



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

I am not sure about you, but I wonder where the year has gone! Remembrance Day preparations are well underway and even thoughts of ANZAC Day are not far off.

But until then, there are other matters for us to work on. By the time you receive this we would have farewelled one of our Life Members, Bob Leckie. Bob has been in Connie Fall for a few years now but was a great part of our Village life. I remember speaking with him as I passed the War Museum. Bob was one of the many volunteers who kept our museum functioning, and this would give me the opportunity to stop and chat. Bob's Life Membership was awarded for his outstanding honorary service to The League when he was a member of the South Australian State Branch. Rest in Peace Bob.

There will be other items in the various reports presented and I encourage you to think of how you too can support the aims and objects of The League. It might be that you might think about accepting a position on the Committee next year, or assist in fund raising; it might be that you come to meetings. We would appreciate any support you are able to offer. Another way you can support your sub-Branch is to look for other veterans living in the Village who would like to join our sub-Branch, either as a Service Member or an Associate.

Secretary John and I attended the recent meeting of District Council and we will let you know the outcomes when the Minutes are received. Suffice to say it was a very productive meeting.

John has been busy securing some very interesting guest speakers for our upcoming meetings so we look forward to seeing you there.

Continue to keep well.

Lest We Forget, Bob Durbin, President.

MEETING

Our next General Meeting is on Thursday
13th October 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 = 139

Life Members	2
Life Subscribers	3
Service	47
Affiliate	62
Associate	25

We mourn the sad passing of Life Member Bob Leckie and Service Member Peter Newman.

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

Roger Smith - Associate
Steven Good – Associate
Yvonne Cramer – Affiliate
Valerie Deyes – Affiliate

Lee Sarich – Service and Joan Parfitt - Affiliate who were unable to attend will be inducted at a future Meeting and are also included above.

I wish to express my appreciation for the continued support of Members at our Meetings.

Also, many thanks go to Mr. Ye (Wang) and “Snez” for morning tea preparation.

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY COMMEMORATION SERVICE – 18TH AUGUST 2022

A solemn service was held in the War Vets Chapel at 2pm conducted by Chaplain Bob Durbin who is also President of the War Vets RSL sub-Branch.

Almost 40 people were in attendance to hear a most interesting address by Commander Arthur Skene RAN retired who spoke of the involvement of the Royal Australian Navy in the Vietnam War. The address contained much detail and was very comprehensive and in order for many to appreciate what Arthur said, a copy of the address will be included as an insert in the October Dispatches.

On arrival, each member of the congregation was given a small poppy which, during the service, was placed on the altar table to form a wreath.

Following the service, afternoon tea and fellowship was enjoyed in the Afghanistan Room.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS Inducted at our September Meeting



From left to right: Steven Good (Associate), Jan Slater, Yvonne Cramer (Affiliate), Roger Smith (Associate), Bob Durbin and Valerie Deyes (Affiliate).

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 8th December 2022 at the sub-Branch Christmas function in the Lone Pine Lounge.



1st Prize



2nd Prize

First prize is a set of six Lone Pine medallions in a timber finish presentation stand, valued at \$225.00. Second prize is a set of six limited edition medallions valued at \$195.00. 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.

DEVOTED SERVICE

"A powerful and moving drama filled with insight and poignancy that is derived directly from the true stories of five remarkable women during the Great War". Be transported by a short film into Staff Nurse Mary 'Marjorie' Marr's autograph book. SN Marr whilst working in Sydney, captured the surprising and heartfelt poetry and musings of soldiers who returned to Australia to recover from the trauma of Gallipoli. Taking actual words and personal accounts written by three nurses and a matron in their diaries and letters, you will witness how, from the moment the last ribbon connecting them to Sydney breaks, through to the end and aftermath of the Great War in 1918/19, the courage and conviction of these women endures."

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I recently attended this live performance (created and produced by the ANZAC Memorial). This was followed by an enlightening tour of the Memorial, including the nurses' personal objects on display. A highly recommended event. - Pamela Dodd, RSL sub-Branch Member.

