



NEWSLETTER

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RETIRED POLICE ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA inc

Newsletter Issue: July 2020 Email: rpatas1@gmail.com

Patron: Sir Max Bingham QC, BCL, LLB, LL

Secretary Kerrie Whitwam

President David Plumpton

Treasurer Steve Collidge

PERHAPS NOSTRADAMUS PREDICTED CORONAVIRUS AFTER ALL

Nostradamus wrote this in the year 1551

There will be a twin year (2020) from which will arise a queen (corona) who will come from the east (China) and who will spread a plaque (virus) in the darkness of night on a country with seven hills (Italy) and will transform the twilight of men into dust (death) to destroy and ruin the world.

It will be the end of the world economy as you know it.



Snopes and Politifact quickly stepped up to point out that the claims in the image are fabricated nonsense, and Facebook has since started flagging and obscuring the image with the false information tag.

Nostradamus was notoriously vague in many of the predictions he made in his 1555 book *Les Prophetes*. But even after nearly five centuries humans still find themselves turning to his writings in times of woe — probably because of what he did get right.

A Special welcome to the Tate Family who joined us recently.

There is the head of the family DIC TATE, who wants to run everything..

Uncle RO TATE who tries to change everything around, and his sister AGI TATE who likes stirring things up whenever she can. Nephew IRRI TATE always rubs people up the wrong way.

Nieces HESI TATE and VEGE TATE pour water on every proposal. Then there's Aunt IMI TATE who's all for trying something new just because someone else is doing it, And, of course cousin DEVAS TATE will always throw a spanner in the works.

You are sure to know the TATES, but just watch you don't become one,

PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

5th August (Wednesday) 12 noon—Luncheon at Riverside Motor Inn

6th August (Thursday) 11:30am for 12 noon
Northern Mid-year Commissioner's Luncheon, at Riverside Golf Club.

20th August (Thursday) 11:30am for 12:30pm Queensland RPAT Lunch,
Alexandra Headland Surf Club, 167 Alexandra Parade, Alexandra Headland,
Queensland

30th August (Sunday) 12 midday Social Meeting at the Ulverstone Golf Club

2nd September (Wednesday) 12 noon—Luncheon at Riverside Motor Inn

16th September (Wednesday) 12 noon for 12:30pm
NW Lunch meeting . Bass and Flinders Motel, Ulverstone

27th September (Sunday) 12 midday Social Meeting at the Ulverstone Golf Club

29th September (Friday 25th) National Police Remembrance Day, at
Police Academy, Rokeby (TBC)

7th October (Wednesday) 12 noon—Luncheon at Riverside Motor Inn

4th November (Wednesday) 12 noon—Luncheon at Riverside Motor Inn

16th November (Monday) 1.30am for noon
Ye Old Traffic Police Luncheon, Black Buffalo Hotel, North Hobart

19th November (Thursday) 11.30am for noon
Queensland RPAT Lunch, at Southport Surf Club, McArthur Parade,
Main Beach, Queensland

29th November (Sunday) 12 midday Social Meeting at the Ulverstone Golf Club

1st December (Tuesday 11:00am)
RPAT Annual General Meeting followed by
Commissioner's Lunch at Police Academy, Rokeby (at 12 noon)

2nd December (Wednesday) 12 noon—Luncheon at Riverside Motor Inn

9th December (Wednesday 11:30am for noon) All welcome
Northern Christmas Luncheon at the Riverside Golf Club
Includes Northern Branch AGM

Note—(all members and partners welcome to attend) all functions unless specified to contrary)

Note—With Coronavirus spreading—you will need to check that these functions have not been cancelled or the date changed.)

FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT DAVID

Hello once again and I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and content with life.

A quick thing to commence: -

We are undertaking surveys of the families of the recently deceased, as well as the recently retired, with a view to assessing any improvement in the customer service of RBF.

Steve Collidge and Gary Eastwood have prepared and circulated a survey that, if you haven't completed, and it applies to you, it would be appreciated if you could complete it.

On this topic we have recently addressed certain concerns on the passing of a member and the manner the partner was treated by RBF, who have responded recognising particular failures. (Details are included on page 5 of this newsletter.)

Also, the mental health training, I mentioned in the last newsletter as being postponed, is still in our focus and we will let those members who volunteered know straightaway that the training is back on. Thank you again to all those who volunteered.

