

Connections

The Occasional Bulletin for Members of DunSoc Vic

Date: Apr 2023

Issue: 1

Convenor's Message

Welcome to our first edition of Connections.

For a while your Committee have been discussing the Purpose of DunSoc in general and Victoria in particular. We agreed that we concentrate on the Victorian purpose, based on utilizing the value of the wide spread of interests and connections of the membership. From this we decided that "Connections" are our prime purpose.

This is an avenue for Members to provide articles of interest, Members helping Members and Members having their say. Connections is something that will evolve over time and we look forward to your contributions.

Coming Attractions

- 17 May - Happy Hour+
RACV Club, Carbine Bar, 501 Bourke Street
1400-1800 hrs
Come along and meet old friends and enjoy some finger food, drinks at bar price. Come and go as you please. \$5.00 per head.
- 12 July - MCCMVG Luncheon
MCC Dining Room, MCG Brunton Ave Richmond
Speaker: RSM - Army WO Kim Flemingham NSC OAM
2 Course Luncheon and 4 hour drink package, \$85.00 per head.
Bookings are essential and will close on 2 Jul. Further details to be issued Jun.
- 11 Oct - MCCMVG Luncheon
MCC Dining Room, MCG Brunton Ave Richmond
Speaker: Gwen Cherne, Veteran Family Advocate Commissioner, Repatriation Commission.
2 Course Luncheon and 4 hour drink package, \$85.00 per head.
Bookings are essential and will close on 1 Oct. Further details to be issued Sep.

Articles of Interest – Member Contributions

Virtual War Memorial - Australia

We recently lost, suddenly, Major Ian Lattimore RNZInf (OCS Dec 81) and Colonel Rob Manton RAA (Retd) (OCS Dec 81) suggested we should consider recording our service for posterity.

For the last few years Rob has been involved with the Virtual War Memorial - Australia (VWMA). The VWMA had its genesis as a South Australian Centenary of Anzac project and has developed over the last few years to now contain the service records, as a minimum, of over 1.6m service personnel. Its Patron is General Sir Peter Cosgrove. AK AC (Mil) CVO MC. One of the moderators who checks uploaded information is a former Field Wing Instructor (OCS 81) WO2 Robert (Bob, Dogs) Kearney OAM. Bob is now an author and historian of note.

While the Australian War Memorial does a brilliant job of remembering the Fallen, the VWMA seeks to remember the service of all who have served with a commitment: 'We remember them all'.

Its desire is to capture the service of every service person who has ever donned the uniform, both in terms of their service records and through their stories and photographs.

The whole aim of the VWM is to 'remember them all'. Those who lost their lives are remembered at the AWM on the Roll of Honour, as they should be; those who served and survived should be remembered also. Anyone who signed on the dotted line and were prepared to give their all are also deserving of being remembered.

The idea is to get those boxes of old photos and diaries from under the bed and preserve them forever.

It's easy to register and upload your records and any other bits 'n' pieces you care to about either yourselves or relatives/friends who may have served. Those shoe boxes of old photos that have been handed down should never be lost and can be uploaded.

The site can be accessed at: <https://vwma.org.au/>

None of us, sadly are getting any younger. We are older, but not old - yet!! Let's record our history.

Tackling Leukaemia

Tackling Leukaemia (TL) is a charitable organisation with the aim to increase the number of participants on the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Register (ABMDR), between the ages of 18 and 35 in general and Pasifika people in particular. Four members of DUNSOC Vic are involved with this organisation, Ron Bates (Scheyville Class 4/67), Kevin Maloney (Scheyville Class 4/70), John Carmichael (OCS Jun 77) and Roger Schie (OCS Dec 81).

Rugby Versus Leukaemia Inc. – the forerunner of Tackling Leukaemia Incorporated was an initiative established in 2018 at Power House Rugby Union Football Club (RUFC) in Melbourne by Peter Selby, a Life Member of the Club, following his 2017 diagnosis of Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML).

Peter played Senior Rugby in Wanganui (NZ) and joined Power House RUFC in Melbourne in the late sixties.

Peter was a member of the Power House 1973 & 1974 Senior Premiership Teams, a Victorian State Representative, Power House Club Coach and served on the VRU Disciplinary Tribunal for a number of years.

Peter, of Māori heritage, had been unable to find a donor match among his 6 siblings and extended family, nor anywhere else in the world donor registries (which contain over 29 million entries). Peter tragically learnt first-hand of the shortage of registered donors, particularly among the Pasifika community. He was advised by his treating clinicians that the reason he could not be matched was “your Polynesian blood” and that there are not enough Pasifika people on the registries.

He started a campaign to increase awareness among young Rugby Union players, especially those having a similar ethnicity, highlighting the importance of donating blood and becoming part of the world-wide bone marrow donor program.

The movement became an Incorporated Association under Victorian law in November 2019.

After a long and courageous struggle, Peter Selby passed away as a result of his illness on September 7, 2020.

After Peter's passing, Lt. Col (Ret.) Kevin Maloney replaced him on the Membership list. Kevin, himself a leukaemia survivor, is also a kidney transplant recipient, a former First Grade Rugby Referee, Senior Referee Coach and Life Member of the VRRRA (Victorian Rugby Referees Association) and the VRU (now Rugby Victoria).

After careful deliberation, in line with the long-term broader aspirations of the initiative, the members decided to form a new Association with a more encompassing name and on 18 May 2021 Tackling Leukaemia was incorporated and Kevin Maloney installed as the inaugural President. The founding membership was made up predominately of former Power House members including Bryan Furlong, Peter's lifelong friend and fellow New Zealander who was serving as President of Power House RUFC at the time.

