



## Cooroy Pomona RSL Sub Branch

March 2020



# NEWSLETTER

### From the President

Welcome to 2020 and it is great to see so many members attending our AGM, there will be a monthly Sub Branch meeting directly afterwards.

2019 saw us hold our commemorative events throughout the year, all our ceremonial activities were well attended and very successful. This extends to our Widows lunch and Dining In night, both of which were great events. Be sure to join us this year again.

Our move from Wide Bay district to Sunshine Coast Regional district was an easy transition and we thank WBBB for all their support over the years and for helping us with this move. The SCRDB have been very supportive and welcoming to our Sub Branch and we have had easier access with training and assistance at closer proximity for our members.

Our weekly raffles have continued in the Cooroy RSL and we thank the club. and all those members of the club who continued to support us and have given us a successful year for raffle sales.

Our small volunteer team has clocked up over 5000 hours in the last 12 months, we should be very proud of the effort from our team.

We still have a base of around 40 Veterans and widows that we contact to check on their health and welfare and also to visit on a weekly basis.

We have helped a veteran with some home maintenance and also another couple with food vouchers, also bought some walking frames for our elderly members.

Donations have been made to many local community groups from the RFS to meals on wheels and many more.

2020 sees us commemorate our 100<sup>th</sup> year since establishment in the district, as you will know by now we have our community day on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March from 9am till 3pm. I hope to see as many of our members involved and not only helping out but attending this day to say Thank you to our community.

On behalf of Ex Servicemen, women, and the local community, I sincerely thank the league and non-league members who have generously given their time this last year, to actively support the objectives of the league. We are losing members due to age and illness far too quickly.

2020 is going to be another busy year and we need as many volunteers to help, any amount of time you can share is much appreciated.

Regards Patricia

President Cooroy Pomona RSL Sub Branch

## *Centenary Celebrations*

*29 March 9am—3pm*



*100 years serving the veteran community in Cooroy & District*

The year provided a satisfactory result although we were faced with unnecessary problems in Oct/Nov/Dec caused by the introduction of a new computer programme.

**The successful issues for membership in 2019 were:**

- The very strong support we received from our local newspaper
- The excellent systems we have in place with our club
- The strong support of our committee and members
- The genuine support from Peter Jones – State Membership
- The success of our new concept – ‘Meet a Member’

**The disturbing issues were:**

- The reluctance of some to renew their memberships

We have endeavoured to find out the reasons why the reluctance to renew but get no reason that helps us to determine if there is a fault on our part. If so, what we can do to remedy the situation. What we are sure of though, is that many hours are voluntarily given to carry out our duties in terms of the RSL Mission Statement.

**Member Details**

Life Members	2
Life Subscribers	82
Ordinary Members	167
Associate Members	1
Non-League Members	<u>6</u>

**Total Membership**

**31/12/2019                      258**

**Member Movement During 2019**

**Total Members 31/12/2018    254**

**Add**

New Members	22	
Transfers In	4	
Re-joined	<u>14</u>	<u>40</u>

**Less    294**

Deceased	9	
Transfers Out	6	
Did not Renew	<u>21</u>	<u>36</u>

**258**

***Finally: From Greg Holmes, Membership***

A big Thanks must go to My Club Assistant Kerry Gollagher, Club Manager Helen Hollingworth, Club Staff Leanne White, Shanae Ruster & Shay Smith for their continued support and determination to give all our members the best of courtesy & attention.

Good afternoon fellow members,  
Here are the usage rates and expenses incurred by your transport team for the above period.

**KIA CARNIVAL**

**DISTANCE TRAVELLED : 15616 KILOMETRES**

PASSENGERS CARRIED : 430

DRIVER HOURS : 944.2

EXPENCES : \$4367.78

**TOYOTA HI ACE**

DISTANCE TRAVELLED : 11296 KILOMETRES

PASSENGERS CARRIED : 880

DRIVER HOURS : 779.3

EXPENSES : \$7516.24 ( SMASH REPAIR EXCESS OF \$3.000 PAID FOR REPAIRS CAUSED BY UNKNOWN MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HITTING OUR VEHICLE ON 2 SEPARATE OCCASIONS)

**TOTALS**

DISTANCE TRAVELLED : 26912 KILOMETRES

PASSENGERS CARRIED : 1310

DRIVER HOURS : 1723.5

EXPENCES : \$11884.02

These figures were achieved by the transport team of John Dillon , Bob Else , Robin Taylor , Lindsay Kingston , Ron Nissen and Denis Thompson assisting our service widows, veterans, sub branch members and the elderly in our community with transport for medicals to local doctors, specialists and hospitals in our area. Shopping trips to Cooroy, Gympie, Kawana, Noosa and Maroochydore. Social outings to various places, plus the transport is used for official duties, meetings, training courses and the setup and organisation for Anzac Day, Remembrance Day etc.