We seem to have, so far and fingers crossed, weathered the Covid-19 storm and very soon will be having some



"get togethers" to ensure members can again enjoy the company of one another.

You will notice the Northern function has been adjourned to August but thankfully is still on. In the very near future we will advise on some other forthcoming events.

So, to all those who managed isolation by using their home gyms, studying quantum physics, reading Einstein's treatise on relativity, or rebuilding their homes, standby we are arranging time for you to have a break.

Finally, we at the Police Museum are still looking to build on the Tasmania Police History, so if you have any items you no longer want or need and intend to dispose of please think of us.

Also, if you happen to have time to write down or record any memories from your service, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to add your memories to our collection.

Again, thank you for your support and hope to see you soon.

David Plumpton, President.

NOTICES RELATING TO RPAT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with Rule 20, Members are advised that the 2020 Annual General Meeting will be held at the Police Academy, Rokeby at 11am on Tuesday 1st December 2020.

The purpose of the meeting is to confirm the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting; to receive committee and auditors reports and to elect the officers and committee members of the Association for 2020-21.

Kerrie Whitwam, Hon Secretary

AGENDA ITEMS FOR AGM

Rule 22 requires the Secretary to give at least 14 days notice to members via the newsletter of items for discussion. In order for the Secretary to comply with this requirement, members are advised to notify the Secretary of any items they wish to discuss at the AGM.

These items are to be forwarded to the Secretary or Executive Committee members **in sufficient time (mid-Sept)** to be included in the **October** RPAT newsletter which is the last publication for the year before the AGM.

Kerrie Whitwam Hon Secretary

Legal

Nick Beattie, Barrister & Solicitor, Highfield House
L1, 114 Bathurst Street, Hobart Tas 7000
ph (03) 62346420

Email admin@nickbeattie.com.au
Web nickbeattie.com.au

ELECTION OF

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FOR 2020-21

In accordance with Rule 33, members are advised that the election of Officers and ordinary Committee members for the 2020-21 Executive Committee, will be conducted at the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) mentioned left on 1st December 2020.

Current financial members who wish to be candidates are required to submit a nomination form containing their consent and signed by two financial members.

In accordance with Rule 33, the form must reach the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the AGM. The appropriate form is available from the Secretary.

