



Watt's Happenings

Issue 5 - December 2020



Christmas Edition



Journal of the United Service Club Newcastle
Journal of the United Service Club Newcastle
since 1927

Watt's Happenings



**Issue 5
December 2020**

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In this Issue

- p1**
*Cover
- p2**
*Welcome New Members.
*Watt's Doing Now.
*AGM.
*Important notices.
- p3**
*Remembering Members.
Vittorio (Vic) Cattaneo.
- p4**
*Getting to know you.
*What we do.
* What we don't
- p5**
*Meet the Staff
*Social snaps
*Lynch's Hub ad.
- p6**
Thank you
* Remembrance
*Upcoming
- p7**
*Background to Artefacts
*Ramsland Laidler ad.
- p8**
*Bar news
*New Merchandise
*Win a club shirt
*Stop press
Christmas break dates.
*Sparke Helmore ad.
*Contact Us

2020 Watt's Doing Now

As is usual at USC, there has been a lot of activity behind the scenes: cleaning and repairing storm gutters and sub floor vents; car park maintenance and general maintenance, all completed by volunteers. A great deal of time has also been spent in research & planning relating to some major challenges.

One of these will be a working bee of huge proportions, pulling down the existing antiquated coolroom and replacing it with a modern efficient system. The timing is bad, this being one of the busiest times of the year for everyone, but as the beer lines will be out of action it needs to be completed during the Christmas break.

This will begin on Monday 21st December. It is a big ask in the lead-up to Christmas, but we need your help. If you are prepared to give a few hours of your time on that day or before the 25th and after Boxing Day.

We urge you to give Jason a call (see p8) as soon as possible so a roster can be organised.

**USC IS OPEN 3 EVENINGS
PER WEEK**

**Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
from 4:00 pm**

UNTIL THE CHRISTMAS BREAK
(Part of a 2 month trial)

Welcome August & September New Members

Joshua Robb
Scott Ambrose
Bradley Perrett
Christopher Whitehead

welcome back
Ian Downey

**At the going down of the sun, we will
remember them.**

Remembrance Day Last Post Observance
We've initiated a new USC tradition (p6).



Above: Ernie with Jason who had just finished setting up the table 'reserved to honour our fallen comrades'

OUR NEXT AGM

Postponed due to Social
Distancing.
DATE TO BE ADVISED

18 December is our last day of trading for 2020. All are welcome to join with friends in celebrating the coming Christmas break.

Remembering USC's Earlier Members

25 April each year is a day of double celebration for USC's Vittorio (Vic) Cattaneo

Anzac Day and Liberation Day (Anniversary of the Italian Resistance since 1949)

Vic is a former 'homo nobilis' (kind of knight), member of the Italian underground and after the war, President of the Youth Peace Movement in his home town of Voghera, near Milan.

February 2027 will be another double celebration for Vic

Both he and his club, the USC will be 100 years old!

page 3



Above: Vittorio wearing his WW11 campaign medals some years ago. The one with the ribbon rosette is the Liberty Medal (Resistance).

To mark the 75th Anniversary of the end of WW11, he received an impressive medal together with a certificate of thanks from both the Governor General of the Commonwealth and the Prime Minister of Australia.



Vic explains his War Experience:

'I was born a fascist. I had no idea of this or the politics until the Secret Police strode into my classroom, beat my professor and took him away.'

After this, the kids began to question surreptitiously, becoming aware that you didn't mention war or dictatorship if you wanted to stay alive.

'It was instances like this that began the Resistance. It was the teenagers and even younger children because most of the men were away at war.'

In 1959 the Italian President Giorgio Napolitano said in part: *'It (the resistance) was a people in arms, a courageous mobilization of young and very young citizens who rebelled against foreign power.'*

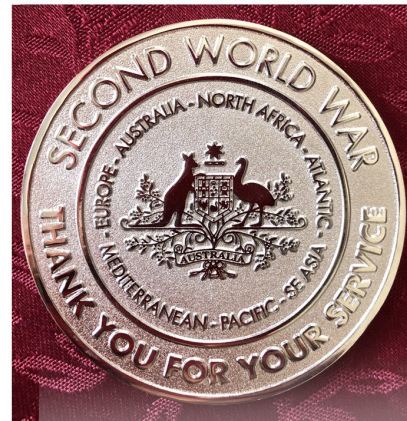
Vic Described his Teenage Years.

