership with Roseville RSL Sub Branch has planted a field of 1,300 crosses at Roseville Memorial Park. The crosses represent Ku-ring-gai's contribution to freedom and the considerable sacrifice of what was then a very small community."

Indeed, Australia's population then was less than 5,000,000. Ku-ring-gai, a northern district of Sydney had a population of around 10,000.

"Students and families throughout Ku-ring-gai have participated by writing messages of hope and thanks to the Australians who sacrificed their lives in the war on each of the crosses."

Many of the crosses had red poppies and "thank you" messages attached.

A week after Remembrance Day the crosses were to go to the the Australian War Memorial, from which they would be distributed to other Memorial sites.

If a miracle had occurred and living men had arisen, they would have filled that park and all streets around with their youthful presence, with their doomed strength. Sadly, not to be, but they are remembered.

The Ceremony

Because of the rain, everyone had to go inside the club rooms of the Roseville Memorial Sub-Branch. Everything had been carefully planned. Chairs filled the hall. Near the window, facing the Park, was a specifically prepared and draped table, complete with a sandpit. The wreaths were to be laid against the table, while poppies were placed into the sandpit.

Mr Mike Askey, President of the Sub Branch welcomed us all; Killara High School Captains, Jett Ho and Nina Stammbach gave the official welcome. Killara High School student Tess Shirley gave an address.

The emphasis was on youth. Students from from over thirty state and private schools were there. Representatives of the schools and other community organisations laid wreaths or poppies in position.

Ku-ring-gai Mayor, Cheryl Szatow, spoke. Rhys Tiradoof, Killara High School, played the Last Post, President Mike Askey recited The Ode and, after the Minute's Silence, Rhys played Reveille.

At the conclusion of a rousing rendition of the Nation Anthem, we all adjourned for refreshments.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Retiring President's Par

It has been a privilege for me to act as your President over the past twenty or so years. During that time, through the dedicated work of the executive committee and the unfailing support of our members, CBICA has been able to hold a series of successful and convivial functions celebrating and commemorating the importance of SIGINT achievements during World War 2. How fortunate I and other retiring committee members feel knowing that we leave the ongoing activities of CBICA in the safe and capable hands of our successors, on the newly elected committee. Long live CBICA!

My best wishes to you all for a happy and holy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Gordon Gibson.

Newly Elected President's Par

I echo the sentiments of my Dad, Gordon Gibson, and it is with a great sense of pride that I take on the role of President of CBICA. Together with our dedicated committee members, I am committed to carrying on the wonderful legacy that my Dad and all the retiring committee members have built and maintained over these many years.

I also wish everyone all the very best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a healthy, joyful start to 2016.

Feel free to contact me on any CBICA matters:-

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President

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MINUTES

Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting of CBICA held on 11/11/15 at Roseville Memorial Club.

Called by President Gordon to replace the Annual General Meeting in Feb 2016

ATTENDEES

Gordon and Sue Gibson, Katy Denis (nee Gibson), Helen Kenny, Joyce Grace, Bruce Goudge, Ailsa Hale, Jenny Edwards, Doug and Nell Pyle, Bruce Bentwitch, Alan Bentwitch, Allan Norton, Noelene Hansen, Ruth Keen (David Hansen's daughter), Rob Moore, Annette Salmon and David Dufty.

APOLOGIES

Will Renshaw, Kath Burns, Vic Lederer , Coral (Osborne) Hinds, Kevin Hocking, Gordon Gibson (the "other" Gordon), David Hansen, Bill Rogers, Frank Hughes and Brian Lovett, who also sent greetings to everyone.

President Gordon opened the meeting with an address outlining the current situation with CBICA. He pointed out that although there are still 90 members and associate members on our mailing list the number of WW2 veterans has dwindled with the passage of time.

He stated that the founders of CBICA made provision in the constitution for the association to be wound up when the membership of veterans falls to 5.

As there were more than enough members present to form a quorum, Gordon put the question to members “Is it the will of members to continue CBICA?” The result was a resounding and unanimous, ‘Yes!’

