

# *Parthian Shot*

**348th Edition**

**Jan.—Feb. 2024**

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Phil Brown

Vic Lane

Les Lewis

Mark Reed

Phil Smith

## Newsletter Editor

Sue Rawlings

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## **The Editor**

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Approved Collector Status as per Section 28 (2) 1996 Firearms Act.  
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## MISSION STATEMENT

To work in a responsible and constructive manner with Government and the Community to explore innovative ways to achieve the Association's Aims and Objectives

- To promote and encourage a responsible preservation of collections of historical and antique artefacts for future generations.
- To foster and promote a public awareness and importance to preserve our heritage and history for all times.
- To preserve and promote a responsible maintenance and collection of Australian military memorabilia in particular and associated items in general.
- To encourage responsible collectors to maintain and preserve historical and antique firearms.
- To explore innovative ways of assisting collectors in the maintenance of their interests for the future.

Meetings are held on the 2nd. Tuesday of each month at the Quarry Hill Community Hall, Hamlet St., Bendigo from 7.30 pm for 8pm start  
New Members and Visitors welcome.

## EXECUTIVE

President	Greg Penna	0427 400 930
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Treasurer & Membership Sec.	Richard Penna	03 5443 3549
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## Presidents Report February 2024

Hi Troops,

Well, here we are again,

The Committee has discussed about renewing our Club Constitution, as it is over 10 years old and the Rules and Format has changed, so we will form a subcommittee to look into this matter. If any member has any good ideas for the proposed constitution, please let a committee member know, so we can consider it. We know for a fact that Memberships will be tightened up, and new member applications have a few more i's dotted, and t's crossed.

Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> Feb will be a Collectors shoot. One point is that the range fees have gone up to \$25 per shooter, a big jump but that's the price you pay for the costs associated with the great venue.

No Australia Day reports this year as the Club didn't display at Lake Weeroona as we were not contacted early enough to gauge member interest, so did not attend due to that fact, but will reconsider in 2025.

GCCA Annual Show. Well looks like it will be a goer again for August this year, so watch this space. Several traders have already contacted us for show dates to add to their permit. FYI it is always held on the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of the August (not necessarily the last).

AGM to elect a new Committee will happen this Tuesday 13 Feb, so the next Presidents report may not be mine. I know a few current Committee members may not be continuing, as they have different priorities and health concerns. Hopefully a few new younger faces.

Xmas BBQ was enjoyed by about 30 or 40 members; always a great social event and I know members enjoy it.



As this is our first newsletter for the year, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year, and for any of our members and partners who are not well, our thoughts are with you.

Again, leave this with you, keep collecting and keep smiling.

Gee Pee (Greg Penna)

## Before they were robots

Welcome to the world of **17th-century automata**: breathtaking devices of clockwork and porcelain, gold and silk, robots before the word was ever spoken.

The word "robot" didn't make an appearance in our vocabulary until the 1920s, but, long before we had a word for them, we knew what they were.

In fact, for centuries, humans had been entertaining a fascination with the mechanical — and building magnificent and ingenious objects of clockwork, gears and weights that mimicked the appearance and movements of life.

Rich people have always liked strange toys — and, while we can appreciate the loveliness and extraordinary craftsmanship of these circa-1820 "singing bird pistols" by the Brothers Rochat, there's a small voice saying, "But what is it for?" Nevertheless, they're ingenious bits of clockwork, and the only known matching pair in existence.



The pistols — which sold for US\$5,866,499 at Christies in 2011 — are crafted of gold, enamel, pearl, diamonds, brass, and agate. When you pull the trigger, a tiny, feathered mechanical bird pops out of the barrel and tweets a song, flapping its wings and "dancing". The whistling mechanism has been constructed to replicate birdsong as closely as possible, and the result is stunning.



Automata are moving mechanical devices, often taking the shapes of humans or animals. You might remember the 2011 Martin Scorsese movie "Hugo" about a broken automaton in the form of a man that writes with a pen.

