



# Newsletter

## Cooroy Pomona R.S.L. Sub Branch

### June 2018

#### *From the Editor John Diprose:*

55 years ago the renowned singer songwriter Bob Dylan wrote 'Times They Are a-Changin''. And here we are now in 2018 expressing the same view. There's been change in almost every area of our lives since then.

Probably one of the greatest areas of change has been in security, as we've seen horrific incidents of violence all over the world.

In Australia (the Lucky Country) we've experienced little of this and perhaps it is because the authorities have been very proactive to ensure our safety and security.

Here in Cooroy we were alerted to the need for due diligence in the security area prior to the ANZAC activities and while most of you were unaware of the measures taken, be assured that the safety of everyone participating in these events was of paramount importance to us at Cooroy Pomona RSL Sub Branch.

All of the events, including visits to every school in the district, services at hospitals & aged care facilities and of course everything that occurred on ANZAC Day, went off without a hitch, and we are happy to report that feedback has been "best yet".

Thank you for all the positive comments on our past newsletters, but I must confess that I cannot accept all these accolades alone as my wife Beth has been a major and valued contributor with her efforts particularly with the graphics.

Read on.....and enjoy.

#### *From the Sub Branch President Tricia Geelan:*

Hello again fellow Sub Branch members, what a busy 3 months it has been since my last report.



Anzac Day was a great success from my point of view, and with all the feedback we received. So I would like to say a very big Thank you to all involved throughout the day and all the planning that takes place. Talks are under way for next year already so please if you have any feedback/ideas at all please pass it onto our Secretary Jo for input at our next meeting.

After Anzac day, we then got onto the business of our charitable donations and had an evening of presenting some cheque's to local community groups. This was wonderful to see how grateful they were for our kind donations.

Cooroy Fusion was a great day for some PR work again this year, the weather was perfect and Thanks again to the volunteers who took time out to help man the stall.

Unfortunately, we have had two retirements from the sub branch, Don Scott from Welfare & Heather Ford from Merchandise. They have both contributed lots over the years and we are sad to see them go from these roles and wish them all the best with their new-found time.

Again, our welfare team are doing a fabulous job visiting our veterans each week and keeping them in touch with all our happenings, sadly we have lost a few older members in the last couple of months and this is felt right across the team, and in turn keeping our commemorations team busy.

Our meetings are going well at 4pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, so please come along and join us, we are looking for more members and ideas on how to keep things happening for all our membership base. Everybody is Welcome.

The Service widows luncheon is coming up on 16<sup>th</sup> June and will be followed closely by Vietnam Veterans day on 18<sup>th</sup> August. Don't forget to pop 13<sup>th</sup> October in your diary for our annual Sub Branch Dinner.

As the weather is cooling down I wish you all good health and happiness till next time.



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

**Advocacy News**

I am writing to advise you of the 1 May 2018 commencement of two new measures designed to benefit veterans and their families. These measures were announced last year and have been mentioned during a recent meeting of the Ex-Service Organisation Round Table.

Veteran Payment

As part of DVA's commitment to improving access to services for veterans and their families, the new Veteran Payment is now available to eligible individuals and their partners. This payment provides interim financial support to veterans who cannot work or support themselves while they await liability decisions on claims for mental health conditions under either the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) or the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988* (DRCA).

Extended Family Support Package

The Family Support Package is designed to extend family support under the MRCA for veterans and their families. There are two distinct groups that will benefit from this initiative: eligible veterans and their families, and eligible spouse or partner of deceased veterans. This initiative will provide guidance and financial support to alleviate pressures when needed the most. The time-limited support available include expanded childcare funding, additional counselling services and eligible widow(er)s will be entitled to home help.

I have enclosed DVA Factsheets which provide more information on these measures, including eligibility and payment details. If you have further questions or would like additional information, please contact the Department.

I ask that you please convey this information to members of your organisation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Spiers', written in a cursive style.