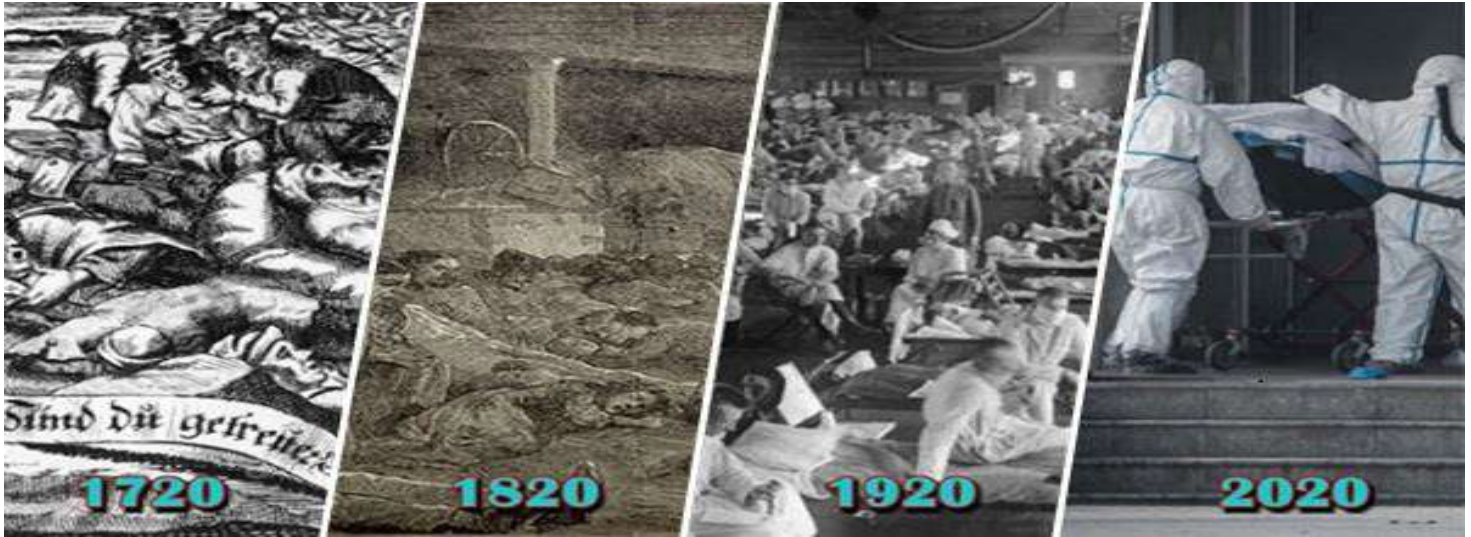
Kerrie Whitwam Hon Secretary



10% discount on selected items upon presentation of your RPAT card!

SPOT ON FISHING TACKLE HOBART
87-91 HARRINGTON STREET, HOBART 7000
Ph: (03) 6234 4880
Email: fishconn@bigpond.net.au

Every hundred years, there seems to be a great pandemic,
 1720 plague; 1820 cholera; 1920 Spanish Flu 2020 Corona
 The pandemic Corona seems to follow the similar pattern like it took place before.



The title of this report might sound misleading because of the fact that those mentioned are not the only epidemics and pandemics the world faced in past, rather there are dozens of such cases happened throughout centuries.

This connection is to show that each century has had a major epidemic and, even if we are in the fourth industrial revolution, and an era of artificial intelligence, we are still vulnerable to the

force of nature.

Some believe that this is the way the mother earth takes revenge and makes a balance to protect herself.

However, this is a rhetoric rather than truth like many people think the damage we are committing on nature has grave consequence.

Believe it or not, this is frequently happening in each century as if it has a corrective plan to restate its

dominance over human beings.

In the era of chemical and bio weapons it is a common nature of people to believe in the conspiracy theory.

Even in some science fictions such imagination was thrown to destroy the poor people of the world. So, it cannot be denied that people didn't think of such situation even in their alternate reality.

MEMBERSHIP

Total Membership is 500
 including Life Members 5
 Honorary Members 4
 Ordinary Members 469
 Associate Members 22

Members:- Male 446 (89.2%);
 Female 54 (10.8%)

Members 80+ - 87 (17.4%)

Members by location

Southern 279 (56%)
 Northern 97 (19.2%)
 Northwest 67 (13.4%)
 Interstate and Overseas 57 (11.4%)

Deceased (since 2019 AGM)

Alan Debnam
 Harry Everingham
 Royce Giblin
 Christopher Iles
 Vic Jones

Geoffrey James Lowe.
 Marie Dawn Reid

Non-members but workmates

Margaret Medwin

Partners

Dorothy Canning
 (wife of Aub Canning)
 Susan Lee
 (wife of Pat Lee)
 Catharina Visser
 (wife of Claas Visser)

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS ?

As you would be aware the RPAT maintains an extensive database of its members personal and contact details. The inclusion and amendment of such information on the RPAT database is dependent on members providing timely advice to enable the necessary changes to be made.

It is therefore requested that you advise the RPAT of any personal, or contact detail changes, including your residential / postal address, phone numbers and in particular, any new email address.



MEMORIAL TO A POLICE OFFICER AT LONGFORD

The writing on the memorial reads

"Sacred to the memo

ry of James Hortle, late Chief District Constable of Longford who departed this life July 2nd 1855, aged 56 years.

This tablet is erected by the members of the Police Force and inhabitants of the District as a token of esteem for his long and faithful services as a police officer having filled the above important office for 27 years with credit to himself and advantage to the public service.

In the discharge of his duty he was impartial, firm and efficient, He died respected by all who knew him."

THE YEAR 1720

In 1720 there was the last large scale bubonic plaque pandemic, also called the great plague of Marseille.

Indeed the plague hit Europe for the first time in 1331.

In 1720 Yersina pestis (the bacteria) arrived at the Port of Marseille, France from the Levant upon the merchant ship Grand-Saint-Antoine.

The vessel had departed from Sidon, Lebanon, having previously called at Smyrna, Tripoli and plague ridden Cyprus.

A Turkish passenger was the first to be infected and soon died, followed by several crew members and the ship's surgeon.

