

Lions Club of Minnamurra

Fishy Tales



**April 2015
Newsletter**



Lions,

This early issue of Fishy Tales follows a very busy month but first I must let the members know about the health of Ted, Kevin and Howard. Things could be better for all three and I know you all join me in wishing each of them a speedy recovery. I will endeavour to keep you informed of their progress.

One of the most pleasant aspects of my year as president has been the response when I have asked for volunteers for the different projects that the club has undertaken. Two examples are shown below.

I rang Roger to ask how many replies he had to his E-mail about clearing Maria Prudentes' garden. He said five had replied but on the day twelve turned up making what was going to be a hard days' work a very tolerable two and a half hours of community service.

Also, when Bobby English rang to ask if we could fill in for the Easter Monday markets, I wasn't sure if we could manage the job with such short notice. Roger thought that we should give it a go. The outcome was that we broke all our previous records for a Kiama Market and the timing was also great as we were able to pack up before the storm broke. Who says that we don't deserve a bit of luck? My thanks go to Roger for his early involvement, to John for his dedication for a full day's effort and to all the fellows who worked so hard.

The Board voted, on your behalf, to match Kiama Lions bequest of \$100 to Geoff Shoard's effort in raising more than \$1800 for the Leukaemia Foundation. What a hair-raising result from one of our own members!

Thanks to all of the ladies who joined Marie on their day out to the Nan Tien Temple. By all accounts, they had a very enjoyable day even though they had to forsake their usual bottle of wine. Marie said Geoff would have fitted in well if he had some yellow robes and answered to the name Grasshopper.

I take this opportunity to welcome new member Derek Farnell and at our next meeting we will induct Vaughan Schneider. These fellows help lower our average age, making us look a much younger club (sounds good, anyway)

We have a couple of items to look forward to:

- Kevin D still requires 4 volunteers to help with the Anzac Day march,
- Graham will soon be asking for door knockers for the Salvation Army Red Shield appeal,
- Helpers will be needed for the Red Cross Fun Run that goes from the Minnamurra boat ramp to Surf Beach on 7 June and
- Ken has *AutumnFest15* in hand but it will be a huge day for the club needing the involvement of as many members as possible, so please keep it in mind.

In finishing, I recommend that you read the letter from Howard Munro to his aunt, written three days before he died at el Alamein during WWII. It movingly shows the futility of war.

Hugh the Merciless





SECRETARY'S PAGE

The recipients of our Youth Development Award are currently in the early part of their 12 day wilderness experience in the Australian Alps with Outward Bound Australia. Kiama Golf Club is our partner in a few things and they have just given us (again) \$250 to go towards the \$3,000 cost of sending two Award recipients on the Navigator Course. We have thanked the golf club and invited them to send a representative to attend the 12 May dinner meeting when the two young people we have sponsored on the course this year will speak about their experience.

17 Minnamurra Lions were out door-knocking for the Red Cross Red Shield Appeal during March. Their 40 hours or so of effort resulted in \$3,358 being collected for the Appeal. Col Blanchard co-ordinated the effort and he asked that members be advised what happened and to thank all those who collected. The club should in turn thank Col because he and Helen added about another 40 hours of effort to organise the collection by our members and handle things for Red Cross. Well done Col and Helen Blanchard and the collectors.

Oak Flats Lioness Club is holding a fund raising trivia night on 16 May. See the attached poster. Tables of eight if you want to speak to others and organise something.

Figtree Lions are holding a Charity Golf Day at Calderwood Golf Course on Monday 11th May (see entry form later in FT). There are enough golfers(?) in our club to form a team. Forms from Roger.

Lions is an international organisation with about 1.35 million members in 206 countries. Members sometimes comment about the appropriateness of some of our member subscriptions being sent to the parent organisation in America. However, we regularly see the value in that arrangement when we witness the work of the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). From time to time LCIF has made grants to Australian Lions Clubs and organisations following bushfires, floods, etc. Most recently LCIF made a grant following the devastation caused by Cyclone Pam. In making the grant LCIF said 'Due to the continuing problems of feeding and providing fresh water to the people of Vanuatu, LCIF has given a US\$100,000 Major Catastrophe grant to assist the Lions of Vanuatu with both immediate and long-term relief efforts following Cyclone Pam.' The attached photo is one of many that provides a small illustration of the problems that need to be overcome in Vanuatu.

There are many world-wide disaster relief organisations but we know from example after example that the Lions organisation provides a wonderful, caring, practical, speedy and extremely cost-effective (no administration fee deductions) means of helping people in need after disasters of this type. Others do it on a grander scale and with more publicity but none seem to do it better.



For the information of members:

Our Lions Policy Register contains the following item regarding laying of a wreath at the Kiama Anzac Day Service:

A mid-sized wreath should be purchased by the club and laid by a member at either the Dawn Service or the later general service.





Treasurer's Report

Admin Account

Balance @ 31/03/15

\$2257.72

Activities Account

Balance @ 31/03/15

\$16058.90

Comments from Kevin include:

Heather has been taking money out of Roy's wallet again and inadvertently took ch # 200933 as well. Put it back Heather!

