



COOROY POMONA RSL SUB BRANCH

# NEWSLETTER

September 2018

## Editorial:

The RSL began in 1916 when Diggers were returning from WW1, many of them damaged in body & mind.

They were looking for support in many ways and found that the best help came from their mates who knew & understood the difficulties they were experiencing .

Now, 102 years on, much the same scenario still exists & the RSL is still here offering the kind of friendship & assistance to help you through the tough times.

The Cooroy Pomona Sub Branch has ex Service personnel trained to point you in the right direction to gain best welfare assistance for you. We also have trained & qualified pensions officers to guide you through the maze of information required by DVA so that you receive the correct pension or disability benefit.

If you're looking for somewhere to have a coffee or a cool beer & a chat then come & join us at the RSL club in Maple St Cooroy. See ya there mate!

Sub Branch meetings are held 2nd Thursday every month at 1600 hrs.

John Diprose



Lest We Forget

## Report from the Sub Branch Vice President

Hello again to all fellow Sub Branch members to our September edition of the newsletter.

We have had a very busy period again and a big thankyou must go out to all our volunteer Sub Branch members for without their tireless work, dedication, commitment and enthusiasm we as a Sub Branch would not be able to provide the excellent service that we have today. To John and Beth Diprose we would like to personally thank you for all your work you do behind the scenes, such as the excellent newsletter you produce, the great photography you take during commemorations activities and providing that listening ear when we have problems.

Our welfare team and pension officers are still very busy and are doing a fabulous job with phone calls, hospital visits and keeping in touch with our veteran community.

The Service Widows luncheon on the 16 June with about 55 persons attending was a great success and a fun full time was had by all. Sue Porter who was our guest speaker for the luncheon. Sue presented a very interesting address which was well received and appreciated by all attending. Thank you, Sue.

Vietnam Veterans Day was a great success and again many thanks go out to all who assisted in the planning and organising the event. There is a lot of work that occurs when planning an event and without our dedicated volunteer group, the activities would not occur. We all know who that group is, and we would like to thank you personally for all the work you do.

Our guest speaker was Mr Ian Mansfield AM CSC who is a consultant specializing in humanitarian assistance and post conflict activities, particularly in the field of landmine action. Ian gave a very moving address which was well received and appreciated by all that attended. As always thank you to Chaplin Shane Brigg who is always in attendance and is very much appreciated. To our piper many thanks Jimmy McKinley and our vocalist for the service Miss Jamison Kehl who sang "I was only 19" and the National Anthem was outstanding.

Mr Jim Murrell 4RAR (ANZAC) Battalion Vietnam 1968 recited a poem that he wrote (ODE TO A MATE) and I could see many members with a tear in their eye by the time he had finished. Thank you to Jim and we hope to see him again soon. We all returned to the RSL where the stories got longer as the day progressed, we all had a great afternoon and many thanks to the RSL Club for looking after us with the service and food.

Another date to put in your diary is Saturday 15 September. The RSL Club is organizing a fund-raising event to assist the drought appeal (Drought Angels). Should be a great night hope to see you all up line dancing.

Don't forget that our annual Sub Branch Mixed Dining In Night is fast approaching, Saturday 13 October. We hope to see a large number of members with their partners attending the dinner. It's a great opportunity to dress up and wine and dine at a great venue with good company. More detailed information to follow.



Remember if you have time our Sub Branch meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month commencing at 4pm. Come along and join us for the meeting and stay for the evening meal. The Thursday night raffles are a great night and a good way to support the Club and the Sub Branch We are always looking for more members and ideas on how to increase our membership. Everyone is most welcome.

Until next time we meet, stay in good health.

Kind Regards  
Peter Watts

**Note: Drought Relief donations of dry goods was well supported, & cash donations amounted to \$1034. Well done, Cooroy!**

**SUB BRANCH MEMBERS MEETINGS**

**13 September 11 October 8 November**

## TRANSPORT TOPICS.

Welcome to our September edition, since our last newsletter your transport team have travelled 6624 kilometres , carried 370 passengers and logged 427 hours of volunteer driver duties. We have gained a new driver recently Mr Bob Else , who is now learning the ropes on our Wednesday shopping trips, but as soon as we gain a driver another has to leave Jason Myatt started a new job and is no longer available.