The ship was refused entry to the Port of Livorno.

When the ship landed in Marseille, everybody was taken into quarantine although the outbreak could not be stopped.

This is the last major scale pandemic in Europe caused by plague.

Records show that the bacteria killed around 100,000 people in Marseille.



THE YEAR 1820

The first records of a cholera epidemic took place in 1820. in Asia in the countries of Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines.

More than 100,000 deaths were recorded in Asia due to this bacteria. The pandemic is said to have started with people who drank water from lakes contaminated with this bacteria

"THE FINAL INSPECTION" courtesy Steve Harrop.

The policeman stood and faced his God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining.
Just as brightly as his brass.

"Step forward now, policeman.
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To My church have you been true?"

The policeman squared his
shoulders and said,
"No, Lord, I guess I ain't,
Because those of us who carry
badges can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,

and at times my talk was rough,
and sometimes I've been violent,
Because the streets are awfully tough.

But I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep....
Though I worked a lot of overtime
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear.
And sometimes, God forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around

Except to calm their fear.

If you've a place for me here,
Lord, It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't.....I'll understand.

There was silence all around the throne
Where the saints had often trod.
As the policeman waited quietly,
For the judgment of hisn' God.

"Step forward now, policeman,
You've borne your burdens well.
Come walk a beat on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in hell."

Author Unknown

NORTH WESTERN BRANCH

Sunday 28th June saw the North West Retired Police start up again with a social gathering at the Ulverstone Golf Club.

This Social Gathering will continue to meet at midday on last Sunday of each month. (Next date is Sunday 26th July 2020)

All family members and friends welcome.
To place a booking, please contact

Sue Hyland on 0409 841 740, or
email, gshyland3@bigpond.com



BASS & FLINDERS

The Northwest Branch is resuming holding its normal meetings at the Bass and Flinders Motel at Ulverstone commencing on Wednesday 16th September (noon for 12:30pm)

All members and partners are welcome.

Phone Rockie Lee on 0427 870 964 or
email rockiejlee@bigpond.com.



THE YEAR 1920



The Spanish Flu occurred 100 years ago, Started in 1918 and ended in December 1920.

Since the flu infected people during World War I the . It contributed the deterioration of the pandemic.

Although the name is Spanish Flu, the origin of this flu is not certain.

The name indicates that King Alfonso had been got by this flu. This flu was one of two HINI flue virus which had undergone a genetic mutation which made it much more dangerous than the virus normal.

The virus infected 4500million people. Some sources believe that the number can be as high as 100 million.

This pandemic was the deadliest in history.

NORTHERN BRANCH NEWS



Northern Branch missed 3 months because of the Corona Virus, but we met for lunch at the Riverside Motor Inn on Wednesday 1st July. Ten members were present.



After three months it was good to be able to get together again Commissioner's Lunch at the Riverside Golf Club has been adjourned to Thursday 6th August.



Closed to Tourists

After having to cancel successive attempted holidays to various States I decided to rename them

- NT No Trespassing
- SA Stay Away
- QLD Quietly Locked Down;
- VIC Very Inconveniently Closed;
- WA Withdrawn Association;
- NSW Not So Welcoming
- TAS Totally Alone State;
- ACT Authorised Coronavirus Tactitions.

.A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her."

"Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

The wife has been missing a week now.

Police said to prepare for the worst.

So I have been to the charity shop to get all her clothes back.

It seems like history repeats itself every 100 years, is it just a coincidence?

Today the world is facing a major pandemic, more than 400 major cities of the world are affected by a virus which originated from the city of Wuhan, China.

More than half the world population is forced to be quarantined, the direct communication system from person to person has collapsed.

The coronavirus that the world faces, has already killed more than 17,000 people to date (24th March 2020).

3,822,393 confirmed cases despite efforts of the governments, international institutions and related bodies to quarantine or lock down the major cities of the world.

The trials of the vaccine collapsed in front of the greatness of God (you may call the force of nature or whatever else based on your belief.