Gordon then regretfully informed the meeting of his intention to resign as President and nominated his daughter **Katy Denis** as his successor. There were no other nominations for President and Katy was elected unanimously.

The position of Secretary was also declared vacant as Gordon, Bruce, Helen and Annette had been sharing secretarial duties in the absence of a full-time Secretary.

Gordon nominated **Bruce Goudge** as Secretary, and Bruce was also elected unanimously.

Gordon made mention of the wonderful job Bruce has done over the past couple of years in assisting Helen Kenny to produce and distribute our quarterly newsletter - a time-consuming and demanding task which he has cheerfully and efficiently fulfilled. Thank you Bruce!

Gordon also announced that **Helen Kenny** is happy to continue in her role of Publicity Officer and he acknowledged the invaluable part Helen’s incredible research and writing skills and her warmth and kindness have played in keeping members up-to date and informed. Her work with the newsletter is responsible in no small way for the ongoing cohesiveness of CBICA.

Annette Salmon is to continue as Treasurer and **Allan Norton, Frank Hughes** and **Bill Rogers** are to continue as Vice Presidents on the executive committee.

Rob Moore (Dennis Moore’s son), **Mark Brackley** (Col Brackley’s son) and **David Dufty** were also nominated for places on the executive team and were also elected unanimously.

Treasurer Annette delivered a request for membership fees to increase from \$10 back to \$15 per year for both members and associate members to cover increased costs. The meeting agreed and the price increase is effective for all 2016 subs. Members who have access to a computer may like to receive their newsletters as email attachments instead of by post. Please let Bruce Goudge know if you wish to be placed on the ‘email list’.

Bruce Goudge informed the meeting that unbeknown to members, Frank Hughes’ secretary, Maria Laughton in Bowral, printed our address labels for the newsletter for a number of years, under his generous sponsorship. Bruce is writing to thank her on behalf of CBICA for her generosity and support.

Allan Norton made a timely and moving speech thanking Gordon and all CBICA members past and present who have been at the core of the organisation and who have put so much time and energy into CBICA. He acknowledged them for their ongoing friendship, respect and concern for each other’s welfare over the years. *[The full text of his speech is printed later in the newsletter H.K.]*

Bruce Goudge has written to Maureen Baylis offering her our condolences on the passing of Stan earlier this year. We hope to have a photo and some stories about Stan in the Newsletter shortly.

Bruce Bentwitch narrated the story of his 21st Birthday on 8/8/1945. He described being in camp with Flight Lieutenant Walsh when he was told he would be shipping out to Okinawa but fortunately for him the war came to an end two days later!

Gordon excused himself as he had to leave early and he passed the meeting over to incoming President Katy Denis.

A motion was passed ensuring our Banner goes to ASD if ever our organisation closes.

(Moved: Rob Moore, Seconded: Bruce Goudge).

Bruce Bentwitch advised he has a smaller banner which we can use at the ANZAC luncheon.

The Windows Restaurant at The Pullman Hotel has been booked, and deposit paid, for the 2016 ANZAC Day luncheon. (Annette advised)

The meeting closed and members adjourned to the dining room for a convivial lunch.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As 2015 draws to a close I find myself looking back on a year packed with interesting experiences, new friends and not a few challenges!

It has only been a year since I took on the position of treasurer but I feel I've known many of you for much longer. It's been a joy and a privilege to be part of the CBICA team! I've loved getting your notes and speaking with many of you over the phone and in person.

As you know, Gordon has reluctantly resigned as President and Katy Denis has been unanimously elected as his successor.

Thank you Gordon for your dedication and leadership! In the short time I have known you I have really appreciated your guidance and admire the way you have kept CBICA steady on course over the past years.

Congratulations to Katy Denis for courageously stepping forward to take on the position of President. I know she will bring her considerable expertise, enthusiasm and energy to the role and we are very lucky to have her.

Congratulations also to our newly elected Secretary, Bruce Goudge.

Bruce has unstintingly given of his time and energy to assist our amazing Publicity Officer, Helen Kenny, in the production of the newsletter. He has spent many hours entering the newsletter on line as well as organising layout, printing and distribution. A big 'Thank You' Bruce from all of us!