Xmas Cake transactions now complete - Income \$3,710 Expenditure \$2,889 Profit \$821

Keep Noel informed of any changes to your phone, e-mail or address so that records are accurate and we know where you live, in case you're behind with your subs!

If you are unable to attend a dinner meeting, please consider informing Howard a day before so that we have accurate numbers for the Golf Club because we are liable for food ordered but not taken up. The Golfie have been very decent so far but why push our luck? Howard can be phoned on 42375909 or contact Kari by email harju@westnet.com.au



Minnamurra Lions Calendar of Events

April 2015

- 14 Board meeting golf club
- Dinner meeting golf club
- 21 Figtree Lions 50th anniversary dinner
- 25 ANZAC Centenary Dawn Service and March
- 28 Dinner meeting golf club

May 2015

- 1-4 Lions District 201 N2 Convention in Newcastle
- 11 Figtree Lions Charity golf day
- 12 Board meeting golf club
- Mixed dinner meeting golf club. YDA recipients will speak.
- 23 AutumnFest 15 set-up at Black Beach
- 24 AutumnFest 15 at Black Beach
- 26 Dinner meeting golf club

June 2015

- 7 Red Cross Fun Run
- 9 Board meeting golf club
- Dinner meeting golf club
- 23 16th Changeover Dinner mixed night, golf club.

July 2015

- 7 Board meeting golf club
- 14 Dinner meeting golf club
- 28 Dinner meeting golf club



THE LIONESS CLUB OF OAK FLATS

TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY 16TH MAY, 2015

ALBION PARK BOWLING CLUB FUNCTION ROOM

TONGARRA RD, ALBION PARK

6.30 FOR 7.00 PM

COST \$ 10 PER PERSON

TABLES OF UP TO EIGHT

BRING YOUR OWN NIBBLIES - REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE AT THE CLUB

**PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO BEAR COTTAGE, THE HOSPICE
FOR CHILDREN**



We have two aims for the evening: to have a lot of fun and to raise money for a very worthwhile cause.
Please come and join in.

Further information:

Robyn : 42562823

Billie : 42563321

Joyce : 42562844



**TEAM/INDIVIDUAL ENTRY FORM
2015 CHARITY GOLF DAY
Calderwood Golf Course
Monday 11th May 2015**

2 person Ambrose event – start at 7:00am with a sumptuous full Aussie breakfast and a Shotgun start at 8:00am sharp followed by Barbeque Lunch with refreshments on sale.

ENTRY FORM - \$50 per person

Player 1..... Handicap.....
Email address..... Contact no.....

Player 2..... Handicap.....
Email address..... Contact no.....

Player 3..... Handicap.....
Email address..... Contact no.....

Player 4..... Handicap.....
Email address..... Contact no.....

TEAM NAME (if appropriate).....

Entries to Kevin Hartley by email to jk.hartley@bigpond.com by 4/05/2015

Payment by –

**() Direct Debit to Figtree Lions Club Activity Account with reference
Golf/Surname (ie Golf/White) BSB 062644 A/c 00902965**

**() Cheque (with/without entry form) to Figtree Lions Club at P O Box 94, Figtree.
2525**

Bookings for Carts may only be made on this form

Please indicate here to reserve

Payment to be made at Clubhouse on pick-up

☐

Insert number

The Cost of War – A Personal Account

Jack Squires was kind enough to give us access to the following letter written by his cousin during the Second World War. Records show him as Private Howard William Munroe who died during the battle of El Alamein on Thursday 29th October, 1942 aged 20, twenty two days after this letter was written. He is buried at the El Alamein War Cemetery in Egypt

Western Desert Egypt

NX 41987

Allamo J D.Corp 2/13/12

A.I.F. Abroad 7/10/42

Dear Aunt,

Your letter was extremely welcome and I must say very long, looked forward to when I opened it and out tumbled a photo of some bonny lass. I couldn't make out who it was from and I still can hardly realise that it is Ginger, gosh she has changed and I am looking forward to seeing for myself if that is really the same old Ginger who taught me to dance, of course not including my dear Aunt and poor old Enid. I received Uncle Jacks letter some time ago and answered it and am looking forward to lots more here. Aunt I do regret not having listened to your and Uncle Jacks advice but as you know youth must have it's way and experience is the greatest teacher. By my address you can see where I am and believe me Aunt it hasn't been at all, all sunshine and I'll be awful glad when it's all over and we can all return home. I've saw quite a lot since coming over and had some very good times but the best of my time was spent in Sryia.(Syria) It was with great regret that we left that pleasant country to come up here to face the hun. We struck action almost as soon as we came into the desert and Jerries first few shells soon made me realise that I was a quiet and peace loving boy and where I wanted to be most of all. My first face to face encounter with the enemy happened a few weeks ago when he attacked our positions in the early hours of the morning. Our section was out in no mans land on listening post and the first that we knew of it was that we're surrounded and the Huns were chattering like a mob a turkeys. Anyhow we fired the distress signal and our artillery and machine guns lay down a very good defence barrage so we left all, our equipment and guns and made a break for it. Only three of us out of nine got back in and we were extremely lucky to do so. In the battle that followed Aunt I somehow lost my tin hat and I only had a revolver and hand grenade left. Gosh I don't think anyone could have prayed as hard as I did in those few hours of hell, and I'm sure that it was only through Gods guiding hand that I escaped injuries.

