



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

I concluded my December 2021 report with these words; “Let us all look forward to a better and brighter 2022.” Unfortunately, we have not got off to a good start. Further lock downs across our village in the Care Homes has meant less visitation for our members.

There are also some of our village veterans who have recently contracted Covid 19 and are in isolation. We will try to maintain contact via telephone.

For those not aware, our sub-Branch has been in a joint venture with “Community Northern Beaches – One Meal” for some time. This community-based organisation provides cooked meals, fruit & veg, and pantry items normally once each week (normally Wednesdays). The pantry sets up in the Beersheba Amenities building and is open from 10.30am – although some people arrive earlier. Not only can you select your own goods, but you can also share in morning tea.

There are a couple of residents and sub-Branch members who assist and at times deliver goods to fellow residents. This is an open invitation for you to come along, even if it is just to have that cuppa and chat. If you or anyone you know need any pantry items, just let us know.

Our District Council met via ZOOM on Tuesday afternoon 18th January and both Secretary John and I ‘attended’. Unfortunately, there is not much to report. We were hoping to have news on the issue of incorporation but sadly not. While the State President informally advised us at our Breakfast Meeting in November that we could go ahead, this is not the case. We have been patient long enough and perhaps it is time a motion came from our District Council for State Branch to provide a realistic time frame for this.

Our thanks to Treasurer Peter who has accepted responsibility for the Website. You will notice that the latest issues of Dispatches and some photos of the Christmas lunch are already loaded on to our site.

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Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

>President's Update continued from previous column.

Within the next month you will receive notification of our AGM. As this is not an election year, the meeting should be very short with the receiving and adopting of Annual Reports. Remember that if you have any questions regarding the reports you need to give them to the Secretary, in writing, by the nominated date (TBA).

Continue to keep well.

Lest We Forget

Bob Durbin

President



Our first General Meeting for 2022 will be held in the Montgomery Theatre at 9.30am on Thursday the 10th February.

Following the meeting there will be a morning tea.

PLEASE NOTE YOUR DIARY

Operation Life: Suicide Alertness for Everyone Open Arms (safeTALK)

Most people with thoughts of suicide signal their distress and invite help. If these opportunities are missed, dismissed or avoided they can leave people more alone and at greater risk.

A workshop is being held at Forestville RSL on the 3 March 2022 from 1pm - 5.00pm. This workshop will help you learn how to become more alert to suicide prevention opportunities and how to offer help.

To register for the workshop call 1800 011 046 or visit OpenArms.gov.au and search for ‘Suicide alertness for everyone’.

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

The Christmas Lunch (with a very short meeting included) seemed to go well with many positive comments passed back to committee members. We're hoping to do something just a little different again with our Christmas in June meal, so watch this space for details in due course.

Although we have no meeting in January, your committee met on the 7th to look at this year's program and amongst other matters talked about how to go about fundraising for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day this year without a "Chief" to organize these important activities – we have plenty of Indians willing to do the hard yards selling badges. Hint hint - would someone amongst our membership please seriously consider the role of doing the allocating of sale items to those volunteers who do the selling throughout our village – there must be someone amongst our Affiliate membership able to carry out this twice a year role.

With our increasing membership it is important that the Gallipoli office be open each day if possible. No special knowledge of sub-Branch affairs is necessary, just a friendly face to talk with or take enquiries – bring a book or paper to read if necessary. Please let the Secretary know if you would be available from 9AM till Noon on any day except Monday.

Diaries are still available at \$5.50 each. The annual membership subscription was approved at the December meeting and will continue at \$10 per member. This should be paid as soon as possible – just leave in an envelope with your name on it under the Gallipoli office door if necessary. A reminder will be sent to those unfinancial as of 15 February.

We are progressing with the annual program published in Dispatches but feel it is difficult to be specific about dates and the ability to successfully have an activity with the current COVID numbers, requirements and protocols. As soon as life becomes a little clearer on what we can do we will let everyone know.

In the meantime, please continue to take care, stay safe and keep in touch with others.

