

BRUCE RUXTON

The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis 26 December 2011



This article is long overdue by me and it is my way of paying tribute to a good friend who took me on board when I hardly knew anybody and need some support during my study of non Anglo Saxon cultures within Victoria. The article was first written on the 21 November 2010 and is now published again on the passing away of the great man, Bruce *Ruxton*.

It was a difficult period for me on a personal and professional level, but Bruce stood by me and gave me the support when all else failed. He introduced me into the world of the veteran society long before I had come onto the scene and was generous with his time and friendship. Bruce may have forgotten or times and I do not begrudge him in any way in the twilight of his years. with the veteran society.

Many have written about Bruce Ruxton and I guess that I will not be the last. To me Bruce was a legend and despite what the media sometime painted him, Bruce was my hero and I admired him for what he stood for. Bruce was not a racist but someone who loved his country dearly and was prepared to stand up and take the knocks along with the acclamations when they came his way.

Bruce is and always will be an Australian icon, love him or leave him, you could never deny his passion and love of Australia. In years from now when children begin to read about Bruce Ruxton and wonder what kind of man he was, I do hope that they do not judge him harshly for what he believed in.



I first met Bruce in early 1990 during my time as a Defence Force recruiter conducting a study of Non Anglo Saxon cultures and the reasons for their non participation in enlisting in the Australian Defence Force. I was fascinated by the man and instantly liked him. He was "straight as a die", "ridgy didge", called a spade a spade and did not care who he upset as long as the soldiers, sailor and airmen were looked after.

He had a soft spot for the Hellenic nation and he was close friends with two other loveable Greek rogues whom I would meet up with later. One was John Anagnostou and the other was Michael Lidis, both members belonging to the Hellenic RSL now situated in South Melbourne. John Anagnostou, Bruce Ruxton and myself were all lodge members which made communication and trust even more easier.



As time wore on we would meet throughout the years and it was not unusual to meet Bruce at various Military or Hellenic functions where he was be the guest speaker. He knew his homework and was an avid and fiery speaker who spoke with vigour and passion, something that the Greeks were all too familiar with.

They loved him even more when he spoke of the close bonds Australia had with the Hellenic nation and told tales of the heroism of the Greeks during World War 2.

Mind you he would also say the same thing with all other cultures but that was the style of the man. We would also be guests at his office in South Melbourne which was also located near the South Melbourne market where he was well known by the local vendors. His office consisted of two adjacent buildings. One housing his office, staff and equipment and the other his chronicles, records memorabilia and archives stretching back some 70 years or so.

His devoted secretary Helen looked after him throughout the many years they were together, helping him with his many functions, guest speaking appointment, trips overseas and domestically, running the office and keeping everyone who came to the office happy until they were able to meet Bruce in person. When Bruce finally retired and moved to Queensland, Helen married Tom Love a grazier and landowner in Epping on the outskirts of Melbourne.



ANZAC day was always a very special day for Bruce and Helen would be running around making sure that everything was in order, that there was sufficient food and drink, that there was sufficient fuel for the BBQ, seats for those who need them and plenty of Rum and coffee for the morning breakfast after the dawn service. The office would be inundated with Politicians, Para military, councillors, journalist high ranking Police officers and of course military personal, veterans from all cultures and ethnic groups.

What I found also amusing was that it a was a place where old enemies met under the umbrella of ANZAC and where old stories would be told and again and again. You would be rubbing shoulders with a politician and with the local vendor down the street. Only a trained eye would have picked up that it was not only veterans that were invited, it was a network of people from all over the place that Bruce had known throughout the years and shared his passion for Australia and all things Australian.

Mind you, it also helped if you were a lodge member which explained the differences in many of the occupations and careerists that attended the dawn service and subsequent breakfast at Bruce's office. It is no wonder that trooper, Helen Love would always collapse after it was all over. Still, when one strolls by the office today, you would not know that it attracted people from all walks of life all seeking to see the man, Bruce Ruxton.



Whilst Bruce had his office in South Melbourne, he lived in Beaumaris, a seaside suburb which was ten minutes from the beach. It was a wonderful home where he and his family could find peace and tranquillity from the arduous and exhausting speaking engagements. Well that is what one would be led to believe, but the truth of the matter was the Bruce household was far from being quiet and tranquil because of the numerous friends and acquaintances that Bruce and his wife had built over the years.

Apart from the annual BBQ where his most dear friends attended, the home was still open to neighbours who with whom he had lived with since moving into the area. The majority of the photographs showing the album below are from the times had at his Beaumaris home and one wonders where they all now.



I hope that this tribute to Bruce can also be viewed as tribute to all of his friends who attended his Beaumaris gatherings. Many of the names I have forgotten, but those come to mind are: Bruce, Jill, Dennis, Wally, Keith Rossi, Helen Love, Allen Long, David McLaughlin, John Anagnostou and his wife Mary, Peter Vlahos, Liz his chauffeur from the RS, their numerous neighbours especially the lady whose name escapes me but was of a Hellenic background married to her Australian husband, a WW2 veteran.

At Bruce Ruxton's Farwell, Clinton Breeze, wife Rea, Mr and Mrs Violet and Kevin Hurley and along with myself and wife Yovanna joined hundreds of other admirers to pay tribute to a living legend. The event was held at an enormous function room where dignitaries from all over the world had come to pay tribute to an old soldier who never gave up his passion for the rights of all Australians no matter what the adversary was and where they came from.



There was also a number of surprises in store for Bruce that evening as they had a master of ceremonies who presided over "This is your life Bruce Ruxton".

During this period Bruce was given a huge surprise when he was met with his Grandchildren and daughter in law along with his son whom had travelled all the way from Germany as at as guests of the organisers. It was a wonderful evening. One that we will cherish.

The last time we met Bruce was when we travelled to Queensland to attend the 6th Royal Australian Regiment Association Reunion in 2005. We made a huge detour and found Bruce at home relaxing amongst a backdrop of luscious and very green vegetation which was a far cry from his home in Beaumaris. Bruce was glad to see us and showed us around his home. He took me outside to his garage and showed me some of his precious items that he had brought with him.



If I remember correctly Bruce showed me some old furniture and some mechanical equipment which I instantly recognised from his home in Beaumaris, Melbourne. Bruce looked at me and I could see in his eyes that some part of him was wishing that he was back in his old home amongst his friends who would often drip in. We had a cup of coffee, chatted for a bit and promised to drop in again if we were in the area again.

Suffice to say, it is 2010 and the opportunity has not arisen although we often hear of Bruce coming to Melbourne occasionally as a guest of one organisation or another. As we left, I turned over to my wife, Yovanna who is a Canadian and said honey, they don't make Aussies like him anymore, She said what do you mean. I replied and " I mean men of passionate about what they believe and in and not being afraid to stand up to the bullies of this world and say This is my country, I live here, I am Australian. This article does not do the justice that Bruce Ruxton deserves and for that I present my humble apologies for any errors.



The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis is a (not for profit) Journalist/Commentator. He is a retired Australian military serviceman and an Industry organisational & Occupational (OHS) & Training Consultant whose interests are within the parameters of domestic and international political spectrum. He is an avid blogger and contributes to domestic and international community news media outlets as well as to local and Ethnic News. He holds a Bachelor of Adult Learning & Development (Monash), Grad Dip Occupational Health & Safety, (Monash), Dip. Training & Assessment, Dip Public Administration, and Dip Frontline Management. Contact via Email: abalinx@netspace.net.au or via Mobile: 0409965538

BRUCE RUXTON ALBUM





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FORMER VICTORIAN RSL PRESIDENT BRUCE RUXTON DEAD, AGED 85

Patrick Carlyon Herald Sun December 24, 2011 12:00AM



Ex-RSL President Bruce Ruxton. Picture: Craig Borrow Herald Sun

BRUCE Ruxton died long before yesterday. He was gone several years ago, when his brain surrendered to dementia and he seemed unaware of his unlikely legend as a public figure who launched full-frontal assaults on television cameras – when he wasn't skewering a prime minister or archbishop.

By then, Paul Keating, Nelson Mandela, Aborigines, Asians, gays and an otherwise seemingly random assortment of unwitting targets had already faded from Ruxton's radar. He was sunning himself in Queensland, writing and receiving hundreds of letters. He stopped writing them, in the end, but he never stopped getting them. His legs had shrunk to matchsticks, his mind had softened to putty.

This is no way to remember such a life force. Treat his official death, at 85, as a Christmas present from God. For 23 years, as Victorian RSL president, Ruxton wouldn't go away. If he was out of touch, he was also a mouthpiece for a conservative legion, in the suburbs and out bush, who wanted to say what he said but didn't dare. "If it has come out of my mouth, then it's very likely the opinion of the overwhelming majority of Australians," he once said.

Ruxton seemed bigger than premiers and celebrities, and certainly more interesting. His stock campaign strategy was bombast and bluster. When this didn't work, he'd deepen his voice, straighten his spine, and try more bombast and bluster. His opening gambit? "I tell you ... " His signature sign-off? "If you don't mind." Driving with him behind the wheel was like an amusement park ride that wouldn't end. Speed limits were for other people.

The approach also applied to his public life. He would shoot first. He didn't bother with questions and his intolerance for debate lent itself to infinite parody. Yet, somehow, he made the RSL seem bigger than it was. The payoff for members was that the RSL was indistinguishable from Ruxton himself. He put the RSL in the news because he tended to become the news. Not everyone warmed to his approach, but he didn't seem to care.

He told this journalist in 2001 that 98 per cent of his 12-18 hour work days lay in attending war memorial openings and helping Diggers fight bureaucrats for war pensions. The other 2 per cent, he explained, had him "chasing black South Africans and Vietnamese". On the road, he was like a wind-up toy who could stand before a rural crowd and deliver a seamless 45-minute speech, without notes, on immigration, unemployment, political correctness. Tired before the speech, buggered afterwards, he'd appear to inflate on stage.

This instant change-up from stale to stately, wilted to wired, might help reconcile the private man with the public ratbag. Ruxton was difficult to dislike in person. The sound bites didn't reveal the little grin that followed his absurd statements. He always had Labradors, which he named Digger one through five. He hoarded war relics such as Gallipoli shrapnel. Twice married, he barracked for Collingwood through the lean years. After five decades as a close mate, Les Hancock said no one really knew Ruxton "because he's a very soft bloke underneath". This was noted by the unlikeliest of sources – his republican foes at the 1998 Constitutional Convention.

On camera, Ruxton yelled and belittled his opponents. If there wasn't spittle, there should have been. "If you were my mother, I'd petition to be unconceived, I tell ya," he told Moira Raynor. Off stage, the pair apparently shared a warmth likened to flirting. Ruxton was 17 when he enlisted for World War II. The older blokes looked after him and, by the 1950s, Ruxton was rising through the RSL with the express wish of repaying their kindness. The private climbed past brigadiers to the highest state position.

The imagery of a small man taking on, and occasionally whipping, more qualified opponents never deserted Ruxton. Of course the world wasn't as clear-cut as he seemed to claim it was, but he knew this. He played the games of politicians better than most of them. He had an unfair advantage. Right or wrong, silly or not, Bruce Carlyle Ruxton was always true to himself.

Source: <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/former-victorian-rsl-president-bruce-ruxton-dead-aged-85/story-fn7x8me2-1226229630185>

COMMENTS

- **Ruddiger of Melbourne** Posted at 6:14 PM December 23, 2011

RIP Bruce. Respect

Comment 1 of 179

- **James Hasler of Bendigo** Posted at 6:14 PM December 23, 2011

Poor old Bruce, one thing can be said about him, he called a spade a spade, no mucking around, I admired him, he had the guts to say what many of us wanted too. Farewell and god bless

Comment 2 of 179

- **Justin of Launceston** Posted at 6:15 PM December 23, 2011

Farewell, need blokes like Bruce to balance the scales. Lest We Forget.

Comment 3 of 179

- **Michael Worters. of chch.nz** Posted at 6:18 PM December 23, 2011

Rest in peace Bruce Ruxton. A brave soldier. I always admired you.

Comment 4 of 179

- **allan of tamworth** Posted at 6:18 PM December 23, 2011

good on ya bruce rest in peace you were a true blue ausie through and through

Comment 5 of 179

- **Gary of Melbourne** Posted at 6:23 PM December 23, 2011

RIP Bruce. So Mote it be

Comment 6 of 179

- **Steve Wolf** Posted at 6:23 PM December 23, 2011

A Great Aussie, who stood up to what he believed in. Totally politically incorrect . We need more like him

Comment 7 of 179

- **Nemo** Posted at 6:26 PM December 23, 2011

Very sad news. He was a likeable old bastard. Good on you Bruce. You will be remembered

Comment 8 of 179

- **Mitch of Central Vic** Posted at 6:27 PM December 23, 2011

Rest In Peace Bruce. Bloody Aussie Legend.

Comment 9 of 179

- **Paul of nth east vic** Posted at 6:30 PM December 23, 2011

RIP Bruce, a real Aussie who told it as it was.

Comment 10 of 179

- **Anarchy Rules of Doreen** Posted at 6:30 PM December 23, 2011

Abrasive, blunt and opinionated but Veterans never had a stronger advocate. Rest now old soldier.

Comment 11 of 179

- **Thanks Brucey of Melbourne** Posted at 6:31 PM December 23, 2011

Thanks Digger for fighting the good fight. May you rest in Peace. Lest we forget.

Comment 12 of 179

- **Rohan of Craigieburn** Posted at 6:34 PM December 23, 2011

Rest in peace Bruce. You were a man who stood up for what you believed in, politically correct or not. You called a spade a bloody shovel and did fantastic work standing up for the rights of veterans. Sadly, I don't think we'll see another Bruce Ruxton type character in this country again.

Comment 13 of 179

- **craig of Sydney** Posted at 6:36 PM December 23, 2011

Legend will live long Mr Ruxton. . . Thank you for all you have done for those brave soldiers who paid the ultimate price and those that returned home. To your family, the torture of dementia he has now been released from and he will for ever – REST IN PEACE.

Comment 14 of 179

- **Iconic of Melb** Posted at 6:36 PM December 23, 2011

My sincere regards to his family, who must have had a difficult time over these past years; at least he is now at peace. I was not a war vet but my Grand dad was, and Mr Ruxton put the RSL on the "map" for me. Many times Mr Ruxton was right, often he was wrong, in many others he made me laugh, but he always made me think. Often when I talk to my dad about social or political issues he says things like "if Bruce was here, he would have something to say about it, and he'd be right too" ... thanks Mr Ruxton, you are an icon.