Thanks for your support through the year and at the AGM.    Denis Thompson.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE-  
NOW OVERDUE    \$5.50**

**MUST BE PAID BY 7 MARCH**

**If your membership lapses you  
will then need to present your  
service records for re-application**

## PENSIONS ANNUAL REPORT 2019

2019 has been a year where both Thommo and myself have stepped back from advocacy duties due to personal reasons. However, we are still both actively working on finalising the claims we have in the system.

Thommo has been working on submitting claims for the worsening of accepted conditions and I have been conducting appeals for rejected claims with the veterans review board.

Although Thommo and I will no longer be submitting any new claims to DVA, we can help veterans that need assistance to gather the appropriate documentation that they need to ensure that their claims have a speedy pathway through the DVA system when they approach an advocate for assistance.

The advocacy training development program (ATDP) that governs the training of advocates has plans to introduce a central number for veterans to call who require advocacy assistance. The veteran will then be given the phone number of an advocate near their location who they can contact for assistance. Also, Thommo and I may suggest an advocate that can help them. So no veteran will be disadvantaged by Thommo's and my ceasing our advocacy roles.

I am sure that I can speak for Thommo when I say that when dealing with DVA on behalf of veterans we have both experienced stimulation, immense frustration and satisfaction when assisting veterans with their disability claims.

The most important message a veteran needs to remember is that if a medical or mental health condition can be related to their service then they must be compensated for that condition.

Gary Manton

L2 Advocate

## COMMEMORATIONS REPORT 2019

John Zupp is the elected Sub Branch representative who handles matters relating to remembrance, commemoration, and plaques for individual deceased service members. He has submitted a lengthy report detailing requests for plaques etc which contains some personal information about families in our Sub Branch. Therefore I won't submit his report in detail but have chosen to take excerpts from it which will indicate the excellent work John has done over the past twelve months.

John is currently working with 9 families to gain the correct information for the deceased veterans. Two of these go back several years and he is finding some difficulty in gathering the correct information for the plaques.

You may remember the 'Adopt a Digger' programme we ran in conjunction with local schools. As a result of this programme John has received one request for the placement of a plaque.

From time to time John needs information relating to historic claims and his thanks go to Ron & Betty Sutton for their assistance in some of these matters.

He has also received requests from members who wish to reserve placement either in the Columbarium or the Garden of Remembrance and these are being attended to.

If any of our members wish to reserve a niche, contact John Zupp via the Club reception 5447 6131, and he will capably attend to these reservations.

John Zupp



**EDITORIAL** Welcome to 2020. I do hope this is going to be a great year for everyone. A lot has happened since our last newsletter... Meet A Member Morning Tea, Christmas in Cooroy, Lighting the Christmas Tree, Seniors' Christmas Morning Tea, Sub Branch Christmas Luncheon, a short break and then the Sub Branch AGM. The day was changed this time to Thursday afternoon in order to accommodate more members, the attendance being about 30. Our Executive for the next 12 months will be Patricia Geelan President, Jo Dyce Secretary, Tom Hobday Treasurer, & Peter Watts Vice President, and I ask you all to support them as much as you possibly can. Their workload has increased dramatically because of new governance requirements by both Government, and State RSL. We've got a year ahead of us packed with events, the first one being Centenary Celebration of Cooroy RSSILA, at the end of March. See more details on the back page. We are still looking to grow our membership and in particular we would like to see more younger members fill the ranks. So if you are aware of anyone who fits this category please invite them to join **our Sub Branch**. Thank you... *John Dirose Editor*

## WELFARE REPORT FROM AGM 13 FEBRUARY 2020

2019 proved to be a year of change, beginning with major modifications to the training process. These changes left the volunteer Pensions and Welfare team feeling somewhat overwhelmed, frustrated and even just a bit “not wanted.” It necessitated everyone undertaking a compulsory new training programme even though half of the team was well qualified under the old scheme, and experienced in pensions and welfare matters. Most of our trained people made the decision to opt out which meant that Cooroy Pomona Sub Branch was left with no members able to legitimately and legally offer clients the advice they needed to make claims, give advice on Pension matters or give direction to those seeking guidance to sort out welfare matters. Such inquiries are now passed on to three paid PAWS staff at district level. In spite of this our PAWS team has stuck together and we endeavour to make the lives of our veterans a little easier through social integration.