**Carolyn Spiers**  
A/g First Assistant Secretary  
Rehabilitation and Support Division  
11 May 2018

If any of our Sub Branch members need further information on the above subject, please contact one of our Pensions or Welfare officers.

Initial contact can be made by phoning RSL Club reception on 5447 6131

## TRANSPORT TOPICS

MAY 2018

Welcome to our May Newsletter since the last newsletter in March your transport team has carried 274 people, travelled 5559 kilometres and the drivers have logged 366 volunteer hours on our regular trips plus over this period we had Anzac Day and the delayed trip for our widows and veterans to Gympie organised by Don Scott.

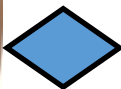
The widows lunch will be held in June please inform the Sub branch of your transport requirements when you receive your invitation.

The Sub branch has set aside money for the replacement of our vehicles and at the present time the amount of \$8000 for the Toyota Hi ace and \$4000 for the Kia is in the kitty.

Happy Trails

Denis Thompson

Transport Co Ordinator.



## Hospital Happenings

Visits to hospitals and aged care facilities continue on a regular basis. The residents in Kabara look forward to a little visit from the RSL every Monday afternoon. Since the last newsletter we celebrated Easter and a small Easter gift was given to the residents that we visit. Thanks once again to Kathy Kershaw who made them up making them look very nice. Well received by the recipients. Sadly our numbers were decreased by the passing of Stuie Leitch, Ted Drescher and Jim Dunstan. The sub branch provided a poppy service at Stuie and Jim's funeral. Ted's was a private family affair. A joyous occasion just prior to Jim's death was his birthday marking a century of life which was attended by a delegation from the sub branch plus a large group including family and community members. He was very proud of the card he received from the Queen. Anzac Day was next with Henry Thompson making the effort to attend the Dawn Service. A couple of other residents expressed an interest in attending the mid morning service but were too unwell to attend. Judy Phillips did and said she had a lovely time.

Greg Dyce has been looking after the visits to Eden Rehabilitation Hospital with good reports coming back about the excellent care they receive in this facility. All are offered help if they need it. We carried out an Anzac Day Ceremony on the twenty fourth of April and this was appreciated by the veterans and patients alike as they were unable to attend a service on the actual day.

The Monday morning phone calls keep us in touch with Veterans, Widows and some elderly residents in the community. This valuable service lets us know of any issues or problems they might be experiencing. It is a great conduit for informing them of upcoming events that they may be interested in. At the very least it provides a chance for a chat that they may not otherwise have.

The RSL community lost another couple of members just recently with the passing of Lawrie Ramm, Kennedy McGrath and Don Blaik. They were well known around the Club and Don used to help out with sales of memorabilia prior to our commemoration days. All had RSL poppy services provided by the Sub Branch.

If you do know of anyone who is in Hospital or is expecting to be, please inform the sub branch so we can organise some visits. Some of our members benefitted from this just recently when they were in Noosa Hospital, Sunshine Coast University Hospital and the adjacent Private Hospital. All it takes is a message so we know where they are.

Until next time stay in good health.

Tony Kershaw





## Social Events March—May

You will all be aware by now that the first Wednesday of every month has been allocated to either a morning tea or a bus trip for the seniors . Our March event was a morning tea and as you can see in the photos above it was a pretty light-hearted affair, but it wasn't the fancy dress that captured the imagination, it was the tea and coffee with scone or muffin that was the real enjoyment.

Unfortunately the planned bus trip for April was cancelled because of inclement weather., but was substituted the following month with a trip to Gympie Gold Museum. This was enjoyed by everyone and I must comment that if you haven't spent some time at this museum then you are really missing something worthwhile. While everyone enjoyed the exhibits of the museum, our lunch at Gunubul Homestead really topped off the day.