Comment 15 of 179

- **Geraldine de kretser of melbournr vic** Posted at 6:37 PM December 23, 2011

RIP

Comment 16 of 179

- **Dude where is my country of Melbourne** Posted at 6:38 PM December 23, 2011

Rest in Peace Bruce, a true Australia Hero.

Comment 17 of 179

- **Wendy** Posted at 6:39 PM December 23, 2011

Sorry to hear the news...he was a treasure.

Comment 18 of 179

- **Paul CURRAN Pensions Officer of Outer East** Posted at 6:39 PM December 23, 2011

A man I always admired, one of the few state presidents who actually assisted veterans with disability claims on a personal basis. I hold treasured memories of Bruce as he did things his way – so effective was his personality that the mandarins at ANZAC House ensured that all State Presidents following Bruce were to be from the commissioned ranks – it seems that outspoken executive members of ANZAC House caused too much flack with the media and the image. Lest We Forget old soldier.

Comment 19 of 179

- **Vic of Qld** Posted at 6:42 PM December 23, 2011

Absolutely so sad. A truly wonderful campaigner for returned service people. A Victorian icon! His comments were legendary, and well parodied by many, but a true Australian with us all in his heart.

Comment 20 of 179

- **joe from the bush** Posted at 6:42 PM December 23, 2011

R,I,P.Buce Ruxton,i fear the likes of you are sadly a dieing breed,your honesty and 'say it like it is attitude' is being smothered in an ocean of political correctness even on this site if we are honest and to the point we are subject to the whims and leaning's of the editors,which sort of defeats the point of haveing a readers forum,i mean other than crude or blatant untruth's i have always thought if someone takes the time to post then it should be printed but i suppose the P/C brigades are every where but some of us still put up the good fight...so once again = We grow not old as those that are left grow old age shall not weary them nore the years condemn them at the going down of the sun and in the morning we shall remember them.....lest we forget. Good on you Bruce. I would also like to take this opportunity to

thank the Herald Sun their staff and the editors of our posts (damn you sometimes though,haha)and wish you and all of the Poster's a Merry Christmas and a safe prosperous and happy New Year...and as always..I wish you all you wish yourselves...tfn for the young ones that means 'ta ta for now 'all the best...joe from the bush.

Comment 21 of 179

- **Gazza of Perth** Posted at 6:44 PM December 23, 2011

RIP Bruce. At least he called a spade a spade, unlike some of the weakies today.

Comment 22 of 179

- **Ric Evans** Posted at 6:48 PM December 23, 2011

RIP to an Aussie legend. We'd be speaking Japanese if not for people like Bruce Ruxton

Comment 23 of 179

- **Grateful Daughter of a POW** Posted at 6:49 PM December 23, 2011

He was a Great and Powerful Personality and a Great Voice for the RSL and Veterans.....A Gutsy Bloke, he will be sadly missed!

Comment 24 of 179

- **Robert of Geelong** Posted at 6:52 PM December 23, 2011

A top bloke.

Comment 25 of 179

- **Marlene of Melbourne** Posted at 6:53 PM December 23, 2011

RIP Bruce, thanks for all you help when dad was sick

Comment 26 of 179

- **John of Melbourne, Vic** Posted at 6:56 PM December 23, 2011

We need more people like Bruce, a genuine and real man, who's rough exterior belied his true nature. I met him on-board in my previous job many times, a true gentleman. You have done a lot of good mate, your men will seriously miss you. RIP mate.

Comment 27 of 179

- **Ex serviceman of Melton** Posted at 7:00 PM December 23, 2011

It is a shame that people in the RSL today don't have the passion that Bruce did a true champoin of the digger. Rest in peace Bruce the battle is over

Comment 28 of 179

- **Rae MaCARDY** Posted at 7:01 PM December 23, 2011

He was a wonderful man that stood up for us all a great man. Go with God Bruce you were my hero. Rae Macardy

Comment 29 of 179

- **Derek of West Penno** Posted at 7:03 PM December 23, 2011

I'll miss Bruce. He really did have a big heart, even if it didn't show at times.

Comment 30 of 179

- **W Niklaus of Melbourne** Posted at 7:03 PM December 23, 2011

Deepest sympathy to Family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this sad time. Thank you for the commitment and passion you poured into the Victorian RSL Bruce. Regards A returned serviceman of 21 yrs

Comment 31 of 179

- **Les Butcher** Posted at 7:04 PM December 23, 2011

RIP Bruce Ruxton. Never a slave to political correctness. I like that!

Comment 32 of 179

- **mick of wonthaggi** Posted at 7:06 PM December 23, 2011

A TRUE AUSSIE YOU WILL BE MISSED REST IN PEACE WITH ALL YOUR MATES LEST WE FORGET

Comment 33 of 179

- **m.c patriot of melbourne** Posted at 7:07 PM December 23, 2011

good man, said it how it was good on ya bruce, r.i.p

Comment 34 of 179

- **Grant Pugh of Brisbane** Posted at 7:10 PM December 23, 2011

Vale Digger.

Comment 35 of 179

- **Justine** Posted at 7:15 PM December 23, 2011

RIP old mate

Comment 36 of 179

- **Gb of Watsonia** Posted at 7:16 PM December 23, 2011

A great man who was always enthusiastic to the cause and was of great assistance to the rsl. One of the greats. Rip bruce fixing.

Comment 37 of 179

- **Proud aussie of Mornington peninsula** Posted at 7:18 PM December 23, 2011

Rip Bruce. U had a way with words but no one can ever say u didn't stand up for what u believed in. Sympaty to the family but I'm sure they are so proud of u.

Comment 38 of 179

- **Daktari of Mt Martha** Posted at 7:23 PM December 23, 2011

The world needs more principled people like Bruce Ruxton but unfortunately they seem to be very rare. A life well lived in the service of his country and fellow returned servicemen and women.

Comment 39 of 179

- **Peninsula Paul** Posted at 7:24 PM December 23, 2011

RIP Bruce, you were a good man, with high moral and ethical standards. You stood up for what you believed in and backed the RSL 100%. "Lest we forget"

Comment 40 of 179

- **NeilS of Turriff, United Kingdom.** Posted at 7:27 PM December 23, 2011

Good on you Bruce! My old man maintained the Returned Services men and women earned the right, and should have had, more say in running the country. You made a latter day contribution there.

Comment 41 of 179

- **Daniel of Hawthorn** Posted at 7:27 PM December 23, 2011

He may have been a cranky old bugger but at least you knew where you stood with him (no P.C. talk), you didn't have to like him but you can't help but respect him. And good on him for sticking up for the Diggers.... Vale Bruce Ruxton.

Comment 42 of 179

- **allen williams** Posted at 7:32 PM December 23, 2011

a true australian apassionate veteran and a sad loss for those who could not speak for themselves.

Comment 43 of 179

- **jorge of brisbane** Posted at 7:40 PM December 23, 2011

Another great Australian gone, but not forgotten RIP Bruce.

Comment 44 of 179

- **andrea of donnybrook vic** Posted at 7:47 PM December 23, 2011

how sad to die so close to christmas may his family still have a lovely christmas and try and just remeber the good times rip in piece

Comment 45 of 179

- **Bojangles of Mountjoy** Posted at 7:50 PM December 23, 2011

Legend, the man spoke his mind and was a REAL man. We need more people like this in Australia. RIP Bruce

Comment 46 of 179

- **CUZ of Collingwood** Posted at 7:51 PM December 23, 2011

RIP Bruce.

Comment 47 of 179

- **Ken of Melbourne** Posted at 7:55 PM December 23, 2011

Thank goodness for people like Bruce, who, among other things, challenged the political correctness bulls#%t. He was always prepared to put himself forward for veterans, and will always be remembered for that. Sorry to hear of his passing.

Comment 48 of 179

- **David of Lake Reeve Island** Posted at 7:58 PM December 23, 2011

Yeah there is no doubt about the fact that Mr. Ruxton made a vital contribution to australian industrial and military politics, during a period which takes us to the cusp of international and intergenerational change for all australian, veterans or otherwise. The fact that he was soldier without rank created a precedence worthy of mention, the legacy children would be a lot worse off without his contribution. We will miss Bruce.

Comment 49 of 179

- **Sandra from Adelaide** Posted at 8:02 PM December 23, 2011

RIP Bruce Ruxton. Condolences to the Family & Friends. THANK YOU for your tireless efforts over the years and standing up for the Veterans and their Families

Comment 50 of 179

- **David of Dromana** Posted at 8:04 PM December 23, 2011

A true Australian, and a great man. What a shame that we are losing our identity. In another 50 years Australia will change its name to "Whoarewe" or "Whowerewe" Our politicians have a lot to answer for. Rest in peace Bruce for at least you knew Australia when it was Australia. God Bless Mate.

Comment 51 of 179

- **Graham of SEYMOUR 3660** Posted at 8:13 PM December 23, 2011

Bruce went where angels feared to tread,that sums him up,great man,great memories.

Comment 52 of 179

- **Bob of Boronia** Posted at 8:13 PM December 23, 2011

Loved you Bruce. You called a spade a shovel and never took a backward step. You stood up to the politically correct when they censored your beloved vets. A true Australian. May you rest in peace

Comment 53 of 179

- **Leigh of London** Posted at 8:13 PM December 23, 2011

RIP Legend

Comment 54 of 179

- **Carol of Toorak** Posted at 8:20 PM December 23, 2011

What a great man. Should of been Prime Minister. He would of fix the boat problem. R.I.P Bruce.

Comment 55 of 179

- **Kallista of Adelaide** Posted at 8:40 PM December 23, 2011

What a great loss for Australia,Bruce always said a spade is a spade not a boody shovel, Bruce you will always be remembered

Comment 56 of 179

- **Tony Ryan** Posted at 8:44 PM December 23, 2011

Rest in Peace Bruce. Your efforts on behalf of ADF veterans are legend. Your willingness to call "a spade a spade" gave us all the more reason to admire you. Political correctness was not "on your radar", and it is a pity more people do not follow your example.

Comment 57 of 179

- **Trevor of Wodonga** Posted at 8:55 PM December 23, 2011

Brucey Ruxton one true Aussie who called a spade a spade. Will always be remembered for fighting for the Vets rights. Rest in peace Brucey

Comment 58 of 179

- **Ange T Kenos** Posted at 8:59 PM December 23, 2011

On behalf of the members of the Essendon RSL, a salute to the man who lead us so brilliantly and who always put his members first

Comment 59 of 179

- **Mickey444** Posted at 9:03 PM December 23, 2011

Good Man Good Australian

Comment 60 of 179

- **Steve** Posted at 9:04 PM December 23, 2011

RIP Bruce, you did your members proud 😊

Comment 61 of 179

- **David of Melbourne** Posted at 9:10 PM December 23, 2011

Dear Bruce – some of your comments over the years were not always politically correct, but your heart was always in the right place, and you were always a stalwart supporter of so many Australian veterans who served in the wars. Rest in peace.

Comment 62 of 179

- **rod of Townsville** Posted at 9:13 PM December 23, 2011

Wait for it, the Lefties will love this – get your grave dancin' boots on folks, we couldn't touch when was alive but dead men tell no tales.

Comment 63 of 179

- **ADAM of WA** Posted at 9:27 PM December 23, 2011

thanks for helping out my grandfather and grandmother Bruce!

Comment 64 of 179

- **mark** Posted at 9:31 PM December 23, 2011

Called a spade a spade.. A true australian. RIP

Comment 65 of 179

- **GeeClassLoco of Sleepy Hollow** Posted at 9:37 PM December 23, 2011

Called a spade a spade.... whether people liked it or not... RIP.... Heaven will be waiting for some lively debates...

Comment 66 of 179

- **Fletch of Broadmeadows** Posted at 9:39 PM December 23, 2011

In many ways, Popgun, you done a lot for the veterans and for that we thank you. R.I.P.

Comment 67 of 179

- **robwil** Posted at 9:40 PM December 23, 2011

RIP Bruce, you put service people first and foremost.

Comment 68 of 179

- **Freddie of Gippsland** Posted at 9:46 PM December 23, 2011

Bruce told it like it was, no airs or graces, and if you didn't like it, well bad luck. Politicians from both sides could take a leaf out of the gospel according to Bruce. They spend way too much time trying to be Politically correct to the detriment of the electorate. The Veterans of Australia are better off because off because Bruce Ruxton.

Comment 69 of 179

- **PT** Posted at 9:47 PM December 23, 2011

cheers Bruce, and well done mate!

Comment 70 of 179

- **big kev of jagajaga** Posted at 9:49 PM December 23, 2011

You were a real australian bruce and it's just as well you wont be around to see what our tribalised country will become over the next few years.

Comment 71 of 179

- **dave of west alfredton** Posted at 9:55 PM December 23, 2011

a fighter for the fighters

Comment 72 of 179

- **big al of victoria** Posted at 9:57 PM December 23, 2011

One of the only gutsy courageous MEN that gutless sneering loony socialist lefts attack on a regular basis.

Comment 73 of 179

- **MJ** Posted at 10:09 PM December 23, 2011

Bruce, you were a tough bugger. And may God bless you.

Comment 74 of 179

- **Jim of Richmond** Posted at 10:27 PM December 23, 2011

A man who said it how it was and being a serviceman during his time as head of RSL was proud to have him there! RIP big fella

Comment 75 of 179

- **Shaun of North Shore** Posted at 10:32 PM December 23, 2011

So long Bruce. You were a true warrior. May you rest in peace

Comment 76 of 179

- **Peter From Altona** Posted at 10:35 PM December 23, 2011

The end of another era, or put another way another nail in Australia's coffin. Bruce you where a straight talker calling a spade a spade none of this rubbish of being politically correct you will be sadly missed. God Bless and R.I.P

Comment 77 of 179

- **scotty of flemington clocktower** Posted at 10:46 PM December 23, 2011

good on ya brucie..... like teddy whitten, you stuck it up em. every year there are few of their elk left in this once great land. RIP

Comment 78 of 179

- **shayne of Melbourne** Posted at 11:01 PM December 23, 2011

RIP Bruce Ruxton you are an icon to the Australian Military and the God Father of the RSL.. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them.. (Brucey) You helped me and my family S.Formica (9pet platoon)

Comment 79 of 179

- **John of Glen Huntly** Posted at 11:01 PM December 23, 2011

Bruce I once asked why you kept your private listing in the white pages and you said returned servicemen/women may want to call you! Most others would have wanted to keep their heads down during some of those times. You were certainly there for them 24/7 although I suspect that you welcomed the occasional argument!

