



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

We are at that time of the year when we think that not too much is happening. Not so! This is an election year for the State Board as well as the appointment of a new CEO. While I am sure the Board is well underway in seeking a new CEO, the vacant Board positions will be decided by the members. The new Board will hold office for a three-year term. Please let us know if you can think of anyone who would be beneficial and of value as a Director. You can access the current Board information on the RSL NSW website.

www.RSLNSW.org.au

It is also that time of year when we think of motions to be considered at the Annual State Congress of the State Branch. If you have any issues, you think we should put forward, anything which would benefit the veteran family, give them to Secretary John, in writing, so that we may consider them at a sub-Branch meeting. It is important that we have our say in the process and functioning of The League.

Recently Vice President Roy, Secretary John and I visited Pittwater House School to meet with staff and the successful applicant of our *STS Young Endeavour* Scholarship. At the moment the name of the recipient has not been made public, but he is a very worthy recipient and very appreciative of the opportunity the sub-Branch is providing him. Vice President Roy will provide an update in the coming months before the December cruise. The recipient will be making a presentation in the Village in the new year, details will be provided well beforehand.

Lest We Forget, Bob Durbin, President

July General Meeting

This is a General Meeting to be held on Thursday 13th July 2023 at 9.30am in the Lone Pine Lounge. Morning tea follows the meeting.

So that the meeting can commence sharp at 9.30am would members please be sure they arrive before this time, sign in, collect their name badge, and raffle tickets and are seated ready for the meeting to start.

Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current total Membership = 154

Life Members	2
Life Subscribers	3
Service	54
Affiliate	72
Associate	23

The following Members were inducted at the last Meeting and are included in the above numbers: Jo Masters, Rob Lynch, Joy Guitry, Margaret Galea, Julie Ward, Pat Saunderson (Affiliates) Refer to the photo on page 4.

Phil Pollard, Harry Stenhouse (Service).

Applications for two new Members Ellen Kassel (Affiliate) and Ian Wells (Service) were submitted for approval at the June General Meeting and are not included in the above numbers.

Prospective Affiliate Members Barbara Moore and Lee Evans will have their applications submitted for approval at the July Committee Meeting and are not included in the above numbers.

It is encouraging to see maintained interest in Membership. Many thanks to all those spreading the good word.

Membership Registrar

Jan Slater

August General Meeting

This is a breakfast meeting to be held on Thursday 10th August 2023 at 9.30am in the Lone Pine Lounge

Cost for breakfast \$10 (Payment by Monday 7th August to the sub-Branch Office)

James Griffin MP, State Member for Manly and Rory Amon member for Pittwater are our guest speakers

We request that as many members as possible attend

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The past month has again been one of much activity although we had no visits outside the Village. Our President Bob Durbin was busy with two funeral services on our June meeting day and the meeting was well managed by Vice-President Roy Parkinson and generated more interaction with members than we have had for some time. For those who were unable to attend, the meeting was highlighted with the induction of six new Affiliate members who each, in turn, spoke briefly of their background and reasons for joining our sub-Branch.

The planned Christmas in July lunch which we had originally intended for June was deferred and is now cancelled altogether. This is mainly due to the Village putting on a Friday Christmas Lunch on 14th July which we expect will be well attended by members and which would have meant having two similar meals on consecutive days.

We will just have to make the Christmas Lunch in December a really good menu and social end to the year's activities.

The sub-Branch has had an open invitation for some 18 months now for the State Member for Manly, James Griffin, to attend a meeting as our guest speaker. As you can appreciate, a local member of parliament has many commitments and we are pleased that James has been able to accept this invitation and will be a guest speaker at the August meeting – we will make this a breakfast meeting with official business kept to a minimum. We have accepted James' suggestion that our local member, Rory Amon, also attend and I am sure he will speak as well. James served as Minister for Veteran Affairs when in government so will have interesting information to pass on and it would be good if you could raise plenty of questions to both these gentlemen. The sub-Branch will again subsidise the breakfast so the cost to members will be just \$10. It will be good to have as many members as possible come to this meeting.

What ideas do you have for a trip away for either the day or a couple of days? Your committee would like to put together an appealing program of activities for 2024 – where as many members as possible can contribute and take part. Some current suggestions on which your feedback would be welcome, include

- A 2-night 3-day visit to Canberra and the Australian War Memorial and local environs.
- Another Naval Historical Society Cruise on Sydney Harbour (West of the Bridge).

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- A guided tour of the ANZAC Memorial Hyde Park South with emphasis on a special exhibition at the time including lunch.