Another one of these amazing pistols arrived at the watchmaker, Parmigiani Fleurier, in very poor condition in early 2014. Parmigiani Fleurier is a noted high-end watchmaker. It also runs a restoration shop to bring old watches back to life. Not content with just timepieces, the company took on the unusual project of restoring a crazy-ornate 200-year-old pistol. Parmigiani Fleurier describes this process as "setting [the pistol] free from the torments of time."

In 2016, after twelve months' work, Parmigiani Fleurier revived a unique object from the Sandoz family collection, a double-barrelled pistol, and its songbird. This rare automaton was created, probably around 1815, by the famous Rochat Brothers using a design based on a cavalry pistol.



When the hammer is cocked, pulling the trigger releases a brightly feathered songbird out of the muzzle instead of a gunshot ball. The bird pirouettes, opens its beak, turns its head, flaps its tail and wings, all the time singing a beautiful melody, before vanishing as amazingly as it appeared.



Unfortunately, before it fell into the hands of the Parmigiani Fleurier restorers, this beautiful clockwork had sustained damage to most components. The passage of time had affected the mechanism and, over the decades, no less than six interventions had been carried out on the artefact. Most of these were hasty and defective and ended up deforming the piece as a whole.

The Parmigiani Fleurier restorers had to start from scratch unravelling the mysteries of the mechanism one by one. They remodelled every part of the pistol, from the gears to the enamel and the feathers of the bird.

After that one-year revival, the masterpiece has been faithfully returned to its former form. Enjoy this treat to your eyes and ears! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aW6aMh\\_B3DA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aW6aMh_B3DA)

The world of television is mourning the loss of a beloved veteran actor, [Jack Hogan](#), who passed away at the age of 94.



Combat! - Jack Hogan as Private Kirby | Hero movie, Kelly's heroes, 1960s tv shows

Hogan, best known for his role in the World War II series *Combat!*, has died of natural causes at his home on Bainbridge Island, Washington, on December 6, his son West confirmed.

Born Richard Roland Benson, Jr. on November 24, 1929, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Hogan's journey to stardom was as fascinating as the characters he portrayed on screen.

He initially studied architecture in college before joining the Air Force and serving in the Korean War, where he rose to the rank of staff sergeant.

After his military service, Hogan pursued his passion for acting, studying drama in New York.

Hogan worked as a lifeguard to make ends meet until he landed his breakthrough role in *Combat!*



Hogan's portrayal of Private First Class William G Kirby in *Combat!* from 1962 to 1967, which followed a squad of American soldiers fighting in France during the Second World War, earned him widespread recognition and acclaim.

Hogan's acting career spanned several decades, with appearances in numerous TV shows and films.

He guest-starred in popular shows through the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, including *The*

*Adventures of McGraw*, *Broken Arrow*, and *Cheyenne*. He also took on another military role as Sergeant Jerry Miller on NBC's *Adam-12*.

On the big screen, Hogan made his debut in *Man from Del Rio* in 1956. He went on to feature in *The Bonnie Parker Story* (1958), *Para troop Command* (1959), *The Legend of Tom Dooley* (1959), and *The Cat Burglar* (1960).



In the early 1980s, Hogan moved to Hawaii and supervised his building business. During this time, he found a recurring role on *Jake and the Fatman* and worked as a casting director on *Magnum, P.I.*, further showcasing his versatility in the entertainment industry.

Hogan remained active in the industry until 1993, appearing in the TV series *Raven* in two episodes in two separate roles.

In his later years, he moved back to Chapel Hill, NC, where he reportedly enjoyed poetry, reading, painting, and fishing.

Hogan's personal life was as colourful as his career.

He was married to Playboy model and actress Joyce Nizzari from 1967 to 1980. He later married Barbara Bates. Hogan is survived by his first wife, daughter Tehani Hogan, son West, granddaughter Kai, and grandson Skyler.

Although the Red Rock Auction mentioned in this article took place in December 2023, as promised in the last newsletter, here is another article on the Hollywood guns, post-auction. Too late to buy them, but not too late to enjoy reading about them.

