



Issue 6
February 2021

Watt's Happenings



Bar
Lounge
Club Museum
Snooker & Darts

United Service Club Newcastle

Since 1927



2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Ernie Thirkell
 Vice President: MAJ Simon Macks (Retd)
 Hon. Secretary: WO2 Jason Gladys (Retd)
 Hon. Assistant Secretary: Andrew Hill
 Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Joel N. Griffiths BCom CA
 Director: WO2 Brett Hodgetts
 Director: Phil Screen
 Director: David Thomas
 Director: James Wallace

2021-2022 PATRONS

BRIG Derek Sharp (Ret) OBE
 MAJ Roland MILLBANK (Ret)

<https://www.facebook.com/USCNewcastle/unitedserviceclub.wildapricot.org/>

Congratulations to the newly elected 2021 Board of Directors

2021 Watt's Doing Now

We are already one month into 2021 and there is a great deal to report on.

The scheduled replacement of our antiquated cool room went ahead as planned, however removal of the old cool room revealed extensive water damage to the floor beneath it.

Replacing floor joists, planking, out-dated plumbing and having changes made to electrical wiring became an essential pre-requisite to completing the original project.



Above: Years of water damage & an old fireplace revealed.



Above: Water logged, rotted flooring.



Above: Most of the below floor 'mess' cleared & new floor joists laid.



Welcome New Members, December & January

David Butcher Mark Jordan
 Gary Fox Stephen Mount

Weeks of back-breaking work by Jason Gladys & his "apprentice" Ernie Thirkell resulted in removal of: old motors from the top of cool room; damaged floor and; 6" of rubble. As one task was attacked, a new one emerged! See p3 for the labourers.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To Members of the United Service Club, Newcastle,

Firstly, on your behalf I would like to thank our retiring President Greg Tyler and Vice President Tony Mather for their years of dedicated service to the Club.

Secondly, I want thank you for electing me to serve you. I appreciate the trust and overwhelming support that you, our Club Members have granted to me with this leadership role.

I promise you, as President I will do my very best to listen to and address your concerns, and ensure transparency.

There are still many obstacles. But it is up to us the new board to continue the work of our predecessors to overcome them. With commitment it is do-able.

You need have no doubt that the new Board will continue to honour our history and traditions.

Ernie Thirkell

Remembering / Introducing USC's Earlier Members

Major Roland Millbank (Ret.) USC Patron and Past Secretary.

Roland Millbank USC's 26th Honorary Life Member 22 January 2021



Above: Still stunned by the Award, Roland posed with Immediate Past President Greg Tyler

In the role of club historian, Roland has spent much time compiling our records of artefacts, history and photos. In 2015 he researched with Kelly Griffin to publish the booklet "Celebrating 100 Years of ANZAC. A tribute to our founding members." He produced a compilation of early USC documents (summary 1927-2018) and is currently working toward producing a USC 100 Year Anniversary book due for publication in 2027.

Roland's military career began in Great Britain in the Air Training Corps and Royal Observer Corps.

He emigrated to Australia in the early 60's, established a career as a Mechanical Engineer and joined the CMF (Army Reserve), being promoted to Major in 1986.

Roland has held a number of high-profile civilian positions including: Industrial Officer for the NSW government and, Secretary/ Treasurer for the Hunter Economic Development corporation in 1999.

Concurrently in the CMF he was on the personal staff of Chief of Division Electrical & Mechanical Engineers. In 1988 he was awarded the Reserve Force Medal (R.F.M.) and in 2015, the Australian Defence Medal.

Retired from Military service, Roland served on a long list of associated committees, among them: Defence Reserves Association (Australia); 13th Battalion AIF (Gallipoli Flag Restoration) Committee; Christ Church Cathedral Heritage (Birdwood Flag) Committee; Battle for Australia – Newcastle Commemorative Committee Inc.; Reserve Forces Day – Newcastle Committee; Lord Mayor of Newcastle's Ex-Service Committee.