Jerry was repulsed with severe losses and many prisoners were taken. Now we are twenty miles back from the front having a spell and gosh it's great to be able to move around freely without being shot at and shelled. I managed to get six days leave the other day in Alexandria and I had a very good time. Anyway the beer

was okay as it makes one forget the war and this rotten desert and I think that that is going to be every soldiers problem to forget these things and in any way possible. Well dear Aunt it seems as if I only have the nasty old war to write about which is true and I don't think that you want to hear about that so I won't write any more about it. I'm sorry to hear that Col is in camp and sincerely hope that he never has to go to the front, although he may feel that he is shirking his duty Aunty, I hope that you can get him out and keep him out of the army for good. You may think that this not very nice of me but really I've saw horrible things and good men in terrible misery and I want to see all my relations well and without the signs of war on them when I return home. Talking of home well I'm just longing for that day to come and I think there will be some very happy men when they can return back to their loved ones again. I once thought that I may be home for Christmas but those hopes have long now been shattered and God only knows when we will be allowed to return. Kay and Edith have my congratulations on their engagement, but I hope they can hang off until my return to see them happily married which is I suppose is their idea for I don't suppose they became engaged for naught. And as for Ginger well I think she will be wise if she loves them all and marry none for a few years but although by her photo she sure looks capable of taking care of herself.

Well Aunt I guess I had better soon finish as I have sixteen letters to answer yet so I'm sure that you excuse me for once. I wish you and all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year now and I regret that I am unable to see you all by then but hope that the day is not far distant when I can. I guess that John is quite a man now. Well remember me to all the family and give them all my fondest love and take a fair share for yourself. I close wishing you all the best from your loving nephew.

The campaign in the Western Desert was fought between the Commonwealth forces (with later, the addition of two brigades of Free French and one each of Polish and Greek troops) all based in Egypt, and the Axis forces (German and Italian) based in Libya. The battlefield, across which the fighting surged back and forth between 1940 and 1942, was the 1,000 kilometres of desert between Alexandria in Egypt and Benghazi in Libya. It was a campaign of manoeuvre and movement, the objectives being the control of the Mediterranean, the link with the east through the Suez Canal, the Middle East oil supplies and the supply route to Russia through Persia. The Battle of El Alamein, was primarily fought between two of the outstanding commanders of WW2, Montgomery and Rommel, and is seen as one of the decisive Allied victories of the war and led to the retreat of the Afrika Korps and the German surrender in North Africa in May 1943. The Battle of El Alamein began in late October 1942 and by November 2nd 1942, Rommel knew he was beaten being hopelessly outnumbered. On November 4th, when Rommel started his retreat, 24,000 Germans and Italians had been killed or wounded in the battle and 13,000 Allied troops. Private Howard William Munro, son of John Francis and Ellen Elizabeth Munro, of Wootton, New South Wales, Australia, was one of these brave men who never came home. On

this Anzac Day have a thought for this 20 year old, a life cut short, who grew up where we all enjoy our lives today. Spare a thought also, for all the 20 year olds fighting another war in another foreign land in our present world.

A former Australian MP was on holiday in Northern France. This is an extract from an interview that she gave to the BBC.

“It was on the Western Front in France. There were these bones discovered and they quickly realised from tests they were Australian and so a new cemetery was built. I arrived at the site off this bus and just stood there. I was in tears. I suddenly realised how these kids must have felt. Seventeen year olds some of them, kids from Australian country towns... what a shock to their systems to end up on the Western Front, Gallipoli, all of these places with absolutely no perspective on it at all except having joined up for God and Country, and to be with your mates.”

Ros Kelly – former Member of Parliament



Allied War Cemetery—Northern France

There are many of these!



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

5th Australian Division—Somme

E00019



Anzac Cove 1915

The back page but the first you read

As Only The Irish Can Tell A Story!

Barry had long heard the stories of an amazing family tradition. It seems that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their 18th birthday.

On that special day, they'd each walked across the lake to the pub on the far side for their first legal drink.

So when Barry's 18th birthday came around, he and his pal Slick took a boat out to the middle of the lake. Barry, stepped out of the boat...and nearly drowned!

Slick just barely managed to pull him to safety. Furious and confused, Barry went to see his Grandmother, "Grandma he asked, "Tis me 18th birthday, so why can't I walk across the lake like me father, his father and his father before him?"

Granny looked deeply into Barry's, troubled eyes and said, "Because ye father, ye grandfather and ye great-grandfather were all born in December when the lake is frozen, and ye were born in August, ya bloody idiot!"

IF YOU TRY TO FAIL, AND SUCCEED, WHICH HAVE YOU DONE?

IF THE POLICE ARREST A MUTE, DO THEY TELL HIM HE HAS THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT?

IF A PARSLEY FARMER IS SUED, CAN THEY GARNISH HIS WAGES?

ATHEISM IS A NON-PROPHET ORGANIZATION

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE A CIVIL WAR?

