



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

Dear friends, as our year ends, we have time to reflect upon the year that was. For many it has been a tumultuous one. We have gone into and out of lockdown. For many we have not been able to travel to see loved ones. For others there has been the sadness of loss, either of health or loved ones.

The great aspect of our organisation is that we have been able to be with and for each other through all these testing times.

We were blessed to be able to gather for our breakfast meeting and even more so that the State President was able to be with us. Ray was able to present the latest memberships to our newest members – a great honour. As reported elsewhere Ray also gave us an update on State Branch activities. The League is going through a change process, and while there may be some teething problems at the moment, we do hope the changes will be for the better. Let us be supportive, being part of the solution and not the problem.

A big *thank you* to those who were able to attend the Village Remembrance Day Service. While a little different to our usual service because of both the weather and Covid Health Orders, the service was well attended and well presented. Kerry Morris from Corporate did an outstanding job considering the issues before her.

Let us all look forward to a better and brighter 2022.

Keep well

Lest We Forget

Bob Durbin, President



Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

All members are currently financial.

Current total Membership = 113

Life Members	3
Life Subscribers	4
Service	47
Affiliate	40
Associate	19

The following new members were welcomed at our Breakfast Meeting on 4th November and are included in the above numbers.

Judy Boon – Affiliate
Hugh Proctor – Service
Ken Clements – Service
Gavin Wilcox – Service
Joyce Kempster – Affiliate
Helen Clark – Affiliate
Dee Friend – Affiliate
Barbara Parkinson – Affiliate
Albert Bullivant – Associate
(Collaroy sub-Branch)

Applications for new membership are in progress for 8 prospective members.

Of those the following were tabled for endorsement at our November meeting:

Bev Kelly – Affiliate
Sue Birch – Affiliate
Peter Cole – Service (transfer from
Dee Why sub-Branch)

Thanks to all for your support in recruitment of new Members and I extend my best wishes for a Merry Xmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Best Wishes

Jan Slater, Membership Officer

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

Our recent committee and breakfast meetings have produced some items of interest.

We welcome Peter Cole, a resident of Labuan, as our Honorary Treasurer. Peter has been a member of Dee Why RSL sub-Branch for a number of years and as a result of the requirements of the updated RSL NSW Constitution has transferred his membership to War Vets. We thank Peter sincerely for this transfer as without a Treasurer we cannot operate as a full sub-Branch.

There are still two positions that we are looking to fill. Both are critical to our ongoing success and viability. The role that Denise and Horst Kuessner have played for some years as Fund Raising Coordinator is not onerous and requires organizing our ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day sale of badges/poppies activity. These are our two main fundraisers during the year and there are many volunteers who make this such a success but it needs some-one to co-ordinate the overall activity. The role of Website Coordinator requires someone with some knowledge of the internet. If required instructions on how to manage news items, photos, etc. to keep the website up to date can be provided to anyone interested in this important position. Would some of our Affiliate members please consider taking on these roles.

2022 diaries have been received and anyone requiring one can collect from the office on a Monday morning in exchange for \$5.50.

The breakfast meeting with our RSL NSW President Ray James OAM in attendance was a great success and with 62 present was well supported. The Christmas Luncheon booked for Wednesday 15th December is always popular as spouses are also welcome and this year you can pay the \$35 per person cost by credit card if you so wish.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Remembrance Day poppy and badge sale activity. It produced nearly \$800 which was a good result in the circumstances.

The annual RSL NSW Congress to be held this December in Newcastle has been transferred to a virtual event due to the continuing difficulties with the COVID-19 community cases. It is now likely to be just an Annual General Meeting with all other items which need some debate and discussion to be transferred to an extra-ordinary meeting sometime in the New Year.

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Continued from previous column.

Veterans' Health Week saw a jog/walk organized by Kerry Morris at Curl Curl and 4 sub-Branch members enjoyed this activity. However, it was disappointing to see so few of our 100 plus membership being involved. Let's look out for this event in 2022 and go walking/jogging if physically able.

The sub-Branch looks forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Christmas Lunch.

John Sowden,
Secretary

WELFARE REPORT

Here are the answers for the last quiz:



I believe in You

noon good

Good Afternoon

prairie

Little house on the prairie

arrest
you're

You're under arrest

PAwalkRK

Walk in the Park

Wishing all of you the joy that Christmas brings, sharing with family and friends and of course enjoying all the treats that have become such a big part of our modern-day celebrations.

We also hope that those servicemen and women who are currently serving away from home are able to share in the love and hope, that is Christmas, with each other.

Looking forward to the freedom of meetings, social get togethers and outings in 2022.

Stay well and book in early so you can make the most of some wonderful new opportunities.

Looking forward to catching up,
Bev Ash
Visitation Officer

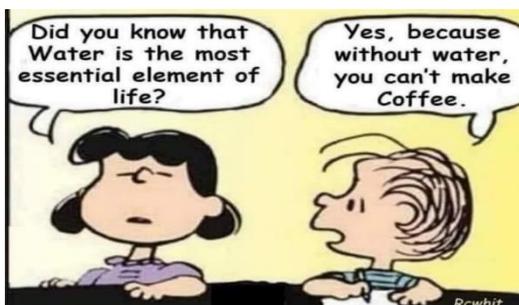


"If I don't go to the doctor, he can't find anything wrong with me. That's how I stay healthy!"

WAR VETS SUB-BRANCH PROGRAMME 2022

The dates are correct at time of publication. However, the social outings may change as to destination. It is hoped to offer a 2 night away trip at sometime during the year.