Having joined the USC in 2004 as an Ordinary Member Roland volunteered in many ways such as organising the regular Thursday TOB lunches.

He joined the Board in 2005 and has been elected Honorary Secretary on two occasions, 2007-2010 & 2011-2016. When the incumbent Secretary relocated, Roland graciously took on the role in a temporary capacity, until the 2019 elections.

He was club Licensee from 2007 to 2019, constructed the Member's Database & in 2013 organised a Pictorial Assets Register.

He has also served on committees for three separate branches of the RSL of NSW: Burwood Sub Branch; Pelican Flats Sub Branch and; Merewether-Hamilton-Adamstown Sub Branch.

In addition to working on projects with military orientation, Roland has made huge contributions to the community in general.

These include his being: a Justice of the Peace; a volunteer for Marine Rescue NSW Lake Macquarie and; Associate Member of the Newcastle Liquor Accord.

He worked on the Institution of Engineers Australia Plastic Landmines De-Mining Project; served on the Newcastle Business Club Committee; The Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School (IAESS) Committee and Royal Humane Society of NSW Inc. Committee during which time he was Overseas Representative (Sri Lanka). In 2019 he made Life Member of the Royal Society.

Roland's Publications:

2008 - Military of the Hunter, A History of Citizen Defence Forces of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley 1855-2005 (co-author).

2010 – Military Treasures of Christ Church Cathedral Newcastle.

2015 - Skilfully Drilled, A History of the Australian Instruction corps 1921-1925.

2020 Nothing in Newcastle Stands Still, The story of the ANZAC Memorial Walkway.



Above: 11-11-2020, Roland presenting a copy of his 2nd book to Australian author Paul Ham.

2021 the Centenary of Air Force.

From its modest beginnings in 1921, Air Force has grown into a potent, world class Air Force which Australia relies upon in both conflict and peace.

Getting to Know You

Interviewing USC member Ross Proctor



How did you find out about USC: "In 2006 or 2007 when Mark Metrikas invited Dave (Spike) McKaskill and me to have a beer at the Orient Hotel to discuss an exclusive club he had discovered and which was in need of saving."

Why did you become a member?

'Seeing the need to preserve the memorabilia and ethos of this club with military heritage back to 1927, we decided to join up and help.'

When are we likely to see you in the club?

'When I am in Newcastle, most Friday nights.'

Favourite times at USC?

Trafalgar Day Lunches



Above: Ross ready to MC a USC Trafalgar Day Luncheon

Pre-dinner drinks on the way to balls at the RAAF base.

Mark, Spike and Ross worked at the base and booked a bus to muster ball-goers for a stop-off at the USC on the way.



Right: Andrea & Ross on the way to a Halloween Ball at the RAAF base.

The Salami Brothers

- Originally Ainsley nights (she played records on the turntable).
- Then Karaoke nights.
- Then John, Nialls & Gary (one Friday per month)- The Salami Brothers.

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USC does functions & can arrange catering

The kitchen is available for functions:

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

In the Lounge

Right: A Snooker Christmas party - way to go!!!



Above & Right: The team from Defence Housing went all out for a self-catered christmas celebration and a game of snooker!



Above: Electronic Security Technologies, just finishing up as the music started



Above: TGIF Book Club 'ordered in' for their christmas get-together.

Philanthropic dinner -All for a good cause

On Saturday 30th January, Lynch's Hub hosted a 3 course 'table de hote dinner' in the upstairs lounge. Cabana Beach Kiosk at Narrabeen received all ticket sale proceeds, made possible because of volunteers/donations,

Lynch's donations: the produce & their staff: their time.

USC donations: use of the facilities and;

Secretary Jason & Club Manager Catherine: their time (assist in running this event & manning the bar).

images will be included in the next issue.

Law Society Meeting, catered by Lynch's HUB.



Meet the Staff
Kursty Ross



Kursty, a working mum with two kids (21 & 16) is a local, born and educated in Newcastle.

