



War Veterans Village [Narrabeen] RSL sub-Branch

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

Editor: Doug Smyth – email: dougsmyth44@gmail.com or deliver mail to RLO Reception, Gallipoli.
Doug's Mob: 0429 988 880. Office sub-Branch Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Friday 9.30am – 12pm Phone: 8978 4266

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

What a great time we had at our breakfast this month! We commenced with our AGM which was very brief as this was not an election year and we didn't have any motions to consider. Whether this is good or not is something to consider. During breakfast we heard from our guest speaker, the Hon. David Elliott MP, Minister for Transport and Veterans in NSW. David is a retired Australian Army Captain and a veteran of Bougainville. David has been involved in the RSL for many years, being a member of the Castle Hill & Districts RSL sub-Branch. More of his passionate address will appear elsewhere in this issue.

It was with sadness and regret that we received the resignation of Jan Slater as our Membership and Recruiting Officer. Jan has been incredible in recruiting new members and her passion in this area will be missed. With Bev, Jan was also instrumental in conducting the monthly morning teas which have been able to recommence following the latest Covid restrictions.

Our next task is to identify someone who is willing to take on this role.

We are hopeful that LifeCare will allow the resumption of bus trips soon to enable us to get out and about. So many places for us to visit!

On another sad note, our District Council President Bill Hardman OAM has stood down from his RSL positions due to ill health. You will read about Bill's achievements in the latest *Reveille*.

Lest we Forget,
Bob Durbin,
sub-Branch President



Our next Meeting is on
Thursday 14th April
and will be held in the
Montgomery Centre
This is a general meeting
scheduled at 9.30am and will be
followed by morning tea.

Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

ANZAC APPEAL

This is a call to all our wonderful Volunteers who would like to help towards our ANZAC Fundraising Appeal.

The ANZAC Fundraising Appeal is also an occasion to raise funds to support our Veteran Community.

The dates of the Appeal are from Wednesday 13th April through to Sunday 24th April 2022. It is anticipated there will be an information session on Saturday 9th April in the DugOut in the Gallipoli Building.

To support our Fundraising Appeal we would like you, our volunteers, to submit your name and the day/s you wish to volunteer to: Leigh Haines on 0417 212 424 by Thursday 7th April 2022.



SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

The highlight of the past month has certainly been the visit of the Hon. David Elliott MP, Minister for Transport and Veteran Affairs in NSW. The more I speak to those who attended, the more I feel so disappointed that I was away from the village for that week and not able to attend. In fact, the message has generally been the breakfast was OK but the address by David Elliott – well that made it really worthwhile attending. We have sent off a thank you to him and there are more comments about this meeting elsewhere in Dispatches.

Other items of interest include the upcoming ANZAC Day services and our fundraising efforts around ANZAC Day. Leigh Haines has taken on the role of co-ordinating this activity and if you are able to volunteer to do some selling of badges and pins in the two weeks leading up to 25th April, please let the office know – some more helpers would be appreciated. As this has not been a fundraising effort for two years now, we are looking to all members to support this activity with renewed enthusiasm. We would really like to run out of stock!! There will be a sales table in the Gallipoli Building on the two weekends of April 16/17 and April 23/24 so bring your friends and support both the Dug Out and our fundraising.

Membership renewal of the annual subscription is nearing completion – just a small number still outstanding. These will be followed up within the next couple of weeks. The outing planned for May is still not confirmed. Let's hope things can soon get back to normal and we look forward to seeing you at the next member meeting in the Monty on Thursday April 14 at 9.30am.

Regarding ANZAC Day services here in the Village, there will be a poster delivered to your letterbox shortly, but please note in your diary these details – Wednesday 20 April – March 9.40am for 10.00am, marshalling Peter Cosgrove House Forecourt.

Service 10.30am – All

Welcome – Montgomery Memorial Hall.

Dress Code – Smart /Business attire – Orders, Decorations and Medals may be worn.

Monday 25th April – ANZAC Dawn Service 5.45am for 6.00am - All Welcome -Montgomery Memorial Wall – Dress Code as above.

Veteran taxi and minibus cavalcade to Sydney ANZAC Day March – 7am Departure from Gallipoli Building (south) – need to register at the RLO desk by 15 April.

John Sowden, Secretary

AGM Guest Speaker – the Hon. David Elliot, MA MP – Parliament of NSW.

It was a real inspiration to have David Elliot address us at our annual general meeting attended by 60 people. He spoke with enthusiasm, passion and a sense of humour.

As the Minister for Transport and Veterans, he commented on the various roles he has held in State Government. It was humorous to hear about an occasion when Premier Gladys Berejikian phoned him and he thought she was offering him a new portfolio as Minister for Tourism but in fact she was offering him Minister for Terrorism – an amusing story.

