



War Veterans Village [Narrabeen] RSL sub-Branch

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

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PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By the time you receive this issue, the State Branch Election Ballot will have been completed, with the election results to be declared at the AGM on 7th December. We are hoping that as the AGM will be held 'online' we will be able to watch the proceedings in the Chapel. Our Delegate this year is our Secretary, John Sowden. Please let John know if you would like to attend.

On the subject of John, it is great that he has recovered so well from his shoulder operation.

As reported last issue, and as will be reported elsewhere in this issue, a Remembrance Day Service was held in the Chapel and streamed live YouTube for all who wished to watch it. It is still on the RSL Chapel YouTube Channel if you wish to view it.

With the Corona Virus being very well controlled, LifeCare has eased some of the restrictions within the Village and we are pleased to announce that we will be holding a special Monthly General Meeting in December. The two morning teas will go ahead but we are still limited in numbers in the Lone Pine Lookout.

Collectively, Country, State, and community, we are moving forward. Let each of us continue to be compliant in all we do, and we look forward to 'opening up' in 2021.

May you have a very happy and safe Christmas.

Bob Durbin
President

DECEMBER IN HISTORY

- > 1878: Dec 10th - Notorious bushranger, Ned Kelly robbed the National Bank at Euroa.
- > 1903: Dec 17th - Orville and Wilbur Wright make first gasoline powered flight.
- > 1941: Dec 1st - The war halted first class cricket in Australia for 4 years.
- > 1951: Dec 5th - The first push button - controlled garage door opened.
- > 1987: Dec 11th - Charlie Chaplin's cane and bowler hat sold for \$82,500.

Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY



We are holding our General Meeting (our first since March) on **Thursday 10th December at 9.30am** Montgomery Theatre
Morning tea to follow
NOTE YOUR DIARY NOW!

REMEMBERANCE DAY

Wednesday 11 November 2020

We were very fortunate to be able to conduct our Remembrance Day Service this year. Held in the War Vets Chapel, the service was live streamed via YouTube to the Montgomery Centre and all RSL LifeCare Villages across NSW and the ACT.

On arrival the 24 invited guests were presented with 2 poppies by cadets from Pittwater House. One for the wreath laying ceremony and a beautiful hand knitted one, made by Sub-Branch member Shirley Beggs.

We entered the Chapel to music played by Affiliate Sub-Branch member Ann Phillips.

Robin Grady, Regional Manager, Retirement Living Central was the M.C.

Detailed below is a precis of the service:

Laurie Leigh CEO gave the "Welcome to Country" and addressed all present or watching.

A Flag Party procession by Pittwater House Cadets entered the Chapel and placed the Australian and New Zealand flags on the platform.

As we were not allowed to sing, a video of the hymn "Abide with me" was played.

Sub-Branch member Commander Arthur Skene RAN (Retd) read "In Flanders Fields".

The response, "We will Keep the Faith" was read by Cadet Under Officer Mills, Pittwater House Cadets.

The "Prayer of Remembrance" was read by Nicki Young, veteran and General Manager Veterans Services.

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Andrew Condon CSC, Chairman RSL LifeCare introduced the guest speaker, Lieutenant Commander Linton (Dixie) Lee RAN, Executive Officer HMAS Waterhen.

LAYING of WREATHS

Due to the limitation of space there were only two wreaths placed.

Lieutenant Commander Lee and Andrew Condon, Warrant Officer Kerney RAN and Bob Durbin.

LAYING of POPPIES.

All guests were invited to place a poppy as their personal act of Remembrance.

Pittwater House Cadets took their positions as the Flag Party for the Act of Remembrance.

THE ODE was recited by Bob Durbin, President War Vets RSL sub-Branch.

Guests were requested not to respond.

THE LAST POST

Once again this was played by bugler Brian Evans at exactly 11.00hrs (spot on).

Following one minutes silence Brian played THE ROUSE

A video of the Australian National Anthem was played. This was a very moving rendition which included a member of the Australian Army singing. Once again and in accordance with the COVID Safety Plan, guests were invited to hum, not sing.