She's not only Manager at National Tiles Warners Bay which mainly involves working directly with builders on Design and Construction work for Bathrooms and Kitchens, she's studying it at Uni as well!

Kursty was introduced to her casual work at USC via our Bar Manager Cath when we needed more staff for functions and then for Supercars.

She has put her hand up when volunteers have been needed during weekends, including the two day working bee last April to repair and refurbish the bar room.

The Bar - Watt's not to enjoy ?

Right: USC members Judy, David, Chris, Marilyn and past director Esther Price.



Below: Russell



Below: Paul, Byron, Jason



Games Room - darts - snooker - fun



Below: John, Hugh Mark. Brett & John didn't all fit in!!



Above: Mick, Lachlan, John, Tim, Sean



Above: Mel & Brian

'Crash Test Drama Hunter'

In the Lounge 4 December 2020

Great timing - 10 minute performances & breaks!



Above: Best play- I've Been Robbed was written by Jeff Tabley.



Above: Patricia and Amie. Voted People's Choice Best Actors.

The prize? Winners split the \$15 entry fee for Audience, Directors, Writers & Actors.

7pm Friday 5 February it's on again.

support the locals, be entertained & enjoy a drink or two. Anyone wanting to compete can contact Jeff Tabley.

jtabley@yahoo.com 0432376672

7 pm In the Lounge **LYNCH'S** Friday of each month.



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

Board service is one of the toughest volunteer roles. The valuable contributions of our Board Members is gratefully recognised.

Directorship of the USC is honorary. Some of our directors are our most consistent & dedicated volunteers.

For stocktaking, thank you to five members of the 2020-2021 Board (Jason Gladys & Ernie Thirkell, Greg Tyler, Tony Mather and Simon Macks) and to Pat Halliday, Cath Jones and Gloria Thirkell.

Thanks also to the same men as well as David Thomas and James Wallace who together made the new cool room a reality.



Above: David & James enjoying the product of their labour, with Geoff, a regular volunteer.



Above: work extended to the outside.

Renovating the coolroom snowballed: New window sashes, plumbing, improvements to car park drainage.

Thanks to regular patron Jeff Tabley who put a paintbrush to work on our rented office space while the cool room and associated problems were addressed. **page 6**

Huge thanks from the members to Jason, Simon and Brett for getting the Lounge set up for the AGM!

All those chairs carried across the car park, upstairs and set them out where needed! Jason, Ernie and Gloria returned everything to storage.

UPCOMING

February 27
War Animals Day

Would you help if you knew how? Please let Jason know (p8)



Above: Jason, Olivia, Saly, Ella, Cooper, Rachel, Chris, Heather, Suzie, Damien

Honorary Life Membership

(In Thanks)

The United Service Club Newcastle recognises

Honorary Life Membership

as the most prestigious award available to the Club.

It is bestowed upon individual Members who have provided exceptional, loyal and outstanding service and contribution to the Club over an extended period of time.

Recent Functions

We thank all those who have organised functions at USC over the past two months and look forward to their revisits.

Christmas Parties

- * Defence Housing;
- * Electronic Security Technologies;
- * TGIF Book Club.

Philanthropic dinner

- * Lynch's HUB in support of Cabana Beach Kiosk.

Business Meetings

- * Hunter Business Network;
- * Newcastle Law Society.

Birthday Party

- * Tracy Whitehead hosted her 50th with 60 very happy guests!

Thanks for sharing photos!

To those members who have donated photos from their military deployments, both in war zones and in UN Peacekeeping.

Currently this set of Keith Brennan's photos is on display in the bar. It replaces the set donated by Brett Hodgett. Soon a similar display donated by Peter Green will be compiled.



Above: Keith Brennan's photos

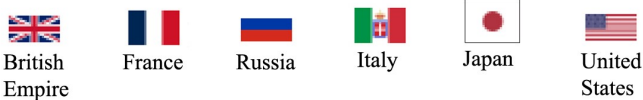
Background Surrounding Our Artefacts

Visitors are always amazed at the variety and number of historical artefacts on display in a club whose existence most had been unaware of. We're encouraging members and regular patrons to have a wander around to reacquaint with the Club's treasures.