I have said before that 2015 was a year of change. Well it has certainly shaped up that way for me as we have unexpectedly had to move house.

After living in North Epping for 24 years we have now moved to Pymble. The last few weeks have been a jumble of cleaning house, packing boxes, cleaning house, unpacking boxes, cleaning house..... not to mention keeping my business going at the same time. It has been a bit of a juggling act but it looks like everything is settling down now and I will have a bit more time to enjoy my new home.

A seasonal reminder to all members - 2016 subs are now due so if you haven't yet paid, the new rate is \$15 per year for both members and associate members. My new address for payments is below.

My warmest wishes go out to you all for a happy and healthy Christmas and a New Year full of joy and good things!

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

Thank you indeed for your kind endorsement that I become your new secretary. This is a position for which I feel most honoured. I am all too well aware of the wonderful work of Joy Granger, Gordon Gibson and others that has been done in the past, and I know that your new Committee is only too conscious that we undertake to give our best to ensure this wonderful organisation continues to live on.

Feel free to contact me should you have any issue you need clarified.

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ALLAN NORTON SPEAKS

Perhaps this is an appropriate time to pause and take time to remember the outstanding voluntary work of all those past Central Bureau Association Office Bearers who have brought us to this place where we are today. I am referring to those previous presidents and committee members who gave so willingly and generously of their time in maintaining the Central Bureau for the past 70 years.

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Allan Norton, and I am a retiring committee member of this Association and am a surviving original One Wireless Unit Japanese Kana Code Interceptor from 1942.

We were part of a close knit operation which cemented real mateship, fellowship, respect and a sense of genuine care and affection for fellow members to the point that we could have been considered to have been one family - even as brothers and sisters.

The echo of that dynasty sentiment has been continued since the war, per medium of this Central Bureau Intelligence Association and the sons, daughters of those wonderful people who are with here today.

On this Remembrance Day 2015 it is fitting that we remember and give tributes and thanks to all those past committee members and helpers of this Association which includes presidents, secretaries, treasurers, public relation officers and their helpers and - not forgetting those banner carriers. These people represented this Association in general meetings, dawn services, ANZAC Day marches, plus representations at Martin Place, Canberra, Melbourne and Brisbane.

In more recent times I recall the fantastic service given by Joy Granger, Dennis & Rob Moore, Ian McBride, Stan Baylis, Noni Benn, Bruce Bentwitch, Helen Kenny, Frank Hughes, Bill Rogers, just to name a few.

Last but not least recognition must go to Gordon Gibson and his wife, Sue, who have given hours of dedicated service to this Association.

Would you please put your hands together in appreciation of all of these people.

HELEN KENNY'S REPORT

This is a one eared (not one eyed) account. I wear hearing aids, but the one in my right ear was being replaced, but not in time for Remembrance Day 2015! So, at the gathering I was able to hear old friends who spoke from the left – Joyce Grace, Ailsa Hale, Nell and Doug Pyle, Noelene Hansen and others.

But, when this special A.G.M. started, called by by President Gordon Gibson, I couldn't hear a thing! It was like a silent movie without the captions. Those on the platform spoke.

There was clapping. I joined in politely, but puzzled.

President Gordon stepped down – in actuality – and left his post for good after eleven years. He'd been an original member of CBICA since it was formed in 1974 – 18th October. The first President was Bob Burnside. Original members still in CBICA include Doug Pyle, (present today), Bill Rogers and Frank Hughes.

This is a dynastic change - passing on the banner from the older generation to the younger, handing on history. Eventually we may become 2/CBICA, just as WWI Battalions became 2/1 & 2/4 – who knows!

Katy Denis is Gordon's daughter, and will be our new President.

Annette Salmon, as you know, had a WAAAF mother.

Rob Moore, son of Denis, has been carrying our green and gold banner since his father's death.

Bruce Goudge is H.K.'s step-son-in-law and has been assisting me with the production of Newsletter for quite some time.

David Dufty is a writer and researcher. He completed a psychology degree with honours at the University of Newcastle and earned a PhD, also in psychology, at Macquarie University. He is a welcome addition to the Committee.