At this point the Pittwater House Cadets Flag Party retired.

Chaplain Tony Bradford concluded the service with the Benediction.

This was a very lovely, peaceful, respectful, emotional and different COVID-19, 2020 Remembrance Day service.

A sincere thank you to Kerry Morris, Manager Fund Raising and Events, who in a few short days, put this service together for us. Thank you, Kerry.

Editor: Thanks to Shirley McLaren for the article above.



WELFARE REPORT

This month (November), I have had the privilege of catching up with a few more of our members and have thoroughly enjoyed the time spent.

It was a privilege to witness the presentations of the VP Day certificates and medallions on Thursday 19th to 17 of our members - such a proud moment for all concerned.

To see the joy on their faces at being together again as a group reminded me of the impact that social isolation can have on all of us - we, for the most part, crave some form of human contact.

One benefit I've noticed, has been that we treasure our social connections and it's good to remind ourselves that when times are difficult, we support each other and try to maintain both our mental and physical health as best we can.

Although we are still unable to host large meetings it is important to stay connected until we can get together. With that in mind, if you need some assistance and want to go for a walk, have a chat or share a coffee, then please let me know.

Let's keep in touch!

Bev Ash. 0439169982

Membership Renewals

These are now due for the 2021 year.

A renewal notice is being issued with this issue of Dispatches.

Please ensure your payment of \$10 is made by the 31st December 2020.

Season's Greetings

As 2020 draws to a close and we look forward to 2021, we hope life will return to being more like normal and we will have a rewarding year.

Our President and Committee wish you season's greeting and thank you for your support in what has been a difficult year.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

It has been a busy month and becoming more so with the end of year and our first general members' meeting coming up on 10th December – please make a point of coming along for a couple of special presentations and a morning tea to follow, especially since the last meeting was March 12th. We would like to hear your ideas for some activities in 2021.

An impressive Presentation Function (see more detailed report elsewhere in Dispatches) was held in the Montgomery Forecourt on Thursday 19th November with 50 people attending, the special guests being 17 village veterans who were presented with VP Day medallions and Certificates by Jason Falinski the Federal M P for Mackellar. Senior management were in attendance, and everyone enjoyed a social get together in Montgomery Theatre for morning tea at the conclusion.

We have organised two “high” morning teas as we are unable to have our usual Christmas Luncheon. If you receive your copy of Dispatches and have not responded but would like to come please let me know on 89784266 (office - leave message if necessary) it will be Thursday 3rd December at 10.30am in the Lone Pine Lounge.

Your Renewal of Membership form would have been delivered with your Dispatches and it will help if you could have the \$10 paid before the end of December – if the office is not open just leave in an envelope under the door and a receipt will be issued.

Thank you for your support of the raffle that we ran over the past 6 weeks or so – it was very successful and has bolstered the funds we can use for veteran welfare. Winners were village resident Rick White from Beersheba and Shirley Begg's daughter (Shirley lives in Simpson). Also, chocolate sales have been consistent during the past few months and this also is contributing to our better financial ability to support our village veterans and look at some interesting activities for 2021.

Attention all Associate Members – there was a change to the RSL NSW constitution which now means that your voting rights must remain with your original member branch and these voting rights cannot be transferred to another sub-Branch. This in no way changes your membership with this sub-Branch and we look forward to your continued support and attendance at meetings and functions.

On behalf of the sub-Branch committee have an enjoyable Christmas with family and/or friends and we look forward to a more “normal” 2021.

Secretary, John S

VP Day Medallion and Certificate Presentation Function – 19th November 2020



Editor: Thank you to John Sowden for the following report.

Jason Falinski, our local federal member of parliament (MP for Mackellar) was the guest of honour at a respectful and commemorative gathering organized through the War Vets RSL sub-Branch. It was held in the Montgomery Theatre Forecourt with 50 people in attendance – the largest gathering on our ANZAC VILLAGE site since March 10th when we held our last Members general meeting.