**Phone Contact** Every week begins with two of the team making contact with forty to fifty veterans, widows and families to ensure that all is well with them and keep them up to date with issues and happenings within the Sub Branch. This is often just a social chat and sometimes necessitates a personal home visit to offer assistance when needed. If you become aware of veterans and/or families within the Cooroy Pomona district who are shut in, isolated or need assistance let our Sub Branch executive or PAWS team know and we will make contact. First point of contact RSL Club 5447 6131

**Aged Care Visits** It is always a delight to call on residents at Kabara Aged Care facility and sometimes Caramar Aged Care. These residents always look forward to our visits and chats and I have to admit that it's not all one way, We enjoy the contact too and we tend to make strong friendships with some. During the past twelve months members of our team have made five hundred and seventy one visits and sadly we've said farewell to six.

**Hospital Visits** A number of members and families were visited in Noosa, Nambour, Buderim, S.C. University Hospital and of course as mentioned in Transport Report there were numerous responses for travel assistance.

We have also made one hundred and seventy six calls on patients recovering from operations, stroke, heart attacks, at Eden Rehabilitation Hospital. All of these patients are veterans, widows of veterans or family members. They're not from Cooroy / Pomona district alone, but from places all over south east Queensland. These patients are all most appreciative of the visit as family is often far away.

**Outings and morning teas** On the first Wednesday of each month the Welfare team conducts an event, A bus trip to some place of interest in the district, then each alternate month a morning tea where the seniors enjoy trivia, music quizzes, singo's or just a coffee and scone with a chat and a bit of nonsense. These events are an ideal way to enjoy good company and help prevent boredom

**Welfare home and emergency response** There is always emergency funding available for those veterans and families who fall on hard times through illness, job loss, family break down etc., and our Sub Branch was able to respond to several calls for help during the year. In one or two instances we were able to offer immediate assistance and refer the matter to district and state who helped with longer term assistance  
John Diprose

VALE:

*Len Highland,  
Henry Thompson,  
Bill Edwards OAM  
Teddy Fitzgerald  
Joan Boyce,*



Here's one for the Geeks & Nerds  
Megabyte, Gigabyte, Terebyte, Petabyte, what comes next?

Answer: Exabyte



# ANZAC DAY

Saturday 25 April 2020

photo courtesy Vern Johnston

## Dawn Service

4.45am for 5 am start

at the Cenotaph Diamond St Cooroy

Gunfire Breakfast 6am at Cooroy RSL

March form up 10.15am at Butter Factory

step off at 10.30am

Memorial Service in Memorial Hall



after the march

*Lest We Forget*



Two Up in the hall after lunch

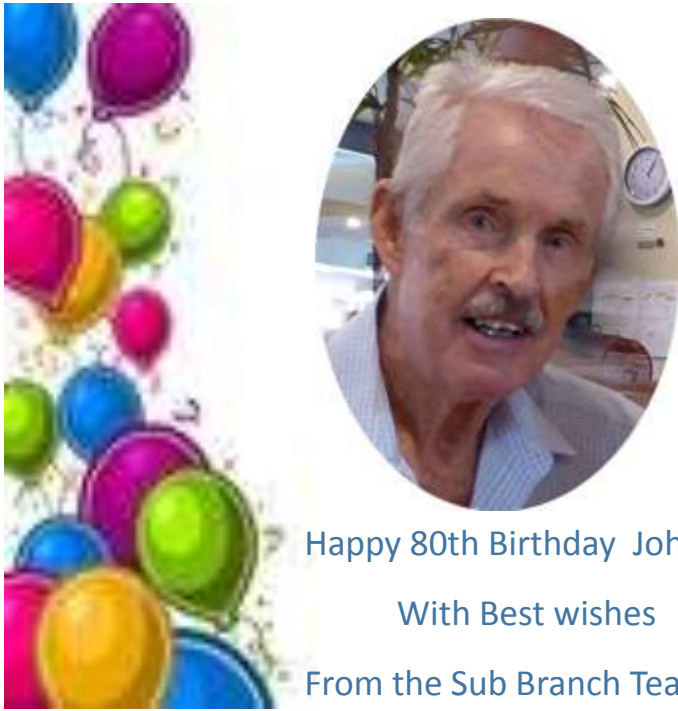
### FORMATION OF COOROY RSL SUB BRANCH Gympie Times 29-03-1919

