



## 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

Thank you to those who were able to attend our Vietnam Veterans Day Service. This year was in commemoration of the involvement of the Royal Australian Navy and we were very fortunate to have our own Commander Arthur J Skene RAN retd give the commemoration address.

For those who receive the *Vetaffairs* newspaper, you would have seen some interesting figures from the 2021 Census. This is the first time that Australians have been to asked if they served or are currently serving the Australian Defence Force. State Branch has analysed these figures and identified how many of these men and women live in our District. This will be discussed at the next District Council meeting and compared with our membership numbers. An excellent opportunity for a recruiting drive!

A second item can be found on page 22. It is a feature article on the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Australian Women's Land Army. Did you know that these women can be recognised for their contribution through the award of the Civilian Service Medal 1939 – 1945. Applications can be made online.

Recently I was asked if I knew of a Pensions Officer or Advocate who could assist one of our residents. Thanks to our Secretary John, I was able to refer them to Defence Care who very promptly arranged for an advocate to visit the resident. An application is proceeding. Very good service from the RSL staff.

I look forward to catching up at our next meeting (if not before)!

Continue to keep well.

Lest we Forget.

Bob Durbin, President

### MEETING

Our next General Meeting is on Thursday 8th September commencing at 9.30am in the Montgomery Theatre.

The meeting will be followed by morning tea.

Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current total Membership = 141

Life Members	3
Life Subscribers	3
Service	48
Affiliate	62
Associate	25

The following new Members were inducted at our August meeting and are included in the above numbers:

Eric Brown – Affiliate  
Adrienne Brown – Affiliate  
Lynda Harris – Affiliate  
Susan Good - Affiliate  
Chris Bowles – Affiliate

The following new Members are scheduled to be inducted at our September Meeting and are also included in the above numbers:

Roger Smith - Associate  
Lee Sarich – Service  
Steven Good – Associate  
Joan Parfitt – Affiliate  
Yvonne Cramer – Affiliate  
Valerie Deyes – Affiliate

Jan Slater, Membership Officer

### POLO SHIRTS

Official sub-Branch Polo Shirts are now available for purchase. The price is \$40 each after a subsidy of \$15 by the sub-Branch. Size range S M L XL 2XL 3XL. Samples are available for measuring. We have to place a minimum of 10 shirts per each order. Wearing of these attractive and distinctive shirts at all of our functions is a significant contribution to promoting the aims of the sub-Branch. To place an order please contact Jan Slater, Membership Officer sub-Branch Office, Fridays 9.30am – 12.00pm Phone 8978 4266

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

### Inducted at our August Breakfast Meeting



Adrienne and Eric Brown



Chris Bowles

Lynda Harris



Susan Good

## SANDS OF GALLIPOLI MEDALLIONS RAFFLE

The sub-Branch is holding a fundraising raffle of two sets of limited-edition Sands of Gallipoli medallions. The raffle will be drawn on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at the sub-Branch Christmas function in the Lone Pine Lounge.

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**First prize** is a set of six Lone Pine medallions in a timber finish presentation stand, valued at \$225.00. This beautiful set of high-quality medallions features images from Drew Harrison's painting "The Battle of Lone Pine". The medallions are minted from brass alloy and finished in highly polished and frosted silver, over-printed in full colour. Accompanying this set is a glass vial containing authentic sand from Gallipoli, a colour print of the painting set in a metal frame and a full-sized replica 1904 Rising Sun hat badge. The set comes with a numbered certificate of authenticity.



**Second prize** is a set of six limited edition medallions valued at \$195.00. This set housed in a timber finish display case, features six proof medallions depicting images of the Gallipoli campaign. One of the images is of John Simpson Kirkpatrick, the Man with the Donkey at Anzac Cove, which soon became one of the most prominent symbols of Australian courage and tenacity at Gallipoli. There is also a replica 1904 Rising Sun hat badge and a vial of Gallipoli sand. The set comes with a numbered certificate of authenticity.

Tickets are \$5.00 each and only 500 tickets will be offered for sale. Tickets will be sold by volunteers throughout ANZAC Village, at a pop-up shop in the Gallipoli Building and at sub-Branch meetings.

Looking forward to your participation as a volunteer seller or buyer.

Leigh Haines, Fundraising Coordinator

## SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

The August meeting was most successful. Although I was unfortunately a very late withdrawal it was just wonderful to see so many members taking advantage of a breakfast that was different and from feedback, very enjoyable. Thank you to the catering staff through Ye Wang who took on board our request for a change of menu.

The concept of having our own members speak rather than an outside visitor was also received well and thank you to Grace Lane and Leigh Haines for being the first to accept this invitation. I'm sure we see the life of others as being more interesting than our own – perhaps because it is just that – different.

There was a reasonable attendance at the Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Service but certainly many members did not attend. A most interesting and very detailed address was given by Arthur Skene on the role played by the Royal Australian Navy in the Vietnam War. This followed a video which focused on the role the aircraft carrier HMAS Sydney played in ferrying troops to and from Australia and the war zone. A copy of the address may be included as an insert in next month's Dispatches.

An important fund-raising activity is coming up - \$5 raffle tickets will be sold between now and our Christmas lunch. Please see a special promotional add in this issue of Dispatches. Your enthusiastic support is encouraged for this important activity. We are hoping members will take a book of 10 tickets to have friends and colleagues support the raffle as well. Only 500 tickets have been printed.

