



War Veterans Village [Narrabeen] RSL sub-Branch

Through an active membership we keep the ANZAC spirit alive and growing

Editor: Doug Smyth – email dcsmyth@bigpond.com or deliver mail to RLO Reception, Gallipoli.
Doug's Mob 0429 988 880. Office sub-Branch Hours Monday, Tuesday, Friday 9.30am – 12pm. Phone: 8978 4266

DISPATCHES

November and December

“The price of Liberty is eternal Vigilance”

The President's Message

Last month I reported on the Extraordinary Annual State Congress. By the time you receive this issue of *Dispatches* the Congress should be completed.

This will be good for a few reasons:

1. If all goes well, we will have a new Constitution which will comply with the recent RSL NSW Act 2018 No 48.
2. This will give The League a more positive direction following on from *The Bergin Enquiry*.
3. Perhaps best of all, it will allow sub-Branches, District Council and State Branch to get back to meeting our simple aim of “Mates Helping Mates”.

Our delegate - Vice President John Sowden, will be giving a report of Congress at our November General Meeting. I strongly encourage you to come along to hear about the outcomes of this decision and also the outcomes of the remainder of the general agenda.

As previously reported, it is intended to present the 2020 Budget to this meeting. This will assist in setting the direction we will pursue next year. Again, I strongly encourage you to attend to have your say.

In encouraging everyone to attend we are very conscious that not all are able to do so for a variety of reasons. If your main reason is transport, please let us know so that we can make arrangements to have you picked up.

Remembrance Day is not far off. As usual the Village Service will be held at The ANZAC Memorial, adjacent to the Montgomery Theatre, commencing at 10.30am. As always, there will be transport provided by the Village.

Finally, as this is the last *Dispatches* for 2019, thank you for your membership. We look forward to seeing you at our various activities.

Lest We Forget
Bob Durbin
President

Membership

Membership numbers at 16th October 2019 = 94
Life Subscribers - 3, Life Members - 2
Service Members – 46, Affiliate Members – 23
Associate Members – 20.
Sadly, we report the passing of Stan Baker.



Lest we Forget



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Monday 11th November

Montgomery Centre
Remembrance Wall

Service starts at 10.30am

please assemble before 10.15am

Please wear your medals and decorations

Members of the sub-Branch are requested to wear a poppy or poppy badge and your RSL membership badge.

There will be an opportunity at the end of the service for anyone who would like to lay a wreath to do so.



Attention - Must Read

General Meeting

Thursday 14th November at 9.30am

Montgomery Centre

Speaker: Vice President

John Sowden, Topic – ‘NSW State

Congress, Motions passed, the new

Constitution and Standing

Operating Procedures’

By an Unknown Author

The days of our youth were brief my love,
The call to arms cut short our dream,
The joys that could have been ours my love,
Were killed by your sacrifice supreme,
Did anyone care for us, my love,
For the ones you left behind?
No one cared for us, my love,
We were left to a long hard grind.

Editor: Thank you Shirley McLaren for this poem.

NSW RSL State Branch Website

Members can login directly onto the New RSL NSW website. Go to www.rslnsw.org.au

Be ready to explore a very friendly website full of great pictures and lots of information.

You can explore all the information with a click on any of the yellow tabs

Read More

Should you want to access information as a member then scroll down to the heading “Members’ Suite” and click on the “More” yellow tab.

More



In our last Dispatches the puzzle was to choose the Australian National Flag. It is depicted in 3. Did you choose the right one?

Poppy Appeal

Hi Everyone,

The Poppy Day Appeal is a fundraising appeal that raises Funds for RSL Defence Care so that they can support Australian Veterans and their families that are in need. The Fundraising Appeal is undertaken by our dedicated sub-Branch and volunteers.

The Poppy Day Fundraising Appeal dates run from 21 October 2019 to 15 November 2019.

As we are seeking volunteers, please contact the sub-Branch office confirming day/date/time you wish to volunteer during these fundraising dates.

Trays are ready and can be collected from the sub-Branch Office.

We wish to thank you for your continuing support. Should you require any additional information please contact me or alternatively use our sub-Branch email.

Warmest Regards,

Denise J Kuessner,

Hon. Secretary. Mobile: 0419 699 982

War Vets RSL sub-Branch website

At our General Meeting on Thursday 10th October a motion was passed "That the Domain Name for the new website be "War Vets RSL". This means when you Google using this title (not yet, but when the site is completed) it will take you straight into our website.

