



## 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

As I reflect upon my last report, I think I was a little optimistic! All our plans have had to be cancelled – no bus trips, no Christmas in July, no meetings, no gatherings. Knowing this is the right thing to do does not make it any easier for us. It is hoped that as long as the majority of 'us' remain compliant with the State Government restrictions, then we should come out of lockdown sooner rather than later, and in a better position.

Then we can have our bus trips, breakfasts and meetings!

Until that time we need to continue to be there for each other. Remaining connected is critical at this time. As our welfare Officer, Bev has begun calling to see how everyone is. If she hasn't managed to catch up with you as yet, she will. However, if there is anything you think we can assist with, please don't wait for Bev to call. Please contact the office.

The Committee was able to meet recently via ZOOM – what did we ever do without it. One of the significant points to be considered is how we manage new membership applications during this period of lockdown. The Committee is recommending that, as is the case with other sub-Branches in our District, the members give approval for the Committee to action all membership applications which will then be ratified at the following Monthly General Meeting (whenever that happens to be). This will allow new memberships to be processed in a timely manner. There will be a 'Circular Resolution' included requesting your approval of this process.

The District Council also met via ZOOM on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July. The main issues are the upcoming Annual State Congress and incorporation. Unfortunately, there is nothing to report on becoming incorporated as the State Council has not provided full and clear guidance as to how to proceed. Our DC President, Bill Hardman OAM, is pursuing this as a matter of priority.

Keep well.

Lest We Forget, Bob Durbin, President

Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY



*With the current COVID-19 restrictions and the period of time that they are predicted to last being in doubt, the August Meeting has been cancelled.*

*Advice on whether we will have a September Meeting will be advised in the September 'Dispatches'*

### WELFARE REPORT

Covid has again put paid to face to face connections throughout our membership, but I have managed to contact many of you this month by phone.

Pleasing to see that most of you are managing the restrictions and our current lockdown very well.

Our older members (90+), Lindsay Dufty, Malcolm Brodie, Abby Barnes, Arthur Johnson, Max Marvin, Ben Taylor and Jack Emden are all keeping themselves busy with a bit of exercise, a walk or a bit of gardening – all good to hear!

Robert Ingpen shared a story - he keeps himself fairly busy during the day but during a recent patch of boredom he found himself polishing the furniture for something to do! Not his normal choice! He leaves TV until after 4pm, a very disciplined man.

Foxtel, Stan, etc are playing an important role for some and phone chats for others. It is good to hear that family members are still managing to assist with shopping etc in support of their family members – although visits are only at the door, it is better than nothing.

Lest We Forget  
Bev Ash, Visitation Officer

## SECRETARY'S COMMENTS / REPORT

Think positive, stay safe, talk to our neighbours, keep warm, remember to carry a mask, call us if you need assistance, remember to sign in when entering shops, - these are all now a sign of the times!! It will be just such a relief if August brings a lowering of the present restrictions.

Since the last Dispatches, your committee has met via Zoom technology. Thanks to our President Bob for organizing this. Sorry about cancelling the Christmas in July function thanks to COVID-19!! As soon as the lockdown ends however and we are permitted to have a function in the Lone Pine Lounge, we will host a \$10 breakfast for all members – we will let you know the minute approval is given.

What came out of our committee meeting?

1. We have several new member applications waiting in the wings and are unable to process these to RSL NSW without your (the members) approval. Hence attached with this August Dispatches is an “Extra-ordinary Circular Resolution” which we ask you to consider and indicate your approval or not by putting a ‘X’ in either the ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ box please. Your approval will allow us to process these applications to RSL NSW for membership.
2. Members are being asked to consider taking on the role of ‘coordinator of fund-raising’ effective Anzac Day 2022 – this involves an activity twice a year – Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. Please give this serious consideration as it is an important role, and learning ‘on the job’ is possible with Denise and Horst Kuessner who will be doing this year’s Remembrance Day programme.
3. Commemorative services within the village are unlikely in the next couple of months. However, the sub-Branch is hopeful of holding a small ceremony at our Veterans Parade cenotaph on Sunday August 18 for Vietnam Veterans Day. Unfortunately, this will not be an open service.
4. The sub-Branch is in the process of setting up the ability to accept credit card and debit card payments in the future. Our Treasurer did the research and we’re hoping this will be available for our next function.

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5. Your committee members continue to carry out their roles and we are frustrated and anxious as you, to have a general meeting as soon as possible. Our bus trip in September is still planned so here’s hoping.

John Sowden,  
Secretary

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

All members are currently financial.