Those people who wish to use our transport for non DVA medicals especially those at the new University Hospital please contact the club as soon as possible so we can determine if transport and a driver is available for that date, a round trip to the new hospital takes a vehicle out for 4 hours.

Till our next newsletter safe travels

Denis Thompson  
Minister for Transport.

## HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

The Sub Branch continues to care for Veterans, Widows and the Elderly in the Cooroy/Pomona community. Regular visits are carried out to Kabara Aged care facility, Eden Rehabilitation Hospital and a couple of our members who reside in Carramar Aged Care. Also anyone who spends time in hospital either planned or as the result of unforeseen circumstances. Of course this requires information from friends and family to so we can arrange a visit whilst they are unwell.

Our small team of dedicated volunteers make a regular visit to Eden ReHab on Monday afternoons to visit with patients undergoing rehabilitation for a myriad of conditions which could include knee replacements, loss of limbs, heart related problems to speech therapy and a host of other ailments. A lot of these patients are from outside our area but we offer any help we can even if it is just the visit to remind them they are not forgotten especially if friends and family find it difficult due to long distances. All appreciate the time that we can spend with them.

The residents of Kabara look forward to the Monday afternoon visits by the team. We can visit up to eighteen residents every week plus over the years we have made many friends there who we include in our visit even if it is just a Hello and a couple of words. Being an Aged Care facility we lose residents from time to time. This can be sad for us as we form close friendships with them. Since the last newsletter we lost Joan MacMillan who was a particular favourite of the visiting team. I was able to attend her funeral in Woombye and what a gratifying scene to see about ten residents of Kabara come on their bus even though some were in their wheelchairs. A fitting send off for a lovely lady.

On Monday mornings we carry out up to forty phone calls to check on our Veterans, Widows and the elderly. A little chat and a chuckle from some of them plus the ability to keep them abreast of sub branch morning teas and upcoming trips. Being Winter a few have been experiencing the odd cough, cold or chest infection and we hope they will recover when the weather warms up a bit in the future. Avital service that is welcomed by all.

I had short holiday since the last newsletter and I must congratulate the other members of the team who stepped up while I was away for three weeks. They know who they are so a big thankyou from me.

I hope you all stay healthy in the future but if not, do not hesitate to let us know so we can organize visits and support if it is needed. Until next time.

*Tony Kershaw*

### ***We'd Cave In To All***

*Can you imagine if the Thailand Soccer Team had been lost in a cave in Victoria?*

*The rescue would have been put on hold until the LGBTIQI community could have a representative on the rescue team, the children would have been chastised for not welcoming the rescuers to the country with a smoking ceremony, the coach would have been interviewed for not having a Working With Children police check, members of the Greens party would be complaining about the water pump-out of the cave endangering the habitat of a local frog, and there would be an outcry as to why there were no girls on the soccer team.*

*Bernie Magner, Croydon*

## A REPORT FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OFFICER—GREG HOLMES

Do you know what your Sub Branch does for you? Part 1 Membership Benefits

- A committee whose major objectives include insuring Australia's sacrifices in all conflicts are remembered.
- Appointed delegates who attend District & State conferences in an endeavour to acquire better treatment from Government for Veterans - Members - RSL
- Personnel with specific training to gain best pensions & entitlements through DVA
- Specially trained advocates
- Personnel specifically trained to offer assistance & advice in welfare matters including PTSD
- A transport team who take members—widows & families for medical, dental, & other health appointments
- A transport team who take members shopping
- Membership fees are only \$5.50 per year
- Entry to members only promotions — including the members swipe draw
- Members' discount on RSL restaurant meals
- Members' loyalty programme
- Bonus points are offered when you swipe your card on arrival in the kiosk
- Birthday bonus points each time you swipe your card within your birthday month

Watch the next newsletter for Part 2 of Membership benefits

The saying for this newsletter ————— Benjamin Franklin said:

“Those who trade a little liberty for a little security deserve neither and will lose both”

“But if you make yourself sheep, the wolves will eat you”

As promised, another poem by Jim Dunstan who passed away 25 April 2018 aged 100 years