At the same meeting we were able to announce that Peter Yardley had volunteered to be our Webmaster. His role is to work with the Publicity Officer, Doug Smyth and Sam Brennan from The Honest Agency. Sam is Director of the Company and is formatting the website using The Forestville RSL website as a base.

Peter assisted by partner Jan held a workshop with Doug on Friday the 25th October to start assembling the content material. Once completed this will be forwarded to The Honest Agency for the modelling of the site.

We are aiming to introduce members to the website at our Christmas Luncheon.

Caring for our Members

Hello Everyone,

I hope you have had an opportunity to read the open letter from the CEO Laurie Leigh in the October / November "Enjoy Life", outlining RSL LifeCare five year strategic plan: if not you can read it in the issue of "Enjoy Life". In my view it is excellent and very reassuring for those residents who had some concerns.

These last two months, we have had six members known to me, who have had at least one stay in hospital. Two of our residents have received their Gold Card which will assist them with their medical expenses.

Our dear, Steve Watkins, is home and having nursing care and Peter Yardley, is up and about after his recent hip operation. Other members who have been in Hospital are Fred Cruwys, our loved Treasure Horst Kuessner who is back on the job and John Nihill.

My lunch dates were with four male members and Coffee with six male members at the local shops.

Women are supposed to be the best at talking.

However, I dispute that!

Well that's all from me.

Love to all Patti Page – Welfare

Editor: If you know of anyone who is not coping well with their health or just having a hard time then contact Patti on her mobile: 0402 542 534

Q & A at Parliament House

This article is from our very active, Shirley McLaren

I was invited to attend a Parliamentary Screening of the uplifting new ABC series 'Old People's Homes For 4 Year Old's', held at Parliament House, Canberra on Wednesday 16 October 2019. I was accompanied by my granddaughter Brooke Walsh.

Waiting for us outside the entrance doors of Parliament House was a very excited Craig Gear, CEO Older Persons Advocacy, claiming he was the biggest fan of the programme. Craig took it upon himself to escort us to the drinks and nibbles area. I only had 2 sips of wine because we were constantly being greeted by other guests. "Can I have a photo"? First up was Joe O'Brien, ABC Studio Director. "I'm a massive fan of the programme, must have a photo Shirley and I want you in the front row in the theatre because I want to ask you a question."

At the entrance doors to the theatre a staff member said. "The ministers have arrived Shirley and want to meet you." We were escorted back through a very large crowd to meet Minister Colbeck, who apologised for not speaking to me after Q&A session the week before.

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As we were chatting, there was an announcement that guests should take their seats in the theatre for the screening. Being the shy shrinking violet, which I am not, I asked the Minister if he would escort me into the theatre. As he said “Delighted to”, I linked my arm in his and he helped me down a lot of steps to the front row. We chatted all the way, he asked where my family lived and I told him they were scattered in 3 different states. Sitting down, he told me his family was also scattered because of his work. He said he watched the programme on his iPad. “I enjoyed the whole programme”.

The screening occurred and following, there was to be a short panel discussion, with leaders in aged care and early childhood learning with Craig Gear: CEO Older Persons Advocacy, Fiona May: CEO Playgroup Australia, Dr. Anneke Fitzgerald: The intergenerational Care Project Griffith University and Debbie Cuell: Executive Producer (programme) Endemol Shine.

The discussion was moderated by Joe O’Brien who gave welcoming remarks. Minister Colbeck gave his welcoming address acknowledging his parliamentary colleagues in the audience, praising the programme and telling us that he has a long line of people knocking on his door asking for money!!

The first short episode of a video was shown of a playgroup where mothers took their babies and toddlers into a retirement village. When they placed the baby into the arms of the residents, it was a beautiful sight to see the residents faces light up and the big smiles as they gazed at the babies.

Joe O’Brien asked me “What did you get out of the programme”? “It put a twinkle in my eye, a spring in my step and warmth back into my tired old bones”. I was asked to stand up and turn around, “This is Shirley”, as I looked up to a sea of faces, Oh Wow!! I was overwhelmed there must have been more than 500 people applauding.

The last episode was screened and before the panel could start, all the members of Parliament were called back to the house. It was a sitting week.

Q&A was cancelled but the four panel members continued on for 5 minutes each and gave a very articulate overview of each of their roles in the intergenerational programmes they were involved in.