Comment 80 of 179

- **A Wonderful Warrior For His Cause. of Southbank** Posted at 11:05 PM December 23, 2011

Bruce Ruxton, a wonderful Victorian and Australian who I thank for the ongoing support he encouraged for my grandfathers and uncles and every one who served in the Australian Forces. Through Bruce's absolute commitment, energy and at times outspoken statements he drew attention to the need for ongoing recognition of the contribution our servicemen and women. Well Bruce, in my family you succeeded. My married five children and their ten children so far with more grandchildren to come honour 25 April and 11 November every year. As a family we reckon your only failing, as an open honest person who spoke your mind freely about a lot of issues on which we agreed with you, was your passion for the Collingwood Football Club. Rest in peace great warrior. We loved you.

Comment 81 of 179

- **Ash from the lakes of Lakes Entrance vic** Posted at 11:36 PM December 23, 2011

good on ya Bruce.

Comment 82 of 179

- **Tommie of Townsville** Posted at 11:53 PM December 23, 2011

This man was my uncle..I spent time with him after his first wife died in Beaumaris in Victoria, I went to work with him in the RSL office that he had in Brooke street Albert Park in Melbourne...None of you know this man, that he worked 16 hours a day for the widows of RSL men, that he donated to charities and raised children from Africa and Japan..he was a fine man, whether he was politically incorrect, I don't give a f-k....he was a man who served this country in war and out of war and continued to serve this country and children of war torn countries until he died...U r now with my DAD..PNG was your learning curve....RIP my friend...God love you as I do xxxoxo

Comment 83 of 179

- **Paul Hickey of Howlong** Posted at 11:56 PM December 23, 2011

A Great Man, whom I will miss. I was privileged to meet him many years ago. He was a true patriot, who loved Australia. He spoke for the silent majority of us who disagreed with the politically correct set. Requiem in Pace, Bruce.

Comment 84 of 179

- **Bruce Sobey** Posted at 12:07 AM December 24, 2011

Bruce you were a good mate to my old man. He always said if something happens to me call Rucko! You will be remembered with respect and dignity by the so many that you fought for, especially the 2/25th. An honorable man, a life worth remembering.

Comment 85 of 179

- **Ozkor of South Korea** Posted at 12:10 AM December 24, 2011

RIP old boy – you were a bloody legend.

Comment 86 of 179

- **Geraldine of Brisbane Qld** Posted at 12:22 AM December 24, 2011

Rest in peace Bruce, you are a Great Australian there will never be another character like you, we have missed you and your opinions for several years now you gave us lots of laughs, never forget you Bruce.

Comment 87 of 179

- **The Analog Kid of the night sky with all those wonderful stars** Posted at 12:25 AM December 24, 2011

Vale, Bruce Ruxton. You represented our soldiers to the Nth degree. My late father fought in WW2 and knew the horror of war first hand. The 'old blokes' loved Bruce, coz he stuck up for them. He cared. RIP, Bruce Ruxton.

Comment 88 of 179

- **JT** Posted at 12:26 AM December 24, 2011

Deepest sympathies to Bruce's loved ones. A true Australian Legend passes on. R.I.P Bruce.

Comment 89 of 179

- **Kym of Brisbane** Posted at 12:49 AM December 24, 2011

Bruce Ruxton, OBE....rest in peace...your duty nobly done!!

Comment 90 of 179

- **AR Barnett** Posted at 1:02 AM December 24, 2011

BR wasn't PC and he was just about the last of them!

Comment 91 of 179

- **alain of south yarra** Posted at 1:07 AM December 24, 2011

Great Eulogy for a Larger-than-Life Digger who gave his all. VALE, Bruce Ruxton & may you find Peace in the Hallowed Halls of Valhalla.

Comment 92 of 179

- **Ingrid of Latrobe Valley, Victoria.** Posted at 1:25 AM December 24, 2011

Bruce Ruxton was a great man who believed in the Australian way of life, straight up, he defended the RSL with his last breath I presume even though his great mind deteriorated which is sad but it happens to a lot of older people and thankfully or mercifully yes it was a present from God to take him yesterday so he can relax in peace with Him. I admired Bruce

immensely, enjoyed his "outbursts" but whatever came out of his mouth I agreed with totally. Rest in Peace Bruce, sympathy to his family, we will never forget him, he was a shining beacon of hope to everyone that cared. God Bless.

Comment 93 of 179

- **Gina** Posted at 1:31 AM December 24, 2011

RIP Bruce.

Comment 94 of 179

- **Ken of High Wycombe WA** Posted at 1:39 AM December 24, 2011

Yeah Bruce, we didn't always agree with you, but we loved how you got your point of view across. Thanks for helping the vets!

Comment 95 of 179

- **James Doyle of Sunshine Coast** Posted at 1:51 AM December 24, 2011

Dom't ya miss that about the true Aussie culture? Love him or hate him he was still a true blue Aussie who said it like it was (without fear of who may be offended at what he said). I respect that.

Comment 96 of 179

- **Haselhurst** Posted at 2:04 AM December 24, 2011

I wonder what he would have said about the current "Silent Invasion"

Comment 97 of 179

- **Guilty as Charged** Posted at 2:08 AM December 24, 2011

Mr. Bruce Ruxton A True Blue Australian.

Comment 98 of 179

- **marcia of werribee** Posted at 2:12 AM December 24, 2011

Agreat strong hero who worked tirelessly for his fellow comrades he is well missed

Comment 99 of 179

- **PETER ADAMIS of Watsonia Victoria** Posted at 2:22 AM December 24, 2011

Dear Bruce, Mate you may have joined your comrades from the past, but we shall not forget your kindness, unselfishness, unwavering support to those who needed it. You always stood up for what was the best for Australia and Australians. A true blue Aussie who will not be forgotten by the many Australians and Non Australians whom you have supported and advised throughout your life. Many misunderstood your motives and certainly misjudged your

actions, but we of the Adamis family are grateful and honoured to have shared our lives with you and enriching our lives along the way. May you rest amongst the stars and gaze upon those whom you have left behind. Condolences to the family. Rest in peace Peter, Yovanna and the Adamis boys.

Comment 100 of 179

- **Should be appreciated of melbourne** Posted at 2:23 AM December 24, 2011

Truly a great Australian, no crap from the pretenders including those pollies. He looked to take care of those who served and in some some cases gave the ultimate for this country.

Comment 101 of 179

- **The Mechanic of Australia** Posted at 2:44 AM December 24, 2011

A very well written obituary of a controversial Australian from an obviously talented HS journalist who has summed up to perfection this Australians life .

Comment 102 of 179

- **dick ashby** Posted at 3:29 AM December 24, 2011

Ex-service men and women owe Bruce a debt of gratitude for standing up for them, which can never be repaid.

Comment 103 of 179

- **Astrid of Toorak** Posted at 3:38 AM December 24, 2011

i might not have always agreed with you Bruce, but you were a true Aussie, through and through. thank you for believing in us. RIP, you deserve it. See you on the other side.

Comment 104 of 179

- **Bally of Queensland** Posted at 4:00 AM December 24, 2011

may he have his peace

Comment 105 of 179

- **Simon Kitty** Posted at 5:39 AM December 24, 2011

Sad to see Bruce go, what a hero of the right you were .

Comment 106 of 179

- **dan of Australia** Posted at 5:59 AM December 24, 2011

Would of loved to see Bruce in government in his prime

Comment 107 of 179

- **Janus of Port Melbourne** Posted at 6:17 AM December 24, 2011

Vale' Bruce. We've lost a great Australian. Enjoy your stand down Mate, you've earned it.

Comment 108 of 179

- **Paul of Croydon** Posted at 6:25 AM December 24, 2011

We need the likes of Bruce. No we don't always agree with them, but it keeps the bastards honest and provides a lot of laughs. Rest in peace Bruce the battle is o'er.

Comment 109 of 179

- **Rod of Cairns** Posted at 6:28 AM December 24, 2011

Fairwell Bruce & RIP. May your star shine bright in heaven

Comment 110 of 179

- **marty of frankston** Posted at 6:54 AM December 24, 2011

rest in peace son

Comment 111 of 179

- **Peter** Posted at 6:57 AM December 24, 2011

Its very sad that Bruce has passed on. I enjoyed watching and listening to his opinions on many issues. He loved his country and dedicated his life to supporting the men and women who helped make our piece of earth a safer place. I can only imagine his opinions on the current issues...i'm sure they would be reflected by the silent majority. RIP Bruce

Comment 112 of 179

- **Rob Burns of Mulgrave Nth** Posted at 7:02 AM December 24, 2011

Great article – True and very very sad!

Comment 113 of 179

- **Old Codger of Tarneit, Vic.** Posted at 7:14 AM December 24, 2011

ONYA Bruce! No need to save me a place up there.

Comment 114 of 179

- **webo** Posted at 7:22 AM December 24, 2011

rest in peace bruce,you were always fighting for a better life for our diggers its a pity there wasnt many more like you..

Comment 115 of 179

- **A Patriot... of 3046** Posted at 7:53 AM December 24, 2011

If ever Australia needed a person like Bruce Ruxton it is surely now. He did speak for the vast majority of Australians and didn't care to who or how he relayed the message. Would have loved to have seen him take to the current Labor block heads. He would have made mince meat of Gillard and her weak, incompetent Government. Very sad to see him go and leave a massive hole nobody else appears prepared to fill.

Comment 116 of 179

- **Steve of Richmond** Posted at 8:02 AM December 24, 2011

I had the pleasure of working with Bruce as a journalist, and the privilege of sharing 10 days with him in Turkey / Gallipoli. His tireless work for veterans and their families, including my father, should never be forgotten. Rest now Bruce.

Comment 117 of 179

- **Mark of Melbourne** Posted at 8:12 AM December 24, 2011

A sad day for Australia, one of the last Australian legends...

Comment 118 of 179

- **AI** Posted at 8:18 AM December 24, 2011

I walked passed the local RSL this morning and was surprised and dissappointed to see that the Australian flag was still flying at full mast.

Comment 119 of 179

- **Mmmm** Posted at 8:54 AM December 24, 2011

No matter what you may think of this man, HE was one hell of a AUSSIE..... Go Bruce give em curry where ever you are mate..!!

Comment 120 of 179

- **Carolyn of Melbourne** Posted at 8:57 AM December 24, 2011

R.I.P Bruce – the Waitress from Windsor (Carolyn)

Comment 121 of 179

- **Howard Crook of pioneer bay, Victoria** Posted at 9:03 AM December 24, 2011

A true Australian Hero and Warrior who believed in a fair go for all our ex-servicemen, and was a determined champion of them, and all the citizens of our Great Land. Lest we Forget. A true son of Australia now part of our History.

Comment 122 of 179

- **Danny of Darwin** Posted at 9:10 AM December 24, 2011

I enjoyed his comments and he represented an Australia of my grandparents; He also knew a brutal war that killed so many innocents. He was right on what he said on many occasions; Now world leaders in France and Germany are echoing his thoughts that basically multiculturalism is a love of the immigrants.

Comment 123 of 179

- **Chris M of Victoria** Posted at 9:14 AM December 24, 2011

Only one of a very few that would say what 80% of others were thinking but too scared to say. Rest in peace Bruce

Comment 124 of 179

- **Tony of Euroa** Posted at 9:24 AM December 24, 2011

Onya Brucey boy. Well raise a glass or to to you. Last of the true Australians. Say it as it is mate. less you

Comment 125 of 179

- **Dean** Posted at 9:25 AM December 24, 2011

Come on Premier Ted, a state funeral for Bruce, a great Victorian and great Australian. Said what a lot of people wanted to say!

Comment 126 of 179

- **SPIKE of oakpark** Posted at 9:31 AM December 24, 2011

PEOPLE ASK WHAT IS AN AUSSIE. WELL I JUST SAY BILL RUXTON !

Comment 127 of 179

- **Elissa of Ballarat** Posted at 9:32 AM December 24, 2011

Thank you Bruce for all you did for the Veterans and families. My late father in law spoke of you with great pride worshipped the ground you walked on. People like you come along only once in a lifetime and leave an indelible mark. Thank you and may you be at rest now. You will be missed and certainly never forgotten. Sincere condolences to the Ruxton family on having such a wonderful determined and admired loved one.

Comment 128 of 179

- **Mark R. of Shepparton, Victoria** Posted at 9:33 AM December 24, 2011

RIP Bruce, "So we fought and won each battle faced with the spirit of Anzac pride but the harshest battle was still to come, one from which we could not hide." You have faced your harshest and now you can rest. Gone but never forgotten.

Comment 129 of 179

- **Margaret of Flemington** Posted at 9:36 AM December 24, 2011

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them. Bruce Ruxton – truly a great Australian.

Comment 130 of 179

- **Lest we forget of Geelong** Posted at 9:40 AM December 24, 2011

A Great loss of a Great Australian man! rest well Bruce "if you dont mind".

Comment 131 of 179

- **PJ Bear** Posted at 9:42 AM December 24, 2011

"helping Diggers fight bureaucrats for war pensions" – it's true and it's a damn shame that bureaucrats have to be fought. the war pension system is a battleground of lost files, tricky rules and friendly but useless advice.

Comment 132 of 179

- **tomo49 of sunny coast** Posted at 9:43 AM December 24, 2011

The last man to give the RSL some credibility and now it will die without people like the magnificent Bruce Ruxton to look after returned servicemen's interests..RIP Bruce old friend!!

Comment 133 of 179

- **big kev of jagajaga** Posted at 9:44 AM December 24, 2011

A real Australian. one with only one passport who spoke for the majority. Bob Brown and Gillard show more concern for fare paying asylum seekers than caring for their own-we'll miss you Bruce.

Comment 134 of 179

- **Stuart of Melbourne** Posted at 10:05 AM December 24, 2011

I remember doing the guard of honour around the eternal flame and listening to his address before the finale of the Anzac service, it was a stirring occasion and one year was rudely interrupted by the burgeoning disease of the lunatic 'protestor' pursuing some selfish delusional cause. Suffice to say Bruce carried on. We need more Australians to stand up and speak like Bruce Ruxton did...may he be a shining light for future Australians who have realised what a basket case this country has become. RIP Bruce.