John Sowden, Secretary

I finally did it!
Bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles.
No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current total Membership = 118

Life Members	3
Life Subscribers	4
Service	48
Affiliate	44
Associate	19

We mourn the recent sad loss of our Service members Trevor Swift and Frank Phillips.

The following new members were welcomed at our Christmas Meeting on 15th December and are included in the above numbers.

Peter Cole – Service
Bev Kelly – Affiliate
Sue Birch – Affiliate

The following prospective members have been approved and will be welcomed at our next meeting. They are also included in the above numbers.

Darrell Hatch – Service
Jan Hulse – Affiliate
Helen Gribble – Affiliate

Membership Applications are in train for:

William Murphy – Service
Gerda Murphy – Affiliate
John Heald – Service

A further number of prospective members have shown interest and their applications are being sought.

Wishing you all a Happy and safe New Year
Jan Slater

Membership Officer

Membership Renewal for 2022

At the Committee's December meeting it was resolved that a \$10 yearly membership subscription be collected from all members. To avoid being sent a reminder, please place your payment in an envelope, pass it to a committee member or leave it under the sub-Branch office door in the Gallipoli Building.

Fundraising

Our chocolate sales in the Dugout continue with variable takings each month.

All the profits made from the chocolate bars go to supporting our Veteran community.

The support of not just our members but all Village residents in making purchases, certainly helps with this fundraising activity.

VISITATION REPORT

Seeing our way through 2021 was at times hazardous but here we are entering a New Year with enthusiasm and a much higher expectation of joy than before.

Coffee groups will be up and running shortly and I am looking forward to catching up with everyone over time, so, dust off your stories, as I'm sure there are many yet to share.

I have spent my holiday in Adelaide revelling in the fact I could finally spend time with my daughter. The only drawback to being out and about was the temperature! It was 39° when I arrived and rarely dropped below 30° the whole visit.



Congratulations to Doug Smyth on being presented with a Life Membership (effective 21 July 2021). Bob Durbin and John Sowden made the presentation at the Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday 15th December.

Looking forward to catching up.
Bev Ash, Visitations Officer

How about some wake-up puzzles? Get our brains into gear for 2022. Answers in March Issue.

1. How many legs does the Legs of Man have?
2. Which Sea creature has 3 hearts?
3. How many bones does an adult human have?
4. What was Marilyn Monroe's natural hair colour?
- 5.

FIND THE ODD ONE OUT ?

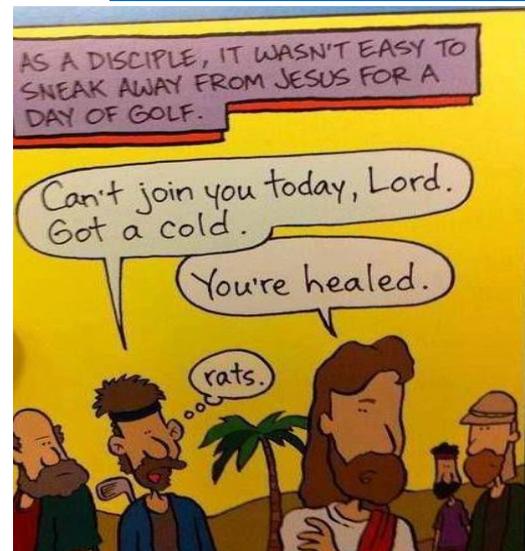
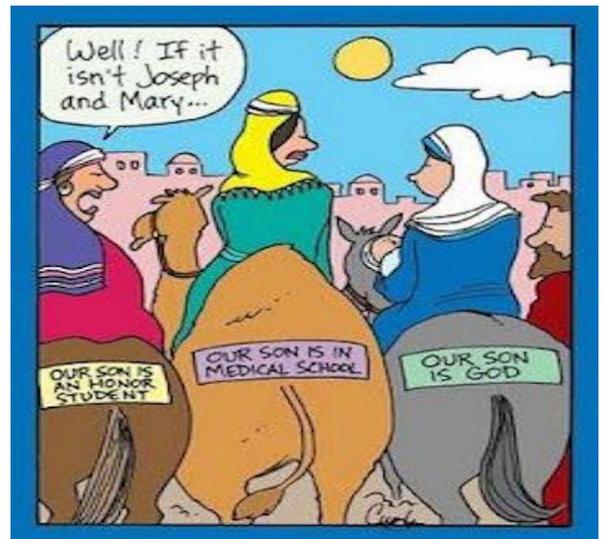


6.