Our next event will be morning tea at RSL Club Cooroy on 6 June at 10am. You are all invited to come for a really enjoyable morning with *fun, food and friendship.*



**A tribute to Don's hard work:** For a number of years now Don has been the instigator and organizer of our monthly events, as well as his tireless work as a Welfare Officer. The smell of salt water and the sound of outboard motors has finally got the better of him and he has decided to back off some of his Welfare activities. He assures us though that we'll still see him from time to time.

The Returned & Services League of Australis  
Queensland Branch

Cooroy Pomona Sub Branch Inc

Membership Report

Our membership reached a record of 274 before adjusted of 29 needed to be made for 8 deceased and 21 members who did not renew their membership for 2018.

Our membership now stands at 242 after 3 more members passed away. The 21 comprises of 2 lost (without a trace), 4 who could not or did not wish to renew 15: almost all were contacted and not one had any criticism of our Sub Branch and although stating they were renewing, have not done so. We are having difficulty in understanding why the non-renewals have occurred. Surely it's not the cost of \$5.50. This gives dual membership of the Sub Branch and the Club and all the benefits involved. Maybe our reader/members might like to offer us suggestions.

As you know, Jim Dunstan passed away on 25/04/2018 aged 100.

Years ago when we played golf together I asked Jim for a couple of poems we could one day put in to our newsletters. Here is the first.



Greg Holmes  
Membership

**OLD AGE—MILESTONE NOT MILLSTONE**

Scientists say the aged are happier, I'd say we are more content,  
Although your treasured Get-up-and-go has now Got-up-and-went!!!  
Old age is in store for everyone, when all is said and done.  
**But it's preferable to the alternative, and there's time for a bit of fun.**

Recently at the local supermarket, I suffered some embarrassment,  
And complained to the youthful manager about sexual harassment,  
He got somewhat worried, and really quite upset  
**Until I explained it wasn't the harassment I got, but what I didn't get.**

I asked for some Viagra, at the township chemist shop,  
When the pharmacist saw my age, his jaw began to drop,  
I said "Oh don't be worried, I'm not going to take them,  
I put them on my tomato plants, then I don't have to stake them"

You regret the many temptations, you resisted so long ago,  
**Now you're really grateful when a girl says "No".**  
Social reality is that your back goes out more than you do,  
And when you want to cross the road, old ladies offer to help you!

**Whether you're going up or down the stairs, you're never really sure**  
When a pretty girl goes past, your pacemaker opens the garage door.  
**You get out of bed in the morning, what doesn't ache won't work,**  
And if you get near a running tap, your bladder goes berserk.

Old age is always reminding you to be careful to act your age,  
And on the Book of Life, Father Time will turn the page.  
**But I don't mind this getting old, I have no real regrets,**  
**I've had a full and productive life , and always paid my debts.**

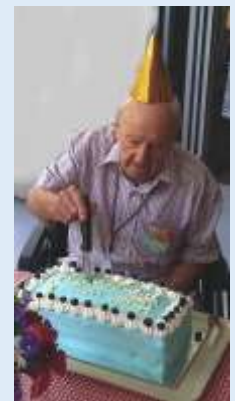
I have a wonderful family, my marriage was truly great.

**I'm blessed with the dearest of friends, and many a war time mate.**

Best of all I cherish the memories of love and happy laughter

**And I'm forever grateful I knew the joys of being happy ever after.**

Jim Dunstan



**In Memoriam: March to May 2018**

**Jim Dunstan MBE, Don Blaik, Kennedy McGrath , Laurie Ramm, Stewie Leitch ,  
Neil McBride , Merv Lindermeier , Bob Christie , Vic Petherick**





**Trivia Questions. 1st names of the following:**

General McArthur

General Eisenhower

Captain Wake

Field Marshall Rommel

King George VI

Prime Minister Gorton

Field Marshall Blamey

Field Marshall Montgomery

General, Emperor Bonaparte

Lord Mountbatten

Group Captain Bader

**Why the Emu Plume?**

Slouch hats worn by members of the Armoured Corps are adorned with Emu plumes, a tradition that originated with the Queensland Mounted Infantry during the great shearers' strike in Queensland in 1891. During this time, the Queensland Mounted Infantry were called out, as soldiers to aid the Civil Power.