## TOM SELLECK'S GUNS

The Hollywood guns of the beloved star of “Magnum P.I.” and [“Quigley Down Under”](#) are both related to those roles. Selleck is an avid shooter and collector, and Rock Island Auction has had the privilege of offering guns from his collection in previous auctions.

The iconic Shiloh-Sharps Model 1874 single shot falling block rifle is just as Matthew Quigley described it in the 1990 movie with a 34-inch barrel, “Usual barrel length's thirty inches. This one has an extra four. It's converted to use a special forty-five calibre, hundred-and-ten-grain metal cartridge, with a five-hundred-forty-grain paper patch bullet. It's fitted with double-set triggers, and a Vernier sight, marked up to twelve-hundred yards. This one shoots a mite further.”

The rifle also has a custom patch box in the stock and has a 15 ¼-inch length of pull to fit the lanky 6-foot, 4-inch Selleck. The gun was custom “antiqued” for the movie. Selleck took possession of the three rifles made for the movie and donated the one on offer to National Rifle Association in 2006 for a fundraising raffle.



*This Shiloh Sharps Model 1874 single shot falling block rifle is one of three made for the 1990 film “Quigley Down Under” starring Tom Selleck as the titular cowboy. An accompanying letter states the rifles were sent to MGM Grade of Hollywood, California and that it has a fitted buttstock to accommodate Selleck’s longer length of pull. It has a hooded post and ball front and semi-buckhorn folding ladder rear sight as well as double set triggers and an adjustable Vernier tang-mounted peep sight.*

While Quigley didn’t have much use for pistols, Thomas Magnum certainly did. A three-gun set made for Selleck from the Colt Custom Shop will be available in December. He ordered the guns to commemorate the CBS show, writing in an accompanying letter “that literally

changed my life.” The guns bear special serial numbers signifying his hugely successful role as the Hawaiian investigator. A Special Combat Government Model bears MAGNUM-1, while a Special Combat Officer’s Model is marked MAGNUM-2, and a Mark V Series 80 Mustang is MAGNUM-3.

The guns were loaned to the NRA Firearms Museum for display that included Hollywood guns like the Smith & Wesson Model 29 from “Dirty Harry,” and a Beretta 92FS from “Die Hard.” The guns are accompanied by a letter of thanks from the museum to Selleck for the loan of the pistols, as well as a copy of “Hollywood Guns: An NRA National Firearms Museum Production.”

Rock Island Auction was privileged to sell the factory engraved and inlaid Colt Combat Commander pistol, serial number MAGNUM4 in May 2023 for \$19,975.



*Tom Selleck’s three pistols from the Colt Custom Shop have special serial numbers, with floral scroll engraving on a punch-dot background over 50 percent of each gun. The serial numbers on each gun are gold inlaid. The guns are a Special Combat Government Model (MAGNUM-1 serial number), a Special Combat Officers’ Model (MAGNUM-2), and an MkV Series 80 Mustang (MAGNUM-3).*

**The Guns of Tom Selleck**



Tom Selleck Colt Open Top Revolver



Tom Selleck Colt Single Action Army revolver with ivory grips



Tom Selleck Winchester Model 1886 carbine



Tom Selleck Winchester Model 1887 shotgun



Tom Selleck Winchester Model 1887 shotgun

**The Guns of Tom Selleck**



Tom Selleck Colt Open Top Revolver



Tom Selleck Colt Single Action Army revolver with ivory grips



Tom Selleck Henry Rifle



Tom Selleck Richards Conversion revolver

These 11 guns are housed in a NRA Museum!



Tom Selleck Henry Rifle



Tom Selleck Richards Conversion revolver



The 2024 Victorian duck hunting season will go ahead after a parliamentary inquiry was shot down.

The Victorian government's [green light to the 2024 duck hunting season](#) is a "dark day for native wildlife", according to one Bendigo region advocate.

