



## 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 REPORT

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May Secretary John and I attended the bi-monthly meeting of the Northern Beaches District Council held at Dee Why RSL. This was a very productive meeting. Significant matters discussed were;

1. Discussion Paper from RSL NSW – Charitable Purpose and Donations. The major point of this is the definition of Welfare. There is still a great disparity between what the RSL through its entities believe is a valid welfare expenditure and what the State Government defines welfare expenditure. The other issue highlighted was the legality of one registered charity donating to another registered charity? We will keep you informed as answers come from State Branch.

2. Draft SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) – Incorporation of RSL sub-Branches. There have been significant changes since the first draft. The main point now is that there appears to be one option only for a sub-Branch to incorporate and that is as a Company Limited by Guarantee. For some sub-Branches this is the only way they will be able to incorporate because of their asset base. However, there is no option for a smaller (by asset base) sub-Branch to incorporate. There is a significant cost associated with incorporating as a CLG and for us and many other sub-Branches it would be cost prohibitive. We are seeking clarification as to the option of incorporating as an association. This requires a once off payment only. Again we will let you know of any progress.

3. RSL Funeral Tributes. It was agreed that I would conduct a 'workshop' on how to conduct the RSL Funeral Tribute. This will be held at Forestville RSL Club on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Depending upon other people's availability, other sessions may be held at other venues. Please contact me if you would like to know more.

It was disappointing that there were only a few able to enjoy the day trip to The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway and the CWGC at Rookwood. Hopefully we will be able to fill the bus next time.

I look forward to seeing you at the June luncheon.

Continue to keep well.  
Lest we Forget.  
Bob Durbin, President

Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

### Meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June

"CHRISTMAS IN JUNE" lunch

A separate flyer is being delivered giving full details. A brief General Meeting is to be held at the beginning of this event.

### Report on the ANZAC Day Fundraising 2022

I want to thank all people involved in the fundraising, especially the volunteer sellers who worked cooperatively with each other to move stock around to maximise the outcome outlined below. This has been a learning exercise for me and I appreciate the support which has been freely given.

#### Income

##### Sales

Cash and cheque sales \$3,033.80  
Square terminal sales \$742.00

**Total sales** \$3,775.80

Donations \$704.80

**Total income** \$4,480.60

##### Purchases

The Military Shop \$4,498.40  
Postage \$36.68

**Total Purchases** \$4,535.08

Stock carried forward \$2,306.98

We are negotiating with the Military Shop to take back 150 Australian Bar with Poppy Badge, which were a duplicated delivery.

We are also hoping that the Military Shop will allow us to return 40 Fern and Gumleaf lapel pins and 50 Flag Poppy Ribbon Badges. These items did not prove popular and did not sell in the quantity we had expected. If this strategy is successful, it will reduce our carried over stock value to \$1,226.98.

At a meeting of sellers on Saturday 30 April, a number of constructive ideas were put forward for future fundraising efforts. These ideas will be implemented where appropriate.

Leigh Haines, Fundraising Coordinator.  
9 May 2022

## SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

April was busy for our Fundraising Co-Ordinator Leigh Haines and his enthusiastic team of volunteers. They all did a marvelous job and enjoyed catching up with many residents. We sold ANZAC Pins and Badges exclusively within our Village this year as the COVID situation in the general community was and remains a little uncertain. The result for the sub-Branch was very healthy and Leigh will present a detailed report at our June meeting which will be held in the Lone Pine Lounge over a very enjoyable "Christmas in June" lunch.

We also need to say a very big thank you to Bunnings. Through their Narrabeen community Co-Ordinator Helene and Manager Ross their company's community support team, which included staff from Chatswood, Warringah Mall, Balgowlah and Narrabeen stores spent the day regenerating the garden beds along the Remembrance Walk from behind Maintenance and back towards Friendship Court. A sausage sizzle was enjoyed by those members who attended and it was surprising, just at how much work can be done when you come well organized with equipment and materials. Thank you, Bunnings.

