



November 2022 Newsletter
Magazine Section

FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP
AND FUN

Conscription

World War I

Military registration and training for all Australian men aged 18 to 60 was compulsory from 1911. But there was no provision in Australian law that required men to enlist for active service overseas. Signing up for such service was voluntary, and with the promise of a short war, there was no difficulty for recruitment officers finding their men.

However, as news of the horrendous losses at Gallipoli from April to December 1915 and the slaughter on the Western Front from mid-1916 filtered back to Australia, enthusiasm for overseas duties began to wane.

Australia was not meeting its recruitment target. Only about a third of eligible men were volunteering.

Labour Prime Minister Billy Hughes determined that the only way to increase enlistment numbers was to impose conscription. He decided to hold a plebiscite (sometimes referred to as the "conscription referendum") to carry out what he saw as his obligation to the Empire, and to do so with the consent of the Australian people.

But there were many vociferous voices from the trade union movement, the Labour Party and an active women's coalition campaigning for a "no" vote. Religious adherents, too, found themselves well represented in the "no" campaign, with many Catholics, Quakers, Christadelphians, Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses in the forefront of the pacifist movement.



Archbishop Daniel Mannix

Archbishop Daniel Mannix was a leader in the Catholic Church in Melbourne. He took a strong stand against conscription, adding that the war was “just an ordinary trade war” driven by trade jealousy. Conscription, he maintained, would simply reinforce “class versus class” social injustices.

Remember, too, that the British had, in April 1916, put down with force the Easter Rising in Ireland. Almost 2,000 Irish were sent to internment camps. Most of the leaders of the Rising were executed in May 1916. Mannix was Irish-born.

Daniel Mannix became Archbishop of Melbourne in 1917. His opposition to conscription brought him and the Catholic community into direct conflict with Australia’s Protestant majority. Catholics, who were largely of Irish descent, were suspected of being anti-Empire and accused of failing to contribute to the war effort.

During the 1916 conscription campaign, Mannix argued that Australia was already doing enough to help the British. Despite only speaking publicly twice, he became the government’s scapegoat for the ballot’s narrow defeat.

The referendum was held on 28 October 1916 and narrowly rejected conscription with a margin of 49% for and 51% against. The referendum asked Australians:

Are you in favour of the Government having, in this grave emergency, the same compulsory powers over citizens in regard to requiring their military service, for the term of this War, outside the Commonwealth, as it now has in regard to military service within the Commonwealth?

People's reasons for being either pro or anti-conscription varied: support for conscription usually originated from a sense of loyalty to Britain, which was seen as the Motherland, outrage at Germany's attack on Belgium and France or out of fear for Australia's safety if Britain lost the war. Women were encouraged to shame their male relatives into joining the army.

Some young men wanted to join the army for adventure and excitement. Unions tended to be anti-conscription, because they feared their jobs would be taken by foreign labour or women.

Being anti-conscription was not the same as being anti-war: some of the men already at the front, themselves volunteers, were anti-conscription, because they did not want to fight alongside men who did not want to be there. They considered it could affect their morale and ability to fight cohesively.

Other people, often women, were against war itself. An Anti-Conscription League was formed and the Women's Peace Army, a movement driven by the indomitable Vida Goldstein, mounted a fierce campaign against the war and conscription.

The following year, Britain sought a sixth Australian division for active service. Australia had to provide 7,000 men per month to meet this request. But voluntary recruitment continued to lag behind requirements. On December 20, 1917, Hughes put a second conscription ballot to the people. It, too, was defeated, this time by a larger margin (7%). The war continued to the Armistice with volunteers only.

By the end of the war, over 215,000 Australians had been killed, wounded or gassed. Only one out of every three Australian men who were sent abroad arrived home physically unscathed.

World War II

Compulsory military service for duty within Australia was revived in 1939, shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War. There was to be no conscription for service overseas, but instead, in a bill passed in February 1943 by the Curtin Labour Government, "Australia" was defined in such a way as to include New Guinea and the adjacent islands. This obliged soldiers in the Citizen Military Force (CMF) to serve in this region, known as the South-West Pacific Area.

1951 -

Compulsory military training was brought back in 1951 by the Menzies Government as the National Service Scheme. The scheme was criticised as being irrelevant to modern defence needs, and for being a drain on the Regular Army's finances and manpower. In 1959 the scheme was abolished.

National Service was re-introduced in 1964, and in May 1965 the Coalition Government introduced new powers that enabled it to send national servicemen to serve overseas. From 1965 to 1972, 15,381 national servicemen served in the Vietnam War, with 200 killed and 1,279 wounded. The National Service Scheme was abolished on 5 December 1972 by the newly-elected Whitlam Labour government

However, the *Defence Act 1903* as amended retained a provision that it could be reintroduced by proclamation of the Governor-General. Potentially all Australian residents between the ages of 18 and 60 could be called up in this way. However, the *Defence Legislation Amendment Act 1992* further provided that any such proclamation is of no effect until it is approved by both Houses of Parliament.

It should also be noted that Governor-General may only issue such a proclamation in 'time of war'.