'At 14, I was compelled to work in a factory for war munitions alongside fascist spies. At 15 I had a German pass for getting to & from work after curfew hours. I took advantage of this to work for the underground gathering supplies and ammunition. I was caught, marched to jail, interrogated and kept there for half a day. I was lucky to survive the experience with only a broken nose & split lips.'

After this I was taken to work in a different area which was under continual bombardment. With no thought of joining the resistance, only wanting to survive, I ran away during an air strike. By 17 years of age I, Vittorio, was a Resistance Fighter.'

Resistance was carried out by workers in many different and dangerous ways; Heat treatment workers took the steel to the wrong temperatures, making it brittle - bang!' (e.g. gun barrels exploded); Workers calibrating pressure gauges set incorrect pressure margins - more bangs. (eg engine boilers -more explosions).

'Commanders of the Resistance secret army were English troops. At age 18, after the war, I joined the Allied Military Police. Their duty was to round up dangerous Fascists still at large. I had escaped wounding all through the war, but was shot once in the chest and once in the shoulder when confronting two Germans who wouldn't surrender.'



Vic's Life in Australia

In 1952 Vic arrived in Australia, being located at the abandoned US base at Little Beach Nelson Bay. He was educated through the BHP after labouring for them for 1 year: in-house 2 years studying English and then Minerology and Geology at the University of Newcastle. Vic met Margaret, a Newcastle hairdresser in 1964 and married her two years later. They have fascinating stories to tell about their gem hunting hobby.

UPCOMING

February 27
War Animals Day

Getting to Know You

Interviewing a USC Member

USC Member James Wallace

How did you find out about the USC? *'When Ramsland Laidler Solicitors rented downstairs office space in the building.'*

The reason for joining the club? *'As a firm and personally we loved the place and the support being given to WW2 diggers.'*

Asked when we might see James at the club, he laughed: *'Early openers'*. He followed that comment with more detail: *'Thursdays and Fridays from opening'*.



Above: James, Kacey & Sian having after work drinks. (back: Ernie & Chris)

Without prompting, James began rattling off a list of great times at the club then shrugged his shoulders: *'There are so many of them.'*

'My Brother Russell and his wife Jordan met right here. Their engagement party and post wedding party were here as well.'

'My son John has played music here.'

'My 40th birthday party.'

'The first Supercars - them all actually.'



Above: USC during 'Supercars', taken from across the street. Photo courtesy of USC Member Helen Cummings.



page 4

Above: The balcony hired as a catered function for supercars'.

USC doesn't serve food - but you are encouraged to bring your own or order in.

USC does screen sport

USC does functions - and can arrange catering . The downstairs kitchen is available for functions:

* in-house caterer; * cater for yourself; * order in.



Left: Sandra Hardy, Simon Lawrence, Max & Leo at their Farewell. They brought in their own food catered by 'Relish'.



Right : Paul George & Tepi McLaughlin

Below: Rhys and Amanda

Right: Michelle and Paul



Farewell Simon, Sandra, Max & Leo

Watt's not to Enjoy



Above: Ivy-Rose Laidler. The freezer, oven and pie warmer were quick & easy options for self-catering.



Right: Gayle McCullum and Roger McCivor called in for after dinner drinks.

Meet the Staff

Patrick (Pat) Halliday

'I've been involved with the USC for the last 10 years, ever since a chance conversation in 2010 with Wayne Matthews, a fellow member of Lowlands Bowling Club.

He told me about a possible job at USC for casual Barman.



The then Secretary Mark Metricus and past Secretary Roland Millbank interviewed me for the position which I held until the permanent barman resigned in 2011. I stepped into the job.

My duties have been really varied over the years. Some were related to my role as Barman and some as a functions officer, but I was also the unofficial general maintenance man for a lot of the time.

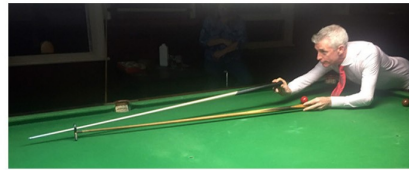
As the Barman, apart from looking after the bar, I was responsible for the banking and for purchasing of stock. I was also the cellarman from the beginning & still am.

On the Functions side of things, I launched the 'Salami Brothers' band, organised the ANZAC Day activities and organised the "Tired Old Bastards Luncheons".