WUHAN Feb 5 2020 — Patients infected with the novel coronavirus are seen at a makeshift hospital converted from an exhibition centre in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, Feb 2020. The first makeshift hospital converted from an exhibition Centre in China's epidemic hit Wuhan City began accepting patients Wednesday. The hospital can provide about 1,600 beds to infected patients (Photo by Xiong O/Ainbaum Song City)

WISE OR CLEVER OBSERVATION OR A GENERAL TRUTH"

1. *The nicest thing about the future is that it ways starts tomorrow*
2. *Money will buy a fine og but only kindness will make him wag his ail.*
3. *If you don't have a sense of humour ou robably don't have any sense at all.*
4. *Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.*
5. *A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.*
6. *How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark o become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?*
7. *Business conferences are important because they demonstrate how many people are not needed in the office.*

8. *Be careful about reading the fine print, there's no way you're going to like it.*
9. *The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.*
10. *Do you realize that, in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?*
11. *Money can't buy happiness but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Jaguar than in a Ford.*
12. *After 60 if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you're probably dead.*
13. *Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind and the ones that mind don't matter.*

And remember:-
Politicians and Diapers should be changed often and for the same reason.

**DINNER AT
 BLACK BUFFALO HOTEL**

at 14 Federal Street, North Hobart.

Monday 23rd November 2020

at 11:30am

Will you be there to support them?

All enquiries please contact

Leo Hutchings (0418 103 719)

hutchie8@bigpond.net.au

or

Brian Bick (03) 6239 9380

cireldo1@bigpond.com.au

Ye Olde Traffic Polite Men

We have raised \$1,360 in Tasmania for

Prostate Cancer Research



Will you be there to enjoy the company and help us to raise more funds for Prostate Cancer Research??

Ongoing Issues – RBF Spouse Pension Payments

In early May the RPAT circulated a number of emails alerting members to the fact that progress regarding Legislative change concerning RBF Spouse Pension Payments had been suspended as a result of the Corona Virus. The RPAT has been a primary mover in seeking this Legislative change after many frustrating years where the spouses of deceased RPAT members experienced significant difficulties in accessing RBF spouse pensions, in what was already a difficult time for those families.

In 2016 the RPAT Executive Committee met with RBF staff to hopefully address our concerns, and various assurances of improvement have been provided in the intervening period. RBF have provided guidelines for processing applications which are quite detailed and require significant supporting documentation.

To resolve these ongoing issues in the longer term, the RPAT sought, and received, political support for Legislative change in this area. Driven by the RPAT, and in particular by Syd McClymont, these actions have led to Legislation being drafted to address the concerns of the RPAT.

Recently we found ourselves in the same position as we were four years ago which sadly is highlighted by the recent experiences of RPAT member Georgina Askew. You may recall Georgina lost her husband, David, late last year - David was also a former Tasmania Police Member.

Georgina recounts her (unpleasant) experiences in dealing with RBF as a part of accessing her entitlements under David's RBF Superannuation policy. Clearly Georgina's experiences mirror that of many other spouses over the past four years. I have mentioned it before but the concept of customer service appears lost on RBF and their staff. There has been a complete lack of empathy, or compassion from RBF and a complete lack of professional communications and practices on their part.

Georgina advised that every time she telephoned RBF they had no record of any previous interaction, with no record of previous calls, requests, or actions. RBF also lost forwarded documentation, or claimed to have never received it. Sometimes she was required to communicate with RBF in Hobart, and at other times with a RBF subcontractor in Melbourne, all the while there being no apparent communications, or liaison, between RBF and the subcontractor.

Advice received from RBF via a letter, often contradicted the verbal advice received on the phone from a RBF staff member.

Ultimately, living on the mainland, Georgina was forced to

send a professional advisor to attend RBF, on her behalf, in an attempt to sort it out. That advisor was able to do so with the help of one RBF staff member on that day. It took nearly 5 months for the payment to Georgina to come through. Even after the payment was made Georgina received another letter saying payment would not be forthcoming until she provided another document that had already been sent, - clearly another example of RBF deficiencies. Georgina's summary of most of the services provided by RBF was, '*They were dreadful*'.

In comparison Georgina also dealt with the Federal Police Super provider, as she and David went to work for the Commonwealth after leaving Tasmania. Her reports of the customer service and assistance from the Federal provider could not be more different than that of RBF. Georgina advises that David's Commonwealth super fund '*were nothing short of amazing*'. Georgina was allocated a case worker, which is the only person she dealt, or communicated with. Georgina had the case worker's direct number and email and was able to address all of her issues and concerns to this one person. Georgina advises that the Federal pension started in under two months of David's passing and that unlike the RBF she experienced absolutely no issues at all.