Comment 135 of 179

- **Wayne of Melb** Posted at 10:16 AM December 24, 2011

Come on Ted – pony up for a State Funeral. This gentle man was a giant compared with most we have in senior positions today, especially our State and Federal Leaders and all other Politicians.

Comment 136 of 179

- **Bahni ghavot of GC** Posted at 10:19 AM December 24, 2011

No one represented the moral depth of Australian society more accurately than he...have no fear, his legacy lives on with strength!

Comment 137 of 179

- **he IS Australian of melb** Posted at 10:20 AM December 24, 2011

A selfless life well lived, eternal rest.

Comment 138 of 179

- **jorge rodriguez of brisbane** Posted at 10:22 AM December 24, 2011

A true Australian, RIP old mate.

Comment 139 of 179

- **AC** Posted at 10:25 AM December 24, 2011

Great work old boy. He said what 80% of this country don't have now, and nor will ever have the guts to say. Love him or hate him, you gotta appreciate his ability to stand firm when others knocked him – he just kept coming! Something about being a military guy perhaps? If your kids a bum, send em into the Army – I guarantee they'll come out better..... I did.

Comment 140 of 179

- **kevin of olinda** Posted at 10:32 AM December 24, 2011

Great bloke who didn't care about political ideals just look after the 'diggers' and say it as it is. All the do gooders this death is probably more important than the boat deaths. After all he said it as it is.

Comment 141 of 179

- **Wayne of Brisbane** Posted at 10:33 AM December 24, 2011

Bruce, you did Australia proud. We will miss you. RIP

Comment 142 of 179

- **Brett of victoria** Posted at 10:35 AM December 24, 2011

Maybe he wasn't every one's cup of tea, but gee I admired his spirit and his willingness to say what he thought and be honest. No one can ever know just how much he did for veterans and their families his passion for the RSL amazing. And I'm glad there was a bloke like him looking out for the likes of my old man and his mates who served in WW2.

Comment 143 of 179

- **Mark of Toorak** Posted at 10:38 AM December 24, 2011

He was so wrong on gay soldiers serving in the military..wrong wrong wrong..

Comment 144 of 179

- **disgruntled** Posted at 10:38 AM December 24, 2011

R.I.P. Bruce. You put the welfare of the veterans first and foremost.

Comment 145 of 179

- **Flag Flyer** Posted at 10:43 AM December 24, 2011

Al, comment 118, it is standard practise of an RSL Sub-branch to lower their flag for their members only. And don't be disappointed ~ Mr Ruxton would know that.

Comment 146 of 179

- **Nicholas of Japan** Posted at 10:52 AM December 24, 2011

RIP Mate, you will never be forgotten!

Comment 147 of 179

- **ray mastorgio** Posted at 10:58 AM December 24, 2011

great man is gone .respect to honest digger .r.i.p

Comment 148 of 179

- **andyroos of Ringwood** Posted at 10:59 AM December 24, 2011

Vale our best immigration Minister whom never was.

Comment 149 of 179

- **Ken of Melbourne** Posted at 11:00 AM December 24, 2011

Why is the RSL not flying their flag at half mast today ?

Comment 150 of 179

- **Mac of Airport West** Posted at 11:01 AM December 24, 2011

Bruce, rest in the peace you so richly deserve. With our increasing population coming from other countries who would not understand the sacrifices made by Australians, I think one day it will all be forgotten, but I hope it will not be in my time. Thank you Bruce.

Comment 151 of 179

- **Ken of Melbourne** Posted at 11:03 AM December 24, 2011

@Mark of Toorak – Leave it to the gay supporters to try to turn this into being about you. No class at all. Time & place Mark.

Comment 152 of 179

- **algenon of melbourne** Posted at 11:05 AM December 24, 2011

RIP Digger, you did more for old warriors and their families than all the Governments combined.

Comment 153 of 179

- **lynda of melbourne** Posted at 11:06 AM December 24, 2011

Bruce Ruxton a true blue, fair dinkum Aussie that stood up for people, helped returned servicemen & women in all manner of welfare issues throughout the years. Bruce was very politically incorrect which made one love him even more because it signalled a voice that was honest and sincere. I shall miss you forever. R.I.P. Condolences to the family.

Comment 154 of 179

- **Ron of Toowoomba** Posted at 11:15 AM December 24, 2011

Real dinkum Aussie from the 1920s era who went through the war period just like their fathers did 25 years before. Said it like it was and made Australia great, need more like him nowadays.

Comment 155 of 179

- **Branwen** Posted at 11:18 AM December 24, 2011

Another great Australian passes, you will be missed Mr Ruxton. Our politicians from both sides spend far too much time being "Politically correct" and Australia is suffering for their weakness. This man loved our country passionately and only wanted the best for her. How sad is it that he is gone and we are stuck with the gutless wimps called the Australian Government, I'm not sure who I am sadder for Bruce's family and friends or us, the Australians who must endure with our lot.

Comment 156 of 179

- **beebee** Posted at 11:18 AM December 24, 2011

Mark of Toorak Like it or not, your comment is out of place and you should hang your head in shame.

Comment 157 of 179

- **Geoff of Melbourne** Posted at 11:27 AM December 24, 2011

Move on, Mark of Toorak, this column isn't about how correct you think your opinions are, its about a tribute to someone who fought the good fight & championed those who needed a voice. The sniping comment of yours on this page is what's wrong wrong wrong. RIP Bruce.

Comment 158 of 179

- **Sasha Uzunov** Posted at 11:27 AM December 24, 2011

I met Bruce Ruxton in 1990 as a university journalism student and he spared an hour of his precious time for an interview for an assignment. Coming from a non-English background I found him to be a really friendly man, unlike the media image. I later joined the Australian army as a soldier and now work as an independent film maker. Having served in East Timor as a digger, I can fully understand Ruxton's willingness to play the media game for the greater good of looking after soldiers. Sasha Uzunov.

Comment 159 of 179

- **tim of Tewanin of Tewanin** Posted at 11:47 AM December 24, 2011

Australia lost a living LEGEND yesterday , but he will live on in the minds of of so many who owe him so much for his wonderful contribution to Australia (which has become a NANNY STATE since he retired from public life) It was a priverlidge to work with Bruce to recliam our RSL CLUB some four years ago that gave our struggle legitimacy, R.I.P old digger , you will be surely missed by your TEWANTIN/NOOSA friends

Comment 160 of 179

- **Haydn of Bangkok** Posted at 11:57 AM December 24, 2011

He stood up for what he believed. Love him or hate him you have to give that. We miss blokes like him to stir the pot. Rest in Peace at last Bruce.

Comment 161 of 179

- **tym of Beijing** Posted at 11:58 AM December 24, 2011

As a callow young reporter, I interviewed Bruce about 30 years ago and left the meeting thinking 'did I interview him or him I?' While I could never agree with most of his ultra-conservative positions, I did like and respect the man. RIP, mate

Comment 162 of 179

- **tym of Beijing** Posted at 12:02 PM December 24, 2011

i interviewed Bruce as a callow, young reporter about 30 years ago and came out of the meeting wondering whether I had interviewed him, or he !! While I never agreed with many of his ultra-conservative positions and ideas, I still liked and respected the man. RIP, mate.

Comment 163 of 179

- **Ray** Posted at 12:02 PM December 24, 2011

Freedom of speech in Australia at its best...RIP Bruce

Comment 164 of 179

- **Barbara of Collingwood** Posted at 12:18 PM December 24, 2011

Well for what it is worth there will be no one to fill this man's shoes ever. And as much as I hated him for some of his remarks I truly respected him for saying it out loud when others would shrink into the woodwork. Sad no one else speaks up like him in the RSL. Our diggers deserve more than what they get RIP Bruce

Comment 165 of 179

- **Ken of the Outer East** Posted at 12:19 PM December 24, 2011

People may not have like what he said or his approach, but diggers have fought for the right for all of us to be free and to gag Bruce would have been against the philosophy of what diggers stand for, freedom. We are on the brink of the loss of this hard fought for principle with do-gooders attempting to gag any debate that some might find less than palatable. At least Bruce stood up for what he really in his heart believed in.

Comment 166 of 179

- **steve of cockatoo** Posted at 12:20 PM December 24, 2011

good on ya, bruce you will always be remembered

Comment 167 of 179

- **Paul of Narre Warren** Posted at 12:22 PM December 24, 2011

Rest In Peace Bruce.

Comment 168 of 179

- **margo. of shoal bay n.s.w.** Posted at 12:23 PM December 24, 2011

one more true aussie gone,,,r.i.p. Bruce.

Comment 169 of 179

- **jb** Posted at 12:29 PM December 24, 2011

Always loved Bruce Ruxton, what a champion of a bloke,you always put a smile on my face
Bruce, loved ya mate.

Comment 170 of 179

- **Charlie** Posted at 12:39 PM December 24, 2011

This bloke, along with others, fought for the freedom of this country by putting their lives at risk. In peace-time, Bruce did all that was possible to stand up for the returned soldiers and their families. For this he should be remembered as a true-blue digger. Agree or disagree with his views/opinions on certain matters he, at the very least, contributed to Australia and challenged the views of all political hues. Old age will no longer weary him – he is now with his fallen mates...R.I.P.

Comment 171 of 179

- **Flag Flyer** Posted at 1:06 PM December 24, 2011

Ken of Melbourne. The RSL standard practise is to lower sub-branch flags in mourning for their members only. Some sub-branches will, of their own choosing, lower their flag for Mr Ruxton, but it is not usual.

Comment 172 of 179

- **P stevens** Posted at 1:25 PM December 24, 2011

As a proud member of the RSL for more than thirty years,I believe that while Bruce believed that he was speaking for the vast majority of RSL members, his ultra-conservative views were not reflective of many members views. Unfortunately Bruce embodied the "Old Boys Club" image that the League is now burdened with and I told him so to his face over dinner at an RSL State Congress some 10 years ago, but Bruce being Bruce just shrugged this suggestion off, My fondest memory of that night was when the entree was served, alternately chicken or salmon, he firmly pushed the salmon my way and said "I'll have the chicken.....don't like this plotter food"

Comment 173 of 179

- **Doug of Double You, Ay?** Posted at 2:29 PM December 24, 2011

Bruce was a great Australian. I am very sorry to hear that he has died. What a top bloke. This country needs more blokes like Bruce to stand up and tell it like it is. RIP Bruce.

Comment 174 of 179

- **what the? of anywherebut here** Posted at 3:44 PM December 24, 2011

Bruce was a man who said what others thought but were too afraid to say and he stood by his fellow Australians till the end.RIP fellow Digger.

Comment 175 of 179

- **Graeme** Posted at 4:58 PM December 24, 2011

What a prickly bloke – BUT – full marks to him for all the great work he did for the RSL, he took it from the backwaters to major profile & personally helped lots of returned & their families. RIP Bruce

Comment 176 of 179

- **Caroline of Victoria** Posted at 5:26 PM December 24, 2011

Old soldiers never die they just fade away. Rest in peace truthful soul. A job well done.

Comment 177 of 179

- **Alec of Croydon of Croydon** Posted at 6:38 PM December 24, 2011

Bruce You are an Australian legend We will not see another like you. Rest in Peace

Comment 178 of 179

- **TellingItStraight of ACT** Posted at 6:53 PM December 24, 2011

His advocacy for veterans issues was legendary, but his passion was flawed ... As we eulogize him, it would serve us well to remember that even our greatest are flawed.

Comment 179 of 179

TRIBUTES

MR BRUCE CARYLE RUXTON

Friday, 23 December 2011

A great Australian, war hero and a man who did so much for veterans in Victoria. A private who moved with generals and achieved so much. We will remember you Bruce Ruxton RIP.

Jim Bisdee,

Cannington, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Vale Bruce. Condolences to my old friend Ian Ruxton.

David Ketels,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

God Bless you Bruce,
Even those you did not get all of them you did your part and in the end you made a difference. I was glad to have met you if only for a short chat.

Nordin Abdullah,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Oh if only reincarnation were true. I want him back. What a remarkable Australian that we all identified with. He has been missed already for a long time. Vale Bruce.

John,

Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Lest we forget. A man of the people who had the courage of his convictions.

Luke Whelan,

Carnegie, Victoria

Sunday, 25 December 2011

The Brethren of the various Masonic Lodges who attended and supported your promotion to Grand Rank some years ago at Oakleigh will always remember your humility in receiving due recognition for your service to others. May the Great Architect protect you.

Oakleigh Freemasons,

Oakleigh, Victoria

Sunday, 25 December 2011

Lucky enough to have met him in his later years in which he was as sharp as a tack, humorous & entirely focused. RIP

andy lambert,

brisbane, Queensland

Sunday, 25 December 2011

God Bless you Mr Ruxton. Such a shame you never became our Prime Minister. May you RIP good sir. Many many Australians will never forget you!

Bernadette Cowley,

Melbourne, Victoria

Sunday, 25 December 2011

God bless you, Bruce. We are all so much the better for having had you among us.

Bernie Finn,

Sunshine, Victoria

Saturday, 24 December 2011

One Hell of a MAN. Truly someone to look up to and respect. I know I d

Dave Edwards,

Melbourne, Victoria

Diggers' outspoken mate Bruce Ruxton dies, aged 85

Lucy Beaumont December 24, 2011

Friday, 23 December 2011

A Great Australian.

Greg Hughson,

Rosebud, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Mr Ruxton, you were simple the best. Everyone knew who you were. RIP china.

Maggie Loveland,

Sunbury, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

I recall Bruce's many a interview with radio host Stan Zemanek, Stan's team made a audio clip of Bruce Ruxton called the " Bruce Ruxton Rap" some years ago, I shall miss Bruce.

Peter York,

New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

God Bless Old Mate may you Rest In Peace.

Jason Malthouse,

Airlie Beach, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

Hard and Fierce, but still with a love.
Gone But Not Forgiven. R.I.P

Stevo, Point Cook

Steven Pratt,

Point Cook, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

not enough aussies like you mate

Darryl Hanel,

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

Friday, 23 December 2011

The quote:- "One person with passion can achieve more than 99 people with an interest" seems to sum up his life to a tee.

Tim McCrohan,

Bendigo, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

As President and on behalf of the SEBASTOPOL R.S.L. I pay tribute to our former State President of 23 years, He was an inspiring, dedicated and fearless Leader. He was a great friend of SEBASTOPOL, attending our Smoke Nights and Xmas Dinners EVERY year of his Presidency. Rest in peace Bruce. Lest we forget.