After resigning from the Permanent Barman position I retained the Cellarman position and have continued to be available as Part Time Barman when needed.

I've been an active volunteer for the club in various working bees over the years up to and including the one held in April this year to renovate and restore the bar room.'

The Games Room



Above: Niall playing what is supposed to be the world's most skilled, absorbing, tactically subtle sport.



Above: Judy Lehneis and Niall Burns.



Above: Dean and Joel, regular snooker adversaries are just as competitive over a game of chess.



Right: Thanks to the generosity of Frontline Toys and Hobbies Broadmeadow, We have a dart-board! Thanks to Jason re-scheduling tasks, it's ready for use.



Above; Friday afternoon in the bar.



Left: USC Directors Ernie Thirkell and Phil Screen.



Lynch's Hub is our preferred catering partner for USC functions.

Support your club by holding your next function or event with us.

Request menu or grazing platter options from the bar manager or direct from Lynch's Hub on (02) 4925 2926



EXTENDING TO ALL USC VOLUNTEERS, SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS A HUGE THANK YOU

Club Secretary Jason Gladys and Director Ernie Thirkell have been going 'all-out' during the past 12 months with club restoration. Jason has also done much work at home to refurbish many artefacts.

Vicki Hill is a consistent volunteer, taking on tasks as varied as washing venetians, framing and hanging photos, polishing brass and proof reading newsletters.

Ivy-Rose Laidler, Matt Guyder, James Wallace, and Mansell Laidler, thank you for your assistance, initiative and general support whenever needed.

Andrew Hill and Chauncey Odams can regularly be seen volunteering their time picking up glasses and being COVID marshalls. They both have already put their hands up for the 'cool room working Bee' in December.



Above: COVID marshall Andrew

Thanks also go to 'Frontline Hobbies Broadmeadow'. During their recent staff function at the USC the consensus was that a games room needs a dart board. Subsequently they have gifted one. Getting it mounted and usable ASAP became Jason's top priority.

Thanks to Kim Laidler for gifting the Centenary Of Gallipoli - Sands Of Gallipoli (SOG) - 'Their Spirit Figurine'. Already a valued artefact which will enhance the Gallipoli Exhibit.



Above: Mansell and Ivy-Rose Laidler with the 'Their Spirit' figurine.

Directors Brett Hodges, Phil Screen and members Keith Brennan, Peter Green have gifted much appreciated copies of their photos of some special Service moments.

Currently this set of Brett's photos is on display in the bar. Soon a similar set to fit these frames will be compiled from each of the photo donors. The sets will be displayed on a rotation basis.



Remembrance Day - 11 November 2020

Official Remembrance Day Services 2020 COVID 19 restrictions, caused them to be invitation only.

11th hour of the 11th Day of the 11th month. Many club members were limited to watching live broadcasts.

USC ESTABLISHED A NEW TRADITION

The Last Post Service for the 'Unknown Soldier'.
USC played the Live stream from the Australian War Memorial. (4:55pm).

Roll of Honour
Australian War Memorial copy. (4pt font).

USC Remembrance Board
Personalised 'poppy cards'.

page 6

**Always in place
Lest We Forget**

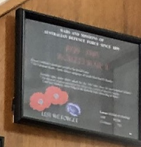
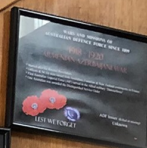
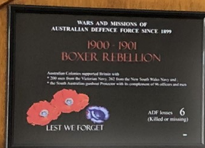
20 stairwell frames
ADF losses (killed or missing) in the wars & conflicts since the turn of last century & in peace keeping operations.

Right: Peter Prewett searching the Honour Roll for names of fallen comrades.

Right: Matt set up the live feed.



Above right: Matt posted 2 Poppies (for a grandmother and a grandfather, both WW2 vets.)



Background Surrounding Our Artefacts

Navy Corner- A tribute to The Royal Australian Navy, the naval branch of the Australian Defence Force.

Further reading: <https://www.navy.gov.au/about-royal-australian-navy>



Above: Navy Corner featuring paintings of ships, ship plaques and a deck light

1. SHIP PAINTINGS:

HMAS Darwin & HMAS Newcastle

HMAS Darwin
Commissioned 21 July 1984
Decommissioned 9 Dec 2017

Deployed to the Persian Gulf
5 times: 1990, 1991, 1992,
2002, and 2004.