Animal Justice Party member for Northern Victoria Georgie Purcell labelled the season's go-ahead, despite a Labor-led inquiry recommending the activity be banned, as "politics at its very worst".

"This government is gutless, spineless and should be ashamed," Ms Purcell said.

In August, a parliamentary inquiry called for recreational duck hunting [to be banned across all Victorian public and private land](#) from 2024.

The recommendation was rejected after Premier Jacinta Allan and ministers met on Monday, January 29. "Duck hunting is a legitimate activity - but more than that, it supports regional communities and economies," Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos said.

"Our position has not changed and we're supporting recreational duck and quail hunting to continue in a safe, sustainable and responsible way with minimal harm to our environment."

Ms Purcell said Ms Allan and Mr Dimopoulos had "blood on their hands".

**Inquiry based in 'science and data sets': councillor [Loddon Shire councillor Dan Straub](#)** said he trusted the findings of the inquiry, which heard the views of more than 10,000 Victorians and organisations, was based in "science and the data sets". "[Advocates] would like you to think that the whole 10,000 were against the hunting practice, but that's not the case," Cr Straub said. "We have seen some tremendous years for duck breeding practices and habitat rejuvenation to bolster the argument of a sustainable duck hunting season."

Ms Purcell said Ms Allan and Mr Dimopoulos had "blood on their hands". Picture by Darren Howe



A daily bag limit of six ducks and a ban on hunting the Blue-winged Shoveler and Hardhead due to their threatened status would be brought in for the 2024 season.

There would also be "common sense" changes to approaches to hunting by 2025 which included mandatory hunter training and greater recognition of Traditional Owners' knowledge of hunting and land management.

"These changes acknowledge there are clear problems, yet they are letting a season proceed without them even in place," Ms Purcell said. "They have upped the duck kill by two birds a day and extended the season by a month on last year, with the evidence in hand that this is guaranteed to drive up the wounding rate."

### **'Held to ransom' by union, gun lobby.**

Another Castlemaine-based group, Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting Inc, said the result of the inquiry showed the Victorian government was "held to ransom by a few union leaders, and the gun lobby".

While Cr Straub acknowledged the campaign was "helped by the contribution from the union movement", he said the government's decision to continue duck hunting was "sensible".

"And we've got to remember that the unions are made of tradespeople who love recreational past times and hunting is a big part of that," he said.

"I wouldn't say 'held to ransom'. I think it's people standing up for what they believe and what they like to do when they're not on the tools."

Ms Purcell vowed to continue her advocacy against duck hunting, which was already banned in Western Australia, New South Wales, and Queensland.

"We will not give up," she said. "I'll be out on the wetlands in April - just as I've done for the past 10 years."





The Victorian government has disregarded its own inquiry's recommendation to ban duck hunting. (Diego Fedele/AAP PHOTOS)

Premier Jacinta Allan has denied personal and union links influenced a decision to continue allowing duck hunting in Victoria.

The Victorian government on Monday disregarded its own inquiry's recommendation for recreational duck hunting to be banned across all Victorian public and private land from 2024.

Ms Allan's husband has previously been pictured at a Field & Game event and she represents Bendigo East, an electorate with one of the highest number of registered licensed shooters in the state.

"My husband barracks for the Hawthorn Football Club? I don't," the premier told reporters on Tuesday. "I don't follow my husband's view on all things and I'm sure if he was here, he would confirm that." She said she had never been ducking hunting but her long-held view is that the practice is a legitimate recreational activity.

In June, Electrical Trades Union state secretary Troy Gray told the Labor-led parliamentary inquiry any duck hunting ban would trigger a mass walk-off on projects across the state. The ETU, Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union, Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, Mining and Energy Union, Australian Workers Union and Plumbing and Pipe Trades Employees Union said the decision was backed by facts and science. "Working Victorians must be able to get out and enjoy the great outdoors," the unions said in a joint statement.