As the evening continued, people came down and stood 7 & 8 deep waiting for photos. They had travelled from other states and had asked permission to use the photos to promote the programme within

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their suburbs, towns cities and state.

I feel that the networking I was able to do with these very enthusiastic educators and keeping the conversation going, was more than worthwhile. The opportunity for others to connect, encouraging them to continue to build greater rapport within their groups, as they return to their communities, must add value to the programme.

“What would it cost to implement an intergenerational programme?”

It would not cost a lot of money. A driver, petrol, a mini bus to pick the children up drive to a retirement village and take them back to their preschool.

Editor: Thank you Shirley.

Chaplains Corner

Like many of you I am wondering where the year has gone.

As we near the end of the Calendar Year we come closer to the beginning of the Christian year when we celebrate the Christmas Season. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, we also engage in a time of self-examination in expectation of His second coming in glory. This is when He will judge the living and the dead.

This seems to be ‘heavy stuff’ for some, but in reality it reminds us that we are called to live a Christ-like life. Nothing too difficult here, just follow the greatest commandments as recorded in Matthew’s Gospel.

Matthew 22:34-40 (NIV)

The Greatest Commandment

³⁴ *Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”*

³⁷ *Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.*

³⁹ *and the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

May your Christmas be filled with joy, happiness and peace, being surrounded by the love of family and friends.

In His Service
Bob Durbin
Chaplain

Raising Funds – Chocolate Bar Promotion

Our first special fundraising event, for the sub-Branch is underway. Chocolate bars to members.

The 100gram bar, at \$4.00 each, comes in a Commemorative wrapper. Wrappers have a different “Remembrance Day” theme.

Bars will be available for purchase at our next meeting.

Membership Renewals

The Membership Renewal Forms have been mailed to members. To finalise our Membership renewal, it would be appreciated if you could make payment by our December General Meeting – 12th December 2019 (apologies this was shown as 2018 on the form). Your 2020 (apologies this was shown as 2019 on the form) Membership Card will be issued as receipt of your renewal payment of \$10.00.

Treasurer, Horst Kuessner

Reveille

Did you receive your September copy?

- *RSL NSW Acting President’s Report.*
- *District Councils.*
- *Fundraising Update.*
- *Rethinking Veterans’ Care.*
- *In Conversation with the State Secretary.*
- *A New Constitution for Congress (This will have been voted on when you receive your Dispatches).*
- *At your Service – Brian Vickery of Kingscliff sub-Branch.*

If you did not receive your copy, then please contact the sub-Branch Office.

Issues of “Dispatches for 2019

This is the last copy of “Dispatches” for 2019. As your Editor it has been a pleasure to produce each publication and I trust you have enjoyed reading them. Thank you to the contributors.

Our first issue for 2020, is a single month issue for February 2020. Copy deadline is Thursday 23rd January-12noon, for publication Friday 31st January.

A Very Merry Christmas to all members and their families. May 2020 be a healthy and prosperous year for dreams to come true.

Best wishes

Doug Smyth – Publicity Officer

Our 2020 Calendar of Events will be enclosed with the January “Dispatches”.

Diary Dates to Remember

** Tuesday, 12th November, 9am, Committee Meeting, in the Amy Taylor Room.

**Thursday, 14th December 9.30am, General Meeting in the Montgomery Centre.

** Tuesday, 10th December, 9am, Committee Meeting, in the Amy Taylor Room.

**Thursday, 12th December 10.15am, General Meeting in the Montgomery Centre.

**Thursday, 12th December, “*Christmas Luncheon*” to be held 11.30am for 12noon. *Lone Pine Lookout - Gallipoli Building \$25 per person.*

Envelopes for tickets were mailed to members on Wednesday 23rd October.

Tickets issued once money has been banked.

Reply for tickets closes on Friday 29th November.

For catering reasons, no tickets will be issued at the door.

You can also obtain an envelope, for tickets, from the sub- Branch Office prior to Friday 29th November.

**There will be no meetings in January.

**Tuesday, 11th February, 9am, Committee Meeting in the Amy Taylor Room.

** Thursday, 13th February, 9.30am, The Annual General Meeting in the Montgomery Centre.



Attention - Must Read
General Meeting
Thursday 11th December – 10.15am
Montgomery Centre
General Business - Happenings
in our sub-Branch

Following the General Meeting



Christmas Luncheon Lone Pine Lookout
11.30am for 12noon