Douglas HIGGINS . OAM,

SEBASTOPOL, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

R.I.P Bruce Ruxton. You were a true Aussie and stood fast for the rights of Returned Service Men and Women. You will be missed. The sun shall not set.....

Mark Rose,

Wynham Vale, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Farewell my old friend, I, and many thousands of Australians will be saddened by your passing. We had many good days together and even more beers over a long period of time. I and many others will never be able to put into words the praise that we had for you.

You fought tooth and nail for the veterans and you did not care who you upset or whose toes you stood on. You worked 16 – 18 hours a day and many did not realise that you worked in the family office in Albert Park on many Sundays looking after your beloved veterans.

I enjoyed the days at the Victorian State Conference when you would give a spray to the politicians, including Prime Ministers who happened to be sitting next to, you sure had a way with words.

I am very proud to have had you as a friend and a colleague. You gave me an enormous amount of help and guidance over many years and a good talking to if I put a step, out of line. I would not have been able to help the people that I have helped over the years without your help.

I was only talking to a friend yesterday regarding the “Lest We Forget” watch that you gave me in 1997. I have worn it every day mate with pride and I will now remember you each time I put it on.

REST IN PEACE MY FRIEND

Ken Barclay. Merbein

Ken Barclay,

Merbein, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Men built in the mould of Bruce never die,..they rust away.Aust. is a better place because of men like Bruce.

Trader Perth,

Perth, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce Ruxton. Condolences to your Family & Friends. THANK YOU for your tireless efforts over the years and standing up for all the Veterans and their families. You will be sadly missed.

Sandra Heywood,

Adelaide, South Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Great Aussie,said it as it was,true to the marrow.Bye Oi Mate.RIP

Jock Mactavish,

Adelaide, South Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

A true Australian

Graham Ireland,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

The man was and is an Aussie icon , we need more people like Bruce Ruxton RIP brother
Greg,

Gold coast, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest in Peace Mr Ruxton, you were a soldier and a gentleman.

Alex & Family,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

it is sad to see him go, he was a great man, I have never met him but he was great
Australian, god bless his soul and rest in peace

Ibrahim Soussou,

Wheelers Hill, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Well done Bruce. Your life meant so much to so many. You stood your ground and never
faulted in your resolve for a better deal for veterans and all Australians in general. Rest in
peace Bruce. Your job here was well done. I am proud to have shared some of your time on
this earth.

John Molloy,

Perth, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

R.I.P. Bruce a proud aussie and a true Australian for he wore the GREEN UNIFORM
Australia cant afford to loose men like Bruce.

Barry BRYANT,

Launceston, Tasmania

Friday, 23 December 2011

I'm an ex pommy ex British army came here thirty years ago the first person I heard was Bruce on the radio I new then I had come to the right country, he said it how it was,so long Bruce. My condolence to his family

Alan Verrell,

Newcastle, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

top aussie bloke will be missed

john kompo,

melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

All remembrance days have not been the same since he stood down from the RSL. You fought the great fight and we salute you.

Philip Rushton,

Hope Island, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

A true aussie legend standing up for the little people RIP bruce

PAUL K,

ADELAIDE, South Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Celebrating a life well lived. We will cherish the memories forever.

Anthony Young,

Adelaide, South Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Remembering a man who said what too many others did not because they were afraid of the "politically correct" police!

Garrick Meadows,

Kialla, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A great man with a passion for his cause. There was never a grey area with him. A rare quality.

Todd Spencer,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

farewell to a gutsy old fella who wasn't afraid to stand up for what he believed in or to speak his mind...RIP

Friday, 23 December 2011

a strong man who looked after his members – didn't worry who became upset because he had a strong agenda and looked after his "flock"
Australia needs more like him great man and a great memory of a class act

Norm Goward,

Jimboomba, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

Mr Ruxton
You were awesome, a spade is a spade not a shovel..you were one of a kind...is heaven ready for you?...may you rest in peace with the soldiers you defended J & D

Friday, 23 December 2011

Mr Ruxton (Bruce), I admired your strength and dedication to those you served, including your country and the veterans and their families. I consider meeting you when you addressed members of the St. Arnaud RSL Sub Branch a great honour. I will raise a glass of Vat 69 to your memory. Vale Bruce, Lest we Forget.

Robert Hodge,

Werribee, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

With fond memories of your stay in Lae, New Guinea, with my parents Howard & Joan Vinning (both deceased)

Graeme Vinning,

Cooma, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest in peace a great man asleep

ro bell,

geelong, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

You were a god when it came to looking out for, and speaking up for, our veterans. Good on you Bruce.

May you now rest in peace.

Warren Fitzpatrick,

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

Friday, 23 December 2011

A part of Aussie history passes. A true Australian with true Australian principles. Will be sadly missed by real Aussies everywhere.

Denis Maddick,

Gin Gin, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

May you rest in peace Bruce...

Ange,

Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

"I've saddled up, and dropped me hooch,
I'm going to take the gap,
my Tour of Duty's over mates,
and I won't be coming back"
Thanks...and God Bless Mr Ruxton.

Clive Saultry,

Springvale, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

THOUGHT HE WAS FANTASTIC. IF THERE WERE MORE FAIR DINKUM AUSSIES LIKE HIM, ESPECIALLY IN POLITICS, AUSTRALIA WOULD BE THE GREAT COUNTRY IT USED TO BE.

~

JOY FISCHER,

MELBOURNE, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest in peace. You were the father of all veterans. Lest we forget.

~

Raymond Zerafa,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

R Corso,

MELBOURNE, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Will be missed by many who didn't even know him.

A refreshingly honest person who spoke his mind – something missing in today's world.

Glen McDonald,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Celebrating a life well lived. We will cherish the memories forever.

Grahame Logg,

Wollongong, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Farewell to a 'Vet' and a truly great Australian. Thanks for all you have done for the RSL and the Servicemen of this country past and present. You always had the courage to speak your mind which invariably reflected the views of a huge number of Aussies. Tim

Tim Mara,

Toowoomba, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP

BRUCE

WHAT A STRAIGHT ARROW OF A MAN

GEOFF HARRIS,

PERTH, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Take comfort in knowing that now you have a special guardian angel to watch over you.

Bill Wood,

Newcastle, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

This bloke is one of the greatest Victorians of all time. Its a pity there isn't more people like Bruce left in the world. Your going to be missed by a lot of people mate

Ben Stokes,

Townsville, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

I enjoyed your company and humour at our Gold Coast Vietnam Vets meetings, I learnt a lot from you

Keith Woodbridge,

Gold Coast, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

A true Aussie Bruce... you always said what others were thinking. Rest in the arms of your angels. God bless.

Robert D'Elia,

Keilor, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Stand down Digger. Your watch is done. RIP

G Wilson,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT THE PASSING OF A GREAT MAN,WHO DID SO MUCH FOR THE EX SERVICEMEN AN WOMEN,OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH HIS FAMILY AT THIS SAD TIME,TREVS.,LEST WE FORGET.

TERRY TREVASCUS,

CAMPBELLTOWN, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce was a true blue aussie
will be sadly missed

stephen hansen,

dandenong, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

R.I.P. Bruce. Your tireless efforts for out Vets will never forgotten. Thankyou.

Adrian Rankins,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A REAL MAN AND A GREAT AUSTRALIAN TOLD IT AS IT WAS

Friday, 23 December 2011

A great Australian and a great loss to all. Thanks and Rest in Peace

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest in peace Sir.

Craig Coleman,

Brisbane, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

....an Australian LEGEND through and though TRUE BLUE!

Susie GAMBLE,

Mansfield., Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Its a shame there are not more people left in this country like Bruce Ruxton. Everyone these days is caught up in political correctness which is getting us nowhere. Rest in peace Bruce you will be missed.

Brett N,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A great Australian and Old Digger.

Peter Winter,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Astride a broken mountain top you stood defiantly,
As the Devil took your comrades one by one.

He taunted you and beckoned you to face eternity.

You saluted with a burning Thompson Gun.

Jack Smith,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Always spoke his mind, hell of a nice bloke. Will be sadly missed

Ron Jackson,

Werribee, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce, we who have come after you have lived off the credit earned in blood by your generation. I pray that when the time comes, we are worthy of your sacrifice. Farewell, sweet Prince. May angels guide you to your rest.

Fazal Cader,

Ormond, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

An honourable man

Cam T,

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

Friday, 23 December 2011

You will be missed.
I true Aussie who was not afraid to speak his mind.
Millions of us loved him and agreed with his thoughts. RIP Bruce Thanks.

Peter Keely,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce, a true Aussie!
RIP mate, have a beer on me.

Jon Wendes,

George Town, Tasmania

Friday, 23 December 2011

Another great Australian gone.

Rest in Peace Bruce.

Terence Dexter,

Gympie, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

Many Australian owe you thanks. For the great courage you displayed – speaking up for middle Australia – in those dark days of political correctness.
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Gregory Willson,

TULLY, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

Vale Bruce Ruxton.
The President, Committee and all members of the TPI Association mourn the passing of an esteemed and forthright previous long-serving Victorian State President of the RSL State Branch who committed so much of his time selflessly for the betterment of Veterans' issues over many years!
From the President, Committee and all Members of the TPI Association of Victoria.

David Catterall,

Newport, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Thank you Bruce for your selflessness and courage defending our great nation! You were an inspiration, a hero and a great Australian. RIP, Lest We Forget!

Darren Hassan,

Adelaide, South Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

he was a good man

james bill,

canberra, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Good on ya Bruce....You are a true Aussie....May you rest in peace.....

Darren,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

we will miss a great man Rest in peace Bruce you were always the champion of the battler

royce keirl,

ballarat, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce Ruxton. A great man gone to rest.

Mark Baker,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest In Peace Mr. Ruxton. You will always be remembered. Deepest sympathy to your family.

Jennifer Jones,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

The voice of the RSL- you spoke for the whole- you will be missed RIP Bruce C Ruxon

Dale Hyland,

Brighton, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

you were and still are one of the best mate – may your God bless you

Allan Middleton,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Goodbye Digger – I salute you and may you Rest In Peace..... Lest We Forget

Colette Palise,

Banksia Beach, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

Much appreciation from this family that you helped many years ago..your words and intervention made a massive difference.

May you rest in Peace in the company of your Brothers in Arms

jen shaw,

gold coast, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

He was a brave and honest man. He is tbe admired for telling it how it is.

Diana Freer,

Brisbane, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

Alas, the passing of another of australia's intellectuals.

Ron Spade,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Farewell, Bruce. You stood up for the Diggers, the battlers and for Australia. You were one of a kind.

Jim Davies,

Cairns, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

Love him or hate him, we have lost a true Aussie in Bruce Ruxton! I personally loved the bloke because it was all black and white no grey areas. Good on ya Bruce, give em hell up there!

Tim Jennings,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

A truly memorable Australian who will be sadly missed; one who continued to give to the nation long after returning from conflict

Ian Pilbeam,

Oxenford, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

One of a kind. RIP.

Pat Hamilton,

Lalor, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Farewell to a true Dinky-Di Aussie, who always put our war vets first.

Brad Lloyd,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

God Bless you Bruce, a champion for all ex servicemen/women

cameron k,

melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A wonderful person and a good man. He will be greatly missed. Vale Bruce Ruxton. Lest We Forget.

Wendy Muller,

Red Cliffs, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce you will be sadly missed but warmly remembered. It's a shame more of our elected representatives do not have your passion and temerity so long you will be missed but not forgotten.

BF

Brian Fletcher,

Newcastle, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

God Bless you Bruce, you were a man who always tried to put the worthy, up there where they belong. Deepest Sympathy to your family and friends.

Julie Rigby,

Wantirna South, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Mr Ruxton you were first & foremost a very Proud Australian who never waived on your personal values or ever relented on the worthy cause for the well being of our veterans. Your efforts were significant & will always be remembered by many Australians & of course all those who you assisted. You really did make a difference. Sincere condolences to your family & friends in your passing. R.I.P. Mr Ruxton - your suffering is now over.

John SMITH,

Tamworth, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

You were a great Australian Bruce, may you rest in peace but I don't think you will. You will fight for the under guys in death as well.

David BRODIE,

Dingley. Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Patrick Rigby,

Wantirna South, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Mr Ruxton is a great man. I hope he will rest peacefully.

Ba Ly,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Didn't always agree with you, but you stood up for what you believed and you served your country. You can't ask more than that. Vale.

Evan Burton,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

It has been guys like Bruce Ruxton who make me proud to be a member of the ADF and 25 years plus later I'm still there. Thank you Bruce for all you have done, the larrikinisms and the laughs along the way, you have been a real gem and a true Australian, so long mate!

Peter Larsen,

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

Friday, 23 December 2011

God bless a wonderful man. The last of his kind.

Robert Ryan,

Geelong, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

What a man & what a sad day. A true Aussie that we should all be proud of..., loved his political 'incorrectness'! If only we could clone him and put one of his clones in each school across the country!

Mike Mags,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

You brightened our way Bruce, we will always remember you and the valuable work you did for others. Sleep easy now with the ones you love.

Rhonda Newberry,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Oh Bruce Ruxton RIP. We respected you. You stood up for your beliefs even if we weren't with you, we respected your courage.

Diane Challenor,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

God Bless You Bruce!

Nat Acott,

Perth, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

So sad to hear Bruce pass away, Bruce spoke at my dad's funeral some years ago, will never forget those words he passed on about Dad Greg Connolly

Friday, 23 December 2011

My condolences to go out to the family of a true gentleman, REST IN PEACE dear friend.

margaret welch,

Boronia, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Thanks for always fearlessly telling it like it was Bruce, and thank you also for ignoring the rampant political correctness that's sadly overtaking society today.

We need more people like you with the courage of your convictions, and to sometimes make us simply stop for a moment and reconsider our often entrenched opinions.

Fare thee well Bruce; a great man and a great soldier. RIP digger.

Geoff Perston,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

I grew up knowing of and hearing about Mr Ruxton – a tireless campaigner for those who risk their lives for their country men and women. Thank you Mr Ruxton for risking your life and supporting those who have done the same after you.