Current total Membership = 105

Life Members 2

Life Subscribers 4

Service 47

Affiliate 35

Associate 17

Sadly, two of our esteemed Members Bryce Sutcliffe (Associate) and Tom Brightman (Service) have recently passed away and we mourn their loss. The following new Members were inducted at our General Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June and are included in the above numbers:

Brian French - Service

Leigh Haines - Service Transfer

John Connell - Service Transfer

Rick Lovett - Service Associate

Barbara Lovett – Affiliate

Applications for new membership are in progress for:

Judy Boon - Affiliate

Hugh Proctor - Service

Ken Clements - Service

Joyce Kempster - Affiliate

Helen Clark – Affiliate

The application for provisional Affiliate Membership by Dee Friend has been given Committee endorsement and will be further processed by the Committee under an “Extra Ordinary Circular Resolution” from Members. The following stage is approval by ANZAC House (RSL NSW).

Due to Covid restrictions the processing of prospective applications has presented some difficulty. During lockdown ANZAC House is unable to forward badges and membership cards. However, prospective members are welcome to attend as guests at our General Meetings when these are allowed to resume.

Best wishes and good health to all at this difficult time.

Jan Slater, Membership Officer

## SIGNIFICANT DAYS IN AUGUST

There are two days on the August Calendar that are significant in Australian Military History.

They are: VP Day (15<sup>th</sup> August) and Vietnam Veterans Day (18<sup>th</sup> August).

**\*\*Victory in the Pacific Day - or 'VP Day' - is commemorated across Australia and the world. As the anniversary of the day World War II ended, it's a date that we'll never forget.**

On 15 August 1945, Japan accepted the Allied Nations' terms of surrender and Australia's Prime Minister, Ben Chifley, announced that the war was over.

World War II is a significant event in Australia's history. Nearly 1 million Australians served in the armed forces during the war. It was also the first time since European settlement that Australia came under attack.

On VP Day, we remember Australia's war efforts from 1942 to 1945 in the Pacific region, including in Singapore, Borneo, Malaya, Papua, New Guinea and New Britain. It was a time when people worked hard and cooperated to defend the nation.

We commemorate those who served in the war. Some 40,000 Australians didn't return home to their families. Over 17,000 of them lost their lives while fighting in the war against Japan, some 8000 of whom died in Japanese captivity.

*Words have been taken from the Australian War Memorial website.*

**\*\*Vietnam Veterans Day was originally known as Long Tan Day, chosen to commemorate the men of D Company, 6RAR who fought in the battle of Long Tan in 1966. On that day, 108 Australian and New Zealand soldiers fought a pitched battle against over 2,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops in a rubber plantation not far from the small village of Long Tan. The Australians prevailed, but only after fighting in torrential rain for four hours. They were nearly overrun, but were saved by a timely ammunition resupply, accurate artillery fire from the nearby Australian base, and the arrival of reinforcements by armoured personnel carrier. Eighteen Australians lost their lives and 24 were wounded, the largest number of casualties in one operation since the Australian task force had arrived a few months earlier. After the battle the bodies of 245 enemy soldiers were found, but there was evidence that many more bodies had been carried away.**

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On the third anniversary of Long Tan, 18 August 1969, a cross was raised on the site of the battle by the men of 6RAR. Veterans from the battle gathered at the cross to commemorate the fallen, and the day was commemorated by them as Long Tan Day from then on. Over time, all Vietnam veterans adopted the day as one to commemorate those who served and died in Vietnam. In 1987, following the very successful Welcome Home parade for Vietnam veterans in Sydney, Prime Minister Bob Hawke announced that Long Tan Day would be known as Vietnam Veterans Day. Since then, it has been commemorated every year as the day on which the service of all those men and women who served in Vietnam is remembered.

*The author of these words is Libby Stewart (15/8/2008 and updated on 30/3/2021) as recorded on the Australian War Memorial website.*

### Positions Vacant

Our sub-Branch runs, supported by committed Committee members and Volunteers.

Currently we have two positions that we would like to fill as soon as possible, so that there is an overlap from the current position holders to the new position holders.

We would ask that you consider these opportunities so that the sub-Branch can continue going forward.

**Treasurer:** Duties and responsibilities are listed in RSLNSW Standard Operating Procedure 5. These include overseeing the financial management of the sub-Branch through the keeping of books of account, receiving payments, paying accounts, preparation of financial reports and with the support of the sub-Branch Executive prepare the annual budget.

Our current Treasurer- Arthur Skene, is resigning, effective 31/12/2021 or as soon as a replacement can be made. He is able to train the new position holder in all the duties involved.

**Fund Raising Co-ordinator:** Duties include preparing a roster of volunteers for the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day appeals, ordering badge supplies, the preparation of trays for volunteers, collecting and reconciling the sales made, passing the funds received to the Treasurer for banking.

Our current co-ordinators, Horst and Denise Kuessner, will be carrying out the Remembrance Day appeal in November and this will be the opportunity for them to train a new Co-ordinator.

