

*RAAF Association – Victorian Division*  
Sunderland Branch



A.C.N. 004250 248

Incorporating 10 Squadron RAAF, the first RAAF Squadron in action in W.W.II;  
461 Squadron RAAF, The Anzac Squadron; and 13 RAF Squadrons

1 April 2020

## AUTUMN 2020

Sunderlanders and friends.

Well we are all in unusual and challenging times. Trust you are all abiding by the rules albeit that they can be a bit confusing. If in doubt err on the side of safety. Please stay safe and look after yourselves.

I am sure we will all commemorate Anzac Day this year in a different way to attending traditional services and gatherings. I will be at the front gate at 6 am for a "Court/Street" commemoration with the Last Post and Reveille. Post that I will be privately laying two wreaths at the Geelong Boer War Memorial, one wreath on behalf of the City of Greater Geelong and the second on behalf of our Rotary Club. For over 20 years, our Rotary Club has been conducting a Dawn Service at this memorial. Although different with no service this year our community will not forget, and will honour our past and present servicemen and women in a fitting manner.

Just a reminder to all that the Shrine of Remembrance – RAF Coastal Command Exhibition is closed due to the Covid19 Virus restrictions. The exhibition was due to finish in August; hopefully post Corona it might be extended for a short time to allow those who were planning to visit around Anzac Day can still make a visit.

Sorry for a very short Newsletter this time.

### SEEKING INFORMATION – 414594 Flt Lt John Park – 461 Sqn.

John Williams has sent me a request below. Can anyone help John.

Dear Rick,

I'm trying to locate any relatives of the above airman who served with 461 Sqn as a pilot in 1943. I have a number of photos of him during his training in Canada in 1942 and hope to include his story in a book I'm writing.

Any assistance would be gratefully accepted.

Best regards,  
John Williams.

Email [Harley.158@bigpond.com](mailto:Harley.158@bigpond.com)

## Poem: ANZAC Day

I saw a kid marchin' with medals on his chest.  
He marched alongside Diggers marching six abreast.  
He knew that it was ANZAC Day - he walked along with pride.  
He did his best to keep in step with the Diggers by his side.

And when the march was over the kid was rather tired.  
A Digger said "Whose medals, son?" to which the kid replied:  
"They belong to daddy, but he did not come back.  
He died up in New Guinea on a lonely jungle track".

The kid looked rather sad then and a tear came to his eye.  
The Digger said "Don't cry my son and I will tell you why.  
Your daddy marched with us today - all the blooming way.  
We Diggers know that he was there - it's like that on ANZAC Day".

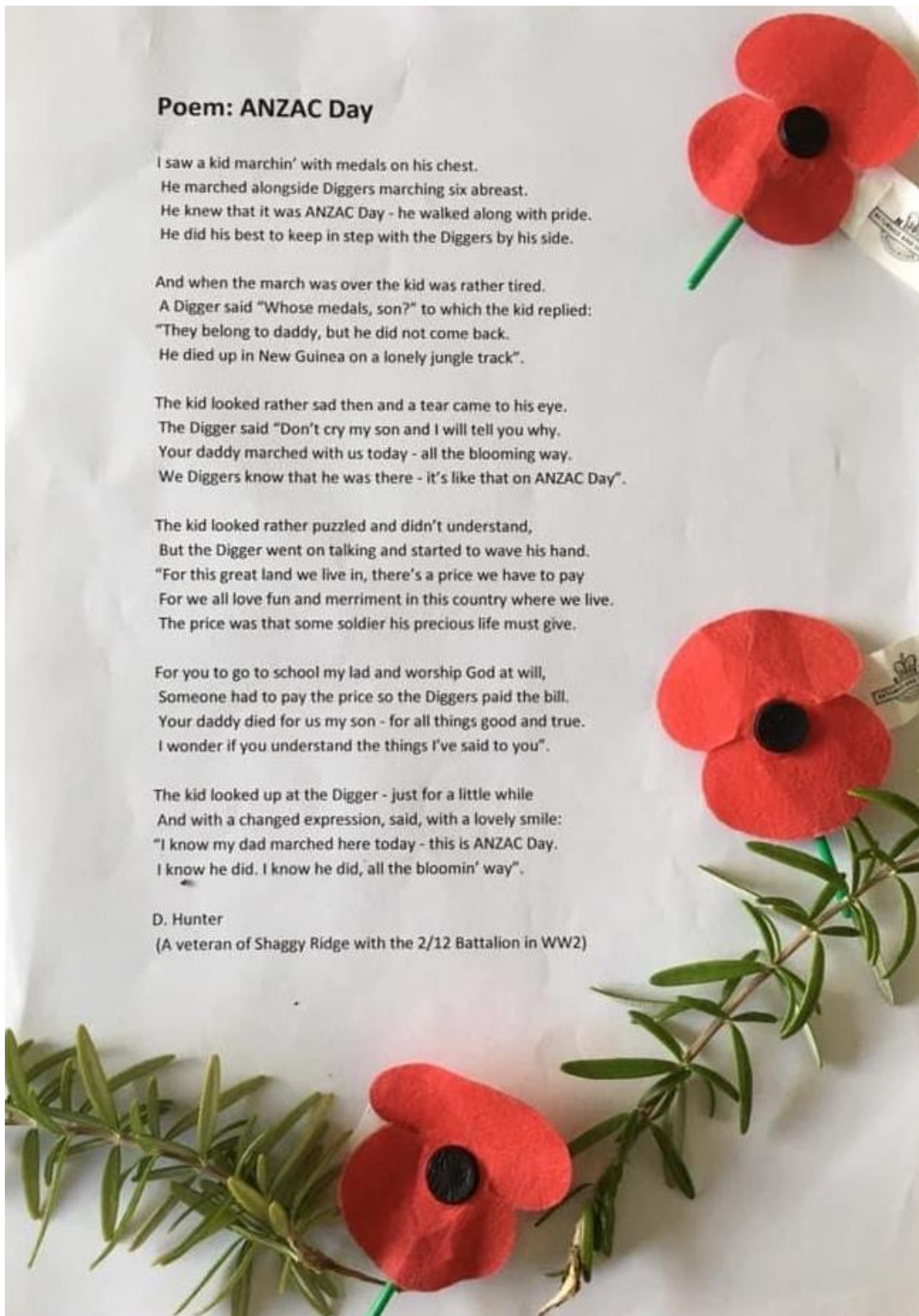
The kid looked rather puzzled and didn't understand,  
But the Digger went on talking and started to wave his hand.  
"For this great land we live in, there's a price we have to pay  
For we all love fun and merriment in this country where we live.  
The price was that some soldier his precious life must give.

For you to go to school my lad and worship God at will,  
Someone had to pay the price so the Diggers paid the bill.  
Your daddy died for us my son - for all things good and true.  
I wonder if you understand the things I've said to you".

The kid looked up at the Digger - just for a little while  
And with a changed expression, said, with a lovely smile:  
"I know my dad marched here today - this is ANZAC Day.  
I know he did. I know he did, all the bloomin' way".

D. Hunter

(A veteran of Shaggy Ridge with the 2/12 Battalion in WW2)



## LEST WE FORGET

**VALE:** Noel Clough, son of Les Clough 461 Sqn. Noel was a staunch supporter at all our Anzac Day commemorations.