

aircraft gun emplacements which shot at Noel and Tom's Sunderland in April 1945 can still be seen.

On VE Day Tom's aircraft was patrolling the Channel Islands providing support for the RN ships rounding up German vessels caught off shore at the surrender.

After VE Day the short term plan was to fly 10 Squadron back to Australia. This plan was aborted at the end of the Pacific war. Tom was shipped back to Australia in November 1945 but not before using his time in England to apply for and be interviewed for a Rhodes scholarship. Like many returned servicemen of the day he resumed his study of the law in 1946.

The Legion of Honour is the French Republic's highest award. Created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 he first bestowed it just over 200 years ago in July 1804 in the chapel of Les Invalides. As the republic's first consul, Napoleon instituted the order to found a single elite corps associating military bravery and civil talent. A handful of non-French citizens receive the honour annually. Tom Hughes is one of them. With stylish Gallic understatement, the medal's miniature is a tiny centimetre long slash of crimson. Tom now justly wears it with pride.

Charity at the Bar

Indigenous Barristers' Trust Fund cocktail party

By Keith Chapple SC

On Wednesday evening 13 April 2005 the Indigenous Barristers' Strategy Working Party held a cocktail party in the Sky Phoenix Restaurant as a fundraiser to encourage and assist Indigenous law students and barristers.

The event was hosted by the patron of the Indigenous Barristers' Trust, the Hon Sir Gerard Brennan AC KBE.

Sir Gerard spoke about the work of the trust and the need for support for indigenous barristers coming to and already at the Bar. His sentiments were echoed by the president of the New South Wales Bar Association, Ian Harrison SC.

The main speaker for the evening was the high profile indigenous leader and adviser to the federal government on Indigenous welfare issues, Noel Pearson. In a well-received speech Mr Pearson spoke about Indigenous lawyers and also provided some careful analysis of High Court land rights cases. His comments were perfectly weighted for his largely legal audience.

The evening was a great triumph of organisation by Chris Ronalds SC and her colleagues.

The trust deserves a great deal of support. It has taken over and expanded the work begun by Mum Shirl many decades ago. Anyone who saw her efforts in the prisons and on the streets of Redfern could not fail to be impressed.

The trust is a highly organised and far reaching organisation that needs funds. The silks of 2004 made it the major beneficiary of their donations. More is needed.



Noel Pearson talks to the media following his speech at the fundraiser.
Photo: Bob Finlayson / News Image Library