



Cooroy Pomona RSL Sub Branch

December 2019

NEWSLETTER



EDITORIAL

Here we are at the end of another year and to put things in mild terms we've managed to pack an awful lot into just 12 months. We began with the change from Wide Bay Burnett District to Sunshine Coast District and while it was with a sense of sadness it would appear that the change has been for the best. There were changes that needed to be made for the Anzac Day events, and while there was some controversy the final outcome presented the best programme in many years. Other major events included Fusion, Long Tan Day, Remembrance Day, Dining In Night. All of these take time and considerable organizing.

In addition to the above, our usual daily and weekly programme of hospital and aged care visits, phone care service, monthly morning teas and bus trips, transport for medical and hospital appointments, as well as regular shopping trips, don't just 'happen'. Somebody needs to take responsibility for the arrangements. We've got a great team within the sub branch who work tirelessly to ensure that everything happens at the right time, on time. Every one involved in these programmes needs to be heartily congratulated for a wonderful effort! I know I've said it many times, more help would be hugely appreciated by the regulars who carry out this work. I'm sure there are some of our members who could spare a couple of hours each week to keep the strong reputation for which Cooroy Pomona RSL Sub Branch is known.

John Diprose

*The Sub Branch wishes all of our readers
A very Merry Christmas*



Veterans card/lapel pin/covenant officially launched



6 November 2019

The long-awaited and much talked about Veteran Card, lapel pin and covenant were officially launched last Sunday and will soon be distributed to all DVA-registered veterans as a practical demonstration of respect and recognition for their service.

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester officially launched the Veteran Card, which gives Australian business owners the opportunity to practically demonstrate thanks and respect for those who have served Australia in military uniform.

“Australian Defence Force veterans will be able to access thousands of special discounts as businesses across the nation say ‘thank you for your service’,” Mr Chester said.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Australians had a great deal of respect for those who served our nation in the uniforms of the Navy, Army and Air Force and, through the Veteran Card, veterans would have access to more than 10,000 offers from around 500 businesses, both over the counter and online.

“Much like the lapel pin gives everyday Australians the opportunity to recognise veterans and thank them for their service, the offers available through the veteran card allow the business community to show its thanks,” Mr Morrison said.

“The broader recognition package, which includes the Veterans Covenant, the lapel pin and card is a way each and every one of us, including the business community, can say to our veterans ‘thank you for your service’.”

More than 33,000 veterans and reservists have already applied and will begin receiving their covenant packs in coming days.

Mr Chester will launch the card at Pushys in Fyshwick this morning along with representatives from other participating businesses and Australian Partners of Defence – APOD – which is partnering with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to connect clients with the business community.

“Bringing corporate Australia on board will be a tangible benefit to the veteran community, with the card providing access to services and benefits for eligible veterans,” Mr Chester said.

“We are proud to be partnering with APOD — an organisation founded and run by veteran families for veteran families — to ensure veterans can easily find local businesses in their area that are showing that respect and recognition of their service.

“There are a wide range of businesses already participating, from retailers with hundreds of outlets Australia-wide through to veteran-owned and operated small businesses [including CONTACT, which received more than 400 new subscribers in the first two days, via its APOD listing, which is ‘TRENDING’ on the [APOD](#) web site].

“There is no set criteria for how businesses choose to show that respect and recognition, but I have no doubt we will see the numbers grow with more businesses supporting the covenant and veterans and their families have made.

“I encourage all businesses to get on board with the Australian Defence Veterans’ Covenant and show their respect and recognition for those who have served to defend our nation.”



Guest Speaker Janet Kake
Lighthorse Asscn.

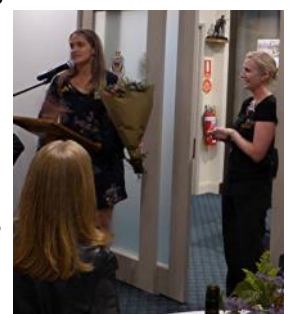


SUB BRANCH ANNUAL 'DINING IN NIGHT' 12 October 2019 It was a 'dress-up night' with all the baubles bangles & beads. The night began with sherry all around and we were then piped into the dining room by Don Drysdale of the Noosa Pipe Band. This was followed by a delectable 2 course meal ending with the official toasts of port. All those present agreed it was a great night out. If you didn't attend, you missed one of 2019's special events, so plan to be there next year.