CHAPLAINS CORNER

Laughter is good for the soul!



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Thanks to Alvin Hammond 06-08-2012

PARDON ME SIR ... WE ARE JUST A FEW MINUTES OUT FROM THE BENEDICTION AND I NEED YOU TO RETURN YOUR PEW TO ITS FULL, UPRIGHT POSITION



Grace & Peace

Bob Durbin, Sub-Branch Chaplain

GETTING THE CALCULATIONS RIGHT

Lt. Colonel Robert Maclaren retired from the British Army in 2001 after a long fulfilling career. On the day that he retired he received a letter from the Personnel Department of the Ministry of Defence setting out details of his pension and, in particular, the tax-free 'lump sum' award, (based upon completed years of service), that he would receive in addition to his monthly pension. The letter read,

"Dear Lt. Colonel Maclaren,

We write to confirm that you retired from the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards on 1st March 2001 at the rank of Lt Colonel, having been commissioned into the British Army at Edinburgh Castle as a 2nd Lieutenant on 1st February 1366. Accordingly, your lump sum payment, based on years served, has been calculated as £68,500.

You will receive a cheque for this amount in due course.

*Yours sincerely,
Army Paymaster"*

Col Maclaren replied;

"Dear Paymaster,

Thank you for your recent letter confirming that I served as an officer in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards between 1st February 1366 and 1st March 2001 – a total period of 635 years and one month. I note however that you have calculated my lump sum to be £68,500, which seems to be considerably less than it should be bearing in mind my length of service since I received my commission from King Edward III.

By my calculation, allowing for interest payments and currency fluctuations, my lump sum should actually be £6,427,586,619. 47p.

I look forward to receiving a cheque for this amount in due course.

*Yours sincerely,
Robert Maclaren (Lt Col Retd)"*

A month passed by and then in early April, a stout manila envelope from the Ministry of Defence in Edinburgh dropped through Col Maclaren's letter box, it read:

"Dear Lt Colonel Maclaren,

We have reviewed the circumstances of your case as outlined in your recent letter to us dated 8th March inst. We do indeed confirm that you were commissioned into the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards by King Edward III at Edinburgh Castle on 1st February 1366, and that you served continuously

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for the following 635 years and 1 month. We have re-calculated your pension and have pleasure in confirming that the lump sum payment due to you is indeed £6,427,586,619. 47p.

However,

We also note that according to our records you are the only surviving officer who had command responsibility during the following campaigns and battles;

The Wars of the Roses 1455 -1485 (Including the battles of Bosworth Field, Barnet and Towton)

The Civil War 1642 -1651 (Including the battles Edge Hill, Naseby and the conquest of Ireland)

The Napoleonic War 1803 – 1815 (including the battle of Waterloo and the Peninsular War)

The Crimean War (1853 – 1856) (including the battle of Sevastopol and the Charge of the Light Brigade)

The Boer War (1899 -1902).

We would therefore wish to know what happened to the following, which do not appear to have been returned to Stores by you on completion of operations:

9765 Cannon

26,785 Swords

12,889 Pikes

127,345 Rifles (with bayonets)

28,987 horses (fully kitted)

Plus, three complete marching bands with instruments and banners.

WE have calculated the total cost of these items and they amount to £6,427,518.119. 47p. WE have therefore subtracted this sum from your lump sum, leaving a residual amount of £68,500, for which you will receive a cheque in due course.

*Yours sincerely
Army Paymaster"*

Editor: Many thanks to Arthur Skene for this article.

NOTICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A formal notice will be issued shortly but this initial notice is to enable you to note your diary with the date and time.

Thursday 10th March 9am at a breakfast meeting in the Lone Pine Lounge.

DON'T FORGET

We are on the INTERNET with our own website Check it out. GOOGLE - www.warvetsrsl.org.au