If you are interested in going to this event please contact our Secretary, John Sowden at the sub-Branch Office.

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 must place a minimum of 10 shirts per each order. Wearing of these attractive and distinctive shirts at all 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

CHAPLAINS CORNER

What time of day was Adam created?

Just a little before Eve.

Who was the fastest runner in the race?

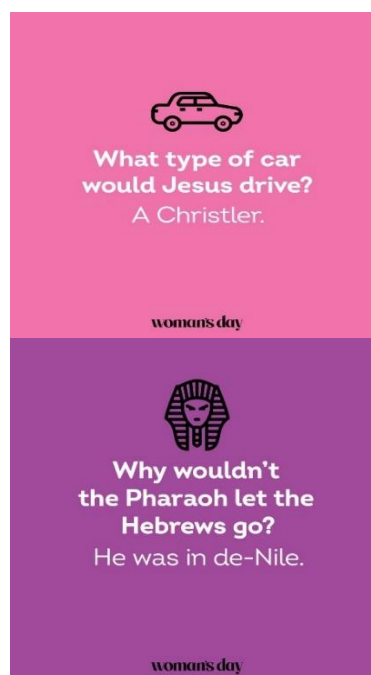
Adam. He was first in the human race.

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?

Nope — just an apple.

What excuse did Adam give his children about why he no longer lived in Eden?

Your mother ate us out of house and home!



Grace & Peace, Bob Durbin, Sub-Branch Chaplain

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

Our last meeting was again well attended and included the induction of 4 new members – Yvonne Cramer (Affiliate), Roger Smith (Associate), Valerie Deyes (Affiliate) and Steven Good (Associate). For a change, each was given the opportunity to give the meeting an introduction to themselves and this was received in each case with acclamation.

Following Leigh Haines speaking about our major raffle of the two “Sands of Gallipoli”, it was disappointing that more books of 10 tickets were not taken to sell to self, friends and neighbours. These are two very worthwhile prizes. There will be another opportunity at the next meeting if you missed last meeting to purchase tickets in a raffle with only 500 tickets to be sold!!

EXCITING prospect for our November Meeting. PLEASE NOTE – the date and venue have been changed. To separate our usual meeting date from Remembrance Day, our November meeting will be on Thursday 3rd November in the Lone Pine Lounge from 9.30am – with a very special morning tea and Nicki Young who was General Manager Veteran Services and has a great understanding of our sub-Branch as well as the War Museum and how important these are at ANZAC Village Narrabeen will be our Guest Speaker. PLEASE make a special effort to attend this meeting. It will occur just after the RSL NSW State Congress and AGM in Newcastle so there is sure to be information to pass on to members from that gathering.

Your committee is planning the 2023 programme and hope to have an outline in draft form at the October meeting for suggestions on how it might be improved. Please think about what you might like to see on this programme – suggestions will be welcomed.

If you are interested in purchasing the 2023 diary, please put your name down with me to ensure your order is filled before any other requests.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

John Sowden, Secretary

PITTWATER HOUSE SCHOOL CADET UNIT 50TH ANNUAL CEREMONIAL PARADE



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Fourteen members of the sub-Branch and an RSL LifeCare manager took our bus to this significant event in the history of the Pittwater House School. It was a fine afternoon after so much wet weather and we enjoyed our view of the parade from the vantage point on the school Hall balcony. Major General Roger Noble (Ret'd) AO, DSC, CSC, Australian Ambassador for Counter Terrorism, was the Reviewing Officer. We were given a detailed programme so the audience could follow the order of proceedings. All in attendance applauded following the colour party and the unit marching off the parade ground.

The activities then moved into the Hall where awards and prizes were presented to cadets from the Unit. Following this, and just as Major McClean was about to wrap up proceedings, our President Bob Durbin was invited to make two very special presentations. These were framed RSL NSW Certificates of Appreciation to the SUO Jared Buckton (on behalf of the Cadet Unit) and to Major Steve McClean as OC of the Cadet Unit. These were given for the extended service both Steve McClean and the Cadet Unit have provided for commemoration services at ANZAC Village Narrabeen over many years (I recall Bob saying more than twenty) often as the catafalque party but in other areas of responsibility as well.