In future Newsletters we tell you more about our new Office Bearers.

IN BRIEF

Ciphers

In our last issue we wrote of the Shaven Head cypher. Kipling writes of another. This appears in his book "The Man Who Would Be King and Other Stories" (OUP) and comes from the title story. A blind beggar in the Punjab demonstrates the "string talk letter". He wound a piece of string around a knotted twig, according to some cipher of his own and reduced the alphabet to eleven primitive sounds.

Can any CBers contribute details of any other ciphers?

A newcomer

We had a newcomer to our Remembrance Day Meeting. He sat quietly as Gordon spoke and didn't nominate for any position. His name? Emblazoned on his white knitted top was **BLETCHLEY BEAR**. He is a replica of wise appearance, a replica of Turing's own Teddy. Yes! He came from BP, and was bought to Roseville by Ruth Keen, daughter of Dave and Noelene Hansen. Ruth lives in Cambridgeshire, and has visited BP three times.

Noelene and Dave planned to visit BP too, but weren't able to do so. Dave is now in Shalom Nursing Home, not far from his old home in Eastwood.

[Sorry you can't get to meetings now Dave. Best wishes to you, your family and to Bletchley Bear. H.K.]

AROUND THE TABLES

Helen Kenny: Glad CB can keep going and good luck to the new Committee. Best wishes to all.

Joyce Grace: Wonderful to meet and see our friends again. A great Service and a great AGM. Good luck to our new young executive.

Nell and Doug Pyle: Great day – wonderful to meet up again.

Bruce Bentwitch: Another wet day so we had the festivities in the Clubhouse, so the traffic noise did not worry us.

Rob Moore: Great to be continuing CB

David Dufty & Jenny Edwards: Great to be here. We are thrilled to help record the amazing CB story and keep the memories strong.

Annette Salmon: This was a wonderful day – privileged to be part of CB.

Bruce Goudge: Truly a marvelous day – terrific to see the students so positive in their attitude. Quite privileged to be invited to be part of the Executive.

Lyndall Gladstone: Great day and also great for everyone to catch up.

Ailsa Hale: So good to see familiar faces and enjoy the day together.

VALE

NONI BENN: Committee member and ex WAAAF, died on September, 29th, 2015, aged 94. We'll miss her gentle presence.

Noni was one of those girls who, in 1941, at her own expense, after work, learnt Morse, gaining enough speed in this so she could join the WAAAF.

She was one the first in that Service. Soon she found herself in the "hush hush" hut at Point Cook, learning KANA. Eventually she was serving with 1 WU at Townsville in that fortress disguised as a farmhouse. Her Service, at the Freshwater Uniting Church was simple and beautiful. The pews were packed.

Noni was a local Freshwater girl. She was born here, went to school here, surfed here on the coast's best beach! Her marriage took place in the church, and she lived here. The community knew her. She had worked for it. She was loved.

Farewell Noni.

THE NAMING OF DOWNFALL CREEK

[Those in camp near Chermside, Queensland, particularly the girls in 67 AWAS Barracks, knew where this creek was.

They got out of the bus at the Dawn Cinema (now gone), passed a dance hall (gone also) and walked down a rough road passing a dip in it.

They couldn't pass if it rained. The dry creek would turn into a fast running creek.

Mr Pat O'Shea, who some of us met last July at Chermside, is President of the Chermside and District Historical Society.

That creek is now called "Downfall Creek". He tells us why. H.K.]

German missionaries arrived in the Convict settlement on what is now Brisbane River at the end of January 1838 and settled at what they named Zion Hill in the present suburb of Nundah. Their aim was to convert the Indigenous people to Christianity. They soon established an out station called Naunger about thirty-five miles to the north-west, possibly near the present Caboolture, which had to be regularly supplied with foodstuffs via bullock wagons.

The following excerpt is taken from a copy of "The Queenslander", Saturday 13th December 1902 p. 23 – 24 which would have been close to living memory of the incident.