A special request again for members to submit copy (an article) to Doug Smyth for inclusion in an edition of Dispatches. This is a wonderful publication, enjoyed by members and Doug does a magnificent job as Editor in putting it together each month. However, he does not have the time to source articles for each issue so he looks to us as members to contribute something. Your help is indeed appreciated.

Secretary
John Sowden

6 Notables who served in the Korean War

Taken from "Meet 10 Notables who served in the Korean War" by Christopher Klein – updated August 29, 2018

During July this year we commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the signing of the armistice agreement to end the Korean War – and a very unsatisfactory and incomplete conclusion it was! It is often referred to as the "forgotten" war although many Australians paid the ultimate sacrifice. In simple terms it was a war between North and South Korea with Communist China and the Soviet Union supporting North Korea (food, petroleum, transportation equipment, iron and steel, fertilizer, munitions, etc.) and "the West" which comprised 21 countries operating under the United Nations Command and supporting the Republic of South Korea. These 21 countries included the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Belgium, The Netherlands, Greece, Türkiye, South Africa, Thailand, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Luxembourg, Ethiopia, Colombia, South Korea with five other countries providing medical services, hospitals, ambulances, etc. Australian Infantry Battalions served as part of the First Commonwealth Division.

Looking back on the lives of some of those who served under the United Nations Command over the 3 years of war we find some well-known personalities – do we ever think that they were involved in this war? Probably not. So here is some interesting trivia for your next quiz night!!

Neil Armstrong, the first human to walk on the surface of the moon was studying aeronautical engineering at university on a U.S. Navy scholarship when in 1949 he began training to become a naval aviator. On September 3, 1951 – five days after flying his first mission – the 21-year-old Armstrong ejected from his F9F Panther jet after it was struck by anti-aircraft fire on a low bombing run. He flew 78 combat missions and earned three air medals during his almost 12 months service.

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Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, Armstrong’s Apollo 11 crewmate also served as a decorated fighter pilot. After graduating third in his class at West Point in 1951, he entered the Air Force and after arriving in Korea the day after Christmas Day 1951 flew F-86 Sabre jets on 66 combat missions until the declaration of a cease-fire in 1953. He received the DFC for his service, which included the downing of two Soviet-made MiGs.

Sir Michael Caine, born Maurice Micklewhite Jr, the future Academy Award winner, was drafted into the British Army in 1951. He arrived in Korea in August 1952 as a member of the 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers. He was stationed along the front lines of the Samichon River, saw extensive combat and participated in dangerous nighttime patrols into no man’s land. He contracted malaria and was discharged in 1953. On returning to London, he studied acting. Caine’s first credited film role was hardly a stretch – he played a British private in the 1956 war movie “A Hill in Korea”.

John Glenn, During World War II the future astronaut and U.S. Senator flew 59 combat missions in the South Pacific as a Marine Corps fighter pilot. After the outbreak of the Korean War, he returned to the cockpit and flew 90 missions during two tours of duty in both F9F Panther and F-86 Sabre Jets. In the last 9 days of the war, he shot down 3 MiGs. After his service in Korea, Glenn graduated from a naval test pilot program and became the oldest member of the “Mercury Seven” astronauts. In 1962 he became the first American to orbit the earth.

James Garner – born James Bumgarner (shortened when he began acting) the future star of “Maverick” and “The Rockford Files” served as a U.S. Army private in the 5th Regimental Combat Team which sustained heavy casualties in Korea. On just his second day in Korea, he suffered shrapnel wounds to his hands and face from a mortar round while on patrol. In April 1951, he was hospitalised after dislocating a shoulder, suffering phosphorous burns, and being struck in the upper leg while diving into a foxhole. Garner, who received two Purple Hearts for his injuries, made his film debut in 1956 and starred in several war dramas including “The Great Escape”.

Johnny Cash, enlisted after the start of the Korean war. After proving adept at radio communications, he was assigned to a unit in Landsberg, West Germany, where he served as a high-speed Morse Code intercept operator. There he monitored transmissions from the Soviet Army, which was playing a covert role in Korea and he later claimed he was the first American to intercept reports of the death of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. During his downtime he began to write songs and after his promotion to staff sergeant and honorable discharge, he settled in Memphis and launched his musical career.

CHAPLAINS CORNER



Howard Dillon served in Vietnam as a Chaplain in the Australian Army, providing pastoral care to his fellow soldiers. He found himself confronted by the realities of war.