Rhiannon Bosi,

UAE

Friday, 23 December 2011

A Great Australian , Who love the Australian Values and Culture...RIP

Roz Elbourn,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

A man of principles – a voice of those 'ugly' years which noone wants to know about, sticking up for those who were there after politicians and the public had forgotten. I was only a youth when you were RSL president, now an adult and one who has served I fully understand your position of the then current issues. I will miss your forthright. RIP

Michael OConnor,

Engadine, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

I will never forget Bruce's kindness when he helped my mother get her Gold Card. He worked so hard on her behalf and when he advised me her appeal was successful I reached across his desk and gave him a hug. A very warm man devoted to all that he saw as important-fighting for the rights of veterans. The world has lost a very special man. Thank you for your work, Bruce. Rest in peace.

Debbie Page,

McCrae, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest in Peace Bruce. You are a great Australian.

Adam S,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Ian Brown,

Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP. A great man with a passion that will be missed!

Mick Stanley

Friday, 23 December 2011

God Bless and keep you Mr. Ruxton, Sincere condolences to you family

Finlay Officer,

Perth, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce

Peter Montgomery,

Mildura, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rip bruce you will never be forgotten for what you did for our exservicemen and woman

Jeff Dillon,

Brisbane, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

One of the last true Australians. Farewell brother.

Philip Wilson,

Aldinga Beach, South Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

I always liked you Bruce. While you were very outspoken and I didn't always agree with your views you always listened and you always appreciated an alternative viewpoint. You did tremendous work for ex-servicemen and women in Victoria and you will always be remembered for the great work you did. You were a great and honest man. RIP Bruce.

Lyle Allan,

Hawthorn, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Thank you sir, for your service to Australia, in war and peace.

Gordon Blair,

Albion Park, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Goodbye Old boy !!! join the lads !

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest in peace digger. Lest We Forget.

John St.John,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce Ruxton. Real Australian. Old War Horse. RIP Cobber. RIP.

Chris McArthur,

Bendigo, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Thank you for all your years of service to our nation. You will be remembered by people you never met but whose lives you touched in many ways. A man of character, morals and values. "Well done good and faithful servant"

Anne Velu,

Gold Coast, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest in Peace. Good old fashioned gentleman who today is seen as politically incorrect but in fact was a reminder of how things should be instead of how they are now.

eric lakey,

bendigo, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Didn't agree with some of his views, but respected his unwavering devotion to the cause of the diggers.

Polena Steffensen,

Altona, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

thank you and may there be ones as brave and as bold to follow.

michael gieck,

adelaide, South Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Farewell, Mr Ruxton, may you rest in peace. You did so much for returned veterans and for Australia. You wore your heart on your sleeve, leaving no doubt where you stood. I respected that, as did many others. I salute you, lest we forget.

Peter Knight,

Hoppers Crossing, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP. 😞

Friday, 23 December 2011

R.I.P. Bruce Ruxton, truly one of the last of the few.

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce, you were a tough bugger. And may God bless you.

MJ

Friday, 23 December 2011

From the Kenna family. From the Boer war to Vietnam we have always served. Go with God's grace.

Nigel Kenna,

Sunshine Coast, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

fantastic bloke, stood up for his beliefs, loved his interviews over the years and was a quintessential Australian. RIP B C Ruxton

Tony Smith,

Perth, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Its a pity more Australians were not like you Bruce, you have spoken the words that many of us want to say. Thanks for being a family friend to our beloved grandmother.

Rosalyn Elliott,

Cairns, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce was a very caring man, unselfish, who gave all of himself to others, not as worldly

brian ferguson,

barwon heads, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Anybody who stands up for Australians and Australian diggers is a mate of mine. RIP Bruce

Scott MV

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce, nobody could deliver like you, always straight up and out there, from the hip. Yet always the gentleman. Lest we Forget.

Jen Agramonte,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

r.i.p bruce you were a true aussie,you will be missed by many.all the best mate.

Friday, 23 December 2011

A true patriot..you fought well Bruce, for your beliefs and for Veterans

doug mclean,

brisbane, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

terry breheny,

melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

deepest sympathy to relatives & friends of one of the greatest Australian men & patriots ever to draw breath in his beloved country. I have loved & admired this gentleman as long as I can recall may he rest in peace he so richly deserves Amen

Ian Reynolds,

Albury, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce a wonderful and kind man. I will never forget how kind you were to my late husband and my children Matt and Clare. So generous and kind and held up those values that made life so much better. X to your beautiful son Ian whom you talked so fondly and lovingly always.

Fiona Robertson,

Twin Waters, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

May you rest in peace Mr Ruxton. Thank you for all you gave and all you did for our country x

Cassie Keene,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

God bless you Bruce. Rest easy.

Dennis Tipping,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

You will be missed a true champion for the diggers

Tim Alexander,

Townsville, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

Vale, Bruce Ruxton – a man of passion, conviction and fearlessness. Thank you

Mark Baker,

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

Friday, 23 December 2011

The greatest statesman that ever lived.
Forever grateful for the help he gave to my parents.

Earle Membrey,

Hamilton, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A true Australian fighter who was a credit to this magnificent country and to his mates the Ausie war veterans. Rest in peace fine soldier your work is now done.

Bill Collias,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Thanks for making everyday Australians believe they should stand up for what they believe in. You will be missed. Unknown to many, hero to a proud nation for your contribution. RIP digger.

Greg Welch,

Newport, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

The world will be a less enlightened place without the inspiration that was Bruce Ruxton. A finer man i have never met.

Staff Sgt Frank Scott (ret),

Lismore, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bill Collias,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

one of a kind bruce...from a vietnam veteran friend..RIP old digger...

John Stanford,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest in Peace Bruce. You will be missed.

Charles Worton,

Wagga Wagga, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

my thoughts are with you

Friday, 23 December 2011

A good life VERY well lived.

Phil Spence,

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

Friday, 23 December 2011

A true Australian to the end.
Thanks Bruce for all your help with my parents it will never be forgotten.
Lest We Forget.

vernon griffiths,

beaumaris, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

I interviewed Bruce for a thesis on WW 2 veterans and their families. He was the most honest, forthright and genuine of people I'd met. A true 'fair dinkum' Aussie I'd ever met. Probably also the most misunderstood. A genuinely good bloke.

Richard Peterson,

Mount Waverley, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Another great Australian gone. We will remember him.

Phillip Suters,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

A real australian. rip.

mark,

melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A truly great, brave Australian.

Steve McCarter,

Yass, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

A great Australian RIP Bruce

Justin Colligan,

Perth, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce, you were such a great fighter for what you believed in. And what you believed in was the greater good for this country. As such, your death is a great loss and you will never be replaced or forgotten.

REST IN PEACE & LEST WE FORGET

Deke Were,

Seaford, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Goodbye Bruce. Well done mate. You'll never be forgotten. LEST WE FORGET.

David Burke,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

R.I.P Bruce you absolute icon, condolences to all the extended Ruxton family. The Australian Serbian Association and Ravna Gora veterans will never forget you and will honour your name for years to come.

Daniel Sneddon,

New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

You should have been the PM Bruce!!!

Thank you for all your tireless work over the years.

Rest in Peace

Mick B

Friday, 23 December 2011

.Thank you Bruce RIP

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce will never be forgotten as one who spoke it as it was and did his utmost for the members and their families who he represented.

David Schroeter,

Haikou

Friday, 23 December 2011

I never met you but I knew you rest in peace cobber

~

stewart patterson,

rozelle, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Melita English,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rip great man. You told it like it should be! A unique man.

Debbie,

Warragul

Friday, 23 December 2011

So long Bruce. You were a true warrior. May you rest in peace.

Shaun Ely,

North Shore, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Farwell to a friend of so many . Rest in peace Mr Ruxton and thankyou .

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce. God bless all our past & present brave men who have put their lives at risk so we can enjoy the freedom we have today.

coral franklin,

brisbane, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

He was a soldier!

Mick Toal,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Celebrating a life well lived. We will cherish the memories forever.

Vivian Seckold,

Lavington, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

A true blue Aussie who stuck up for the underdog! RIP Bruce, I didn't agree with everything you said, but I agree you had the right to say it. You gave our diggers the loudest voice of all, a voice that needed to be heard. We have lost a great Australian !

Rohan Carboon,

Perth

Friday, 23 December 2011

Though the flame is gone, the warmth of the memory lingers. God love you and rest in peace, Bruce.

Sam David,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce was one of a kind.

Vivian Seckold,

Lavington, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

A simple Thank you will do. Loved you Bruce.

Dale Andrews,

Melbourne

Friday, 23 December 2011

From one digger to another, you will be greatly missed, brave and fearless fighter for all veterans and their families.

Australia has lost another champion, but one that will not be forgotten "LEST WE FORGET"

Lindsay Hall,

Belmont, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce you were the best, there will never be another you

Bernie Allen,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A true Aussie Hero... spoke his mind, took the blame, & never backed off. Rest peacefully Bruce, you will never be forgotten. Lest we forget.

Norma Fielding,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce, you are an Australian legend. You stood up for what you believed in. A great Australian who will be sadly missed. RIP.

Dan Lewis,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Fighter for veterans!
RIP

Darren Leach,

Adelaide, South Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce, Job well done for the old soldiers, Who paid the highest price,
RIP, Bruce.

Gary,

Warwick, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

Whenever Bruce stood up for the Australian way of life and for the men and women that defended this great country I felt confident that his advocacy gave us a chance for a better future. I'm sorry that he has passed on and extend my condolences to his family. Farewell to a great Australian.

John Bunt,

Perth, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Your a great Soul Bruce. Best of luck with whatever the universe holds.

Mark Smith,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Thank you for speaking out for our veterans – RIP Kathy

Friday, 23 December 2011

If we had taken more notice of Mr Ruxton and had more like him we'd be in a much better
place right now.
My thoughts are with his family and friends at this time, may he rest in peace.

Jan Price,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest in peace...

Iorraine mcdonald,

cairns, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

How saddened I was to hear you have left us Bruce, I have always regarded you as someone to admire from a young age, your ability to say your piece and stand up for your self and others. You marched on and held your head up high. Bruce I only wish there were more like you, we will miss your honesty, god knows we need more like you. The sad thing is we don't have rolemodels like yourself for this generation and the ones to follow, rest easy Bruce

Phillipa Blandford,

Seaford, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

May you rest in peace my friend, where there is the southern cross there's Bruce Caryle Ruxton.

Your flag will forever be hung on my wall.

Charles Boujandy,

merrylands, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce Ruxton was a good man

Rob Russell,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Admired your passion even when I didnt agree with you, the world is poorer for your loss Sir.

Christian Smith,

Hobart, Tasmania

Friday, 23 December 2011

australian icon.rip

john hannay,

brisbane, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

"lest we forget" a man of great honour and courage. rip bruce.

simon aitchison,

melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce you are a proud Australian a true great man your mold has been broken you will never be forgotten. bruce you are what all Australians should be, condolences to his family. you will be missed

Ken MacPherson,

Perth, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

God Bless

Hard Fast,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

a true and loyal aussie. may you rest in peace digger. god speed

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP BRUCE RUXTON : HE FOUGHT WW2, HE FOUGHT FOR PEACE, HE FOUGHT FOR VETERANS RIGHTS, HE FOUGHT FOR THE GOOD OL AUSSIE BATTLER, HE FOUGHT FOR LIFE !! RIP BRUCE

Tony Horn,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

I thank you Bruce, i owe my Australian citizenship to you, thank's to Avron Bannerman, the great mother to all, remember ! how could you ever forget. I will have a beer or 3, on christmas day for you & alway's from now on, thank you, may you now, rest in peace, ps, Balcombe rd TAB Beaumaris, now that's a blood'y longtime ago, mate, never forget ! cheer's.

simon g,

melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest in peace Bruce, you have done a mighty job for all the Australian forces. Many,many personnel and their families will owe you a debt of gratitude.

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest in peace Bruce, you have done a mighty job for all the Australian forces. Many,many personnel and their families owe you a debt of gratitude.

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce you are a great Australian your mould has now be broken you will be missed by all, we all should strive to be like you, condolences to your family.

~

Ken MacPherson,

Perth, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce, you are what being an Aussie stands for, a remarkable ambassador for every fed inkum Australian!

You will be missed, sadly your passion for this country cant be emulated by anybody. Condolences to the Ruxton family. God bless

Pete Anastas,

South yarra, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Tireless campaigner for those that most deserved it, a 'True Hero' to our 'True Heroes' of this fine Country..

Rest In Peace Mr Ruxton

Paul John Murray,

Gosnells, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Lest We Forget. A true Aussie, spoke his mind, stood up to be counted, and NEVER let his mates down.

Mark Hill,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

You were a legend Bruce. RIP condolences to your family, you will be missed.

Graham Walsh,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Lest we forget. A man of the people who had the courage of his convictions.

Luke Whelan,

Carnegie, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Oh if only reincarnation were true. I want him back. What a remarkable Australian that we all identified with. He has been missed already for a long time. Vale Bruce.

John,

Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

God Bless you Bruce,
Even those you did not get all of them you did your part and in the end you made a difference. I was glad to have met you if only for a short chat.

Nordin Abdullah,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Vale Bruce. Condolences to my old friend Ian Ruxton.

David Ketels,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A great Australian, war hero and a man who did so much for veterans in Victoria. A private who moved with generals and achieved so much. We will remember you Bruce Ruxton RIP.

Jim Bisdee,

Cannington, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

My deepest condolences to Mr. Ruxtons family. He was indeed a champion of the veterans and helped my father, a survivor of the Burma Railway. God Bless.

Rosalie Raftis,

Perth, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce. Always spoke your mind. Thank God we are in a country that allows us to.

Friday, 23 December 2011

A great Australian, we'd be a better place today if you ran the show mate.

Chris White,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Goodbye Bruce....

Sabastian Thompson,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Lest we forget. The ranks grow thinner still, but we will remember the voices, the stories and the honour. Goodbye Mr Ruxton. Present arms. Order arms.

Craig,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

You gave them all a run for their money Bruce, now you can start to try and sort out Heaven, I loved to listen to your side of things, and almost always agreed with you, Rip our true Aussie,,,,,I doubt there will ever be another you....xxxxx

Kate mitchell,

Busselton, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Dear Bruce, Mate you may have joined your comrades from the past, but we shall not forget your kindness, unselfishness, unwavering support to those who needed it. You always stood up for what was the best for Australia and Australians. A true blue Aussie who will not be forgotten by the many Australians and Non Australians whom you have supported and advised throughout your life. Many misunderstood your motives and certainly misjudged your actions, but we of the Adamis family are grateful and honoured to have shared our lives with you and enriching our lives along the way. May you rest amongst the stars and gaze upon those whom you have left behind. Condolences to the family. Rest in peace Peter, Yovanna and the Adamis boys.