### MOTHER WORKING OUT 1930'S STYLE

*It's fascinating these days, how people work out getting fit,  
They spend a fortune at the gym, on fees, and special kit,  
My mother though was pretty fit, and worked out every day  
But never went to a fitness gym, and never had to pay.*

*She used to do her push-ups over the laundry tub,  
Washing all our clothes with a vigorous rub and scrub,  
Then a bit of stretching, hanging laundry on the line,  
No hoists from Hills, electric driers, or the sun just had to shine*

*Bending over a boiling copper, full of clothes and stuff,  
Gave her a cleansing sauna, and made her sweat enough...  
She got lots of pumping iron, pressing the men folks shirts  
As well as the daughters undies, their blouses and their skirts*

*She did hours of power walking working around the house  
Those days of course the housework was beneath the lordly spouse  
We didn't have a car, so shopping was a marathon walk,  
No sign of a Personal Trainer, with expensive 'pep up talk'.*

*Weights to lift were in good supply, like firewood and  
mattress turning  
And the occasional adrenaline rush, when she thought the  
tea was burning  
Cycling she enjoyed as well, in fact she was very keen,  
Peddling for hours on her Singer sewing machine.*

*If she wanted to work out to music, she had a reasonable  
choice  
A whistling kettle, drumming rain on the roof, or her own  
sweet singing voice.  
Leotards and lycra pants, of course, were many years away,  
So colourful homemade aprons were her gym wear of the  
day*

*She was typical of all the mothers, of that place in time  
When sitting doing nothing was considered a domestic  
crime  
Her days were filled with working out, plus one thing and  
another  
And this was only part of the life of a loving caring moth-  
er!!!*



### Australian War Memorial

This sculpture by Ewan Coates honours the dangerous work and the brave service of military Explosive Detection Dogs & their handlers.



If olive oil comes from olives, where does baby oil come from?

If you throw a cat out of the car does it become kitty litter?

Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?

Can fat people go skinny dipping?

A PESSIMIST sees a dark tunnel  
An OPTIMIST sees light at the end of the tunnel  
A REALIST sees a freight train  
The TRAIN OPERATOR sees 3 idiots standing on the tracks...



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*Australia* Have it for life!

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TASMANIA 7210  
Telephone 03 6381 1223  
ABN: 61 347 876 393



[www.EmergencyID.com.au](http://www.EmergencyID.com.au)



*This is an invaluable item in times of emergency for veterans holding Gold or White cards and DVA will make payment on your behalf.*

**Emergency ID have developed a "DVA Pack" specifically for Department of Veteran's Affairs clients. The pack includes:**

- **Emergency ID Bracelet medallion and chain of their choice. PLUS,**
- **Emergency ID Necklace medallion and necklace chain of their choice. PLUS,**  
*Both these quality jewellery items are CUSTOM engraved (as they choose) with their most urgent medical and emergency information.*
- **2 x Emergency ID Write-On Wallet Cards. PLUS,**
- **12 month warranty on bracelet & necklace medallion - suitable for 24hr wear - even in the water - showers, chlorine, spas and ocean!**

# Vietnam Veterans Day



2018



## ODE TO A MATE

While wandering down life's wandering path  
Through many a turning gate  
Met a kindred soul along the way  
In a bloke I called a Mate

Someone who'd take care of you  
Someone who'd stand and wait  
And lend a hand unto your cause  
For he was indeed a Mate.

My mind goes back to '68  
To Vietnam and of hate  
Reflecting back on times gone by  
For time is but a gate.

When on that fateful luckless day  
We swore and cursed our state  
For the demons of death were lurking  
Too close for me and my Mate  
Those eyes of white of unnumbered foes

A picture my mind still paints  
The yells and the screams  
The blood sweat and tears  
Whose lives of my Mates will you take?

With all that killing and all that dying  
We both had a date with fate  
And all that sorrow and all that suffering  
Was hell for me and my Mate

Then a hail of lead split open his head  
His warm flesh and blood, for God's sake,  
With life flowing from him he slurred but once  
"My time has come old Mate"

That beat from the Medivac chopper  
That stench from the dead lying straight  
Those souls on the ground hear not but a sound  
And there in a body bag lay my Mate

With a final farewell and a short silent prayer  
To grieve with no tear, that must wait.  
To melt back again to the bush I call home  
But to do it this time with no mate.

