



Lest We Forget ...

Last week as John Campbell celebrated his 100th birthday we brought you the story of his involvement with our church and in particular his service with the Rats of Tobruk. Last Sunday "The Age" published a story about three other Veterans including our Bill Craig.

William Alexander Craig (referred to as Bill Craig) was born on 10 February 1925 at Hampton. We believe that Bill Craig came to our church after Rev. Lindsay Gorfine took the funeral of his wife, Audrey June Craig. Lindsay Gorfine took his first service at our church on 12 March 1986.

It was 77 years ago on 24 April 1943 that William Alexander Craig sailed with the 7th Australian Infantry Battalion for New Guinea. He was 19 years old – younger than most aboard the *Duntroon* that morning – and his head was swimming. "You'd seen all these horror pictures of the Kokoda Trail and all that business," he said from his room at Vasey RSL Care in Brighton East. "Then you see Australia drifting away – drifting, drifting 'til it disappears – and you think "oh ... ##"

The battalion found its war a year later on the island of Bougainville in the Solomon Sea. Mr Craig, now 96, moved from hill to hill through this "wild country" loading mortars to be fired at Japanese positions. Twenty-five of his battalion were killed and time has claimed most others. "I saw nobody for a long, long time," Mr Craig said. "But that's something you learn in the army. When it got dark in the jungle and you're in your dugout, or whatever it is, you can't just go walking down Swanston Street." His 7th Battalion captured 25 enemy positions in little more than two months in 1945 and, per the Australian War Memorial's history, "dominated the Japanese".

Mr Craig, pointing to the list of killed comrades printed on the latest 7th Battalion magazine, preferred more modest language. "We didn't do a lot, but it was a lot for these poor fellas," he said. Bill Craig was discharged from the Army as a Private on 11 December 1946. His posting at date of discharge was 7th Australian Infantry Battalion.



Bill Craig, Peg Utting and Geoff Williams at their Vasey RSL Care home in Brighton East. Photo: Simon Schluter



Geoff Williams, Peg Utting and Bill Craig at Vasey RSL Care in Brighton East. Photo: Simon Schluter

Bill was one of just two 7th Australian Infantry Battalion WWII veterans who attended its annual function among the descendants of other men at Middle Park Bowling Club on Anzac Day afternoon. The morning was spent in the courtyard at Vasey Brighton East, whose near-130 residents – almost all of them veterans or war widows – put on their own service each year with staff and families. This year will be particularly special for residents after Melbourne's COVID-19 lockdown shielded them from everyone but masked-and-gloved staff.

(Sources: Graeme Wood, "The Sunday Age", 25 April 2021, Ancestry.com and World War Two records).

Your Weekly Offering

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Thanks to everyone who have continued to make their weekly offering.

Envelopes: You may do this by putting your pledge in the envelopes and bring them to church when we restart Sunday services.

Direct Debit: (include your envelope number if applicable)

Payee "Uniting Church in Australia Cheltenham Mentone Parish Council", BSB 06 3119, Account Number 1014 1206

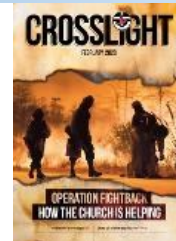


Bible Readings for May 2nd Easter 5 (the readings used in our service may differ slightly)

Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8

CROSSLIGHT is available on the internet - click on the following link or the CROSSLIGHT image to view online. www.crosslight.org.au

Print copies of CROSSLIGHT now available at the entrance of the Black Rock Uniting Church, NOT from the Manse verandah.



Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am (doors open 9:45 am)

If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on <https://zoom.us/support/download> Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85247373230?pwd=WIM2UHJEemFWS3RScnNqM3puaGdZdz09>



Otherwise open Zoom and enter the following - **Meeting ID: 852 4737 3230** **Passcode: 836844**

You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** (same as before) and entering the above meeting details. The above link and meeting details apply for all our services until the **December 26th 2021**.

Communion Next Sunday

Next Sunday being the first Sunday of the month we will be celebrating Holy Communion.

Since COVID-19 restrictions regarding food are still in place please remember to bring your own elements of grape juice and bread OR use the pre packaged elements provided OR you may choose to not partake in Communion and wait until we are able to serve the elements in the traditional manner.

Social Collection Department

BayCISS - collection of goods by Graeme & Joan Wood has recommenced. Leave goods with them at 66 Bernard St. Cheltenham, or call them on 9555 0463

Emerge - Financial help is the best way to help - Cheques to - GPO Box 420 Melbourne VIC 3001 or donate via the website www.emergesupport.org.au Emerge welcomes vouchers for supermarkets or art materials which children could use at home - materials, pencils, colouring books etc. Margaret Bode is happy to take items to the Moorabbin office if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale.



Videos on the internet

'Last Post'
'O Valiant'

We now have our own YouTube Channel. Click on the YouTube logo or

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCPNMmOZcLZG12hSd9-HiJCO>



Prayers of the People

We pray especially for -

Dawn's daughter Lynne
Barb Loosemoore
Bronwyn
Anita and Rod
Val and Peter
Meg Thompson
Bruce & Valda (*friends of Jo-ann & David*)

Jenny, Janine, Cec
and June Bartholomeusz
Audrey Fewster
Margaret's neighbour Joan
Gloria Sampson & Family
Grace Fairbank
Susan Bartell

Lourdes and her family
Gemma and Teresa
Heather (*daughter of close friend of Graeme & Joan*)
Tina and her two teenage sons (*also friends of Graeme & Joan*)

Join the conversation Thriving Mentally in COVID

Speaker: Psychologist Jeanette Phelan

Wednesday 5th May @ 7.30pm
Southern Community Church of Christ
2-12 Chesterville Road
Cheltenham VIC 3192
Cost: \$10

Enquiries & registration:
Customer Service on
9584 8499 or 1300 057 088
monique@southerncofc.org.au
before Monday 3rd May

Wednesday 2nd June: Anxiety & Depression



"Silence is a major part of music, and musicians must know when to play it."