The guest speaker on the night was Janet Kake who spoke not only about the local Lighthorse Regiment and the attention to detail required in preparation for all the ceremonial events they attend, her talk also included points of interest about choosing breeding and preparing horses for the Lighthorse. All in all, it was informative, interesting, and enjoyable.



Thanks to Leanne & the restaurant team for the catering of the sub branch functions.



"Membership Report"

Greg Holmes

We are doing our best in appealing to the local ex-service and still-serving men and women to support us by joining our local subbranch. It means so much to us by just being a member and we are fully aware that many members have families and work commitments that must come first. However, we do believe there are many areas where we can be of assistance to those needing it, including friendship.

All serving members of the A.D.F. are given free membership of the sub-branch and the club.

Now is the time to remind all ordinary members that 2020 membership renewals are now due (\$5.50) which gives you membership of both the sub-branch and club. Also, all life subscribers are reminded that your STATE RSL CARD is a permanent card and is only replaced when re-designed, lost or damaged. You will need to collect your club card from the club.

"Sayings for this Newsletter"

Harry S Truman was asked "Do all fairy tales begin with "Once upon a time?" to which he answered "No, many of them begin "If I am elected, I promise"

"You can't always choose the situation you find yourself in, but you can choose how you react to it"



Those who attended the Remembrance Day service may have noticed the fresh appearance of the Cenotaph area. Thanks to Denis Thompson & Peter Watt for their efforts to ensure that the flagpoles were not going to blow away in the next storm. Thanks also to Sue, Lorraine, Tricia & their team for maintenance on the pavement and gardens.

A GOOD JOB, WELL DONE!

"Welfare Report"

John Diprose

During the past month we have been obliged to rearrange our hospital, aged care visits and phone service because a number of our team have taken leave. However there is always someone available to fill the ranks to ensure we don't lose contact with our veterans and families. The President and Vice President also took the time to visit. The weekly phone call service continued and again a shuffle of members was all that was necessary. Thanks to all those members who contributed .

We visited 18 patients at Eden Rehab hospital and maintained contact with the 20 residents who form the basis of the visitation list at Kabara Aged Care Centre. Sadly, Stan Wood who has been a resident there for some time was farewelled at a casual gathering on Friday 8th November.

Frank Boulter also passed away in late September. He was remembered privately by his family. Frank was a regular at the veterans' morning teas and bus excursions , he had just celebrated his 98th birthday.

A number of our sub branch members attended the funeral service on Monday 11th November of Rosemary Scott, wife of Don Scott. .Our heartfelt condolences go to all those who have recently lost loved ones.

Don Scott recently uncovered a Vietnam Veteran, a local, who had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. As a result his circumstances had changed dramatically and he was doing it tough (to put it mildly). His wife is unable to work as she must be close by to care for him. The sub branch was able to offer financial support immediately. His cause was made know to District and State, and State is now supporting him to the point where his life is much more bearable. This fellow is not sub branch member **BUT HE IS A VETERAN**, and our obligation is to support all veterans and their families.

If any of our readers become aware of veterans who have fallen on hard times or simply just need a shoulder to lean on, please let someone from the sub branch know and we will do our utmost to support them.

Memorial Murals.

The sub branch has proposed a memorial to all the services, Army, Navy, Air Force, & Nurses, that will be displayed in the walkway between the RSL & the Memorial Hall. These will be formed in mosaic by a local Mosaic Artist Sue Hoskins and it is hoped to unveil the panels at the Sub Branch Centenary celebrations on 29 March 2020.

TRANSPORT TOPICS DECEMBER EDITION

Greetings fellow members,



Since our last newsletter the transport team has travelled 4515 kilometres, carried 247 passengers for a total of 264 volunteer hours on our medical, hospital, shopping, social and official duties. These trips ranged from Caloundra in the south to Gympie in the north, transporting our Service Widows, Veterans and the socially isolated in the community to their appointments and organised events.

The Christmas lights trip to see the district's lights will be on again this year departing the RSL club at 1830 and the planned return time is 2030 the dates are the 16 and 17 December, pickups from the Cooroy area will be available, bookings to be made at the clubs reception.

Sub branch transport will be closing down from the 19/12/2019 till the 06/01/2020. Some medical appointments may be available over this period subject to driver availability.

