



War Veterans Village [Narrabeen] RSL sub-Branch

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

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DISPATCHES

March & April 2020

"The price of Liberty is eternal Vigilance"

The President's Message

15th August (VP Day) this year marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. As there will be several State-wide activities, we have been asked to provide names of WW2 Veterans who may wish to participate. While we do know most of our own WW2 members, not everyone has given us their service details. I encourage each member to provide the Secretary with your details so that we can ensure everyone has an opportunity to be considered for each event. This will not be restricted to RSL members, so if you know of a WW2 vet who is not a member of our sub-Branch, let them know this information and ask them to contact us. We would like to be as inclusive as possible.

This will be the same for the Korean War as this year marks the 70th Anniversary of the commencement of the War with 2023 marking the 70th Anniversary of the ceasefire. I would be pleased to know of any Korean War Veterans in our Village, regardless of sub-Branch membership.

You will read elsewhere that it is our intention to launch the sub-Branch website in the coming months. This is another positive step in not just promoting the RSL but also letting people know what is happening at the War Vets sub-Branch. As they say, "watch this space!"

As we prepare for the Annual General Meeting, I encourage you to have an active involvement in the process of electing your Executive and Committee. You will be receiving all the appropriate documentation in the very near future. All positions will become vacant and there are some who will not be seeking re-election. Please speak with our Secretary if you would like to know more about this.

ANZAC Day is not all that far away. As usual there will be a march on the morning of the preceding Wednesday, with the Dawn Service commencing at 6am on the day. Precise information will be given throughout the Village closer to the days. I think we have all been around long enough to know the meaning and worth of ANZAC Day.

Continued in next column >>>>^

Please be part of this important aspect of Village life in commemoration of all who have (and still) serve our great country.

Lest We Forget
Bob Durbin
President



Attention - Must Read
General Meeting followed by
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 12th March – 9.30am
Montgomery Centre
Election of new Committee
members, to hold office for the next
3 years
Morning tea follows the meetings

"Write a Right Royal Review"

Name one of the best Movie, TV Show or Show you have ever seen.

"An Officer and a Gentleman" was the most memorable movie I have ever seen.

Tell why it was so memorable.

This movie was released in 1982. It's the story of a young man who must complete his work at a Naval Officer Candidate School to become an aviator, with the help of a tough Gunnery Sergeant and his new girlfriend. (of course, all set in the US Navy!) Starring Richard Gere and Debra Winger along with Louis Gossett Jr. who won an Oscar as best supporting actor. It also covers suicide, a topic which is so relevant to-day for our Service members.

Who the best actor/actress was and why?

Richard Gere played the role of Zack Mayo (the young Officer Cadet) and he did it so well. I'm a romantic "sop" at heart and there is nothing like a Naval Officer in their white uniform to set a girl's heart a flutter. I've had two in my life: Allan as an officer for 22 ½ years and our son Brad who did 10 years via ADFA.

What scene/episode still lives in your memory to this day?

The final scene, when Richard Gere goes into the factory and picks up Debra Winger standing by her machine, kisses her numerous times and takes her out of the factory forever.

Editor: Thank you Sandra Burrows for submitting this Review. The first in our Series. Others to follow?

Visitations Report

Hi everyone wishing you a very good March and April.

Sadly, last month we lost some of our long-standing members. At these times all our member's feel sadness and loss. Two wonderful supporters of the sub-Branch. Neil Stronach who at one time served as a Treasure of our sub-Branch. Rev Bob Durbin and Neil's family gave our members a fitting opportunity to say our farewell to this fine gentleman. Nancy Dibley was a fine Poet and enjoyed writing poems about her friends. I think one of her best is displayed on the Remembrance Walk at the entry to the walk at the Northern end. Nancy was always writing poetry and wrote many, about Jeannie Sellars and myself and the things we were up to.

We also cannot forget our much love Jennifer Lowe, not a member of the sub-Branch however a wonderful much-loved parishioner of the Chapel. Jennifer was a kind person to all, a woman of great faith. She will be missed especially by all who attend Friday's Bible Study with the Rev Tony Bradford in the Gallipoli Building.

My last two months has kept me on the go, having lunch and coffee with my regular group of Veterans who would prefer to remain just as Patti's friends.

It was wonderful to see at our last meeting Steve Watkins in attendance. Steve has been ill for many months; however, he has come good after his last operation on his leg, it's great to see him physically well again. Jeannie Sellars has had a very difficult time with two serious complaints. The main one has been her back and she has been in Northern Beaches Hospital then transferred to Arcadia, even on her very bad days she is always thinking of others and as the song goes "Always look on the bright side of life".