'The Ugly Frame'

as it is affectionately known by members, was donated to the USC in 2014 by past Secretary Jonathon (Jonno) Finch.

According to his first hand account: It previously hung in the Woolamooloo Memorial Hall; It's hand sewn and of WW1 origin; Purported to represent all Allied countries in that conflict. The flags of the principal countries are below



Jonno supplied some interesting snippets of information relating to his aquisition of the frame. He recalls that it came up for sale at \$10,000 but when it hadn't sold 12 months later his offer of \$1,000 was accepted.



There are two frames in particular which attract a great deal of interest, conjecture and discussion. One of these is in the Bar below the TV. The other is at the car park end of the Lounge.

2018 Photo - France

At first glance many mistake this to be an early photo of the USC. The second glance incites curiosity as visitors notice that the photo is of a large number of servicemen and a single nurse is a bombed out building.

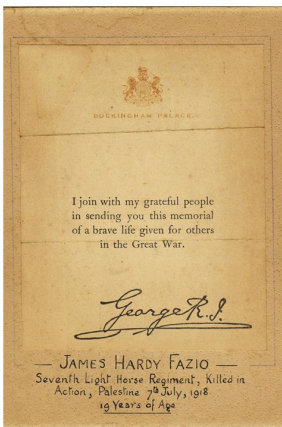
The photo was taken by Bombadier Edward Applebee Gaffney 3rd Field Artillery Brigade in France on 12 May 1918. It appears as a colour illustration in the book 'The Diggers View WW1' by Juan Mahony.



Above: We're not sure who donated this or in what year.

Left: Understandably, considering its age, there is some minor repair needed to the back of the frame.

A New Gift of an Old Artefact



This copy of a message from King George V, with James Hardy Fazio's details is presumed to have been framed for display at the time by relatives.

It is currently being framed along with a short biography and a copy of details of James Hardy Fazio's headstone in the Commonwealth War Graves section of Jerusalem War Cemetery.

In memory of Madeline's Great Uncle, Immediate Past President Greg Tyler (2013-2021) and Madeline Tyler (nee Fazio) are currently having the message, a short biography and a copy of the Commonwealth War Graves headstone in Jerusalem, framed for presentation to the USC.

RAMSLAND LAIDLER Solicitors

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

Specialising in:

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- Wills & Estates
- Dust Disease & General Practice

Chambers on Watt

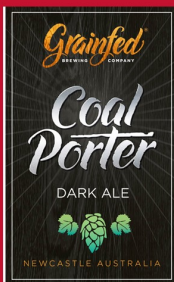
Suite 1, Ground Floor, 57 Watt Street Newcastle NSW 2300
 Ph: 4929 7979 Fax: 4915 0047 Email: admin@ramsland.com.au

STOP PRESS

*Volunteers needed 4
WORKING BEE.
Strongroom clearout
Saturday 20 February
Contact Catherine.

* Currently
**NO WEDNESDAY
TRADING**

* Wednesday Trading will
resume:
when TRIVIA can be
organised.



'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"

Planning a Function?

There's no better venue than
Your Club, USC
Phone Catherine to compare.

WHO WON A CLUB POLO last day of trading 2020



Nick Jameson

Explore your Club

- What is it?
- In what room
did you find it?
- Answer slips
at the bar
- Completed answer slips
go into the box on the bar.

Winner of the December competition



Left: Nathan Cayirylys found &
identified the Brass Kangaroo.

Below Left: Kangaroo, WW1
artefact located in the lounge.



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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HELMORE**
LAWYERS

www.sparke.com.au

For a bottle of
wine



* One entry
per visit.

*Winner:
1st correct answer
Drawn:
9 March 2021

CONTACT US

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

Bar Manager:
Catherine Fidock-Jones
cjones5@optusnet.com.au
Secretary:
Jason Gladys
jasgladys@yahoo.com.au

