



Fight On!

News from the 'Victoria Cross for
Teddy Sheean' Campaign



Nick Wolfe of The Wolfe Brothers band, Mr Robert Dick (President - RSL Tasmania), Garry Ivory (nephew of Teddy Sheean) and Mr Guy Barnett MP at the presentation of RSL-NSW's special 'Teddy Sheean' Anzac Appeal 2016 badge to Garry. Teddy's inspirational story is one of seven remembered with pride in this year's ANZAC Appeal, whose proceeds will help support veterans.

TEDDY'S AMAZING STORY

Tasmanian Teddy Sheean was just 17 years of age when he joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1941. Allocated to his first ship, the newly commissioned HMAS Armidale, in little more than a year, Teddy was soon off to war when his ship was ordered to undertake a resupply and evacuation mission to Japanese-occupied Timor.

On this voyage, the Armidale was soon attacked by Japanese aircraft and was hit by two aircraft-launched torpedoes. The ship began sinking fast. Teddy was wounded and by the side of the ship ready to jump into the motor boat, when he saw his mates being strafed in the water. He made his way back to his gun, sustaining a second wound on the way back, before strapping himself to his gun and shooting at the attacking aircraft even as the ship was sinking beneath him (see painting to right).

He shot down two planes, with crewmates seeing tracer bullets rising from beneath the surface as Sheean was dragged under the water, firing until the end. He died on 1 December 1942 aged just 18, leaving an example of courage that still lives today.

FIGHT ON – THE CAMPAIGN FOR TEDDY CONTINUES

The fight to have the extraordinary bravery of Ordinary Seaman Edward 'Teddy' Sheean continues.

Spearheaded by Teddy's nephew, Garry Ivory, and Guy Barnett MP, the campaign has gone all the way to Buckingham Palace with a letter written last year to Prince Harry, asking for his support in having Teddy's courage recognised with a Victoria Cross.

The Prince replied, advising that he had referred our request to the Ministry of Defence for consideration. If justice is not served, the campaign will be taken direct to the British Admiralty!

Adding pressure to this request was the tabling of a petition with 4271 signatures in Parliament last year by Guy calling for Teddy's bravery to be appropriately recognised – well done everyone!



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Mr Robert Dick (President - RSL Tasmania), Mr Guy Barnett MP, Mr Doug Baird (father of CPL Cameron Baird VC MG) and the Premier the Hon Will Hodgman MP at the launch of "Our Heroes" at Parliament House

VC BOOK LAUNCHED

The Centenary of ANZAC edition of the book 'Our Heroes – Tasmania's Victoria Cross Recipients' was launched at a special event at Parliament House in late 2015.

Since the award's inception in 1856, only 100 Australians have been granted the Victoria Cross. Of these, a staggering 14 have been Tasmanians—an amazing record and one of which we can be proud.

The Premier of Tasmania launched the book with the guests of honour being Mr Doug and Mrs Kaye Baird—parents of Burnie-born CPL Cameron Baird VC MG, the 100th Australian recipient of the Victoria Cross and Tasmania's 14th.

The book also includes a special chapter on Teddy Sheean—a boy whose bravery deserves Australia's 101st VC.

The book, written by Guy Barnett, is available from RSLs across the state for a small donation.

Want to keep up to date with the latest developments?

Then like 'Teddy Sheean VC Award Fight' on Facebook!



VETERANS GRANT PROGRAMS OPEN!

The Tasmanian Government supports our veterans' community in a number of ways, including through the provision of a number of small grants programs to help our veterans and promote the sacrifice of our servicemen and women. These programs include:

The Teddy Sheean Memorial Grants Program

Under this program, Tasmanian ex-service organisations and clubs can apply for grants of up to \$10 000 to assist with minor capital works including repairs and maintenance of existing premises. The next available funding round will open in September 2016. Visit http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/csr/grants_and_community_engagement for more information.

The Centenary of ANZAC Grants Program

Under this program, grants up to \$5 000 are made available to eligible organisations through a competitive application process. A total funding pool of \$50 000 is available for each year of the ANZAC Centenary. The next available funding round is due to open in mid-2016. Visit http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/csr/grants_and_community_engagement for more information.

The Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF)

The TCF was established in 1999 to provide grants to not-for-profit organisations and community bodies that make a difference by improving the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of the Tasmanian community. Grants are available in three categories: small (up to \$10 000), medium (\$10 001 to \$90 000) and large (above \$90 000). Applications for the next general grants round will open on 23 July 2016. For more information visit: http://www.tascomfund.org/about_our_grants

Please contact Guy Barnett's office on (03) 6165 7751 should you require any assistance. We are only too ready to help!