Well dear members that's all from me.

Love Patti Page.

Mobile: 0402 542 534

Membership Report

Status at the 18th February 2020 = 90

Life Members – 2, Life Subscribers – 3,
Service – 45, Auxiliary – 19, Affiliate – 21

New members awaiting approval:

Service – 1, Affiliate – 2

Denise Kuessner
Secretary

Progress Report on War Vets RSL sub-Branch Website

**Two workshops were held in February, bringing together the work each member of the team (Peter Yardley, Jan Slater and Doug Smyth) had been preparing.

**March will see the website team even busier as they finalise the content which is to be submitted in the middle of the month to the web designer, Sam Brennan of The Honest Agency.

**After the sub-Branch A.G.M. the new Committee will have been appointed, so their roles, profile notes and photos can be submitted for inclusion in the website.

**It is proposed to launch the site to the new Committee at their first meeting on the 7th April and to the G.M on the 9th April.

Should you require further information please feel free to contact Doug Smyth, Mob: 0429 988 880.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Our tongue is the fastest healing part of your body.

The word typewriter is the longest word that can be typed using only the top row of a keyboard.

The sun is 330,330 times larger than the Earth.

The longest street in the world is Yonge Street in Toronto Canada, measuring 1,896 km (1,178 miles).



Playing at the Capitol Theatre

The sub-Branch has 12 seats for the 2pm Matinee performance, Centre Stalls on Sunday 22nd March. Cost \$185 per person includes private coach transport 1pm at Gallipoli and returning approx. 5.30pm.

Full payment with your booking. Contact our Committee member, Norm Ziegler, 220 Colooli, Phone 9981 5162.

Two Different Doctor's Offices

Boy, if this doesn't hit the nail on the head, I don't know what does!

Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement.

The FIRST patient is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week.

The SECOND sees his family doctor after waiting 3 weeks for an appointment, then waits 8 weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray, which isn't reviewed for another week and finally has his surgery scheduled for 6 months from then.

Why the different treatment for the two patients?

The FIRST is a Golden Retriever. The SECOND is a Senior Citizen. Next time take me to the Vet.

Write a Right Royal Review

My best Movie

Difficult to choose having regard to era & genre (mystery, drama, musical, romance, biography, extravaganza etc.). But, putting nostalgia aside, if I have to opt between **The Pianist, Schindlers List & Shine**, I choose the latter – **SHINE (1996)**.

Why Memorable?

Firstly, it is a relatively current and gripping biographical drama based on the life of living pianist David Helfgott (born 1947) who was an international prodigy and subsequently suffered a breakdown. As a gifted child, according to the film, high expectations combined with the pressure imposed by an intensely overbearing and abusive father created unbearable tension within the susceptible boy. This, accompanied by prolonged social isolation, led to a breakdown and years in institutions. Nevertheless, there follows the poignant tale of David's re-emergence in later life to again play before audiences, albeit now with some eccentricity. Secondly, the film is emotionally engaging for the viewing audience from the start and the extensive musical score is an added bonus.

Best Actor

Without doubt the gong goes to Geoffrey Rush who won an Academy Award for his brilliant portrayal of the lead character. Having seen David Helfgott in person and in performance, Rush presented the absolute personification of the man himself.

Most Memorable Scene

The movie is cast broadly in two halves with Noah Taylor as the young David and Rush as the adult. The unfortunate and dramatic breakdown of young David (Noah Taylor) subsequent to public performance of the enormously demanding Rachmaininoff: Concerto No.3 is a climactic point in the film.

Why was it called Shine? Isn't that the measure of a good film? – it leaves you things to contemplate.

Editor: Thank you Peter Yardley for submitting this Review. Look forward to other members submitting their copy for the May June issue. Copy closes on the 23rd April 2020.

History in March

- March 2nd - 1837: City of Melbourne was named.
- March 23rd - 1887: Explosion at Bulli (NSW) Colliery, killed 81.
- March 4th - 1899: Cyclone Mahina hit North Queensland, killing 400.
- March 12th–1913: Canberra, the Australian Capital, Founded.
- March 19th -1932: Sydney Harbour Bridge, Opened.

Because They Went Over There

Today is when we honour,
Those who served on foreign soil,
To those no longer with us,
For their blood their sweat their toil.

On Anzac Cove or Flanders field,
Kapyong or Kokoda Track,
Long Tan or El Alamein,
Lay those who never came back.

Those who survived the carnage,
And came back to the fold,
Many still are traumatised,
By experiences yet untold!

