

# Anzac Spirit: In Our Community

Mindarie Senior College has a close association with the local RAAFA retirement villages in our community. Returned servicemen participate in our ANZAC day service and have spoken to students about their experiences during times of conflict. The ANZAC spirit is seen in these old diggers as their stories show the qualities of endurance, courage, ingenuity, good humour, larrikinism, and mateship. Here are two of their life journeys.

# Randall Harding

Mr. Harding worked in Western Australia's agricultural industry prior to World War II. During his time working Mr. Harding experienced many difficulties.



# The Career of a Future Soldier

Randall Harding began his career as a fruit picker in orchards across the south west of the state.

He spent many hours a day in the sun harvesting fruits and vegetables, which would be transported to Perth via a horse and carriage for export and distribution.

# The Career of a Future Soldier

Shortly before joining the armed forces, during World War II, he spent a season working in the wheat bins, harvesting wheat and moving it to storage by hand for a very low wage.

# The Career of a Future Soldier

The conditions of pay and work conditions Randall Harding faced during this time was atrocious; as soon as he could Randall joined the armed services.

# The Journey Begins...

He left the agricultural industry and joined the infantry. Quite a few men joined at Karrakatta at the same time as Randall Harding in 1945. He was sent to NSW to do his basic training and completed his Machine Gun training in Bathurst. At the end of World War II, Mr. Harding was sent to the defeated Japan, in the first group of Australian soldiers who were sent as a peace keeping force. He would be there for a total of seventeen months, Randall arrived just after the Japanese surrender.

# The Journey Begins...

As there was no position for a machine gunner, Randall mainly did guard duty. Soon after he felt like a change and went to Military Intelligence School, where he was the top of the class. Randall soon found himself working at the Intelligence Headquarters Office.

# End of the Road...

The experience of serving in Japan at the end of the war left a lasting impression on Randall Harding. He learned about different cultures and befriended Japanese families, which shows the spirit of ANZAC and the Australian way of helping the underdog during times of need. He also oversaw the first general election in Japan.

# End of the Road...

After eleven years of service, Randall Harding earned himself six medals such as the general service medal, 1933-1949 and the Atomic Veterans medal.

Mr. Harding is obviously proud of his achievements, but is humble towards such things; he shows a great respect for the sacrifices made by others.

# William Hosking

Bill Hosking has also spoken to students about his military service. Being born in 1940, Bill did not serve in the World War but joined the navy in 1958 when he was 18. He fought in a little known war, the Malaysian confrontation, in his words “a little war”. This conflict was the fight against the “red scare” or communism.



# The Malaysian Conflict

The conflict lasted from 1958 to 1967, during this time Bill served on a number of ships including:

- The HMS Melbourne (aircraft carrier)
- Canberra COM centre
- HMS Voyager
- HMS Sydney (destroyer)

This shows Bill's endurance in serving his country which has always been apart of the ANZAC spirit.

# End of the Road...

Bill was honourably discharged in 1967 and never seriously injured although showed his bravery by frequently being in war zones and battle. Bill said “the navy was an eventful time, I lost many friends but also have some good memories”.

For his participation he received a medal from the Malaysian Prime Minister.

# Conclusion

Both these retired war veterans have had great life experiences which have helped us understand the meaning of ANZAC. They have also encouraged us to follow in their foot steps; serving our country with all the attributes of the ANZAC spirit in mind.

Glen Stevens and Harrison Marley