A meeting of the local returned soldiers was held on Thursday night when Mr J Webber presided. It was decided to form a sub branch at Cooroy to include the Tewantin district. The meeting adjourned to allow further information to be obtained from Brisbane.

Brisbane Courier 13 April 1920      Cooroy April 12th

A well attended meeting of returned soldiers and district was held at Cooroy last Thursday when a **Cooroy Branch of the RSSILA was formed**. Mr W J Best, Cooroy, was elected President and Mr V Dunbar Secretary.

The necessary approval of the State Executive is being sought ( formed 6 April 1920) The meeting had decided that the idea of the whole of Noosa Shire sub branch was too unwieldy to be effective. The activities of the sub branch now centred at COOROY WITH ITS OWN Sub Branch affiliated with the Brisbane District.



Happy 80th Birthday John,  
With Best wishes  
From the Sub Branch Team



Scottie trying to get John, the Editor, hooked on fishing. He can't go fishing.....he's needed for the newsletters!

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE CLUB STAFF FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE  
IN PREPARATION & PRINTING OF THE NEWSLETTER



The inaugural 'Meet a Member' Morning Tea was held on a Saturday morning in November. Feedback from the 60 or so members who attended indicated it was a great success and achieved the intentions to meet new members, renew acquaintances with old ones, and encourage new young members to get involved.

You can see from the photographs that the RSL image is changing and younger ex-service personnel, both male and female, are taking part.

How much longer will 'the old dudes' be around? We really do need the involvement of younger veterans to keep up the support of all veterans.

**YOU WILL BE ADVISED OF THE NEXT 'MEET A MEMBER' MORNING TEA EXPECTED TO BE IN MAY.**

## Meet a member morning tea

30 November 2019





March Centrefold



## In memory of brothers who served in WWI

Have you seen the recent movie “1917”? Although the screenplay is fictitious it has been influenced on the war experience of Alfred Mendes, the Director, Sam Mendes’ paternal grandfather. Like Russell Crowe’s movie “The Water Diviner”, both these movies are a reminder to us of the sacrifice families endured sending their sons to war. I have read one account where a French family of 18 children, saw at least 10 sons go to war with only 4 returning.

In a brief account of my tour to the Western Front in 2018, I wrote about my own ancestors two brothers Pte Arthur Penna and Cpl Herbert Penna, who were both killed in action at different times and places. Arthur’s body has never been found and so he is listed on the memorial wall at the Menin Gate along with over 50,000 others who died near Ypres and never been found. Herbert is buried at the British Borre Cemetery. It is estimated in Australia that there are 2800 pairs of brothers who died in WWI. Do you know of any family members, or families in the Cooroy-Pomona area, who could be added to this list?

I am so passionate about the Brothers in Arms Memorial project and want to share the story of the Hunter brothers, and how you can assist The Brothers in Arms Memorial project in Belgium and the Australian Division of the project, with the aim to create a register of all Australian brothers who were lost to the Great War.

It all started with what is known as the Zonnebeke Five. During road works in the hamlet of Westhoek (Belgium) in 2006, laying a new gas pipe line, Tom Heyman, operating the machine, suddenly stops digging and calls Johan Vandewalle, an amateur archaeologist. Tom is convinced that he has found human remains just aside the road.

After clearing the first grave, they notice another grave just next to the first one, and then another, and another, and another. In total 5 Australian soldiers were exhumed. The last body to be removed, through DNA testing, a year later, was confirmed to be Pte John Hunter 3504 from Nanango, Qld. In 2007 a remarkable story unfolded, told by John’s ancestors, John’s brother Jim had buried his own brother, carefully wrapping his brother in a ground sheet and laid pointing toward home to Australia. After the war ended in 1918, Jim went to search for his brother to bring him home, however the burial position was not recognised so his brother could not be found.