When you see the Royal Navy sailors pulling HM's coffin on the gun carriage, this is why.

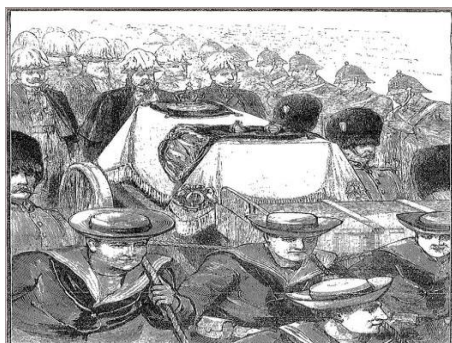
From The Naval Review:

I have recently read the following on the Facebook account of Didcot Railway Centre, the home of the Great Western Society.

I know several of you are railway enthusiasts so I thought that I would share it with the bar.

We are pleased to read in the newspapers that the gun carriage carrying the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II at the state funeral procession on Monday 19 September will be hauled by Royal Navy sailors.

Most news reports correctly state that the tradition dates to Queen Victoria's funeral on 2 February 1901. However, they fail to mention the Great Western Railway's role in supplying the ropes for the sailors to rig to the gun carriage on the occasion. This drawing of the bluejackets hauling the Queen's coffin that day was published in the Penny Illustrated Paper on 9 February 1901, with the ropes clearly visible.



On 2 February 1901 the weather was extremely cold and the hawsers for the gun carriage to be used for the procession from Windsor railway station to the Castle had frozen. The horses intended to pull the gun carriage were also affected by the intense cold and had become restive and possibly dangerous during the wait for the delayed funeral train to arrive. It was at this point that the GWR played its essential part in what has become a tradition for subsequent state funerals.

The Duke of Portland, who was Master of the Horse at Queen Victoria's funeral, recalled what happened

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in a letter published in The Times on 28 January 1936 at the time of King George V's funeral:

Owing to the lateness of the train which conveyed Her Majesty's coffin from Paddington to Windsor the horses attached to the gun-carriage had become cold. When the word of command 'Walk ... March' was given, the leaders twice reared up, and then fell back on the other horses, which caused all six to fall down.

My recollection is that Admiral Sir Michael Culme-Seymour was in command of the large Naval Guard of Honour drawn up on the spot. As soon as Sir Michael saw what had occurred, he called out to me in his usual resonant voice, 'All right, my boys will soon straighten out this mess.'

He at once ordered them to go into the station and the station master procured ropes (from the communication cords of carriages). Sir Michael then ordered them to fall in and draw the gun-carriage from the station to the entrance to the Castle grounds at the end of the Long Walk and up the slope. It was a most touching and effective procession and, in my opinion, much more impressive than would have been the official procedure.

Thus, with inspired improvisation and the help of the GWR, began the tradition which the Royal Navy has claimed ever since of hauling the coffin at funerals of the monarch.

The ropes on the carriages were the external communication cords to alert the guard in an emergency. Our brake 3rd carriage No 416, built in 1891, still carries this system, so remember to look at it next time you visit Didcot Railway Centre.

NOVEMBER MEETING

PLEASE NOTE: PLEASE NOTE: PLEASE NOTE

The meeting date has been changed to **ONE WEEK EARLIER** from Thursday 10th November to **Thursday 3rd November.**

9.30am in the Lone Pine Lounge

Guest speaker: Nicky Young, Chief Business Improvement Officer - RSL LifeCare (Previously General Manager Veterans Services)

[A special morning tea will follow the meeting](#)

SPECIAL THANKS

The sub-Branch wishes to express its appreciation to Sandy Louwrens for the donation of an Australian Flag which was draped on the coffin of her late husband David William Jackman who served in the 9th Battalion in Vietnam. The sash was also placed on his coffin.