PETER ADAMIS, *WATSONIA, Victoria*

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce Ruxton. A honest, genuine true blue Aussie digger. Deepest sympathy to your family.

Heather Coulson,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Farewell Bruce. An outstanding advocate for his constituents and a true representative of that mighty war time generation.

Edward Stanley,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce was a great man, who stood up and spoke for what he believed was right. He was a great Australian and a respected soldier and a man who put his all into helping the lives of his fellow brothers, his brave actions will never be forgotten, lest we forget.

Andrew Pulham,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

At the going down of the sun....
A fine man at rest.

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce. may you never be forgotten

Friday, 23 December 2011

I met Bruce Ruxton at military functions over the years when he was in the public eye and I enjoyed his company immensely. He did so much for the returned Diggers and most of that was never reported. Rest in peace Bruce.

Warwick Walker,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP soldier., and thank you

Astrid Von F,

Toorak, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A TRUE MAN.A GREAT AUSTRALIAN SON.REST IN PEACE BRUCE.

MICK KOVACEVIC,

MELBOURNE, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Although I did not know you Mr Ruxton. I always enjoyed your point of view and am greatly saddened by your passing. Individuals of your ilk are few and far between. May you rest in peace.

Jeremy Thomas,

Perth, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce Ruxton , true blue Australian and champion of good values and the Australian way of life! R.I.P

Tommy Williams,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

It is with great sadness I heard of Bruce's passing I was lucky to spend many hours with Bruce at RSL National Congresses in most States in Australia. I invited Bruce to the MANNUM RSL Sub-Branch to be our guest speaker, thank you for accepting our invitation and what a great night. Sadly missed as true Australian

Peter R. Smith OAM,

MANNUM, South Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

A truly unique and dedicated warrior for the rights of ex-serviceman. There will never be anyone who will come close to Bruce's dedication. RIP Bruce you deserve it.

Frank Mamo,

Dover, Tasmania

Friday, 23 December 2011

Whatever he said or did, he always had the interests of the Returned Soldiers and Australians in mind. A true Australian. RIP Mr Ruxton.

John Brimble,

Bothwell, Tasmania

Friday, 23 December 2011

Thank you for keeping Australia safe so long ago and helping keep this country the way it was. We remember what you have also done to help so many since those horrible years of war. Your sacrifice is remembered forever by Australians all! At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them!

Terry Mac Manus,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

R.I.P. Bruce, you would have made a great Prime Minister, you are a great Australian

peter pitchag,

gold coast, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER BRUCE'LIKE MANY YOUNGER AUSSIES I ALWAYS ADMIRED YOU ...REST EASY BRUCE

B.A BRADLEY,

MELB, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A proud Australian Rest In Peace Bruce

Ron Henney,

Shepparton, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Deat Mr Ruxton,Thank you for keeping the ANZAC spirit alive in Australia for all of those many years. My father was a WWII veteran and I am very proud of our current & past service men & women. I grew up with your staunch point of veiw on the tv and radio with my father in the background agreeing with nearly every word. RIP & God Bless.

Kerry Brown-McVeigh,

MillPark, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A true Australian and patriot, may he never be forgotten.
Rest in Peace.

gill g,

Melb, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Thank you for your service Mr Ruxton.

Annette Atkins,

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

Friday, 23 December 2011

A man with great courage and not afraid to speak his mind. Rest in Peace old Digger.

Vicki Malecki,

glenaladale, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Farewell to the ultimate Aussie icon. Well done Bruce! You will long be remembered.

Ian Cornelius,

Gold Coast, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

You fought the good fight, Bruce. There are none left like you. RIP.

Sandra Simpson,

Grenfell, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce. In God's hands. It was great to have known you. You have done your country proud.

Ann Adamson,

Brisbane, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce you were a true legend and my family will be forever grateful for all you help you gave my grandfather.

Friday, 23 December 2011

This is a sad day for the loss of a real Australian. Bruce did a lot for Australia which hopefully will never be forgotten. He did what our politicians seem to have forgotten, he put Australia and Australians first. Bruce, you will never be forgotten by those you helped. I can only say "Thank you"

Brett,

Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

I always admired Mr Ruxton's loyalty, honesty and spirit of service. A man with values and a high moral code. It would be a fitting memorial if we emulated this as a nation and such character became the true meaning of being Australian once again.

Penny Sampson-Wilde,

Geelong, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A great Aussie and a great bloke.

chris stevens,

gold coast, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

A Warrior in all aspects of life, this country will be the poorer for your passing. You stood up for the average Australian and you never backed down. RIP Bruce Caryle Ruxton

Keith Showler,

Werribee, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Its a terrible way to go Bruce but in the end you won the battle.

Friday, 23 December 2011

This man was a truly great Australian.

Margaret Egan,

Flemington, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A silent tear for a wonderful and unique Australian.
Now for that great Parade Ground in the sky Bruce.

Geoff Laird,

Brisbane, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce. An inspiration to all Australians. A true and loyal friend to my father Harry Smith(dec). You were an incredible outspoken lovable larrakin and will be dearly missed.
Love from the Smith Family

Marlene Smith,

Mt Evelyn, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Thankyou Bruce ,for your courage your support for ex service people and concern for our country .Rest in peace old feller .

wes Clonan,

Pt Pirie, South Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Sad news on such a special day. Bruce you took on the establishment and never wavered. I never once disagreed with your outspoken veiws.
Rest in peace mate

Tony,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

good bye to a true warrior RIP

michael whitehill,

wonthaggi, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

I called you when at Lone Pine & the Somme, we watched Collingwood together, we went to West Brighton Club, we loved your dogs called Digger, we enjoyed time together in Noosa. I will miss you Bruce.

Mike Sheehan,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP. I still have the copper Spitfire Mk1 you gave to my mum :-).

Zachary Sims,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Your fight has ended, rest in peace Bruce you have done your job...

s g,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

I had the privilege of knowing Bruce as a working journalist, and during 10 days we shared in Turkey and Gallipoli. His tireless efforts to help veterans and their families, including my father, will never be forgotten. Rest now Bruce.

Stephen Claney,

Richmond, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce you were a good man, my partners family knew the Ruxton family when they lived at Beaumaris. Condolences to the Ruxton family.

Penny & Greg Chapman,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A true friend of the veteran, many men and families are indebted to your selfless efforts. The world is now a little darker because this light has moved on, Lest We Forget. On Behalf of the 2/8th Inf. Battalion Association 6th Div. I also thank you personally for the help you gave my grandfather in his war pension efforts, eternal thanks

Bruce Selleck,

Eltham, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

God bless you Bruce, love your work.

John M Blahut

john blahut,

lakes entrance, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Good man lost, somebody will step up as Bruce showed Assies are tough.

brad n,

L, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

March on old warrior your task is not yet complete. You are nearly there!
Rest in Peace.

Harry Schello,

Melbbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

R.I.P Bruce, you did a fantastic job for the returned service people.

Jane Fisher,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest in peace Bruce.

You were a true blue Aussie who stood up for all the values we hold dear in this country .

The RSL and veterans have lost a true friend and champion with your passing

Brian Sullivan,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A hard worker for a great cause he will be missed

guy gowan,

mareeba, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

Farewell to a fine Australian. If it wasn't for yourself and thousands of your mates you worked tirelessly for, myself and my children would be speaking Japanese now. Thank you sir.

Stewart M,

New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

The Diggers have Lost a truly great fighter for there cause
RIP
keith melbourne

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce. Yours became the voice for the silent majority against those who seek to belittle us and your tireless work gained for you the greatest respect. May God bless you and comfort your family during this sad time. Lest We Forget

G Sheahan,

Werribee, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

May God bless you Sir

Kevin Morgan,

Perth, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Goodbye to a great Australian. A true Australian. To quote his address at the 75th anniversary of ANZAC:-
"When the last of the Old Diggers dies there will pass forever into history a type of man the likes of which the world will never see again".
Vale Bruce.

Barry Rumpf,

Mulwala, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

A True Aussie who knew what was important. We will remember.

Lee Nichols,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

The last time I saw you was at my mother's funeral. It meant so much to our family that you were there at such an extremely sad time. And then you went to Qld to enjoy your retirement years. You will always be remembered fondly and are forever in our hearts!! R.I.P Bruce.

Kirsten Paino,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Patriot and warrior for freedom.we shall not see another like him

Paul Christopher,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

R.I.P Bruce – The Waitress from Windsor -

Carolyn,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A great Australian and will be sadly missed because of his honesty and integrity.

Friday, 23 December 2011

With you gone mate part of Australia is lost forever never to be the same!

Ray Pollard,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

A real Australian for Australia.

John Standfort,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

A great man, a good man and a man of honor. We will remember you. God save the Queen.

Pete Rees,

Oakleigh South, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Australia is all the richer for having had you, and all the poorer with your passing. Rest well you've earned it.

Craig Pottie,

Burnie, Tasmania

Friday, 23 December 2011

When it came to helping veterans, nothing was too much trouble for Bruce. My late uncle, John Parker, was just one who owed Bruce so much. May your example of service to your fellows be followed by all Australians.

Bryan Durham,

Gold Coast, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

A chapter of my life now ends with the passing of an honorable man who was the voice of the silent majority. You are now in eternal rest Mr Ruxton RIP.

Gordon Samuals,

Sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Onya Bruce. A bloody good innings mate.

Rick B.,

Cairns, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

On behalf Wal Werrett, we will miss our Best Mate & Pal, we remember the great times we had together. A True Supporter for all Veterans & their Families

John Laughton [JL],

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Remember this Mr Ruxton and FAMILY
Lest We Forget !

spike gumley,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce Ruxton made me realise how lucky I am to be born and live in Australia. He made me aware of the sacrifices of service men & women, which would have otherwise swept over my head. Sure he was outspoken, but he gave me an awakening with his incisive speeches regarding our nation and its people. I am honoured to have learned from this great Australian.

Peter Tyrrell,

Lismore, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce was there to remind us to respect our military and taught us many valuable lessons in not only history, but of Australia's achievements during the Great Wars and other noteworthy conflicts. There is not enough superlatives to describe Bruce and his legacy he has left on Australia. You have fought hard, rest in peace. At the going down of the sun, we will remember you

Fred G,

Ballina, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest in Peace, Bruce. We are much poorer for your passing.

james skibsted,

sydney, New South Wales

Friday, 23 December 2011

A great man who loved his country

Lance Thame,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

lest we forget, rip mr bruce ruxton. you are an australian icon, you will be missed.

peter mcneilly,

mareeba, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce Ruxton will always be remembered as a brave honourable soldier who stood strong and proud! A great credit to the military and Australia!

Bill van Eps,

Brisbane, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

You are a true patriot, an exemplary gentleman and an example to us all – thank you for all you so selflessly did and the sacrifices you so readily made. Now, more than ever, we need more Australians like you! At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, you will be remembered. Lest we Forget.

Adam Weinert,

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce you served your country as a member of the ADF and then afterwards served your mates of the ADF, both with honour. If ever a state funeral was due, it is due to you. Your "Say it as you see it" endeared you to most and was a red flag to some, but no one will argue, your heart was in the right place. Stand down clobber, let others take their turn. Deepest sympathy to your family and friends

Lasting Respect,

Glen Waverley, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest now old soldier for you did more than what was asked of you. For those of us reading this, mourn not what has passed, but ask yourself what you can do to honour this man's memory and legacy. Let's make this country great again... Lest We Forget.

Adam W,

Lobethal, South Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Bruce a True and Honest Australian, I can't think of a greater accolade. Lest We Forget

Roger Merrick,

Perth, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

The voice of many.
RIP

Daryl Vincent,

Bunbury, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

Good on you Bruce, you were a straight speaker who said the things that the silent majority of Aussies thought, but were too cowed by the leftie PC brigade to say out loud themselves. Your work supporting fellow veterans was outstanding too. RIP Digger.

Brett A,

Bendigo, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Dear Bruce you helped so many Diggers. I enjoyed being in your company and we shared lots of laughter with Lionel, Tess and wee Joyce. You are in my heart always. love Gypsy.

Jean Anderson,

Sunshine Coast, Queensland

Friday, 23 December 2011

YOU WILL BE SADLY MISSED OLD DIGGER
REGARDS
LITTLE ARDEE

Friday, 23 December 2011

WELL DONE BRUCE-R.I.P

Friday, 23 December 2011

A true Australian has passed into the pages of history,I wonder if Australia will ever see the likes of a Bruce Ruxton Again!

Douglas Severn,

Sydney

Friday, 23 December 2011

A very sad day Thanks for the memorys
you were ONE OF THE BEST
GOD BLESS

Judy Clues,

TOORAK, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce, the greatest supporter of all Veterans.

Friday, 23 December 2011

Rest in peace we all learnt to respect the Service men and women who fought for this country. will never forget you.

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Digger. Very sad to hear the news of this honourable man's demise. I had the privilege of speaking to you on a number of ex service issues Bruce, and you were spot on with your advice. You have done all of us ex Diggers proud. God Bless you. God Save the Queen!

Grant Armstrong,

Drouin, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

Great Man. We need more of his type in the Public Arena.
R.I.P.

Peter McMullan,

Perth, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

NOW There is a man that deserves a State Funeral

DARLENE MOFFITT,

HOBART, Tasmania

Friday, 23 December 2011

Goodbye to a great Australian. Rip Bruce.

Robert Jones,

Perth, Western Australia

Friday, 23 December 2011

RIP Bruce, you stood up for the vets who fought for this country and what you believed was right. A truly great Australian who won't be forgotten.

Stephen,

Yarraville, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

May this true aussie gentleman rest in peace and condolences to his family

Jodie Livingstone,

Mooroolbark, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

In memory of dad's cousin Bruce. You were loyal to battlers and defender of Australia, its flag and all who served for this beautiful country. Fond memories of an old digger who stood up for what he believed was right, good and true. RIP- Lest We Forget.

Allenby Quintus' Family,

Altona, Victoria

Friday, 23 December 2011

God bless you Bruce. You spoke your mind and stood tall for all veterans. Australia loses a true patriot and believer.