"It is vital to their mental and physical health, the state economy and, for those who undertake it, a critical part of their identity." Ms Allan, whose father was an electrician and ETU member, insisted she wasn't beholden to the unions. "All views that were put the inquiry were considered as part of the deliberations on this matter," she said. Children Minister Lizzie Blandthorn and Jobs Minister Natalie Hutchins both expressed their strong opposition to duck hunting when arriving for Monday's cabinet meeting.

Ms Allan confirmed debate was robust, like all cabinet discussions. "This was a consensus decision that was taken through the normal cabinet process," she said when asked about a suggestion of a "captain's call". "That's why the minister made that announcement."

Outdoor Recreation Minister Steve Dimopoulos says the government will implement seven of the inquiry's eight recommendations to overhaul hunting, but a total ban isn't needed to make the practice sustainable and safe. From 2025, there will be stricter penalties, compliance checks and hunters will have to do mandatory training.

RSPCA Victoria chief executive Liz Walker said she could only assume the 2024 season would be "unsafe, unsustainable and irresponsible" without the measures being in place until next year. "At the very least the duck hunting season should be cancelled while the new training, compliance and enforcement program is implemented," Dr Walker said.

Duck hunting has long been banned in Western Australia, NSW and Queensland but is still legal in Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania. The season will run from April 10 to June 5 with a bag limit of six per day.

***Australian Associated Press***

**Updated** January 31, 2024,



Veteran rocker Alice Cooper will headline the Pandemonium concert. (Joel Carrett/AAP PHOTOS)

A controversial rock concert set to play out in the centre of Sydney on Anzac Day has prompted furore from a veterans' group as promoters look for another venue.

The Pandemonium concert in the Domain, headlined by rockers Alice Cooper and Placebo, **was scheduled to take place near the annual Anzac Day march through the city centre.**

**RSL NSW president and former commando**

Mick Bainbridge said the concert had been approved without any consultation with the organisation and the **event was inappropriate on a "day for respect and quiet contemplation".**

Gates were due to open for the event at 11.30am on April 25 and the festival was due to finish about 11pm, according to concert organisers.

"Pandemonium is a rock fans (sic) dream come true, with an unparalleled line-up of rock legends," the event's website reads. NSW Premier Chris Minns on Wednesday confirmed the concert would not be going ahead as planned.

"There's not going to be a rock concert in the middle of the city on Anzac Day," he said.

"That part of the city should be and will be a place for diggers to commemorate with their friends and their family and for fellow Australians to commemorate the service of those that have given their lives in the service of our country."

Planning Minister Paul Scully confirmed the government was "working with the promoter on a solution to find an alternative location for the event".

Concert organisers Apex Entertainment also said they were "working collaboratively with the NSW state government on a solution pertaining to the location".

But Mr Bainbridge said holding any rock festival on Anzac Day was inappropriate.

"We all love to have fun and live music is fantastic for Sydney, but Anzac Day is not the day for a music festival," he said in a statement.

**"Anzac Day is a day to think of the sacrifices made by the approximately 120,000 people from NSW who served overseas during World War I, as well as all who have served since."**

**RSL NSW said they understood the music festival's promoter had offered to direct a portion of ticket sales to veterans' charities, but that would not be enough. "Anzac Day is not for sale," Mr Bainbridge said.**

Mr Minns said he did not believe it would be appropriate for major rock concerts to be held anywhere in NSW on Anzac Day.

The Pandemonium festival is also due to take place in Melbourne on April 20 and in Queensland later in the same month.

Cooper previously played at Sydney's ANZ stadium for a bushfire relief concert in 2020.

## Tasmania tightens gun laws: Antique firearms now need to be licensed and registered.

**Pulse Hobart:** January 18, 2024



Owners of antique firearms now have four options to comply with the updated legislation, including selling or destroying them. Image / Steel & Shot

Antique firearms manufactured prior to 1900 will now need to be licensed and registered in Tasmania. Previously, antique firearms were exempt from licence, registration and storage requirements under the Firearms Act 1996.