The story of the Hunter brothers made Johan, also café owner of Café de Dreve think about other sets of brothers who experienced a similar fate. Together with a team of WWI enthusiasts, he started digging in the history looking for other brothers that were killed in the war. And the team soon realized there were so many other family tragedies, brothers lost to the WWI. Johan’s vision of a memorial park located in the battlefields of Belgium was borne and aims to reunite their souls and to honour the thousands of families who experienced multiple losses in WWI from around the world. Johan’s vision continues to be realised since first creating a not for profit association and raising awareness at his café with a miniature replica of the Brothers in Arms Statue.

Recent events to the Brothers in Arms Memorial project is the creation of the Australian Division of Johan’s vision. The Brothers In Arms Memorial Project Australia Incorporated is dedicated to Australian brothers who served and died in World War I. The Australian Division of the project have two commitments to fulfil:

1. Assisting in the completion of Stage 2 of the Memorial Park in Belgium, in the delivery of the Hunter brothers bronze sculpture which is currently being crafted in Melbourne by reknown Australian sculptor Louis Laumen. It is due to for delivery to Belgium later in the year for an anticipated unveiling in November 2020.
2. Consolidate a register of the Australian brothers and immediate family members who died as a result of WWI. There are currently 800 families registered with close to 1700 names with many more still to be identified.

If you would like more information on the Brothers in Arms Project you can go to the website <https://brothersinarmsmemorial.org/wp/story/> For more information on the Brothers In Arms Memorial Project Australia Incorporated go to Face book or Instagram ‘Brothers in Arms Memorial Project – Australia’ you can also e-mail the research team at: [brothersinarms.mp.aus@gmail.com](mailto:brothersinarms.mp.aus@gmail.com) to ensure that your relatives are honoured in this remarkable project.

Donations to the Brothers in Arms Memorial Project:

BSB: 013-332 Acc: 474005508 Brothers in Arms Memorial Park Australia Incorporated

Be sure when visiting the Western Front you visit Johan and the Brothers in Arms Memorial, at Café and Museum De Dreve, Lange Dreve 16, 8980 Zonnebeke

**Melissa Roberts 0413733482**



You may recall in our December 2018 newsletter the account by one of our Members Melissa Roberts and her husband Brett who laid a wreath on behalf of Cooroy Pomona Sub Branch in Villers Bretonneux. In that report Melissa talked about multiple family members who lost their lives on the Western Front in WW1. These are photos of the Brothers In Arms project that she referred to in her report.



Photos courtesy of Brothers in Arms Australia Division



**BANK: ANZ**  
**BSB: 013-332**  
**ACCT NO: 474005508**

BROTHERS IN ARMS MEMORIAL PARK AUSTRALIA  
 INCORPORATED

*Reuniting their souls*

1. Archaeologist exhuming the bodies
2. Memorial Service
3. Artist's impression of proposed Memorial
- 4 John Vanderwall with photo of Hunter brothers & miniature replica
- 5 Australian Louis Laumen with clay model
6. Proposed Memorial
7. Bronze miniature replica





## MEDIA STATEMENT

### ADSO WELCOMES APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONER INTO VETERANS SUICIDES

There have been many inquiries and studies into the suicide among Veterans and their mental health and wellbeing. The 2016 Senate FADT Committee Inquiry *"The Constant Battle: Suicide by Veterans"* has become the benchmark or trigger for action by the Government. Out of that Inquiry have been positive initiatives such as a new Veteran Mental Health Strategy and a National Action Plan on Veterans' mental health, wellbeing and suicide prevention. Sadly, the suicide among Veterans who have transitioned from the ADF continues.

The Prime Minister, after lengthy consideration yesterday announced two major steps in the fight against the scourge of veteran suicide and support for the mental health and wellbeing of current and former ADF personnel. The group of 18 ex-service Associations that make up the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO)<sup>1</sup> welcomes the Prime Minister's announcement that he would appoint an independent National Commissioner for Defence and Suicide Prevention tasked to investigate cases of suicide not only in the veteran community but also among serving ADF members. Also, the appointment of a Veteran Family Advocate tasked with placing families at the heart of policy and decision-making promoting better health outcomes for Veterans and reducing the risk of suicide. Both appointees must work hand in glove if the scourge is to stop.