As time permitted, the soldiers would participate in a sporting activity where they would ride their horses alongside the emus, plucked the breast feathers, and placed the feathers on their hat. The Gympie Squadron was the first to wear the feathers, a fashion soon followed by the regiment.

The Queensland government permitted the Regiment to adopt the plume as part of its uniform in recognition of its service. In 1915 then Minister for Defence Sir G. F. Pearce granted all units of the Australian Light Horse permission to wear the plume, which they refer to as 'Kangaroo feathers'.

Emu tufts of approved design and dimensions are now worn by all members of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps as an item of dress. All Royal Australian Armoured Corps personnel were given authority to wear Emu plumes in the slouch hat, brim up or down in 1996, this was extended to all personnel serving in the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Regiment in 2000.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

A high ranking member of our Australian Army, whom shall remain nameless, visits us each February for the feathers from our Emus (we have an Emu Farm) which he and his wife then make into the adornment for the Slouch Hats, making quite a nice little business out of such. The Emu Feather is soft and coloured from light to dark along it's length. The Emu Feather is one of nature's most unique, as it features a *double* plume. The Emu and its cousin the Cassowary are the only birds in the world that have two feathers of the same length originating from the one *quill*.



Do you know the history of the famous Slouch Hat and why an Emu Plume?

Officially: Australian Army khaki fur felt slouch hat with pleated cotton puggaree, emu feather plume and leather chinstrap. The hat has a brown vinyl sweatband stamped with a broad arrow and faded maker's details. Eight staples have been punched through the left side of the sweatband. There are two brass riveted ventilation holes on either side of the crown and a hook behind the emu plume to secure the left side of the brim to the crown. Attached under the left brim is a Rising Sun badge and attached to the puggaree at the front of the hat is the 2 Cavalry Regiment badge showing an eagle and 'COURAGE'.

*Lest  
We  
Forget*



**ANZAC**

1914 - 1918

**100 years**







Following our Sub Branch meeting on 10 May cheque presentations were made to a number of community organizations. Each year we support local groups and in 2018 the following were made:

North Arm Rifle Club  
128 Army Cadet Unit  
Noosa Navy Cadet Unit  
Noosa Salvation Army  
Pomona Meals On Wheels  
Noosa Blue Care  
Boreen Point RFB

Tinbeerwah RFB  
Black Mountain RFB  
Federal RFB  
Noosa Pipes & Drums  
SES  
Katie Rose Cottage  
Cooroy Veterans Golf Day

**Recipe from Lorna Armstong**

**EASY AS 1-2-3 ICE CREAM (CHOCOLATE OR VANILLA)**

**Chocolate Ice Cream**

- 600 ml whipping cream
- 395 g can condensed milk
- 1/3 cup baking cocoa powder OR at least 1 teaspoon Vanilla

**Instructions for Chocolate Ice Cream**

- 1 In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat 450 ml cream and the condensed milk together
- 2 In a small jug mix remaining cream and cocoa powder until smooth. Slowly add to the mixture beating well (For Vanilla ice cream, mix all ingredients together until smooth and thickened)
- 3 Pour into a loaf pan. Freeze for 4 hours or overnight. Scoop into cones or bowls to serve. Serves 6 – 8. Sprinkle with your favourite nuts or topping





**Memorial Hall Re-Opening** Wow! What a difference the renovated hall makes to the centre of town. The designer of the portico is to be congratulated ... a grand entrance to the upgraded interior of clean white walls, large ceiling fans, and commercial grade kitchen.

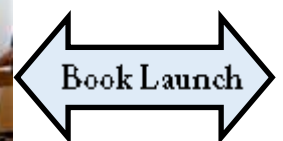
The photo on the right depicts some of the large crowd in attendance for the Grand Opening on 21st April when Richard Hansen hosted the afternoon with an introduction by the Noosa District Pipe Band, the Australian Navy Band, and on stage entertainment by many local groups and a soloist.