Because you fell for your country's cause  
You will always be a Saint  
Your blood was the price of freedom  
But fate was your hunter old Mate

In paddy fields., no poppies blow  
There are no crosses row on row  
Your only wish if you should die  
Was to bring you home and let you lie.

No band at the key played Matilda  
In clubs we weren't known as saints  
At home our folks walked around us  
But now we're together with mates.

Why did we fall for that call to war?  
That war was to set things straight  
But once again it's all happened in vain  
And frail grieving mothers still wait.

On ANZAC and Remembrance Day  
My girls they ask me straight  
"You shed a tear, then have a beer  
In memory of your mates?"

If there's to be an afterlife  
Then I don't know how I'll rate  
For the only words I'd care to hear  
"You're welcome up here Mate".

Jim Murrell 4RAR (ANZAC Battalion)  
Vietnam 1968



Used by permission

## *"How're ya goin' mate?"*

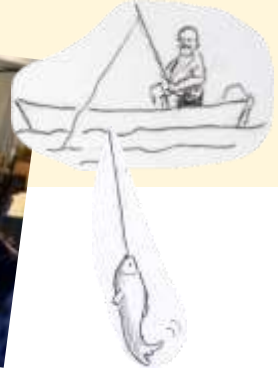
It doesn't take much to stay in touch ..... In this digital age, it's so easy.

Look after your mates.



**Seniors June Morning Tea** featured a Guess the Song quiz. Nick played many tunes new and old. It was fun guessing the song titles.

Morning tea was delicious and we were entertained with Don's hilarious Fishing Lines.



-- o-O-o--



The 3D jigsaw of New York City was an amazing piece!

**The July Seniors Bus Trip** to Puzzles on Yabba at Imbil was most enjoyable. There is something for the whole family. featuring the World's Biggest Puzzles, Glow in the Dark Room, 3D Puzzles, & much more.

Our trip included morning tea in the local park, was followed by a tour through the puzzles museum, then lunch at the historic Imbil Pub.

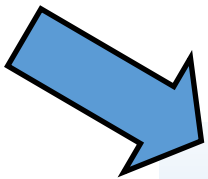
Feedback from those who travel on the Bi-monthly bus trips is always very positive. Plan to be on the next one!







*September  
Centrefold*



**Dates to Remember**

***5 September Bus Trip to Cooloola Berries***

***3 October Seniors Morning Tea***

***13 October Annual Sub Branch Dinner***

***1-11 Nov. Armistice Centenary Display***

***11 November Remembrance Day***

## ***Centenary of Armistice of World War One Exhibition***

In November the Sub Branch will mount an exhibition in the Cooroy Memorial Hall to commemorate those who served in the First World War and to mark the one hundredth anniversary of the Armistice in November 1918. The exhibition will be open to the public from the 1<sup>st</sup> November until Remembrance Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The exhibition will tell the story of the origin of the war, the history of Australia's involvement, with detail on those battles involving Australians

The exhibition will use a similar format to the exhibition held in 2016 to commemorate Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, and the Cooroy Pomona Sub Branch is expecting to receive a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs to cover some of the cost of the exhibition.

The story of the war will be told in A3 pages of photos, maps, and text, mounted on matte boards. About fifty of these boards will be displayed in the hall covering about 80 metres of display space.

There will be other displays on the history of the RAN in the war, and on soldiers of the Sunshine Coast who served at Gallipoli, on the Western Front, and with the Australian Light Horse.

A replica trench from the Western Front will be on display, as will uniforms and other memorabilia.

We will need as much support as possible from Sub Branch members to set up the display, to man it during the eleven days, and to pack it up at the conclusion. ***We ask all members to offer their service to help.***

Ian Whisker

### **Support for Carers**

**You don't have to do it on your own.**

**Help is available.**

**Support for Carers through Commonwealth  
Respite & Centrelink Centres ph. 1800 052 222**

**For information & additional carers' services for  
veterans & defence communities — contact  
Dept Veteran Affairs website [dva.gov.au/carers](http://dva.gov.au/carers)**

If you need emergency respite care outside  
standard business hours, phone 1800 059 059

Find out about access to Aged Care services for  
older people. Visit [myagedcare.gov.au](http://myagedcare.gov.au) or  
phone 1800 200 422



*What is respite care?*

*Respite care provides a carer with a break from their caring role. Respite care is provided by many services & organizations, & will vary according to the age & care needs of the person you care for, & where you live.*



**Do your medals need re-mounting?**

### **Medal Mounting Service**

Also available...