Focusing on Veterans, David outlined his involvement with:

The Government outlay of \$35 million in renovations of the War Memorial - Hyde Park. The significance of the special display of soils, placed in the memorial hallways from the battlefields of all wars.

The funding for renovations of other War Memorials in NSW.

The redeployment of veterans within various government departments.

The desire and future planning to have the next Invictus Games in Sydney, ensuring the seeding of funding necessary.

Support to the Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide.

The proposal of a Veteran's Cemetery and Chapel (similar to the Arlington National Cemetery in the USA), in honour of the first Australian soldier to die overseas - Pte Robert Weir.

David spoke for 45minutes without notes and held a captive and appreciative audience for which he was sincerely thanked.

Before leaving, he kindly drew our raffle draw.

This report is from Vice President Doug Smyth who gave the vote of thanks.



VISITATION REPORT

How important is staying active?

Your body isn't made to just sit around!
If joints and muscles are to be kept in good working order, they need regular exercise.

If you stop walking, they'll stop working!

Your body finds it much easier to deal with threats such as sickness or injury if you are active.
Exercise also helps you maintain a healthy attitude to problems and mental pressures.

It also gives you greater flexibility and strength, prevents boredom and even helps you sleep.
You make new friends and learn new skills if you attend a group class. We have regular classes within the Village so there is not a need to go too far to benefit.

Look at the physio classes in Monty Pavilion, dance options also in Monty, pool classes and specific groups in TLC – what a list and that's just some of your options living here in the Village.

FRIENDS

Keeping in touch with your friends could be a goal.
Call one of your friends and talk to them!



Veteran's Health Week is in October this year – why not aim at introducing a regular habit of some form of exercise or establishing a new goal before then? Establish a new 'friend' just by contacting one of our new members and saying hello!

Bev Ash, Visitation Officer

RSL Lifecare's Veteran Services

Is a charity and not-for-profit organisation helping Australian veterans and their families in times of need. RSL DefenceCare helps current and ex-serving Defence personnel and their families with:

- Department of Veterans' Affairs claims
- Advocacy at Veterans' Review Board hearings
- Employment assistance
- Housing assistance
- Financial assistance
- Help during natural disasters

We have an Advocate, Ian Wilson, who is on site every Thursday and can assist with Claims with DVA and appeals at The Veterans' Review Board.

To make an appointment you can phone Ian on 0490 860 123 or ian.wilson@rsllifecare.org.au

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current total Membership = 115

Life Members 3, Life Subscribers 4, Service 46
Affiliate 43, Associate 19.

We mourn the recent sad loss of our well-loved members Bevan Harris - Service and
Pamela Meyers – Affiliate.

Membership Applications are in progress for:
David Picknell - Affiliate, Gerda Murphy – Affiliate
Margaret Christensen - Affiliate
John Heald – Service, Randall Jones – Service
Peter Hackett – Service
Linda Byron – Service, Cyril Laverack – Associate

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

Thanking you for your support
Jan Slater,
Membership Officer

CHAPLAINS CORNER

For the past five weeks Christians have been on a journey towards the cross of Easter. The journey is called Lent and takes us on a roller coaster ride of experiences, lessons and emotions. Many people simply look at Easter as a combination of Good Friday and Easter (Resurrection) Sunday. That is like comparing going to a high school year 12 formal without having attended school.

To fully experience and appreciate what Easter has to offer each of us, we need to experience at least some of the journey.

As Easter approaches, I invite you to come to some of our Easter services, starting with Palm Sunday (10th April). We will then have three short (30 minute) services on the following Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. These services will be followed by Tenebrae, a 'Service of Shadows'. This is a time when we recognise that even though he knew what lay before him, Jesus spent time with his disciples before allowing himself to be taken by the Roman soldiers. This is the night of the first "last Supper".

While we will rejoice on Easter Sunday that Christ is risen, we first need to experience the tragedy of his death. Knowing that Christ died for each one of us is a critical element of our faith. That he rose from the dead three days later is an affirmation of the power of God.

This is an open invitation for everyone to come and experience the life of the risen Christ

Blessings to all, Bob Durbin, sub-Branch Chaplain

AGM BREAKFAST MEETING

Our Guest Speaker – the Hon. David Elliot, MA MP – Parliament of NSW. Minister of Transport and Veterans.



Shirley McLaren, David Elliott MP and Bob Durbin



An opportunity to catch up



Enjoying Breakfast whilst listening to our Guest Speaker



Raffle ticket sellers - Shirley Beggs & Margaret Russell