Battle Honours
'East Timor 1999',
'Persian Gulf 2003-03',
'Iraq 2003'.



Above: HMAS Darwin in the Persian Gulf (Gulf War 1990-1991) by Jeff Isaacs.

HMAS Newcastle

Commissioned: 11 December 1993.
Decommissioned: 30 June 2019

Battle Honours:

- * 1999 -2000 East Timor
- * 2001 - 2003 Persian Gulf
- * 2003 – 2014 Middle East

Duties

- * Undersea Warfare
- * Over the Horizon Targeting
- * Surveillance
- * Boarding Support
- * Search and Rescue (SAR)
- * Utility Operations



Above: HMAS Newcastle FFG 06 painted by Tom Freeman 2008

Featuring a decommissioning badge, this framed painting is a 'thank you' gift from the decommissioning crew 2019. It has been signed on behalf of the crew by the Captain and Senior Commissioned Officers.

2. SHIP PLAQUES

Ship crests, also known as plaques or ship's badges, are allocated to each unit or ship in Her Majesty's fleet and feature a design specific to each ship. These are usually given out as gifts by each ship's Captain to visiting dignitaries but are also keepsakes for retired sailors or Officers. The USC has plaques from more ships which can later be used on rotation to replace those currently displayed.

3. DECK LIGHT from HMAS Adelaide

We don't know who sponsored USC by gifting it, when this occurred or which HMAS Adelaide it is from.

It was in the games room un-noticed and in a neglected condition for years.

There have been three ships by that name:



HMAS Adelaide (I)

Launched 27 July 1918
Decommissioned 13 May 1946
Fittings & equipment sold 1947.

HMAS Adelaide (II)

ordered in the late 1970s.
decommissioned 19 Jan 2008.
fittings removed.
sunk as a dive wreck.

HMAS Adelaide (III)

Commissioned 4 December 2015

Battle honours Inherited:

- * Pacific 1941-43
- * East Indies 1942
- * East Timor 1999
- * Persian Gulf 2001-02
- * Middle East 2003-2014

RAMSLAND LAIDLER Solicitors

Contact Mark Ramsland, Mansell Laidler, James Wallace, and the team at Ramsland Laidler Solicitors for all your legal needs.

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Chambers on Watt

Suite 1, Ground Floor, 57 Watt Street Newcastle NSW 2300

Ph: 4929 7979 Fax: 4915 0047 Email: admin@ramslan.com.au

STOP PRESS

Bar open from 4pm

- Wednesdays
(trial to 18/12/20),
- Thursdays, Fridays.

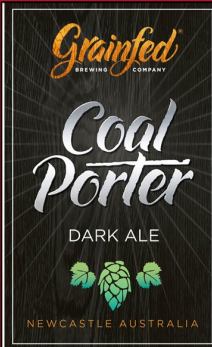
December bookings:

- Saturdays booked out;
- Some mid-week still available.

ph Cath 0401 802 894



"Australian Craft Beer"



'our beer is fed by grain'.

SPINIFEX
BREWING CO

F88 PREMIUM LAGER



50% OF PROFITS RAISED FROM F88 LAGER WILL BE DONATED TO VETERANS CHARITIES.



"For the love of beer"

XMAS BREAK

The USC
will be closed
for business
from
December 18 2020
to
January 14 2021



Andrew Knight is a Partner at local Hunter law firm Sparke Helmore and is also a member of the USC.

He specialises in property law and estate planning and can help you with wills, trusts, powers of attorney and guardianships as well as assist you in preparing a comprehensive estate plan.

You can contact him on andrew.knight@sparke.com.au or call him on (02) 4924 7606

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Explore your Club

A bit of fun & a bottle of wine up for grabs!

- * Collect an answer slip from the bar.
- * Fill in:
 - name & contact
 - What is it? - In what room is it?
- * Drop the slip into the box on the bar
- * First correct answer drawn 18 Dec 2020 gets the wine.

WIN A CLUB POLO

1 ticket:
per person per visit
Drawn:
December 18
@ 8:00 pm.

CONTACT US

Address: 55 Watt St, Newcastle, 2300, NSW
Mob: 0401 802 894

Bar Manager:
Catherine Fidock-Jones
cjjones5@optusnet.com.au
Secretary:
Jason Gladys
jasgladys@yahoo.com.au