Tasmania Police Commissioner Donna Adams recently cancelled the exemption clause following a review that revealed its inconsistency with the intent of the Firearms Act.

Owners of antique firearms now have four options to comply with the updated legislation, which includes the choice to “apply for a firearms licence” or a “time limited individual exemption”, to “sell the firearm” through a licensed firearms dealer or to “surrender the firearm” to police for destruction. Assistant Commissioner Robert Blackwood said owners who choose to register their antique firearms will need to surrender them to a licensed dealer until the registration process is completed.

“We understand this change will impact the owners of antique firearms. The opportunity to apply for a time limited individual exemption will give owners time to consider their options to keep, sell or dispose of the firearms,” he said.



Tasmanians hand in almost 2,000 unregistered and unwanted firearms during the National Firearms Amnesty. Image / Supplied (File)

“A firearm can be used to intimidate or threaten, regardless of whether it can be fired. That’s why replica firearms are not legal.”

Antique firearms which were subject to the exemption cannot be fired with commercial cartridge ammunition and are muzzle-loading.

**Many are held by collectors or have been in families for generations.**

“The new process to possess antique (pre-1900) firearms will further help to protect our community by ensuring that proper processes are in place regarding the possession and storage of antique firearms,” Blackwood said.

Key stakeholder groups, including approved firearms clubs and historical societies, will be consulted to ensure affected parties are supported through these changes.

For additional information on these changes, visit [fas.police.tas.gov.au](https://fas.police.tas.gov.au)



## Like father, like son

01/02/2024 Posted by Mike Hughes

**CAPTION:** *Warrant Officer Class Two William Parsons, right, with his son Warrant Officer Class Two Robert Parsons, outside the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Sergeants' Mess at the Puckapunyal Military Area. Story by Corporal Luke Bellman.*

When Warrant Officer Class Two Robert Parsons was four, his dad took him on base and showed him a Centurion and Leopard tank, setting him on a path to follow in his father's tracks.

"Just seeing that raw power, it's the biggest and baddest thing on the battlefield. I just wanted to be in it," he said.

"Dad advised me to consider joining RAEME [Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers], get a trade, but I was so influenced by tanks, and I think he knew it." Thirty-five years later, in 2023, they were the only father and son with the same rank serving in an armoured corps.

Robert's father, WO2 William Parsons, joined at 17 and learnt how to drive a tank before he could legally drive a car. "I was driving around 52 tons of main battle tank and I still had to wait three months before I could even apply for a learner permit to drive my dad's Morris 1000 on Victorian roads," William said. "What other organisation places the trust in all its members, of all ranks, to do the job it trains them into the extent we do?"

"Serving in the Army means we all get the opportunities to see and do all nature of work in different contexts and environments and operate equipment that is not available to the general population."

Robert said the best part about having his dad the same rank as him was having someone with experience to lean on. "He's seen it all from a different perspective and from a different time as well," he said.

"The Army is in his veins and in his advice as well, which I think really helped me throughout my career, looking after my soldiers and doing right by them." Robert enjoys the tight-knit armoured community, having been in the corps for 20 years, and values the intimacy formed with his crew when in confined spaces.

"I love the fact that I've got soldiers that I know personally, and I can help them with anything," he said.

William recently retired after serving 50 years in the corps. It's believed he was the last serving Centurion-qualified soldier. He also trained on Leopard, Chieftain and Challenger tanks, and witnessed evolution in design and technology.

"In Centurion we had active infrared spotlights for night vision, now we have thermal imagery. There is no comparison," William said. "Trading the Centurion for Leopard was like trading a truck for a sports car."

One of his favourite memories was testing the limits of the new Leopard by driving full throttle over Spectators Hill at Puckapunyal.

"I proved that 42 tons of tank could fly as she lifted completely off the ground," William said.

"Landing cost me three broken ribs, but it was worth it. We have always felt encouraged to explore and push the limits of our equipment in order to fully understand the capabilities. I hope that ethos continues.

"The photos of that are still in the tank museum."