It would appear that the issues which led to the RPAT to push for Legislative change still exist in the services provided by RBF at what is already a most stressful and challenging time for the surviving spouse.

I spoke with Georgina and she is happy to share her experiences with other RPAT and Police Association of Tasmania members in an attempt to again try and address these issues, and hopefully see future cases dealt with more professionally.

The RPAT has forwarded correspondence to the PAT alerting them to this issue, which has the potential to also impact on the families of their members.

The RPAT President has also sent correspondence to the RBF outlining our concerns again, to hopefully see a degree of customer service reform, better communication and professionalism within the RBF into the future

On 17th June 2020 the RPAT did receive the proposed Draft Legislation which will hopefully address many of our concerns. The Legislation is being considered by the RPAT Executive Committee and has been circulated to members for any additional comment.

.Gary Eastwood, Assistant Secretary

NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND

Our programme for the 2020 functions in Queensland has been thrown into total disarray by the Coronavirus and we had to cancel our first scheduled lunch for the year which was supposed to be at the Southport Surf Club, Surfers Paradise on 21st May 2020.

The more recent relaxation in restrictions in Queensland will allow, even as they currently stand, the Luncheon programmed for the **Alexandra Headland Surf Club** on **Thursday 20th August 2020** to proceed.

I expect even more restriction relaxations in the intervening period which will only assist further.

While we will be without many of our usual Tasmanian caravaners there should be sufficient locals



to justify the event. If it's just me and Julie there I will still send a photo.

Please look at your commitments and pencil in that lunch if you are able to make it.

If you are in Queensland, **Gary Eastwood** phone **0414 933 917**, or email **rpatas1@gmail.com** would very much appreciate a phone call (or

email) with a view to keeping in touch or catching up for a drink.

Our third and final lunch for the year is planned for **Thursday 19th November** at **Southport Surf Club, Surfers Paradise**.

My Trip to Nepal (Mount Everest) Kerrie Whitwam.

Just after midnight on Friday 15 November 2019, my youngest sister (Michelle) and I flew out of Melbourne, via Bangkok, on our second trip to Nepal. It was to be our last overseas trip for.....well, who knows how long until the next one! Six years ago we had undertaken a broader trip to Nepal, taking in the capital (Kathmandu), the Annapurna Track and Chitwan National Park. This time was to be much more challenging – to Everest Base Camp and a bit of a climb to the highest point of our trek, Kala Patthar, at 5555m. How did this happen, you ask? My sister has a habit of booking a trip, then texting me with the cost, her account number and the statement: "I knew you'd be up for it!"



I am not going to lie and say that the trek was easy. It was not! You would think that, as we were ascending from 2804m at Lukla to 5555m at Kala Patthar that it would be a gradual 3000m climb over 7 days. Oh no!! It is called Nepali flat – a little bit up and a little bit down (take that to mean a lot up and a lot down, all the time, every day and on the way back as well). I'm never much good at the up bit at the best of times, so I was always the slowest in the group. Amazingly (thinking they were all hours ahead of me), the slowest time I made was about 25 minutes behind everyone else, so I was actually quite happy being the slowest. It also meant that Michelle had sorted out our accommodation and unpacked my pack with my sleeping bag etc by the time I arrived, so I was laughing!

We both did a lot of preparation before this trip, but nothing prepares you for the effects of altitude! It affects everyone differently and can be quite debilitating and dangerous for some. We were both very lucky in that the major effect on us was just the shortness of breath. Pacing yourself properly and 'going with the flow' was the best way to tackle it. We found the simplest things to be the most difficult and hilarious – changing clothes, eating and just lying down to go to sleep at night time. The shortness of breath was incredible!! Getting the giggles didn't help! The worst thing for me was the loss of appetite about 2 days before the trek into Everest Base Camp itself. I was horrified!! I was enjoying our meals along the way; but the guys were happy as they got to eat the bulk of my lunches and dinners and supplement their meals at no extra cost! Unfortunately, my appetite returned before we flew home, so it wasn't a permanent weight loss solution!!