Seventeen veterans from our village had been personally visited by our Membership Officer Jan Slater over the past few months to prepare them for this special occasion.

It was a privilege to be present, with senior RSL LifeCare management, to witness these proud World War 11 veterans, all now well into their 90's, accept the Certificates and Medallions presented by Jason on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia. It was also appropriate that James Dallas, a young veteran with deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan who represented the RSL LifeCare General Manager of Veteran Services was able to share in the presentations.

Following the presentations all present enjoyed some socializing over a generous morning tea provided by the Village. There was much positive feedback and it was a great opportunity for those members and residents who attended to mix and talk with these veterans who served this country with courage, determination and pride in contributing to the way of life we are so lucky to enjoy today.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Every person has a unique tongue print as well as fingerprints.

The porpoise is second to man as the most intelligent animal on the planet.

111,111,111 X 111,111,111 =
12,345,678,987,654.321.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As at the 22nd November 2020

Total Membership = 100 All are financial.

Life Members	2
Life Subscribers	3
Service	46
Affiliate	30
Associate	19

The following new members are to be welcomed and inducted at our General Meeting on 10th December and are included in the numbers above:

Philip Calvert – Service
Janette Williams -Associate
Ross Fairhall – Associate
Bobbi Fairhall - Affiliate

Applications for new membership are in progress for:

Pamela Meyers – Affiliate
Alan Wilson – Service
Ken Clements – Service

On Thursday 19th November in the Montgomery Centre Forecourt Medallions and Certificates were presented to 17 WW11 Veterans of our sub - Branch. The Presentation Ceremony in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of VP Day was limited under COVID 19 to 50 attendees.

MC for the event was our Secretary John Sowden who introduced the Dignitaries including guest speaker our local MP Jason Falinski accompanied by Claire Berry with Robyn Grady, Natalie Lowndes and James Dallas (RSL LifeCare).

President Bob Durbin gave an address in welcoming Jason Falinski who then spoke comprehensively on the background of the event and the eternal debt owing to our Veterans.

The presentation of the Certificates and Medallions was then made by Jason Falinski and James Dallas with John Sowden providing the service background of each recipient.

Photos were taken by Warren Alston followed by a social Morning Tea served in the Montgomery Centre.

Our Veterans were resplendent in their Honours, Awards and Decorations and we trust it was a memorable day for them.

Special thanks for the assistance of Bev Ash, Patti Page and Lyn Hillard.

Also, to Margaret Burton who made and donated the poppies for the table display and presentation by Jan Slater to each Veteran.

The support of Suzie Spencer for our Connie Fall Veterans was much appreciated.

Thanks also to the guests who accompanied our veterans and to all for their attendance.

Jan Slater - Membership Officer

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS



Vice President Doug Smyth welcomes Joffre McNeall and Nina Fergusson presenting them with their new Affiliate badges and membership cards, after the 10th November Committee Meeting.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As we draw to the end of 2020, I think we will all be glad that it will be behind us. Internationally, nationally, and locally we have had a very difficult twelve months. Even Christmas this year will be a trying time for many.

Families will not be able to gather as usual.

Friendship groups will be restricted and for some, the isolation may only serve to highlight what a year it has been.

Fortunately, some of the Village restrictions are being lifted and perhaps by Christmas time some of the above comments will be obsolete. As the adage tells us – ‘time will tell!’

One of the beauties of living in our Village is the friendship and camaraderie which bonds us together. We may CHOOSE to spend some time alone, but we don't HAVE to spend time alone.

Christmas is about welcoming Christ into the world, a time when we rejoice at the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises and prophesies. It is a time when we can think about family, what it means, and just who is our family. It is easy to identify our ‘blood’ relatives, but we also have another, very extended family.

Matthew 12:47-50 NIV

47 Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.”

48 He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” 49 Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers.” 50 “For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

This is a very clear message for us this year. Our *family* is all around us.

Let each of us ‘be there’ for our *family* this Christmas. Let us rejoice as we once again recognise Jesus coming into our Earthly lives.

Blessings to all.

Bob Durbin
Chaplain