**Attention to all members of the GCCA who have a firearms collection!**

Some housekeeping for our members who are firearm collectors. Just a reminder that in August 2022 there were changes to the Firearm storage requirements for firearm licence holders. LRD have an information page that has a lot of helpful information which can be found here: <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/firearm-storage>

Also, there is a requirement under the Act for holders of Firearm Collector licences to maintain a register of all the firearms that are registered under a Collector licence, this includes all firearms regardless of Category. The Club have had a Registry Book made up to make it easier for our members to maintain this register. These Firearm Registry books will be available to purchase through the club for \$50, either at a monthly meeting, a shoot at the range or from Les Penna Motorcycles.

Please make yourselves aware of your requirements under the firearms Act – it is your responsibility as a licence holder to make sure you are compliant. LRD are actively conducting storage checks and audits so it's in your best interest to familiarise yourself with the requirements under the Law.

**Australia Day honours announced.**

26/01/2024 Posted by Mike Hughes

Australia Defence Force personnel have been recognised for devotion to duty during natural disasters, strategic innovation and professional mastery in the Australia Day Honours and Awards for 2024.



*Australian Army soldiers from the ADF Parachuting School's Red Berets parachute display team drop into Sydney's Australia Day festivities. Photo by Corporal Sagi Biderman.*

developing rapid-support plans to identify the equipment Australia could gift to Ukraine helped him top the list and was made an officer in the Military Division of the Order of Australia.

To see the names of those awarded Australia Day honours, click on the link below:

<https://www.contactairlandandsea.com/2024/01/26/australia-day-honours-announced/>

**ADF thrills Sydney's Australia Day crowds**

01/02/2024 Posted by Mike Hughes

**CAPTION:** *HMAS Choules in Sydney Harbour for the 2024 Australia Day celebrations. Story by Sub-Lieutenant Tahlia Merigan. Photo by Leading Seaman David Cox.*



With the sun shining bright for Australia Day, the ADF provided a spectacular display on and around Sydney Harbour.

As HMAS *Choules* was on the harbour for the start of the ferry race, the Australian national flag was flown along the north and south beaches by a Navy MH-60R Seahawk helicopter.

Army's 9th Regiment performed a 21-gun salute, and on the last note of the national anthem it was all eyes to the skies as the Air Force Roulettes conducted a formation aerobatic display.

Commanding Officer *Choules* Commander Arron Convery said, after having recently assumed command, he was particularly proud to have *Choules* as the centrepiece for Australia Day activities on the harbour.

"Australia Day is an opportunity to reflect on everything that makes Australia the best country in the world," Commander Convery said. Along with being the focal point of the day, Commander Convery welcomed families on board the ship.

"With 55 new joiners and the ship on the verge of a regional deployment, I saw this as an opportunity for crew members to highlight their skills within the workplace.

"It provides an understanding for those at home to see what it is that our men and women do when deployed.

"I was really proud to showcase *Choules* and the Navy off to my partner and her family. It was their first time on a Navy ship, so they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to next time."

Army's Red Beret parachute display team closed the day, jumping over Sydney Harbour and descending into the waters near the Sydney Opera House as the community enjoyed the Australia Day live concert.

A number of Defence personnel received Australia Day honours and awards, acknowledging their significant contribution to the country.


SHEPPARTON — ANNUAL

# MILITARIA & COLLECTABLES

## EXPO 2024



**Admission**  
Adults \$10  
Children under 16  
with adult free

 @SheppartonArmsExpo

SAT. 9.00 AM TO 5.00 PM - SUN 9.00 AM TO 3.30 PM

### MCINTOSH CENTRE - SHEPPARTON

### MARCH 2ND & 3RD

**Shepparton's Militaria & Collectables Expo 2024 is fast approaching!**

**Please put March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> into your diary.**

**Entry is free to their own members and the Northern Victorian Arms Collectors Guild has kindly extend free entry to members of the Golden City Collectors Association and the Ballarat Arms & Militaria Collectors, who can present a membership card or badge.**