The transport team of Denis Thompson, John Dillon, Bob Else, Lindsay Kingston, Robin Taylor and Ron Nissen would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Cheers

Denis Thompson.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: Merry Christmas Members

Well here we are heading towards the end of the year again, it has certainly been a very busy year for our Sub Branch and executive team. Our move to the Sunshine Coast regional district has seen us be able to attend a lot more training's and have many resources at a closer hand. We are grateful to Wide Bay for allowing this move and thank them for all the years of supporting us.

Since our last newsletter we held our annual dining in night, which was a fabulous night, our guest speaker was very entertaining and will be back to join us for our 100 years celebration

I want to say a big Thank you to Peter and Thommo for all the work in removing, repairing and replacing the flag poles over at the cenotaph. They now look very professional and Sue and Lorraine have done a wonderful job weeding, feeding and mulching all the gardens. The Cenotaph area was looking very schmick for Remembrance Day.

On that note Thanks to all who were involved on Remembrance Day, I know we were light on volunteer numbers due to many of us attending the funeral of the late Rosie Scott, our Remembrance Day service was attended by over 100 people and was a great success with much positive feedback.

Our thoughts are with Don as we lead up this Christmas time of the year, and all who have lost loved ones near and far. Remember you are not alone and our sub branch is always here to help support our members, veterans and families at any time of the year.

We still have a busy few weeks left before we break for a little rest over the Christmas/New Year period.

By the time our next newsletter goes to print we will be well under way for our 100 year anniversary community day celebration, be sure to keep Sunday March 29th 2020 free to come along and help us remember and celebrate 100 years of establishment our Sub Branch and RSL in the Cooroy Pomona area.

I really want to emphasize how important all our volunteers are and I personally thank you all very much for any amount of time you have given during the year. We have an amazing sub branch and do many wonderful things in our community on top of all the work that is done for veterans and their families.

From Peter, Jo, Tom and myself we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. Stay safe and healthy.

Best Wishes,
Tricia Geelan

President



Floods....a thing of the past???





Photo: Alan Hardy



Photo: Alan Hardy



Photo: Alan Hardy

REMEMBRANCE DAY 11 NOVEMBER 2019 AT COOROY CENOTAPH GUEST SPEAKER PETER YATES

Do your medals need re-mounting?

Medal Mounting Service

Also available...

- Replica Medals
- Miniature Medals
- Ribbon Bars

CONTACT--- GREG

phone: 5482 9523 mb: 0408 829 520
email: luv@bigpond.com



All the local school students are now well aware of Australia's commemoration days and are able to conduct their own remembrance ceremonies. They love a visit to their school by a veteran and some were visited by our sub branch members. Every school in the district received poppies for Remembrance Day. The photograph shows students at Kin Kin Primary School conducting their service.

**Get your ANZAC DAY medals ready
Contact Greg NOW**

Bereavement payments Once DVA has been notified about the death of a pension recipient, depending on circumstances, bereavement payments may be payable. A bereavement payment is a one-off, non-taxable payment designed to help with the costs that may follow the death of a pensioner or member/former member. The bereavement payment available depends on whether the person's service is covered by the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) or the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA). There is no bereavement payment for those with service under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988* (DRCA).



December Centrefold



Sub Branch Seniors Bus Trip to Kev Franzí's Cinemaworks

Kenilworth



11 September 2019



Our bus trips over a number of years have covered a large area and a wide range of interests and just when we think we've been everywhere someone comes up with another area of interest such as Cinemaworks Movie Museum at Kenilworth as pictured above. The lunch on that occasion was enjoyed at Kenilworth Pub. It must have been a good day, judging by the number of sleepyheads on the return trip to Cooroy.

A BUS TRIP IS PLANNED FOR 5 FEBRUARY 2020, THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.

REMEMBER: Christmas in Cooroy Tree Lighting 6 December

7 December Street Parade at 4pm

Our Sub Branch will participate again. If you can help, contact

Peter 0431 548 461 or Denis 0418 638 814



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS BUS TOUR 16-17 DECEMBER

Book now at Reception 54476131

Sub Branch Seniors' November Bus Trip

The Honeyman and Peggy Sue's Diner

The Honeyman, sub branch member Jamie Whiteway, gave a fascinating presentation about his caring for his bees, to the processing of their honey. Everyone was given a tub of fresh honey to take home, with Jamie's compliments.