Speaking on ADSO's behalf, its National Spokesman, Kel Ryan, congratulated the Prime Minister for this positive step forward in the search for answers to the tragedy of Veteran suicide. He submitted that:

- a. "The mental health and wellbeing of transitioning veterans is impacted by financial distress, homelessness, incarceration which sometimes leading to veteran suicide";
- b. "It was important that the appointed National Commissioner and Family Advocate looks at the entire spectrum of inter-related and complex issues which impact on the well-being of veterans and their families;
- c. "The true impact of the transition process from military service to civilian life demands urgent attention".

ADSO views the appointments of an independent Commissioner and a Veteran Family Advocate as a new chapter in the care of Veterans and their families who served the nation's bidding. They are a positive step in the march to stop the scourge of Veteran suicide.

ADSO looks forward to working closely with each appointment on initiatives to improve Veterans' mental health.

<i>Contacts</i>		
<b>ADSO Campaign Co Directors</b> Ted Chitham (0418) 733 887 Alf Jaugietis (0438) 282 284	<a href="http://adso.org.au/">http://adso.org.au/</a>	<b>ADSO National Spokesman</b> Kel Ryan (0418) 759 120

<sup>1</sup> ADSO comprises The Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA), Naval Association of Australia (NAA), RAAF Association (RAAFA), Royal Australian Regiment Corporation (RARC), Australian Special Air Service Association (ASASA), Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA), the Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Service Men and Women, the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia, Partners of Veterans Association of Australia, Royal Australian Armoured Corps Corporation (RAACC), the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia (NMBVAA), Defence Reserves Association (DRA), Australian Gulf War Veterans Association, Australian Commando Association, the War Widows Guild of Australia, Military Police Association Australia (MPAA), the Australian Army Apprentices Association, the Women Veterans Network, and the Combat Support Association.

#### **HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND Sunday 15 March South Pacific Resort Noosaville 8.30 to 3 (with lunch included)**

Tewantin RSL Sub Branch presents A FREE information forum for veterans, first responders, and their partners. The day is for Veterans and First Responders of all ages and service history who may be facing health challenges whether that be physical emotional or psychological. Speakers include **Kelly Brown** psychologist from Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation will talk on trauma history, causes & individual effects.....**Damien Stewart** sport & exercise psychologist, ex Qld & Federal Police Officer will address chronic pain & injury management.....**Dietitians from fuelyourlife** presenting on balanced eating strategies and the impact of good nutrition on mental health.....**Andrew Feichter** local pharmacist speaking on current drug treatment therapies & general veteran's support.....

**Tim Thomas** "Commando in Your Corner" ex Special Forces will speak on Mind Body connection & personal motivation.....representatives from **DVA and Open Arms** will be on hand to provide literature. To register contact Tewantin Noosa RSL Sub Branch on 5447 1981 or visit the Sub Branch website or Facebook

**Get your medals mounted  
NOW,  
in time for ANZAC Day**



Do your medals need remounting?  
**MEDAL MOUNTING SERVICE**

**Also available:**

**Replica Medals**

**Miniature Medals**

**Ribbon Bars**

Contact Greg

Ph. 5482 9523 mb. 0408 829 520  
email :luw@bigpond.com



**The Sub Branch library contains a wide  
range of military books for members to  
borrow and enjoy.**



If you see this man around the club shake his hand and say "G'day John". His name is John Panton & he has agreed to update our library records in order to facilitate access and the recording of books 'borrowed and returned'.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS March—June 2020

Thursday 12 March Sub Branch meeting — 4 pm at RSL Club

Sunday 29 March Centenary Celebrations — 9am to 3pm

Thursday 9 April Sub Branch Meeting — 4pm at RSL Club

Saturday 25 April ANZAC Day — 4.55am to 4.55pm ???

Saturday 9 May Cooroy Fusion — 9am to 3pm

Saturday 13 June Service Widows' Luncheon — 11.30am to 2pm

1st Wednesday every month — alternating morning teas and bus trips

**MARK THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW**



*Cooroy Pomona RSL Sub Branch*

# *Celebrating the Centenary*

*Cooroy* **RSSILA** *1920*

29 March 2020

9am—3pm at the RSL precinct



*100 years serving the veteran community of Cooroy & District*