- January No Meeting or any activity.
- February 10th 9.30am General Meeting with morning tea in Monty Forecourt/Theatre
- March 10th 9am General Meeting with Breakfast and a Guest speaker in Lone Pine Lounge.
- April 14th 9.30am General Meeting with morning tea in Monty Forecourt/Theatre.
- May 11th Social Outing – bus trip to ANZAC Memorial Hyde Park South. Leaving outside Chapel at 9.30am and returning approximately 4pm. Bring money for morning tea and lunch.
- June 8th Noon for 12.30pm. Christmas in June lunch in Lone Pine Lounge. Bring your spouse. A shortened general meeting will commence at Noon.
- July 14th 9.30am General Meeting with morning tea in Monty Theatre.
- August 11th 9am General Meeting with Breakfast and a Guest speaker in Lone Pine Lounge.
- September 8th 9.30am General Meeting in Monty Forecourt/Theatre with morning tea.
- October 12th Social Outing – bus trip to the Kokoda Memorial Walkway and War Graves Commission Cemetery (Rookwood). Leaving outside Chapel at 9.30am and returning approximately 4pm. Bring money for morning tea and lunch.
- November 10th 9.30am General Meeting in Monty Forecourt/Theatre with morning tea.
- December 8th 9.30am General Meeting in Monty Forecourt/Theatre plus morning tea.
- December 14th Noon for 12.30pm. Christmas Luncheon in the Lone Pine Lounge. Spouses are invited.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Christmas blessings to our members and their families. By the time you receive this issue the Church will have celebrated the first Sunday of Advent – the time of preparation for the coming of Christ. As families we celebrate Christmas in different ways. There will be those who attend Church services, those who decorate their homes, those who plan great family gatherings and, regrettably, those who do nothing.

Regardless of which group or groups you fit into, my message this year is simple. We have all been created as human BEINGS, and BEING there for each other is what we are called to do. Please share the Christmas joy and spirit with each other and look out for those who might be by themselves. Equally as important, have the grace to accept the kindness which may be offered to you.

We cannot always be givers at the same time. What you will offer, or be offered, should not be seen as charity, but the love of your fellow human BEINGS, people who want to share the blessings and bounty they have been given.

The greatest commandment is to 'love one another as you have been loved.' Share the love and receive the love.

Enjoy your Christmas, remembering that "Jesus is the reason for the season"

Grace and Peace

Bob Durbin
Chaplain.



Thanks to Shirley Gehringer
HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?
01-12-2021

Can you read this?

Just how good is your brain at reading garbled words? Try this and see if you can read it. Read it twice and see how your mind makes it easier the second time.

"It deosn't mttae in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe."

Doug, Editor "Dispatches"

JOSEPH RUDYARD KIPLING (1865-1936)

Rudyard (named after Rudyard Lake in England where his parents had courted) was an English journalist, short story writer, poet and novelist. He was born in India which inspired much of his writing. His notable works include *The Jungle Book*, *Just So Stories*, *Kim* and *The Man Who Would Be King*. One of his most famous poems is *If*.

For the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria Kipling wrote a Hymn, *The Recessional* which was sung everywhere as it still is today.

He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature at the age of 42 years and also offered a Knighthood which he declined. This was a time when England was awakening to the splendour and glory of her Empire, and Kipling became the Poet of Empire.

He had always wanted to join the Army but due to being almost blind failed the Medical.

During World War I, his 18-year-old only son John was desperate to join the British Army but was rejected also due to poor eyesight. Rudyard used his connections to have John accepted into the Irish Guards as a Second Lieutenant. It is believed that his glasses were knocked off as soon as he left the trenches and he was killed at the Battle of Loos in France in September 1915.

His father was devastated and felt guilt for the rest of his life.

In this poem he mourns all those brave young souls who laid down their lives for England. The words of this seem still as relevant today as then.

“These were our children who died for our
lands; they were dear in our sight.
We have only the memory left of their
home, treasured sayings and laughter.
The price of our loss shall be paid to our
hands, not another's hereafter.
Neither the Alien nor Priest shall decide
on it. That is our right.
But who shall return us the children?”

Kipling was always sympathetic to the problems of returned servicemen and he helped them financially wherever he could. He chose the words carved on great stones in every British War Cemetery in France and on many memorials. The simple but poignant words; “Their name liveth for evermore.”

He also made a grant of money, so that every night at the Menin Gate, near Ypres, Belgium, the Last Post should be sounded, to honour and to keep alive the memory of the millions of dead.

Rudyard Kipling's words always had an urge and an inspiration; “to do one's duty; to live bravely; to live cleanly; to live cheerfully”.

As a patriotic Englishman, he will continue to be remembered with affection, gratitude and honour.

Editor: Many thanks to Jan Slater for this article.

It's Christmas Party Time



Where: Lone Pine Lounge

When: Wednesday 15th December

Cost: \$35.00 per person (spouses invited)

Come along and enjoy a scrumptious
Christmas dinner with all the trimmings,
followed by

a hot traditional pudding and custard
or

a pavlova with fruit and cream

Red and white wine, juice and soft drink
all on the table waiting for you,
along with some festive sweets
and a few surprises

RSVP: by Friday 10th December at sub-Branch
Office

Raffles on the day

COVID19 restrictions:

- QR registration into Gallipoli
- Ensure you are registered at the RLO desk regarding proof of double vaccination
- Wear your mask until seated at the table

A favourite Christmas Carol

*Silent night, holy night
All is calm and all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant, so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, ooh
Sleep, sleep in heaven, heavenly peace
Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories streams from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing, alleluia
Christ the saviour is born, he's born
Christ the saviour is born
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant, so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, oh
Sleep in heavenly peace*