We then lunched at Peggy Sue's diner in Belli Park where 50's music played and 50's style food was on the menu, such as Big Orbie, Johnny O'Beef, Monroe Burger, & Chuck Barry.



Thanks to Jamie for managing the sub branch website.
We are now on facebook too!

Many thanks to the Club staff for assistance with printing
of the quarterly newsletters.



MEET A MEMBER



Scott Thureson Early Days: While I was still at school, my weekends and holidays were spent working with a plasterer. I also played Rugby League from the age of 7 for both club & school. My other sporting interest was swimming and I finished up training under Lawrie Lawrence before joining the military.

From the age of 16, I tried several times to enlist in the Army but without success. In July 1995 I registered with the recruiting office in Brisbane and having completed all the necessary requirements in education, medical, physical & psychological I passed with flying colours. I was too late however for acceptance in the July intake, and in October of 1995 I was accepted by the army and bussed to the 1RTB Kapooka for 12 weeks basic training.

There were 2 platoons that completed this training and we were transferred to IET at Singleton School of Infantry. In March 1996 I was transferred to Townsville to the 1st Battalion. I spent the next 6 years with the 1st as a lead scout perfecting my skills and conducting a number of specialist qualifications.

In 1998 D Company was sent to Malaysia Rifle Company Butterworth for 4 1/2 months. In 2000/2001, The battalion was then deployed to Timor for 6 1/2 months. The first three months of this deployment I was registered in a Pioneer platoon conducting patrols in a number of local villages, boat patrols, and from borders to Dili. We also carried out construction and maintenance of bases, ranges, schools, and roads. The second half of my Timor experience I was promoted to L/Cpl and sent to A Company conducting border posts and patrolling from village to village maintaining security. We also conducted a number of covert observation posts to gather intelligence, and I was finally discharged in 2009.

I struggled for a number of years after discharge going from job to job in civilian life until I came across an army mate who I had trained, and he was working very successfully as a Rope Access Tech. The excitement of this job appealed to me and I began to gain skills in the Rope Access area. From 2010—2015 I worked with a real sense of fulfillment until my shoulder and back began to suffer and I was forced to resign.

I needed help with DVA claims that I was working through and found non acceptance in several Gold Coast sub branches. I was encouraged to go to Helensvale sub branch where I found people who understood and were prepared to help with the claims. When I finally moved to the Sunshine Coast area, I found an advocate at Cooroy Pomona Sub Branch who helped me further and it was a place where I felt accepted. I've always been encouraged and supported here and am looking for ways to give back, and assist other veterans.

Equine Therapy was an invaluable part of my ongoing well-being, and I am now committed to working with horses, as an owner/trainer in the racing industry.

If you are aware of any young veterans who are struggling in civilian life please let them know that there is always a listening ear and a shoulder to lean on at Cooroy Pomona RSL Sub Branch.





Thirtieth Anniversary of the Berlin Wall opening

Ian Whisker

At the November meeting Ian Whisker passed around pieces of the Berlin Wall he had collected on a visit to both West and East Berlin in November 1989. His visit was a week after the East German government announced the lowering of restrictions on movement through the wall, which heralded the removal of the Berlin wall the following year.

Ian spoke about the stark difference between the two sides of the wall and the difference in living conditions. He also spoke about the joy of East German families as they crossed into West Berlin on the Saturday morning, and looked with amazement at the range of goods available in West German shops. The West German government had given each family 100 Marks [about 180 US dollars] to spend in the shops that day.

COOROY POMONA RSL SUB BRANCH

100th YEAR ANNIVERSARY of the forming of the Cooroy RSL Sub-Branch in 1920

Sunday 29 March 2020 9am to 3pm

**Army Band, Noosa Pipe Band, Noosa Chorale,
Face Painting, Lighthouse Display, & other
community groups**

**Nambour Red Cross display, Vintage cars &
items of historical interest, Lions BBQ,**

Guest Speakers : National & Local Identities

Plan to celebrate with us on the day

ATTENTION

ATTENTION

ATTENTION

ATTENTION ALL SUB BRANCH MEMBERS

SUB BRANCH

AGM

NOTE THE CHANGES

Thursday 13 February 2020

4pm sharp

At the RSL Club Cooroy

The AGM will be followed by the
Monthly Sub Branch Meeting