I think it would be interesting/fun to share our thoughts on this.

Send me a short paragraph stating who you would choose and why. I will put your answers in the December newsletter.

Jennifer_mary_jones@hotmail.com

*Jenny
Newsletter Editor*

The 16 Foods Men Need to Eat More Often

By UK nutrition expert Ian Marber

Choose these for a healthier heart, strong bones and lower cholesterol.

Oats
Trout
Bananas
Tofu
Brazil nuts
Tomatoes
Eggs
Walnuts
Garlic
Apricots
Flaxseeds
Oysters
Chickpeas lentils other legumes
Chicken
Beetroot

Geoff Jones

Wife texts husband on a cold winter morning:

"Windows frozen, won't open."

Husband texts back: "Gently pour some lukewarm water over it and then gently tap edges with hammer."

Wife texts back 10 minutes later: "Computer really messed up now."

Try Nature's Brain Booster - Walking!

We're always telling ourselves to get off the couch and many of us know walking is good for our leg muscle and heart. But walking also stimulates the brain, elevating mood, sharpening memory and boosting creativity.

In 2016 researchers from Chicago's St Xavier University concluded that a mere 12 minutes of walking might be enough to lift a person's mood and relieve negative emotions.

Walkers in a group reap the added benefits of support and companionship. A survey of the 20,000-plus members of Heart Foundation Walking underlined this advantage. More than three quarters had joined a group because they wanted to improve their health and fitness. But the social aspect was the strongest motivator for them continuing.

Judy Radford



Leeches

The medicinal leech *Hirudo medicinalis*, has been used for clinical bloodletting for at least 2,500 years: Ayurvedic texts describe their use for bloodletting in ancient India. In ancient Greece, bloodletting was practised according to the theory of humours found in the Hippocratic Corpus of the fifth century BC, which maintained that health depended on a balance of the four humours: blood, phlegm, black bile and yellow bile. It was believed bloodletting using leeches enabled physicians to restore balance in the body. Medicinal use of leeches was also used in ancient Rome.

William Wordsworth's 1802 poem "Resolution and Independence" describes one of the last of the leech-gatherers, people who travelled Britain catching leeches from the wild

Leech collectors were not well paid. In this poem, Wordsworth describes the hardships that the old, poor leech collector had endured:

*He told, that to these waters he
had come
To gather leeches, being old and
poor:
Employment hazardous and
wearisome!
And he had many hardships to
endure:
From pond to pond he roamed,
from moor to moor;
Housing, with God's good help,
by choice or chance,
And in this way he gained an
honest maintenance.*

Hirudo medicinalis, the only species of leech in Britain that can suck human blood, was identified as being "Near Threatened". Their decline dates back to the time of the collectors and Wordsworth refers to the fall in their numbers in his poem.

*He with a smile did then his
words repeat;
And said, that, gathering leeches,
far and wide
He travelled; stirring thus about
his feet
The waters of the pools where
they abide.
"Once I could meet with them on
every side;
But they have dwindled long by
slow decay;
Yet still I persevere, and find
them where I may."*

The collection of leeches became a sizeable industry in the mid-19th century: 30 million were exported from Germany to America annually and French imports in 1833 were in the region of 42 million.

By the 1850s, leeches were difficult to find in Britain and other parts of Europe and importing them from Central Asia made their use expensive.

In 1863, British hospitals switched to importing leeches, some seven million being imported to hospitals in London that year.

By the turn of the 20th century *Hirudo medicinalis* had disappeared from most of Europe and was declared extinct in the British Isles. The dramatic drop in numbers was blamed partly on the over-collection of the species but also on the dramatic reduction of their habitat.

The leech collecting industry also declined as the medicinal value of bloodletting and the use of leeches was questioned in the mid-to-late 19th century, under the influence of Rudolf Virchow's work on cellular processes and the eventual rise of the germ theory of disease.

Leeches made a comeback in the 1980s after years of decline, with the advent of microsurgery. Leeches can reduce swelling in the tissues and promote healing, helping in particular to restore circulation after microsurgery to reattach body parts. Other clinical applications include varicose veins, muscle cramps, thrombophlebitis, and joint diseases such as epicondylitis and osteoarthritis.

One active component of leech saliva is a small protein, hirudin. It is widely used as an anticoagulant drug to treat blood-clotting disorders.

If I waited until I had all
my ducks in a row, I'd
never get across the
street. Sometimes you
just have to gather up
what you've got and
make a run for it.

- Judge Lynn Toler
@thegrowthgym | #thegrowthgym

1955 Domestic Violence Killing - A true story

My friend Peter lived in the next street and one evening his mother killed his father who was a daily inebriate who abused and was violent to his mother.

He worked in Brixton market and she had to go there to ask for money for the family. A humiliation as he was verbally abusive to her there and gave her money grudgingly out of his drinking funds

One Friday evening he came home drunk and abusive and fell backwards and hit his head on the stairs and lay unconscious. Mother snapped. She knelt down over him and grabbed his tie and pulled it tight, cutting off his air supply. She held tight till he stopped breathing.