The scenery was nothing short of spectacular. I mean, here we were trekking in some of the highest mountains in the world and along glacial valleys. Sometimes, when I was alone stopping for a breather and a drink, I would look around and try to comprehend where I was – not just those high peaks, but how far away from everything that I had always thought was so important. The views really were spectacular and quite indescribable.



Accommodation near Tengloche Monastery

There were 11 of us in our group with a sherpa, an assistant sherpa and 5 bearers to carry our main packs. We didn't see the bearers very often as they were quite used to the trek and generally a few hours in front of us! Our group was made up of 3 Americans, a Canadian, a lass from Ireland, another lass from Latvia and the rest

The last village before the hike to Everest Base Camp is Gorak Shep. It's not really a village, but exists primarily as a staging/stopping point for the walk into Base Camp. We arrived there in time for lunch and then set off for Base Camp. It was probably the easiest walk we had for the whole trip as it was more undulating than steeply up and down. We pretty much had the site to ourselves with only a couple of other walking groups as there are no climbers at that time of the year. After the obligatory 'we made it' recordings, we tramped back to Gorak Shep for the night.



of us from Australia. We all gelled from our first night out on the track and this continued for the entirety of the trek, including our Sherpa and assistant.

We were incredibly lucky with the weather. Yes, it was very cold at night, but the days were crisp and clear and we were able to spot Mount Everest every day, as well as walking alongside the beautiful Ama Dablam. As we were trekking late in the season, we weren't troubled (well me, because I hate crowds and pushing and shoving) by too many other trekkers, just the usual freight traffic – horses, donkeys, mules and yaks carrying loads of just about everything you could imagine, as well as bearers carrying the same. The loads those men carried were just phenomenal and varied from foodstuffs to cartons of beer, bed frames, steel frames for buildings and fuel. They are paid on the weight of goods they can carry.

This was the coldest night we had, at -15 C. It sounds awful now, but we had been gradually getting used to the cold nights and mornings.

The only down side was having to go to the toilet in the middle of the night. To flush the toilet (squat toilet), you had to use a jug of water from a big water barrel.

With the careless and haphazard 'flushing technique' adopted by fellow trekkers, the floor was quite wet (I didn't want to think about anything else that might have been on the floor) and it was like an ice skating rink to do the necessities.

Our accommodation was quite basic, as you would imagine, but it was very clean and we were lucky to be provided with warm blankets to supplement our sleeping bags. We took the advice given to us about keeping things like wet wipes, deodorant and toothpaste in our sleeping bags of a night so ablutions weren't too brutal in the morning.



Solar Kettle

This is compounded by the fact that you have to fully clothe to survive the experience and I was truly petrified of slipping over and landing my 'bits' and dry clothes on that floor!!! Nothing prepares you for this truly horrifying experience.

(continued)

My Trip to Nepal (Mount Everest) (continued from page 8).



I woke my sister up when I got back to our room (we usually tended to have sympathetic toilet stops), but I was giggling like a fool. I tried to tell her.....but it can only be experienced, not expressed coherently. Oh, and that was after having to crack the ice on the top of the water barrel so I could 'flush' the toilet!!

at sunrise of all those tall peaks (including Everest) was well worth the effort. Being at 5555m wasn't any more breathless than at 3500m, so it was just the effort of the steep climb.

Although there was a temptation to stay up there for as long as possible, the cool breeze soon had us rugging up again and heading downhill for breakfast.



So, we were very rested for our climb up to Kala Patthar in the morning – as in 3.30am start. NOTE!!! It was very chilly, but walking uphill (an increase of about 600m in height) at that time of the morning soon warmed us up all over).

I'm glad we walked up in the dark, because it would have been daunting seeing how steep it was. The view

But the sense of satisfaction in making it to this height and seeing what we saw was worth it.

Kerrie Whitwam

Southern Branch News.

There have been no get togethers due to the Coronavirus and at this time we do not have any functions organized .

We are hoping to get a function running sometime in September.

Next planned function is the Annual Meeting at the Police Academy on Tuesday 1st December at 11:00am followed by lunch at the Academy,

WOULD YOU LIKE A TIE ??

A fleeing Taliban, desperate for water, was plodding through the Afghan Desert when he saw something far off in the distance. Hoping to find water, he hurried toward the oasis only to find a Royal Marine selling regimental ties.