Thanks to all who served us,
Men and women both,
Offered themselves in sacrifice,
Once they took the solemn oath.

Rest in peace, we'll not forget,
Every woman and every man,
Who stopped a war from reaching,
Our peaceful wide brown land!

When you hear the bugle play,
The Last Post to those who care,
Remember you are standing here,
Because they went over there!

By Dudley Pye AM JP, Village resident.



Issue of May & June “Dispatches”

A reminder that this is due for publication on 28th April. Deadline for copy is 23rd April at 12 noon. All articles welcome.

Editor: Thank you to Allan Burrows for his article on “Believe It or Not – Welcome to tomorrow”. This will be published in the May & June issue Allan. Ran out of room in this issue!

History in April

- April 19th – 1770: Captain Cook first sighted Australian east coast.
- April 9th - 1865: Bushranger ‘Mad Dog Morgan’ shot Dead.
- April 22nd – 1887: Broome WA, hit by cyclone, 141 killed.
- April 6th - 1895: Waltzing Matilda first sung in public.
- April 7th - 1964: Actor, Russell Crowe, born.

Chaplains Corner

Easter and ANZAC Day – two times of the year which speak of similar themes. Both speak to us of ‘sacrifice’ and ‘legacy’.

From the Gospel of John 15:13(NIV)

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”.

On ANZAC Day (and its related events) we will give thanks to all who have given of themselves in some way in service for our country, in both times of war and peace. We will think of the great legacy they have given us. As a nation we see this as the most important day of our year; a time to reflect on sacrifices made, on bonds formed, of mateship shared over many years. At the end of the recitation of ‘The Ode’ we will affirm that *‘We will remember them – Lest we forget’*. So sacred do we hold ANZAC Day that woe betide anyone who shows disrespect.

As a predominantly Christian country, our Easter celebrations should be considered in the same light. Christ came and gave himself as a sacrifice for all humanity. His legacy is there for all. Unfortunately, our society has watered down His legacy; some have even discarded it. The concluding words of *“The Ode”* are most applicable here. If we forget the principles, values and standards upon which our country was built, if we allow all this to deteriorate, then what do we become?

We need to recognise our heritage, embrace the legacy and live the lives we are called to live – *Lest we forget!*

Grace & Peace
Bob Durbin
Chaplain

Chocolate Bar Sales

The sale of chocolates has been a success but some problems have been found to exist in respect of honest or satisfactory payment being received.

Norm Ziegler has spent considerable time getting orders right and arranging the manufacture of a dispenser to be placed at the point of sale register in the Dugout.

Denise & Horst Kuessner have also been involved.

Bars are being sold for \$4 and at the 25th February, taking into a count the foreign currency received! plus the dishonesty, we have made a profit of \$578.20

An order has been placed for chocolate bars having ANZAC Day commemorative wrappers.

Diary Dates to Remember

** Tuesday, 10th March, 9.00am, Committee Meeting, in the Amy Taylor Room.

** Thursday, 12th March 9.30am, General Meeting followed by Annual General Meeting in the Montgomery Centre.

** Tuesday, 7th April, 10.00am, Committee Meeting, ANZAC House.

** Thursday, 9th April, 9.30am General Meeting, in Montgomery Centre.

** Wednesday 22nd April, ANZAC March and Service. Form up. 9.45am at the Peter Cosgrove House Forecourt and on John Edmondson VC Dr. Stepping off at 10am. March to Montgomery Via the Gallipoli Building. Service at the Montgomery Memorial Wall at 10.30am.

** Saturday 25th April 6am, ANZAC Dawn Service at the Cenotaph on Veterans Parade.



Attention - Must Read

General Meeting for April
Thursday 9th April 9.30am
Montgomery Theatre

Your New Committee's first G.M.

Launch of the "War Vets RSL
sub-Branch" Website

NOTE YOUR DIARY NOW

Arrangements for Annual General Meeting

Committee positions to be filled:

The Executive: President, 1 or 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 District Council Delegates and 2 Alternative Delegates.

Current Positions: Publicity Officer, Visitations Officer, 2 General Committee members.

Possible Positions: Website Coordinator, Membership Officer.

Nomination accepted from eligible financial Service, Affiliate members of the sub-Branch and Life Members of the sub-Branch.

President and Vice President/s can only be held by Service or Life members. All other positions can be held by Service, Affiliate or Life member.

Bill Hardman, President of the District Council will act in the capacity of Returning Officer.

Nominations forms at sub-Branch Office.

Nominations closed at COB on Thurs 27th Feb.

Vote at the A.G.M by secret ballot.

Scrutineers will be appointed on the day.