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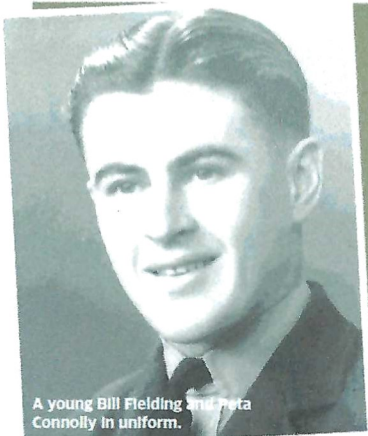
BATTLE ON THE FOOTY FIELD

EXCLUSIVE
CHRISTOPHER TAN

An annual football match played in the heart of the northern suburbs will kick off for the 30th time this Saturday between the North Beach Tigers and Kingsley Cats. The

Graham Edwards Anzac football match — named after a well known Vietnam veteran — will this year coincide with the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the war in Vietnam.

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A young Bill Fielding and Peta Connolly in uniform.

Annual football match to kick off for the 30th time on Saturday as part of Anzac Day tradition

SERVICE OUT IN THE FIELD



EXCLUSIVE CHRISTOPHER TAN

An annual football match played in the heart of the northern suburbs will kick off for the 30th time this Saturday as part of a long-standing Anzac Day tradition.

North Beach Tigers will host the Kingsley Cats in the Graham Edwards Anzac football match.

Mr Edwards, 76, a Vietnam veteran who became a long-serving State and Federal politician, is the Tigers' No. 1 ticket holder.

The North Beach resident and former 7th Battalion RAR private lost his legs after he stepped on a landmine in Vietnam on May 12, 1970.

North Beach RSL president John Rolfe said it was hoped Mr Edwards' spirit, bravery and dedi-

cation to country would be reflected through a game of footy.

"The football match is one way the sub-branch veterans can come together with the football club and the community to share our common goals to preserve the meaning of Anzac Day," Mr Rolfe said.

The northern suburbs are filled with many former and current servicemen and servicewomen who have put country before self.

Here's some of their stories:

BILL FIELDING, 98, CARINE 1942 - 1946

As a youngster, Mr Fielding was well aware of Australia's military history as his father served in the Boer War, while his uncle was in WWI and suffered from the effects of mustard gas.

"Anzac Day has always been special to reflect on all of our service and what happened, especially at the dawn service," Mr Fielding said.

After studies, he visited the RAAF office and was told they were not recruiting air crew at that time, although he was accepted as a trainee radio location mechanic and enlisted on October 28, 1942.

His service included setting up, operating and maintaining radar stations, including the Australian-designed Light Weight Air Warning Radar.

Mr Fielding then served in Sandgate and Townsville in Queensland, Milne Bay in Papua New Guinea and the 304 Radar Unit on the eastern coast of Normanby Island.

The battle of Milne Bay at that time is described in military history as the first major battle of the war in the Pacific.

None of the Australian troops who were captured by the Japanese survived. Some were found to have been executed, with some showing signs of having been mutilated as well.

"My time working overseas particularly strengthened my nationalism, especially when experiencing Anzac Day in other countries. One felt proud being an Australian," Mr Fielding said.

"It is important that the young generation be aware of the impact of war conflict on our country and defence personnel. And that it is honourable to serve in the defence forces of Australia as a career and,



North Beach's Ned Halley and captain Mitchell Gill with Graham Edwards.



Bill Fielding and Peta Connolly and, below, John Rolfe and Travis Ingleby. Pictures: Andrew Ritchie



if asked, to defend our country and its values."

PETA CONNOLLY, 46, TRIGG 1993 - 2013

At the age of 17, after graduating high school, Mrs Connolly enlisted into the army reserves because someone told her there was cheap beer.

She later joined the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and became a lieutenant after being posted at Campbell Barracks in Swanbourne.

She also was part of an intelli-

gence team scouring the top end of Australia for illegal arrivals.

All up she spent nine years in fulltime army and another nine in the army reserve.

Mrs Connolly wears the East Timor clasp Operation Warden and the Australian Defence Medal.

"Anzac Day is about recognising Australia is not a lone single country, it is interconnected with other nations and their peoples' service; similar to a local community," she said.

"A local community can only

continue to flourish if we all work together in service, for example volunteering at the local RSL, or the local school or sporting group."

TRAVIS INGLEBY, 51, CRAIGIE 1988 - 2021

A fourth generation Australian Army soldier, Mr Ingleby's grandfather Thomas fought in WWI, his grandfather Bill fought in WWII and his dad Tassie (Ronald) fought in Vietnam.

Now the Ingleby tradition is continuing as Mr Ingleby's son

Brandon recently enlisted into the Australian Army Reserves.

"To be able to continue on the Anzac tradition with our family and serve our great nation has to be a privilege and honour," Mr Ingleby said.

"(And) on Anzac Day it is a time to reflect on those whom served before us. It is also a time to remember our fallen mates."

Mr Ingleby said that all Australians, especially young people, should be educated on all the wars and military campaigns Australians have been involved in.

"The next generation need to know of the best and worst of wars, especially of our Anzacs' greatest accomplishments and unfortunately some of our sacrifices as well," he said. "They need to know of the sacrifice made by Australia's young serving men and women over 100-plus years that has helped make Australia what it is and stands for today."

Mr Ingleby completed a total of 11 operations over two decades in Somalia, East Timor, Afghanistan, Timor Leste and Middle East North Africa.