In one of the journeys the place now known as Downfall Creek received its name. A dray laden with corn, and drawn by four bullocks, stuck fast in the mud there, and in the efforts made to drag the dray out the creek the pole broke and all attempts to move it (the wagon) failed. There were two of the missionaries with it, Mr Gerler, and one

named Hartenstein, and after some consultation it was decided that Mr Gerler should take the oxen on to the station and bring back help, while Mr Hartenstein should remain to guard the corn. He was a timid man, and very much afraid of the blacks, and when night was coming he could hear them assembling in the neighbourhood, and he rushed away, and hid himself. But when help came in the morning the corn was found to be safe, but its protector was nowhere to be seen. Some time was spent in cooeing and searching, and at last Hartenstein crawled out from behind a log about half a mile away from the dray, where he had hidden himself for safety; and they found also that the blacks had camped about the same distance in an opposite direction, being afraid to go near the dray for fear of him! There was plenty of fear on both sides.

There is a report that the creek was known as Hartenstein's Downfall but was shortened to Downfall Creek with the passage of time.

THE TRANSITION FROM MILITARY CAMP, TO THE BURNIE BRAE CENTRE AGED CARE COMPLEX

By Rob Isdale

[Rob Isdale, who hosted our visit to Chermside on 10th July, 2015 compiled the text following, about the transition of that land from its Military Camp usage, to its present life as a well-used park area surrounding the Burnie Brae Centre and Aged Care Facility. H.K.]

Following the end of WW2, the facilities of the men's Chermside Military camp, and the women's Chermside Military Camp on the other side of Hamilton Road, were gradually transformed for their future use as typical Brisbane residential suburbs.

Some of the accommodation barrack huts at the men's camp were used as temporary short term accommodation by the Housing Commission, to assist with the urgent needs of the returning service personnel and their families, as they transitioned to post-war suburban life.

The buildings of the women's Military Camp did not lend themselves to civilian family occupation and were cleared from the site, as seen in 1946 Aerial Survey photographs.

The area was re-surveyed and re-zoned for typical civilian suburban usage, of streets and residential size blocks of land. The area that previously was the No. 67 AWAS Camp, now had a new road, Memar Street through that area, east to west, joining on to Kingsmill Street where the camp's main entrance gate had been located.

Initially, that open area was used by a Chermside Youth group, with a view to its being purchased by them for future development. This proposal did not eventuate due to the lack of sufficient finance.

The Chermside Rotary Club became involved, but in spite of vigorous fundraising efforts, insufficient funds again prevented an outright purchase.

The rezoning stipulations called for the area to be 'greenspace' open parkland, and one proposal was that the natural gentle slope down towards Kingsmill Street, with a wonderful view across the valley of Brisbane to the Macpherson Ranges in the west, were ideally suited to a natural amphitheatre usage with stage facilities at the Kingsmill Street area. This did not eventuate.

Norman Hodgkinson, a member of the now defunct Chermside Rotary Club, was contacted by Grace Axlesen, whose singing group were looking for a suitable large hall venue in this area. After some consideration it became evident that the smaller venues that had been sufficient in the past, were now inadequate, and the idea began to develop that a portion of this ex-Military Camp might be developed into a community hall venue that could serve the locality in many ways.

The various hurdles of officialdom were crossed and the Chermside Rotary Club, with the assistance of a Government grant, proceeded to build a venue, the excellent building that we now have. It serves many purposes, including a centre that caters for aged care support. At one of the early meetings, Viti Packer suggested that it be called the Burnie Brae Centre, to honour the house name of the Hamilton family whose home and land had been resumed to allow this development.. And so the Burnie Brae Centre Aged Care facility at Chermside was commenced.

The whole park was originally named Annand Park, but it was a popular decision in 1997 to re-name it Burnie Brae Park, so as to reflect local history and the early pioneering Hamilton family.

During the time that the park itself was being developed by the government, and in view that the land had previously been owned by the Hamilton family, it was decided to consult Joan Hamilton about some feature in the area to acknowledge its early history, a tower lookout to take advantage of the wonderful, or perhaps a rotunda that would have multiple uses. Joan chose the rotunda that now graces the top end of the Burnie Brae Park.

What a year this has been. Very best wishes to you all for a blessed Christmas and Happy and Healthy 2016. H.K.