The Taliban asked, "Do you have water?"

The marine replied, "There is no water, the well is dry. Would you like to buy a tie instead? They are only 5 pounds."

The Taliban shouted, "You idiot infidel! I do not need an over- priced tie. I need water! I should kill you, but I must find water first!"

"OK," said the marine, "It does not matter that you do not want to buy a tie and that you hate me. I will show you that I am bigger than that, and that I am a much better human being than you. If you continue over that hill to the east for about two miles, you will find our Officers Mess. It has all the iced cold water you need.. "

Cursing him, the Taliban staggered away over the hill.

Several hours later he staggered back, collapsed with dehydration & rasped..."They won't let me in without a f***** tie

STIMULUS PACKAGE

It is a slow day in the small Saskatchewan town of Pumphandle, and streets are deserted. Times are tough. Everybody is in debt, and everybody is living on credit.

A tourist visiting the area drives through town, stops at the motel, and lays a \$100 bill on the desk saying he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs to pick one for the night. As soon as he walks upstairs, the motel owner grabs the bill and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher.

The butcher takes the \$100 and runs down the street to retire his debt to the pig farmer.

The pig farmer takes the \$100 and heads off to pay his bill to his supplier, the Co-op.

The guy at the Co-op takes the \$100 and runs to pay his debt to the local prostitute, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer her "services" on credit.

The hooker rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill with the hotel owner.

The hotel proprietor then places the \$100 back on the counter so the traveler will not suspect anything.

At that moment the traveler comes down the stairs, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, picks up the \$100 bill and leaves. No one produced anything. No one earned anything...

However, the whole town is now out of debt and now looks to the future with a lot more optimism.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how a Stimulus package works.

Name Tags can be obtained by contacting Greg Hyland on (03) 6424 1656 or on his email gshyland3@bigpond.com

THE POLICE ODE

We have recently prepared guidelines around the RPAT involvement in funerals as well as the use of the Police Ode.

The Police Ode was originally written by Western Australia Police Sergeant Barry Noonan and later adapted by Police Chaplain Barry May.

It has now been adopted by all Australian Police services for the funerals of past and present members and is displayed at the National Police Memorial.

Its use by the RPAT at funerals now involves a standardised document and includes the repeating of the words "we will remember" by members present following the name of the deceased as a further form of acknowledgement, as can be seen in the wording below.

In recent months, the RPAT has adopted a practice of laminating the document that the Ode is read from at the funeral, binding it with a chequered band and leaving it with the funeral directors for the family.



ODE TO A POLICE OFFICER

John Doe

As the sun surely sets
Dawn will see it arise,
For Service above self
Demands its own prize,

You have fought the good fight,
Life's race has been run,
And peace your reward,
For eternity begun,

And we that are left,
Shall never forget,

Rest in Peace, friend and colleague,
For the sun has now set.

We will remember **John Doe**

(All Respond) We will remember him / her

Hasten the Dawn.

Acknowledgement - The Police Ode was written by Western Australia Police Sergeant Barry Noonan and later re-written by Police Chaplain Barry May. It has now been adopted by all Australian Police services for the funerals of past and present members and is displayed at the National Police Memorial.

SIGNS

Sign in a shoe repair store in Vancouver:

"We will heel you, We will save your sole, We will even dye for you"

At an Optometrist's Office :-

"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

On a Plumber's Truck:-

"We repair what your husband fixed."

On an Electrician's Truck:-

"Let us remove your shorts"

On another Plumber's truck:

"Don't sleep with a drip, Call your plumber."

At a car Dealership:

"The best was to get back on your feet—
miss a car payment."

Outside a Muffler Shop:-

"No appointment necessary. We hear you coming"

In a Veterinarian's waiting room:-

"Be back in five minutes. Sit..."Stay..."

At the Electric Company:-

"We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time.:

However if you don't. YOU will be. de-lighted."

In the front yard of a Funeral Home:-

"Drive carefully. We'll Wait"

Police Association of Tasmania Offers:-

Contact the PAT at 107 New Town Road, New Town or by ringing (03) 6278 1900 between 0830 and 1630 Monday to Friday for information about discount offers.

Hospitality

Wilderness Hotel. Derwent Bridge.

Contact Dave and Carol Fitzgibbon on 6289 1144

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