Jim Fuller,

Adelaide, South Australia

Saturday, 24 December 2011

LEST WE FORGET , Bruce, gone but not forgotten.....rest in peace mate, may all the other Diggers, gone before you, welcome you with open arms, and a Beer for the trip! Mark Eccles-Smith, President, Millicent sub branch RSL. The Last Post will. Be played for you Bruce, when we get home.

Mark Eccles-Smith,

Millicent, South Australia

Saturday, 24 December 2011

A great man and will be remembered for the help he gave to the relatives of the Sandakan Death March. RIP Bruce

Kay,

Melbourne, Victoria

Saturday, 24 December 2011

Vale Bruce Ruxton, it is sad to see the diggers leave us. Soon there will be only our Vietnam Vets, peacekeepers and peacemakers left to march where once proud columns of returned servicemen and woman once stretched for what seemed forever. Vale Bruce Ruxton.

Shirly Bear,

Melbourne, Victoria

Saturday, 24 December 2011

God Bless you Mr Ruxton. Such a shame you never became our Prime Minister. May you RIP good sir. Many many Australians will never forget you!

Bernadette COWLEY,

Melbourne, Victoria

Saturday, 24 December 2011

Australia not only lost a son ,but a true hero and National Treasure. He passed on the anniversary of my fathers death and will allways be remembered as my other hero.

Roy Jones,

Frankston, Victoria

Saturday, 24 December 2011

You kept us on our toes – a true gentleman, outspoken, honest and loyal. Rest in peace

Australian Capital Territory

Saturday, 24 December 2011

He is why they can come here, and want to.

Saturday, 24 December 2011

david royle,

alice springss, Northern Territory

Saturday, 24 December 2011

Rest in peace, Bruce.

Vladimir Bosanac,

Bowral, New South Wales

Saturday, 24 December 2011

Bruce a Great Australian i have known you for 48 of my 62 years you where my 2nd father
see ya up there digger

Richard Fennessy,

mebourne, Victoria

Saturday, 24 December 2011

Bruce a Great Australian i have known you for 48 of my 62 years you where my 2nd father
see ya up there digger

Saturday, 24 December 2011

daniel royle,

alice springs, Northern Territory

Saturday, 24 December 2011

God Bless you Mr Ruxton. Such a shame you never became our Prime Minister. May you
RIP good sir. Many many Australians will never forget you!

Saturday, 24 December 2011

Condolencesand prayers for the Ruxton family 😊
A lovely man he was ,a digger who will not be forgotten 😊 ailsa.

ailsa noble,

perth, Western Australia

Saturday, 24 December 2011

mcglashan,

Victoria

Saturday, 24 December 2011

Sort of person that needs to live forever! His legacy won't be forgotten.

bythehandofgod,

Brisbane, Queensland

Saturday, 24 December 2011

Your tireless work in the memory of our diggers will ensure you yourself are never forgotten.
Rest in peace Mr. Ruxton.

Gary,

Melbourne, Victoria

Saturday, 24 December 2011

What an admirable and decent man. Like the warriors he represented he offered no fear of favour as he dedicated his life to his values.
Vale

terence shannon,

Inverloch, Victoria

Saturday, 24 December 2011

One Hell of a MAN. Truly someone to look up to and respect. I know I do.

Dave Edwards,

Melbourne, Victoria

Sunday, 25 December 2011

God bless you, Bruce. We are all so much the better for having had you among us.

Bernie Finn,

Sunshine, Victoria

Sunday, 25 December 2011

God Bless you Mr Ruxton. Such a shame you never became our Prime Minister. May you RIP good sir. Many many Australians will never forget you!

Bernadette Cowley,

Melbourne, Victoria

Sunday, 25 December 2011

Lucky enough to have met him in his later years in which he was as sharp as a tack, humorous & entirely focused. RIP

andy lambert,

brisbane, Queensland

Sunday, 25 December 2011

The Brethren of the various Masonic Lodges who attended and supported your promotion to Grand Rank some years ago at Oakleigh will always remember your humility in receiving due recognition for your service to others. May the Great Architect protect you.

Oakleigh Freemasons,

Oakleigh, Victoria



Bruce Ruxton at the War Memorial in Kings Park, Perth, in 2000. *Photo: Tony McDonough*

Bruce Ruxton, outspoken former president of the Victorian Returned and Services League, has died in hospital aged 85.

Ruxton had been suffering from dementia and lapsed into a coma two days ago. He died yesterday at his Queensland nursing home with his son at his side.

His close friend and head of the Returned and Services League in Victoria, David McLachlan, said the news was sad but not unexpected.



Bruce Ruxton in his army days in World War II. *Photo: Supplied*

"Bruce was a fearsome fighter for veterans and their entitlements and things that he considered to be right in the world," Mr McLachlan said.

His greatest passions were veterans and Collingwood, Mr McLachlan said, adding he would be most proud of "being Australian and being a person that fought for what he believed in".

Premier Ted Baillieu said Mr Ruxton was "an unassailable champion of our nation's veterans and our nation's values".

A small service is planned for Mr Ruxton on the Sunshine Coast and a bigger memorial service for Melbourne.

A state service would be discussed with his family but was yet to be confirmed, a government spokesman said.

Victorian RSL head for 23 years, he was equally well known for his controversial statements, which included calling Archbishop Desmond Tutu "a witchdoctor" in 1987.

The Melbourne High School graduate from Kew enlisted with the Australian Army in 1944 and served in World War II in the south-west Pacific, the Dutch East Indies and Balikpapan in Borneo.

For three years he served in Japan with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force.

Barry Everingham worked as Mr Ruxton's PR adviser and speechwriter in the 1980s.

"He was the Diggers' mate," he told *The Saturday Age*.

Mr Everingham said Mr Ruxton spent most Saturdays at his South Melbourne office, where veterans and families would queue to see him.

In 1975 he was awarded the MBE, the OBE in 1981, the AM in 1996, and in 1997 the Chevalier of Order of Merit.

Australian Monarchist League Queensland branch chairman Tristan Rogers said he was sad to hear of Mr Ruxton's passing as he was "a supporter of the league for many years".
Source: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/diggers-outspoken-mate-bruce-ruxton-dies-aged-85-20111223-1p8ph.html>

Colourful former RSL president Bruce Ruxton dies

ANDREW FRASER AND NICK LEYS The Australian December 24, 2011

ONE of the more outspoken conservative figures in Australia towards the end of the 20th century, Bruce Ruxton, has died in a Sunshine Coast nursing home. He was 85.

While Mr Ruxton held the formal title of president of the Victorian branch of the Returned and Services League from 1979 until 2002 and was a vigorous advocate of veteran rights, he was better known as an opponent of homosexuality, republicanism, and Japanese investment in Australia.

A man of passionate views, he could always be relied on by talkback radio hosts or any organisers of public events to put forward a strong case on issues such as retaining the

Australian flag or the royal family. He once referred to South African Anglican bishop Desmond Tutu as a "witch doctor".

In 1998, he attended the Constitutional Convention for the Republic as a representative of the monarchist group, having declared that RSL members "will never agree to this country becoming a republic".

"We are proud to be associated with the Queen, who is our patron, and who, as this country's head of state, has never once put a foot wrong," he said. "Show me a politician with such a record."

Mr Ruxton became a figure readily lampooned by various comics and he always took this in good spirit, even parodying himself with a rap song in 1992.

While he wore his conservative heart on his sleeve, often overlooked was his work for veterans. Born in Melbourne, he saw service in World War II in the southwest Pacific and Borneo, and three years in Japan with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force, before being discharged in 1949.

Although he never advanced past the rank of private, he still became active in the RSL and in 1975, well before he was widely known to the public, his advocacy for veterans was recognised with an MBE which was upgraded to an OBE in 1981.

He spent his final years at Tewantin on the Sunshine Coast and suffered from dementia.

It is believed he fell into a coma on Wednesday, but was surrounded by his family at the time of his death.

Indicative of his passion was one occasion when he was in the middle of a fight on television between former pop star and veteran Normie Rowe and broadcaster Ron Casey, after which Mr Ruxton declared, "as for Ron Casey, he deserved a good punch in the nose".

Rowe said yesterday that Mr Ruxton's death marked the "end of an era". "Some people hold office in these organisations and don't achieve much," Rowe said. "Bruce was not one of those people. He understood the people he represented and he stood up for those constituents. Ex-servicemen did not have a better friend."

Tributes to Mr Ruxton flowed in yesterday, including one from former prime minister Malcolm Fraser, who said he did not always agree with Mr Ruxton.

"He filled his role as president of the Victorian RSL with commitment and great vigour," Mr Fraser said.

"He was a tireless fighter for the interests of ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen and many people will remember him with affection."

Former army chief Peter Cosgrove said he had known Mr Ruxton for 15 years and "respected him for what he stood for and achieved". "To many of us Bruce Ruxton was a general," General Cosgrove said. "But he was not just a leader of Victorian members but an inspiration to the entire defence community."

Nationals senator Barnaby Joyce described Mr Ruxton as "a great Australian and colourful character".

"Everybody forgave Bruce his sometimes eccentricities because they saw in the deeper person a man of great humanity, kindness, with a great love of his country," Senator Joyce said.

Additional reporting: Stuart Rintoul, Stefanie Balogh

Source: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/defence/colourful-former-rsl-president-bruce-ruxton-dies/story-e6frg8yo-1226229746092>

Diggers' champion Ruxton dies at 85

Lucy Beaumont December 24, 2011

Outspoken ... Bruce Ruxton.

BRUCE RUXTON, the outspoken former president of the Victorian RSL, has died aged 85.

Mr Ruxton had been suffering from dementia and lapsed into a coma two days ago. He died yesterday at his Queensland nursing home with his son at his side.

His close friend and head of the RSL in Victoria, David McLachlan, said: "Bruce was a fearsome fighter for veterans and their entitlements and things that he considered to be right in the world."

His greatest passions were veterans and the Collingwood Australian rules football team, Mr McLachlan said, adding he would be most proud of "being Australian and being a person that fought for what he believed in".

A small service is planned for Mr Ruxton on the Sunshine Coast and a bigger memorial service for Melbourne.

The head of the Victorian RSL for 23 years, before moving to Queensland, Mr Ruxton was equally well known for his controversial statements, calling Archbishop Desmond Tutu "a witchdoctor" in 1987.

The Melbourne High School graduate from Kew enlisted with the army in 1944 and served in the Second World War in the South-West Pacific Area, the Dutch East Indies and Balikpapan in Borneo. For three years he served in Japan with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force.

Barry Everingham worked as Mr Ruxton's PR adviser and speechwriter in the 1980s.

"He was the Diggers' mate," he said.

Mr Everingham said Mr Ruxton had spent most Saturdays at his South Melbourne office, where queues of veterans and families would come to see him.

In 1975 he received the MBE, the OBE in 1981, the AM in 1996, and in 1997, Chevalier of the French Order of Merit.

Source: <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/diggers-champion-ruxton-dies-at-85-20111223-1p8ti.html#ixzz1hN9ZP2pjSource>

Tributes to former RSL state chief Bruce Ruxton

Adam Harvey reported this story on **Saturday, December 24, 2011]**

DAVID MARK: Tributes have been paid to the outspoken former head of the Victorian RSL, Bruce Ruxton, who died on the Gold Coast yesterday.

Mr Ruxton, who was 85, was a passionate advocate for war veterans and widows. But he's probably better known for his controversial and colourful statements that invariably sent the RSL switchboard into meltdown as people called in to complain.

Adam Harvey reports.

ADAM HARVEY: Bruce Ruxton led the Victorian RSL throughout the 80s and 90s.

The league's current state president, David McLachlan, says veterans couldn't have had a harder-working advocate.

DAVID MCLACHLAN: Bruce would travel long distances just to assist them in their pension claims, to make sure that they got their entitlements. They revered him. There's no doubt about that at all.

ADAM HARVEY: He won national recognition by distilling his conservative worldview into candid one-liners about the issues of the day. Like immigration:

BRUCE RUXTON: They should be put on the first rocket back to the country they came from.

ADAM HARVEY: Or prime ministers:

BRUCE RUXTON: Paul Keating couldn't lead a person out of the mist of a Turkish bath, really.

ADAM HARVEY: Former head of the RSL's NSW branch, Rusty Priest, knew Mr Ruxton for 60 years.

RUSTY PRIEST: He was a Victorian. He was a Collingwood boy. He was the embodiment of everything that the RSL stood for.

ADAM HARVEY: Mr Ruxton's blunt turn of phrase would regularly send the RSL switchboard into meltdown.

RUSTY PRIEST: I'd switch the news on and suddenly find that Bruce had stirred someone up and the national president used to say, can you talk to Bruce and see if we can tone him down a little bit and I used to ring up Bruce and Bruce said, I'm only the speaking the truth.

And I said, yeah Bruce but there are different ways to speak it. He was a good bloke.

ADAM HARVEY: He outraged plenty but he didn't always take himself as seriously as other did.

To raise money for an RSL project he entered the recording studio.

(excerpt from Bruce Ruxton's rap song)

BRUCE RUXTON: My name is Bruce Ruxton and I'll do as I please. I like Australia for Australians. I can't understand the stink.

ADAM HARVEY: Mr Ruxton suffered from deteriorating health for several years. A memorial service will be held for him in Melbourne.

DAVID MARK: Adam Harvey.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2011/s3397655.htm>

Outspoken advocate Ruxton dead at 85

LUCY BEAUMONT 24 Dec, 2011

Outspoken former president of the Victorian Returned and Services League, Bruce Ruxton, has died in hospital aged 85.

Ruxton had been suffering from dementia and lapsed into a coma two days ago. He died yesterday at his Queensland nursing home with his son at his side.

His close friend and head of the RSL in Victoria, David McLachlan, said the news was not unexpected.

"Bruce was a fearsome fighter for veterans and their entitlements and things that he considered to be right in the world," Mr McLachlan said.

His greatest passions were veterans and Collingwood, Mr McLachlan said, adding he would be most proud of "being Australian and being a person that fought for what he believed in".

Victorian Premier Ted Baillieu said Mr Ruxton was "an unassailable champion of our nation's veterans and our nation's values".

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State RSL head for 23 years, before moving to Queensland, he was equally well known for his controversial statements, which included calling Nobel peace prize recipient Archbishop Desmond Tutu "a witch doctor" in 1987.

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In 1975 he received the MBE, the OBE in 1981, the AM in 1996, and in 1997 the Chevalier of Order of Merit.

Source: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/outspoken-advocate-ruxton-dead-at-85/2403375.aspx>