Peter Selby's connection with the military was through his grandfather Hohepa Jacob.

Hohepa Jacob [MC](#) (16 November 1894 – 30 May 1955), also known as Harry Jacob, was a New Zealand [Rugby Union](#) player. A [wing-forward](#) and [loose forward](#), Jacob represented [Horowhenua](#) and [Manawhenua](#) at a provincial level, and was a member of the [New Zealand Māori](#) side in 1913, 1914, 1922, and 1923, captaining the team in 1922. He was a member of the New Zealand national team, the [All Blacks](#), on their [1920 tour of New South Wales](#). He played eight matches on that tour, but did not appear in any Test matches.^[2]

During [World War I](#), Jacob served in the [New Zealand \(Māori\) Pioneer Battalion](#), rising to the rank of 2nd lieutenant.^[2] He was awarded the [Military Cross](#) in the [1919 King's Birthday Honours](#),^[3] and received the medal from the Governor-General, [Lord Jellicoe](#), during a vice-regal visit to [Levin](#) in November 1921.^[4]

References [\[edit\]](#)

1. ^a [Jump up to](#) ^b [Jacob, Hohepa – WWI 16/268, WWII 816237 – Army](#)". Archives New Zealand. p.56. Retrieved 25 August 2021.
2. ^a [Jump up to](#) ^b [Luxford, Bob "Harry Jacob"](#). New Zealand Rugby Union. Retrieved 25 August 2021.
3. ^a ["No. 31370"](#). [The London Gazette](#). 3 June 1919. p.6838.
4. ^a ["The vice-regal visit"](#). Horowhenua Chronicle. 28 November 1921. p.2. Retrieved 25 August 2021.

Notes on Hohepa Jacob:



"...on the day the New Zealand government declared its support for Britain, which had declared war on Germany, Jacob was playing a Ranfurly Shield challenge against Hawera. It was the last rep. game he was to play because on October 20, 1914, Hohepa 'Harry' Jacob enlisted.

It's something his granddaughter, Rachel Selby, can't quite understand - why her Grandad Jake was so quick to sign up.

"We interpret history through our own lens. He signed up so early which is ridiculous really, but I guess they thought they were going to go off on a big adventure; be home by Christmas, sort of thing. He signed up and off he damn well went."

Jacob had been an only child and after the sudden death of his father he helped on the family farm. He had excelled at rugby right from junior level, playing for Koputaroa and Horowhenua. He later worked in the flax industry, a labour intensive, physical job which no doubt added to his strength on the rugby field.

He was 20 when he became a private, although Selby says the family have always wondered whether that was his real age. It is a known fact that many young men lied about their birth dates to enlist. He didn't remain a private for long and was promoted to sergeant, his army career really starting when he boarded the HMNZT Warrimoo for Egypt the following February.

From there it became apparent that the rugby field was a good training ground indeed; Jacob fought on the battlefields at Gallipoli with the Māori contingent, in France, in Somme with the NZ Pioneer Battalion as a 'digger' and he fought upon the Chunuk Bair field of death and Messines. He was at them all and lived to tell the tale, which is quite astounding.

"He went on and won a Military Cross. I guess some people were quite in awe of him; a lot of people that knew him remembered him with deep affection and with a great deal of

respect. People were very respectful of him for a number of reasons, only one of them being rugby."

In 1917 Jacob was put forward for training as an officer at Trinity College in Cambridge, UK. It is something which amuses his granddaughter. "Someone said to me once, well, you do come from a long line of academics, your grandfather went to Cambridge," Selby laughs, "he was a farmer really, you couldn't have called him an academic."

When he went overseas, I think he'd only had four years of school. But he wrote poetry, that's one of the extraordinary things and his first language was Māori of course. It must have been quite an amazing experience to be away all that time overseas."

While in Cambridge the rugby field found Jacob once again and he played for the pioneers in France and England. It's something that Akers points out as being quite an extraordinary thing about rugby at the time, that the game melted down the walls of class and in some ways race.

"There was a big difference between the New Zealand rugby game and the English rugby game. Of course, football originated from English public schools. I suppose in those days, back in the 19th century there was no time for the working class to play, they were all working six days a week, the seventh day was for church.

But there was no class distinction in New Zealand, anybody could play the game and once the Māori took an interest and started playing and that was only a decade out from the New Zealand wars, it was a place for a common interest - Māori, Pakeha, the settlers were all mingling socially on the sidelines."

Rugby had a similar affect for the troops. "It kept up morale within units and it kept them fit and combated boredom. The Māori players were held in high regard at Gallipoli. The Turks were used to seeing Indian players who were little and the big Māori players scared the shit out of them."

Rugby is an important aspect in Defence in general and the Army in particular, and as start this is a good place, but we need to alert all males and females between the age of 18 – 35 in general and Pasifika people in particular about the importance of registering on the ABMDR.

We recently held a Rugby 10's competition at the Box Hill Rugby Union Club where we were able to increase the register by 130 Pasifika people. Attached is a short video of the event.



R00098185749_8783964c-33e3-47d5-b356-02b3555c9c78.mp4

For further information, please contact Ron Bates @ RonB@tacklingleukaemia.org.au or visit their website <https://tacklingleukaemia.org.au/>

**Below are some suggested heading to be included in future
"Connections" for your comment and advice.**

Class reunions
Funeral notices
etc

Search Engine – Members helping members

- Does anyone have contact details of
- Seeking information on stroke rehabilitation
- Anyone had good/bad experiences with travel insurance
- Etc.

Your Say

- Your likes
- Your dislikes
- What else ?

DRAFT #1