Please give your serious consideration to either of the positions outlined above and if you wish to indicate your interest then contact our President or Secretary.

## Oops!

The following is a transcript of an actual conversation in October 1995, between a US Navy Ship and The British authorities, off the Scottish North Coast. The transcript was released by the British Ministry of Defence on 10/10/1995.

British: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the South, to avoid a collision.

US Navy: Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision.

British: Negative. You will have to divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

US Navy: This is the Captain of US Navy Ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

British: Negative, I say again. You will have to divert your course.

US Navy: This is the Aircraft Carrier USS Lincoln. The second largest ship in the United States' Atlantic Fleet. We are accompanied by three destroyers, three cruisers and numerous support vessels. Demand that you change your course 15 degrees North. That's 15 degrees North, OR counter measures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of this ship.

British: We are a lighthouse. Your call.

### Your Email Address

Email addresses are very useful for quick and cheap communication with our members. They would only be used for sub-Branch business.

We want to update our records so that if something comes up at short notice, we can let you know immediately

If you have a computer and have a dedicated email address that we can use for your emails, then please forward an email (this will give us your email address) to the sub-Branch Secretary.

War Vets RSL Sub-Branch at this address:  
[rslsubbranch@rslifecare.org.au](mailto:rslsubbranch@rslifecare.org.au)

### Making a Difference

One achieves great things not just through service but through extraordinary service.

When someone goes out of their way to help you, it makes all the difference in the world.

Helping one person may not change the whole world, but it can change one person's world.

No one has ever become poor by giving.

*Anne Frank*

### Mounting of medals

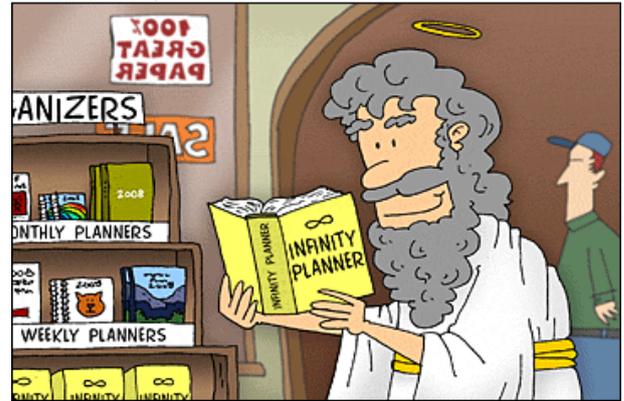
Our previous contact, who would undertake to mount medals professionally, has moved to Queensland.

We now have a new NSW contact: Australia 'in' Focus at 21 Cross Street, Brookvale.  
Phone 9938 4233.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Let us continue to maintain a sense of humour at all times!!

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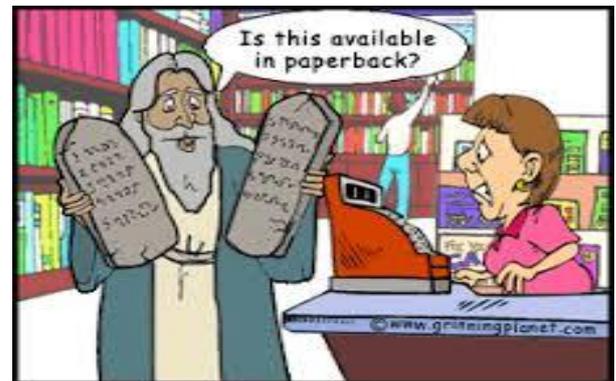
Thanks to Linda Harrison

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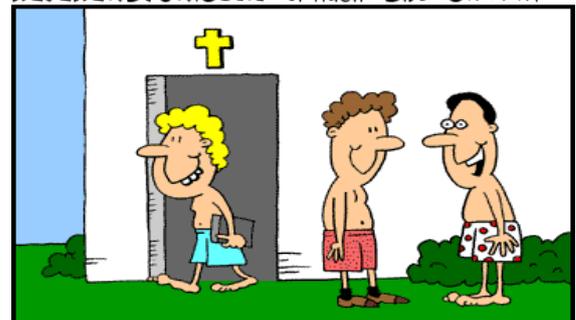


Thanks to Nick Hengeveld

YOUR SOCIAL NETWORKING RECORD IS TERRIBLE ... TWO MISSED OPPORTUNITIES TO "LIKE JESUS AS YOUR LORD & SAVIOR" AND REFUSAL TO PROVE YOUR FAITH WITH A SIMPLE "FORWARD TO TEN FRIENDS"



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Thanks to Eber F. Almeida

WOW ... THAT WAS THE BEST SERMON ON TITHING THAT I'VE EVER BEEN TO