The sub-Branch plans for the rest of this year should be noted in your diary just in case some dates or activities have changed –

- The next general members meeting will be in the Montgomery Theatre at 9.30AM on Thursday 8 September followed by morning tea. Some feedback would be appreciated on the morning teas we have had this year – do you prefer sandwiches or hot food (e.g., mini pies/sausage rolls) and is the cake welcome. The reason for seeking feedback is that it takes a considerable amount of work for a few people to provide additional items to the tea/coffee and packet of biscuits provided by RSL LifeCare.
- October was originally to be an outing but there is not sufficient interest for the sub-Branch to do this alone.

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The intention is to rely on Suzie Spencer – RSL LifeCare Narrabeen Activities Organiser – providing all the opportunities we need to enjoy outings that are of interest. The meeting will be in the Monty Theatre as usual on Thursday 13 October at 9.30AM.

- More information later on the November meeting.
- Our Christmas lunch will be on Thursday 8 December from 11.30am with the meal served at Noon. There will be minimal administrative meeting activities BUT we will be drawing the raffle for the two “Sands of Gallipoli” gift sets.

John Sowden, Secretary

## CHAPLAINS CORNER

Over the years I have conducted many funerals and RSL Funeral Tributes. While I consider it both an honour and a privilege to assist in both, each brings with it some concern.

When I sit with families they are unsure of which funeral directors they should use. Neither Rev Tony nor I recommend any one particular company. Instead I ask if they have a preference for Australian owned and operated or not. Many funeral companies have been absorbed into one conglomerate. I generally list a few on the Northern Beaches and leave it to the family to make contact.

Secondly, many families are unsure of what either they or their loved ones would like. What music would you like played at your service? What are the different elements you might like? Perhaps this is something to discuss well beforehand.

When conducting the RSL Funeral Tribute we often have no more than *Name/Rank/Official number*. Perhaps you might have an interesting story or two to tell.

Have you updated your will? Some years ago I was conducting a DVA pensions interview with an old WWII veteran and I asked if his will was current. “Yes”, he said, “*it is the one they made me fill out when I joined in '42.*”

My simple point is that we all need to be prepared for what will come.

Grace & Peace,

Bob Durbin,

Sub-Branch Chaplain

## THE STORY OF CYRIL AUSTIN HAINES



Cyril Austin HAINES was born in Crookwell in January 1906, the third of seven children.

Their father, James HAINES contracted the ‘Spanish Flu’ in 1919 and died aged forty-seven, leaving a wife, Nellie and seven children. They were very poor and Nellie and the children had to survive the best way they could.

In January 1920, Cyril, aged fourteen passed the Qualifying Certificate Examination in Sydney, which provided a bursary to attend Goulburn High School, but due to the family's lack of funds to provide transport, the bursary was never taken up.

Cyril met a man called Monty KERR who became Cyril’s mentor and set him out on a career of a travelling salesman, working across the southern half of the state of NSW. He was highly successful and made a comfortable living.

Cyril HAINES was deemed unfit for military service in World War II, so he enlisted to serve the war effort in a civilian capacity. He was a Staff Officer in the Personnel Branch of the Civil Constructional Corps (CCC) of Allied Works Council between 25<sup>th</sup> September 1942 and 21<sup>st</sup> April 1945.

The CCC was established in April 1942 to supply labour for the creation of infrastructure like airfields, gun emplacements, barracks, roads and other projects undertaken by the Allied Works Council.

All men between the ages of 18 and 60 could be conscripted into the CCC unless they were serving in the armed forces or employed in a reserved occupation. They received pay based on civilian award rates, but their work was highly regulated: they could not strike and might be sent anywhere in Australia.

At its peak strength in August 1943, almost 54,000 men were serving in the CCC. They engaged in hundreds of projects worth millions of pounds. Almost one-third of them were conscripted – or “manpowered,” the term current at the time. By the end of the war 77,500 men had served in the CCC. They had served in every state and territory and made an invaluable contribution to the war effort.

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Cyril HAINES travelled from Avalon Beach every day on the double-decker buses to his job with the Allied Works Council in Sydney. Some of these special wartime buses were built on old truck chassis, some had plywood bodies and were prone to breakdown. People had to travel on these at night with all the full metal windows closed, and they had to rely on the conductors to tell them where their stops were.

With mandatory brownouts in place, a night-time precaution against the perceived likelihood of Japanese air raids, the camouflage buses featured solid metal windows instead of glass, and headlamp hoods that aimed a paltry slit of light towards the ground.

There was also a requirement for regional travel, for example in September 1943, Cyril was part of a group of CCC officers and doctors who travelled to Broken Hill to spend a week interviewing men who may be conscripted into the service.

Cyril HAINES was awarded The Civilian Service Medal 1939 - 1945, for his service during World War II. The Civilian Service Medal 1939-1945 recognised the service of eligible civilians in Australia during World War II.



*Thanks to Leigh Haines for this story about his father.*

## NEW DAY ACKNOWLEDGING NSW WAR WIDOWS

At the Premier's Vietnam Veterans' Day reception on the 20<sup>th</sup> August, War Widows Day was announced. The 19<sup>th</sup> of October will now be known as War Widows’ Day in NSW.

Since World War One, war widows have been part of the fabric of NSW, contributing in many ways to this wonderful community. While definitions of war widows have changed over time one thing hasn’t, and that is their sacrifices.

*This is a small extract from the announcement article.*