

## DUNN

**Whelan (Jim)Dunn**

b. c1926

Son of Cecil, an original ANZAC.

# War medals back in safe hands

A WORLD War II veteran is planning to take part in next year's Anzac Day march for the first time in his life after he was reunited with his prized war medals on Friday.

The medals were stolen from Dingley resident Whelan Dunn, or Jim as he is commonly known, more than two years ago.

"Everywhere I went I would always go into Cash Converters stores and other pawn shops to see if they had my medals," Mr Dunn said.

"I really didn't think I would see them again and I could not believe it when the police rang me and said they had found them."

The 81 year old said he had given up all hope of ever finding the medals, which belonged to himself and his late father Cecil, who was among the first Anzacs to land in Gallipoli during World War I.

Two of his five grandchildren are keen to wear the medals at next year's Melbourne Anzac Day march.

Detective Senior Constable Craig Small presented Mr Dunn with his medals at Cheltenham police station on Friday.

"When we informed Mr Dunn of the situation he was over the moon to be finally getting his medals back. He said 'you bloody beauty' and was thrilled by the news."

The discovery of the medals came when police officers from Frankston Embona unit arrested and charged a 31-year-old Dandenong man last Monday in relation to an armed robbery at a Dandenong jewellery store.

When searching the man's vehicle, detectives uncovered the three medals from World War I and World War II.

The man was remanded in custody and charged with armed robbery and handling of stolen goods.

He will again appear in court on August 28.



**Timely reunion:** Whelan 'Jim' Dunn was reunited with his war medals at the Cheltenham police station after they were stolen more than two years ago.

Picture: Lucy Di Paolo

# Medal detectors turn up gold for veteran

By Shaun Inguanzo

A DANDENONG armed robbery has inadvertently led police to uncover stolen war medals and return them to their rightful owner.

Dingley resident Jim Dunn, 81, was last week reunited with his collection of World War I and II medals after Frankston Embona Taskforce police arrested a 31-year-old Dandenong man in relation to an armed robbery that occurred on Thursday 31 May.

The robbery happened at Stefanovic Jewellers in Walker Street, Dandenong.

Police found the medals after searching the 31-year-old's car, and after much detective work found their owner.

A quick phone call from police to Mr Dunn quickly confirmed he was the rightful owner.

Detective Senior Constable Craig Small presented Mr Dunn with the

medals last Friday at a press conference to celebrate the unusual find.

Det Sen Const Small said the Embona team was delighted to have reunited the war vet with his medals.

"When we informed Mr Dunn of the situation he was over the moon to be finally getting his medals back," he said.

"He said to us 'you bloody beauty' and was thrilled by the news."

Colleague Detective Senior Constable Mark Fitt said the medals possessed such sentimental value to Mr Dunn.

"This was obviously a phone call that Mr Dunn was not expecting to get, considering that the medals had been missing for so long," he said.

Mr Dunn said the medals belonged to both himself and his late father Cecil, who was among the first ANZACs to land in Gallipoli during World War I.

He said he had given up all hope of

ever finding them again.

"Everywhere I went I would always go into Cash Converters stores and other pawn shops to see if they had my medals," Mr Dunn said.

"I really didn't think I would see them again and I could not believe it when the police rang me and said they had found them. They (the police) have been marvellous. I did not think they would bother with small things like this as I thought they would be too busy concentrating on bigger investigations."

Mr Dunn now plans on taking part in next year's ANZAC Day march for the first time in his life, with two of his five grandchildren keen to wear the medals.

Police have remanded the 31-year-old Dandenong man in custody and charged him with armed robbery and handling stolen goods.

He will appear at Dandenong Magistrates' Court on 28 August.



Det Sen Const Craig Small presents World War II veteran Jim Dunn with his war medals. Picture courtesy Police Life.

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# Stolen war medals returned to veteran

WORLD War II veteran and Dingley resident Whelan Dunn will take part in next year's Anzac Day march for the first time with two of his five grandchildren after being reunited with stolen war medals.

A police investigation into an armed robbery in Dandenong last week uncovered what the 81-year-old thought he would never find.

Missing for more than two years, detectives

uncovered the three war medals from World War I and II.

Police officers from Frankston EMBONA arrested and charged a Dandenong man, 31, last Monday in relation to an armed robbery at a Dandenong jewellery store.

Det Sen-Constable Craig Small said there was no doubt police had found the rightful owner of the medals after hearing Mr Dunn's reaction to the news over the phone.

"He said to us 'you bloody beauty' and was thrilled by the news," Det Sen-Constable Small said.

Mr Dunn said the medals belonged to both himself and his late father Cecil, who was among the first Anzacs to land in Gallipoli during World War I.

"Everywhere I went I would always go into stores and pawn shops to see if they had my medals," he said.

"I really didn't think I would see them again and I could not believe it when the police rang me and said they had found them."

Mr Dunn said the police had been marvelous.

The Dandenong man was remanded in custody and will appear in court again on August 28.

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