The police came and arrested my friend's mother and charged her with murder. A few months later she was tried at the Old Bailey. The judge carefully listened to all of the evidence, not just of the killing but of the history of domestic violence and abuse.

I do not know what the verdict was but the judge freed her and she went home to her children. She was a broken woman. I would see her occasionally in the high street and she walked with her head down, never making eye contact. Peter became very quiet and rarely spoke and never about his family

Geoff Jones

Fairy Wrens

Not everyone knows that there are two different species of fairy wren living around us: the superb fairy wren and the variegated fairy wren. They are two of the nine species of fairy wren.



Superb Fairy Wren



Variegated Wren

Superb Fairy-wrens are found in Tasmania and throughout eastern Australia to the south-eastern corner of South Australia. Variegated wrens range from around Eden on the south coast to north of Bundaberg

It seems unfair when one member of the family gets all the good looks, especially when it's the father. But that's how it is for most Fairy-wrens



The dazzling blue plumage on a breeding male's head and neck and tail will catch your eye if you're lucky enough to have one in your area. These beautiful birds are not at all shy of humans and have been known to skip among people sitting on a terrace or veranda.

Somewhere nearby will be a group of small brown birds. These are the females, and 'stay at home' sons and daughters of previous broods. Nest building is done entirely by the female in 3-4 days, using spiders' webs, fine twigs and grass then lined with wool, feathers or animal hair.

Only the mother sits on the eggs. The others in the group feed and protect the nestlings once hatched, leaving the mother to lay up to three broods of 3 to 4 eggs per season.

They can be found wherever there are dense shrubs and bushes, feeding on small insects in small social groups of one dominant male and several females and young birds.

Wrens have relatively weak powers of flight but long legs, so they spend most of their time on the ground or in shrubs

Behind their beautiful appearance, there lies a tangled web of torrid affairs and deceit. Just before dawn, the illusion of family duty and marital fidelity is shattered. Both mum and dad will often disappear to neighbouring territories, before the sun rises, for romantic forays with other fairy-wrens. Mum may seek out a suitor who recently gave her a pretty flower as a gift, while dad fairy-wren may disappear to court other females.

This unashamed infidelity isn't just a one-off, it is so common that up to three quarters of all the fairy-wren broods can be sired by other males.

Many birds mate for life but being unfaithful in the bird world is a lot more common than many people realise. It also has its benefits. Laying lots of eggs fertilised by different males can increase the genetic health of the fairy-wren population.

Geoff Jones

How to speak Kiwi

(With apologies to Club Secretary Lesley)

Pigs – for hanging out washing

Pugs – large pink animal with curly tail

Sucks Pec – half a dozen beers

Sex – one less than sivven

Tin – one more than 9

Beers – large savage animals found in the US.

Veerjun – mythical NZ maiden

McKenoock – person who fixes cars

Sivven Sucks Sivven – *large* Boeing aircraft

Beggage Chucken – place to leave your suitcase at the airport

Fear Hear – blonde

Duffy Cult – not easy

Bun Button – been bitten by an insect

Fush – marine creatures

Malcolm McLean



60 Things to Toss Out in the Next 60 Days

1. Wrapping paper scraps.
2. Christmas lights that don't work.
3. Out of date magazines.
4. Old receipts you don't need.
5. Worn out hair ties.
6. Unmatched earrings.
7. Worn out or unmatched socks.
8. Old CDs.
9. Stretched out or scratched sunglasses.
10. Out of date makeup products.
11. Out of date hair products.
12. Out of date skincare products.
13. Worn out bras.
14. Scarves that never see the light of day.
15. Ragged t-shirts.
16. Expired meds.
17. Scraps of mail.
18. Expired coupons.
19. Gifts you don't use/want.
20. Gloopy nail polish.
21. Old electronics.
22. Tarnished jewelry.
23. Makeup bags you never use.
24. Change purses you never use.
25. Actual purses you never use.
26. Worn out sheets.
27. Old pillows.
28. Worn out or scuffed up shoes.
29. Boxes.
30. Empty jars or storage containers.
31. Old phones.
32. Store reward cards you never use.
33. Shopping bags.
34. Frayed or stained towels.
35. Frayed or stained washcloths.
36. Old school books.
37. Old phone covers.
38. Candles that have burned out.
39. Books you don't enjoy.
40. Ragged nail accessories.
41. DVD you don't watch.
42. Any hair accessories you have multiples of.
43. Tattered makeup brushes.
44. Gunked up makeup sponges.
45. Promo t-shirts you never wear.
46. Jeans that don't fit just right.
47. Belts you don't wear.
48. Old school bags.
49. Empty or almost empty products.
50. Knickknacks that are just taking up space.
51. Old gift cards.
52. Products samples.
53. Old paperwork.
54. Delete and unsubscribe to store emails.
55. Delete junk emails.
56. Delete music you don't enjoy from your library.
57. Delete bad pics, screenshots, and duplicates.
58. Delete apps you don't use from your phone.
59. Delete old texts or contacts.
60. Cancel digital services that you don't use.

Judy Radford