**Fusion 2018**



Fusion 2018 was another opportunity for the Sub Branch to showcase our activities to the Community at large and interact with veterans and families. This was a very worthwhile event



Two authors gave an interesting and informative talk when introducing their books at RSL Club on 24th April. This event was well attended.



## *"My Dad's Missing Medals"*

*Written by Don Scott, Cooroy Pomona RSL Sub Branch*

It's funny how fate seems to follow us. With this story, I hope you will agree. 18 August 2012 Greg Warren called me about military medals that had come into his possession. He wanted them returned to their rightful owner. 20 August 2012. Greg dropped the medals into Cooroy Pomona RSL

I found a name and address in the medal container. It was for a Mrs P Bridle of Cooran so I found her number and phoned her. I said, "I'm with Cooroy Pomona RSL and a gentleman has just handed in a set of medals in a tin box with your name on it. Can you help me out?" There was silence on the other end followed by sobbing. "They are my Dad's missing medals" (Very emotional) "Tell me, is there a fob watch with the medals?" "Yes", I replied. "Oh, Mr Scott, this is wonderful news. When can we have them back?"

"I'll deliver them tomorrow at 10am. Will that do?" "Oh, yes please, that will be fine. We'll be waiting".

On the 21<sup>st</sup> August I was welcomed by Mr & Mrs Bridle where the handover took place. They were very pleased and grateful to get the medals back. Over a cup of coffee she told me how they had gone missing; Number one son chose to keep these in his custody. He placed the medals in an old wardrobe at some point before leaving for W.A. His ex-girlfriend, got all his worldly possessions and disposed of them. Greg Warren, who was a secondhand dealer acquired the wardrobe at an auction, and guess what...medals intact.

Mrs Bridle's Dad 'a sailor' of the Royal Navy served on HMS Ark Royal (an aircraft carrier). To put it in perspective, it was an aircraft from this carrier that crippled the German battleship Bismark with a torpedo.



13 November 1941 (a Friday) dawned the same as any other day except that things would change forever for the Ark Royal and the men who sailed on her. Some time after 1700 hours Ark Royal was struck by a German torpedo and began to list to port, and sank. Mrs Bridle's father was one of those reported by the Admiralty as missing in action. However, some time later his parents were notified he was alive and well and on his way home for leave. As you can imagine, the dear boy already had had quite an adventure. You'd think that was the end, but no. The Admiralty notified his parents that they'd put

him on the train in London bound for Plymouth, his home. The Luftwaffe (German Airforce) bombed his train. They blew it to pieces. And, surprise, surprise from the Admiralty "Your son is missing, presumed dead. Our sincerest condolences to you all" .

They say that every story should have a happy ending. Here it is. At midnight there was a knock on his parents' door. Standing there was their sailor son! It transpired that after the train was bombed and most of his clothes were blown off, he decided that train travel was not for him and he walked home. He survived the war.

As a postscript, the submarine that sank the Ark Royal was U81. Her captain was Lt Commander Gruggenburger. His description of the sinking of the Ark Royal can be read in the book "The Hunters and the Hunted" by Jochim Brennack. Neither Gruggenburger or U81 survived the war.

### *Unsung Workers of War*

In the lead up to Anzac Day join us to discover two very different and important stories of life during and after war. Hosted "in conversation" with award winning ABC journalist Bruce Atkinson.



**At Cooroy RSL  
2-4pm Monday 23 April  
Free. Bookings required.  
Afternoon tea provided.**

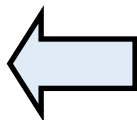
The Cooroy Pomona RSL Sub Branch joins us to outline the support services they provide to local returned servicemen



Irene Rogers uncovers the fascinating story of The Australian Bluebird Nurses of WWI



Author Ian Mansfield shares experiences of a life dedicated to landmine clearance around the world









Team setting up for the luncheon



Under the Poppy canopy



**ANZAC DAY 2018** has been reported by quite a number as the best they have seen in Cooroy. The **Dawn Service** was attended by about 3000 people and the address given by Air Commodore Ian Whisker OAM (RETD) who detailed a number of battles during World War 1 and the involvement of young men from country areas particularly the Burnett district. This was followed by **Gunfire Breakfast**, and the staff of the RSL Club did an amazing job coping with the large numbers.