Replica Medals

Miniature Medals

Ribbon Bars

*For appointments*

**CONTACT... GREG**

**phone: 5482 9523 mb: 0408 829 520  
email: [luw@bigpond.com](mailto:luw@bigpond.com)**

## Miracle from World War 2

In 1943 a mid air collision on February between a B17 and a German fighter over Tunis dock area, became the subject of one of the most famous photographs of WW2. An enemy fighter attacking a 97th Bomb Group formation went out of control, probably with a wounded pilot, then continued its crashing descent into the rear of the fuselage of a Flying Fortress named "All American" piloted by Lt Kendrick R Bragg of 414th Bomb Squadron.

When it struck, the fighter broke apart, but left some pieces in the B17. The left horizontal stabilizer of the Fortress and the left elevator were completely torn away. The two right engines were out and one on the left had a serious oil pump leak. The vertical fin and the rudder had been damaged, the fuselage had been cut almost completely through, connected only at two small parts of the frame, and the radios, electrical and oxygen systems were damaged.

There was also a hole in the top that was over 16 ft long and four ft wide at its widest; the split in the fuselage went all the way to the top gunner's turret.

Although the tail actually bounced and swayed in the wind and twisted when the plane turned and all the control cables were severed, except one single elevator cable still worked, and the aircraft miraculously still flew!

The tail gunner was trapped because there was no floor connecting the tail to the rest of the plane. The waist and tail gunners used parts of the

1st German fighter and their own parachute harnesses in an attempt to keep the tail from ripping off and the two sides of the fuselage from splitting apart. While the crew was trying to keep the bomber from coming apart, the pilot continued on his bomb run and released his bomb over the target .

When the bomb bay doors were open, the wind turbulence was so great that it blew one of the tail gunners into the broken tail section. It took several minutes and four crew members to pass in ropes from parachutes and haul him back into the forward part of the plane. When they tried to do the same for the tail gunner the tail began flapping so hard that it began to break off.

The weight of the gunner was adding some stability to the tail section, so he went back to his position. The turn back toward England had to be very slow to keep the tail from twisting off. They actually covered almost 70 miles to make the turn home. The bomber was so badly damaged that it was losing altitude and speed and was soon alone in the sky.

For a brief time, two more Me109 German fighters attacked the "All American". Despite the extensive damage, all of the machine gunners were able to respond to these attacks and soon drove off the fighters. The two waist gunners stood up with their heads sticking out through the hole in the top of the fuselage to aim and fire their machine guns.

The tail gunner had to shoot in short bursts because the recoil was actually

causing the plane to turn.

Allied P-51 fighters intercepted the "All American" as it crossed over the channel, and took the pictures as shown. They also radioed to the base describing that the appendage was waving like a fish tail and that the plane would not make it and to send out boats to rescue the crew when they bailed out.

The fighters stayed with the fortress, taking hand signals from Lt Bragg and relaying them to the base. Lt Bragg signalled that 5 parachutes and the spare had been used so 5 of the crew could not bail out. He made the decision that if they could not bail out safely, then he would stay with the plane to land it.

Two and a half hours after being hit, the aircraft made its final turn to line up with the runway while it was still over 40 miles away. It descended into an emergency landing and a normal roll-out on its landing gear.

When the ambulance pulled alongside, it was waived off because not a single member of the crew had been injured. No one could believe that the aircraft could still fly in such a condition.

The Fortress sat placidly until the crew all exited through the door in the fuselage and the tail gunner had climbed down the ladder at which time they entire section of the aircraft collapsed.





Sub Branch

Annual Dinner

13 October 2018

6.30 for 7pm start

Dress, evening attire

Bookings essential  
at RSL reception

5447 6131

# Remembrance Day

**Sunday 11 November 2018**

**1040 Service at the Cenotaph**

**1100 Observe 1 minute of silence**

Join us after the commemoration

at the RSL Club for light refreshments