Our first outing in more than 2 years occurred on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May with a very small group of 12 members – it was a very disappointing turnout considering how enthusiastic members were when we first mooted the idea of having a couple of outings a year. If there is not a more positive response to the next outing members will need to rely on the Village to organize outings. A most enjoyable day was, however, enjoyed by those who did join the bus and we missed the rain on what most expected would be a very wet day. The last surviving veteran from the Kokoda campaign, Reg Chard OAM, who is 98, gave us a really memorable talk about his experiences at the time and provided a description of the memorial where we laid a wreath and recited The Ode together. Our second stop was at Rookwood where Department of Veterans Affairs Geoff and Rod gave the history of the War Graves Commission Cemetery and the Sydney Garden of Remembrance. Two members found plaques of loved ones after assistance from the DVA data base of names and locations within the precinct.

Although there will be no full general meeting in June, the sub-Branch mid-year "Christmas" luncheon will be held on our usual meeting day – no excuses for not coming along and enjoying a special two course lunch and sharing a great social occasion. There will be some great raffle prizes and probably a lucky door prize. A separate flyer will be left in your letter box giving all the details. PLEASE JOIN US ON JUNE 9<sup>th</sup>. Please look for the usual entry in June Village Voice for any other upcoming events.

John Sowden, Secretary

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current total Membership = 118

Life Members	3
Life Subscribers	3
Service	47
Affiliate	44
Associate	21

We mourn the sad passing of our esteemed Service Members Wal Rivers and Philip Calvert both of whom had distinguished service careers.

The following new members were inducted at our April Meeting and are included in the numbers above:

Linda Byron – Service  
Margaret Christensen – Affiliate  
David Picknell – Affiliate

The following new Members will be inducted at our next meeting and are included in the above numbers:

John Heald – Service  
Cyril Laverack – Associate  
Randall Jones – Associate  
Peter Hackett – Service

The following applications from prospective members are in progress:

Bryan Whiddon – Associate  
Helen Loseby Bowles – Associate  
Gerda Murphy – Affiliate  
Wendy Whiddon – Affiliate  
Maureen Picknell – Affiliate  
Colin Harris – Affiliate  
Colin Mackenzie – Service  
Glen Puxty – Service

Jan Slater – Membership Officer

## BELIEVE OR NOT

- \* A man was arrested and charged with robbery of vending machines. The man posted bail, entirely in coins.
- \* Leonardo da Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time.
- \* In Japan you can buy square watermelons, designed because they stack better.
- \* The longest time a person has been in a coma is 37 years.
- \* Tasmania is said to have the cleanest air in the world.
- \* When young and impoverished, Pablo Picasso kept warm by burning his own paintings.
- \* Coca-Cola was originally green.
- \* The highest possible score a player can get in Scrabble, on a first turn, is for the word MUZJIKS (128 points)

## VISITATION COMMENT

### Five ways to wellbeing

Evidence suggests there are 5 steps you can take to help improve your mental health and wellbeing, these are connect, be active, keep learning, give and take notice.

#### Connect

Spend time developing and nurturing relationships with friends, family, neighbours and colleagues. Befriending services can help support you if you are feeling lonely and isolated, find out more about befriending services through local community groups or DVA.

#### Be active

Try to find an activity that you enjoy, and that keeps you active, such as walking or swimming. Evidence shows that an improvement in your physical health can help improve your mental health.

#### Keep learning

Learning new skills can boost confidence and give you a sense of achievement. Find more information about courses for adults in your area.

#### Give

Helping others, saying thank you, or giving someone a smile can help to improve your self-esteem and improve your emotional health. Find out how you can volunteer and help in your community, build up new social networks.

#### Take notice

Being more aware of the present moment, the world around you and your own feelings and thoughts, can help you to positively change how you're feeling about life.

Department of Veterans Affairs offer support for both physical and mental health.