The **March** was well supported particularly by all the schools in the district; they are to be congratulated. Lew O'Brien MLA gave the address at the **Memorial Service**, held at the Cenotaph again. At this service too, numbers were well up on previous years. **Lunch** at midday was a larger than normal function. We were entertained by the Noosa District Pipe Band. A presentation was made as depicted below.

Organizers of the ANZAC Day 2018 event are to be congratulated for presenting a great day and thank you to all those who volunteered their time.



Presentation from Wendy & Alan Grummitt to the Sub Branch in memory of Wendy's uncle Errol Ray Wheeldon, eldest brother of her mother Melba Monro.





**Coming Events:**

- 6 June: Seniors Morning Tea
- 14 June: Sub Branch meeting 4pm
- 16 June: Service Widows Luncheon
- 4 July: Seniors Bus Trip
- 12 July: Sub Branch meeting 4pm
- 9 August: Sub Branch meeting 4pm
- 18 August: Vietnam Veterans Day

**Mark your diaries now!**

**COOROY POMONA RSL SUB BRANCH  
EXECUTIVE & PAWS TEAM**

Tricia Geelan	President
Peter Watts	Deputy President
Jo Dyce	Secretary
Tom Hobday	Treasurer
Ian Whisker	Past President
Gary Manton	Pensions
Denis Thompson	Pensions/Transport
John Diprose	Welfare
Don Scott	Welfare
Tony Kershaw	Welfare
Greg Dyce	Welfare
Nick VanZutphen	Welfare
Sue Porter	Welfare
Sue Thompson	Welfare
Greg Holmes	Welfare/Membership
Vern Johnson	Memorabilia/Property
John Zupp	Commemorations

Initial contact : **5447 6131**

**Trivia Answers:**

1. Douglas
2. Dwight D
3. Nancy
4. Erwin
5. Albert
6. John
7. William
8. Bernard Law
9. Napoleon
10. Louis
11. Douglas



Do your medals need re-mounting?

**Medal Mounting Service**

Also available...

Replica Medals

Miniature Medals

Ribbon Bars

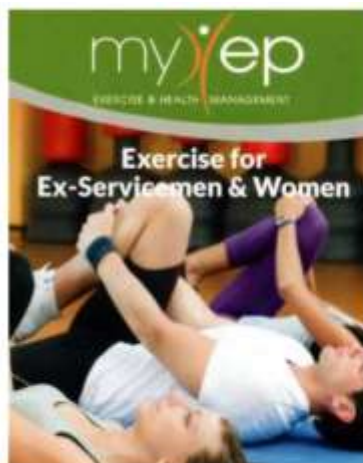
**CONTACT... GREG**

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

**Did you know??**

Your skeleton keeps renewing itself every ten years, which means that every ten years you get a new skeleton!

It takes 43 muscles to frown and only 17 to smile.



**Ex-Servicemen and Women**

MyEP can provide clinically necessary Rehabilitative treatment for DVA entitled clients (**Gold card and White card holders with a chronic condition**) on referral from a GP. To access these services, you must be referred by your Treating GP or specialist. They can use a **special referral form (D904) or a standard referral letter**, as long as it states the medical condition you are to be treated for and your DVA member number. **Private Health and Medicare Rebates also available.**

Jesse Goldfinch BClinExSc ESSAM AEP Exercise Physiologist

Contact number: Phone: 5441 3850 Mobile: 0487 296 565

Web site: [www.myep.com.au](http://www.myep.com.au)