Transcript

Over 70 men served as chaplains in the Australian Army during the Vietnam War. Howard Dillon arrived in 1969, eager and naive.

Even chaplains did not tell you what you were likely to confront, you just went there. So, it was quite a shock to be at the hospital and find that you were supposed to give the last rites to dead soldiers.”

When you are young and invincible, you take on the world.

The medical team, even though they were working on the soldier, there was no one to be there for the person. So, I found myself as being the kind of anchor person that was there reassuring the soldier. Sometimes I felt that you were kind of powerless.

I mean nurses are giving injections and people are taking pulses. And I wondered whether I was doing any good. And I talked to the CO about it and I said, ‘Sometimes I feel we’re just in the way.’

He rebuked me strongly and said ‘No, you are the one normal thing here. Everything else is abnormal. We are all flat out saving the digger’s life, but you represent mother, father, brother, the normal world. You do for him what a family would do.’

So, you would find yourself stroking his forehead, holding his hand, praying. Talking quietly in his ear, that is if he could hear. Sometimes with the mine explosions they were deaf. Sometimes they had things on their mind so it becomes a kind of confessional.

The young men that I trained went off and did all that was asked of them and then came back to be treated with disdain. I think a mortal blow to the whole of our generation, and I think that the kind of social problems that Vietnam vets now display I put largely at the door of those community leaders who, oh really, piddled on us from a great height.”

<https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/resources/howard-dillon-australian-army-army-chaplain>

Lest we Forget/Grace & Peace.

Bob Durbin, sub-Branch Chaplain.

KOREAN WAR

70th Anniversary Commemoration.
“The Forgotten War”

On 25 June 1950 North Korean troops crossed the 39th Parallel into US based South Korea with the intent of unifying the peninsula by force. Days later Australian servicemen joined 21 other countries to push back the communist armies of North Korea and China.

It is reported that 17,000 servicemen were sent to fight against the Soviet- backed North Korea in the first open conflict of the cold war.

Australia lost 339 lives with 1216 wounded in the fighting which lasted 3 years and only ended with a truce of suspended hostilities, which continues today.

RAAF 77 Fighter Wing were deployed to South Korea and came under the command of forces from the USA.

The Squadron started out with P-51 Mustang aircraft designed as a fighter aircraft for the second world war but they were no match for the Soviet- built MiG -15 jet fighters that appeared in the skies after China entered the war.

77 Squadron replaced its Mustangs in April 1951 with the British –built twin- jet Meteor.

The squadron was based in Pusan in the small south east corner of the peninsula where North Korea had pushed South Korea to.

Weather and living conditions were extremely harsh.

RAAF 77 Fighter Wing returned to Australia from Pusan in November 1954.

The nation of South Korea is very grateful to Australia for their support in their time of dire need. Their country was so close to being taken over by North Korea and China.

You do not have to have had a relative or a friend who served in the Korean War to attend the 70th Anniversary Commemoration Service on Thursday 27 July.

The RSL War Vets sub-Branch is calling for names to fill a bus.

Lest we never forget the sacrifice of our defence forces in all conflicts.

Shirley McLaren OAM



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS Inducted at the June Meeting



From left to right: Margaret Galea, Pat Saunderson, Josephine Masters, Robert Lynch, Julie Ward and Joy Guitry

MATE by Duncan Butler

I've travelled down some lonely roads, booth crooked
tracks and straight
And I've learned of life's noblest creed, summed up in
one word – Mate.

I'm thinking back across the years, as I do a lot of late,
And this word just sticks between my ears, you've got
to have a mate.

Someone who'll take you as you are, regardless
of your state.
And stand by you like Ayers Rock, because he is your
mate.

My mind goes back to '42, to slavery and hate,
When man's last chance to stay alive depended on his
mate.

With bamboo for a billy can and bamboo for a plate
A bamboo paradise for bugs was bed for me and mate.
You'd slip and slither through the mud and curse your
rotten fate,
But then you'd hear a quite word, 'Don't drop your
bundle mate'.

And though it's all so long ago, this truth I have to state
A man don't know what lonely means until he's lost his
mate.

So if there's a life that follows this, if there's a 'golden
gate'.

The welcome that I want to hear is just 'good on ya
mate'.

So to all that ask us why it is we keep these special
dates
Like Anzac Day, I answer 'Why, we're thinking of our
mates'

And when I've left that driver's seat and handed in my
plates
I'll tell old Peter at the door, 'I've come to join my
mates'.

*Editor: Taken from my resource files – it was passed to
me some years ago by the late Col Crawford*