IN ORDER TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, HE FIRST HAD TO UPDATE HIS OPERATING SYSTEM, DOWNLOAD AN APP, GET A USERNAME, CHOOSE A PASSWORD, LOG IN TO A HEALTH PORTAL, NAVIGATE TO MESSAGES AND WRITE HIS DOCTOR...BY THEN IT WAS TOO LATE.



## POLO SHIRTS

The photo below shows Jan Slater and Peter Yardley in the Polo Shirt that members of the sub-Branch wear. We would like to encourage sub-Branch members to order a shirt by giving Jan their expression of interest at the June lunch/meeting.



## CHRISTMAS IN JUNE LUNCHEON

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June in Lone Pine Lookout

GET IN EARLY – BOOK NOW

Enjoy a scrumptious special Christmas Dinner menu with all the trimmings, wine and soft drink.

Bring your partner/ friend.

The meal is significantly subsidised  
\$25 per person

Lucky door prize and raffle prizes

Payment to be made by 1 pm Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Tickets available at the sub-Branch Office

Note: Time is 11.30am for a brief General Meeting with the luncheon being served at noon.

\* Just heard about a new restaurant that opened on the moon. The food's great but there's no atmosphere!

\* Hired a handy man the other day and gave him a list of jobs. When I got home only jobs 1, 3 & 5 were done. Turns out he only does odd jobs!

## Bus trip to The Kokoda Track Memorial and War Cemetery Rookwood

The day visiting these wonderful historical attractions was so enlightening even though the weather wasn't kind to the 10 members who braved the elements.

Firstly, we visited the Kokoda memorial and enjoyed a wonderful morning tea before being treated by a personal tour from one of the surviving Kokoda veterans. 98 yr. old 'Reg' gave us an insight as to the conditions on the trail during 1942 whilst serving for 14 months in PNG. He said the conditions were so harsh that he lost 25kg in weight during his deployment and was eventually evacuated after contracting Malaria. Our sub-Branch members laid a wreath on the memorial wall and recited the "ode of remembrance".

We then visited the Rookwood cemetery war graves section which was quite a moving experience for us all. A guided tour was enjoyed by our group as the weather was kind at that moment allowing us to walk around viewing the sites of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

A huge thank you to our hard-working Secretary John for organising the trip & to Steve our bus driver who transported us safely.



*Editor: Thankyou Ross Fairhall for the article and photos*

## CHAPLAINS CORNER

Some of you may be aware that I provide support to a few other organisations. On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May I attended the 81st Anniversary for the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign. This service is held at the Cenotaph Sydney each year and for many years I have been honoured to be one of two ministers to provide support.

Over 400 people attended this years' service. The keynote address was delivered by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC. Governor of NSW. Vice Admiral Ioannis Drymouisis, Deputy Chief of the Hellenic Defence Force responded.

There were nearly 100 wreath layers comprising representatives from Local, State and Australian Federal Governments, Consulates General, Australian and Greek military Officers, Government and community organizations, Schools, ANZAC families and the general public.

We were also honoured to have in attendance His Eminence Archbishop Makarios Primate of The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in Australia. Other members of the Hellenic Defence Forces were Colonel (HA) Miltiadis Militis, Head of the 1st Department of the Public Relations and Colonel Ioannis Fasianos, Defence Attaché, Embassy of Greece in Canberra.

Attending this year for the first time were the Vice Governors of Crete Ms Maria Lioni and Mr Kostas Fassoulakis with a special delegation from Crete. Such is the significance of this service in recognising the service and sacrifice of Australian and New Zealanders servicemen.

Another organisation with which I am involved is the Guardians of The Korean War Memorial NSW. This year we would like to arrange a bus for members to attend the 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Service to be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July. Please let Secretary John or me know if you would like to attend.

Lest We Forget

Grace & Peace

Bob Durbin, sub-Branch Chaplain



Bob is setting an example for us all in the gym