

Southport RSL Sub Branch Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 1

March 2022



REMINDER
General Meeting
Sunday 13th March
10.30am
Southport Bowls Club
Bring your Partner

From the President's Desk

State Congress. Shortly after putting the last Newsletter to bed, I had the privilege of representing our Sub-Branch at the 2021 State AGM, held in Brisbane on the 9th and 10th of December. My wife and I drove to Brisbane on the 9th and after registering at the International Convention Centre we checked into our hotel. That evening the Opening Ceremony was followed by a welcoming get together where we were able to catch up with many of the other representatives.

The business of the AGM got underway at 0900 on the Thursday (10th). At the evening session the previous night and the short time just before the actual meeting got underway, it became apparent to me that once again we were looking at the new State Constitution being voted down. So, it was no real surprise to me when that was what the result was. Last year the constitution failed by just one vote, but this year by several

more. In order for the constitution to be adopted there had to be a 66.666% majority. The vote was 64.652% in favour.

The percentage of the vote for the position of President was not revealed and as we all know; we now have a new State President. In my opinion, we should be looking forward to a very progressive period with a new Captain at the helm.

Sub-Branch Quarterly General Meeting. On the Saturday following the State Congress we held our December Quarterly meeting. There was quite a reasonable turnout and we got through the business of the day in what might be a record time—just 25 minutes.

Following the meeting we had the usual social session where we were able to discuss some of the current and future issues in a more relaxed atmosphere.

One of the main topics of conversation was, of course, the forthcoming court appearance which I can now give you a report on.

Court Case - 18th January. We finally got to have out objection to our eviction from the memorial club heard in court. As I was the instigator of the original and subsequent affidavits, I was required to attend the court. I was called to give evidence and was cross-examined by the opposition Barrister. The memorial club had one witness who gave evidence and was cross examined by our Barrister. At the end of the day, the Judge reserved his decision, however, in the opinion of both our Barrister and lead Lawyer, we stand a very good chance of winning the case.

So, what is the expected outcome you ask. It is obvious from what the memorial club has stated regarding the absence of any space in the club, that there is no prospect of the Sub-Branch every being located in their building again. It therefore comes down to compensation for the actions taken by the memorial club, the outcome of which forced the Sub-Branch to seek and use alternate accommodation.

LATE NEWS

The Judgement. On Monday, 14th February, I received an email from our Lawyers advising that the Judge would be handing down his decision, Wednesday, 16th February at 2:00pm. I did not have to be at the court to receive the judgement as our Barrister and one of our Lawyers would be doing that. On the day it was an anxious wait, however, at approximately 2:15pm the phone rang and our Lawyer informed me that the Sub-Branch had been successful and that we were to receive \$192,820 in compensation.

Perhaps I should now give an explanation of what this ruling means as I know some of our members were expecting the Sub-Branch would be returning to the Memorial Club (MC) when we won our case. Certainly, that was the original intention, but during the mediation that I attended it was made very clear that there would be no room for us in the building. Therefore, the claim on the MC was modified to be a claim for compensation. In other words, we wanted the MC to pay for our accommodation right up to when the lease finished in August 2024. That is what the Judge also saw as the only solution.

END LATE NEWS

District AGM. On Saturday, 5th February the RSL Gold Coast District held its AGM. Our representative at that meeting was our Deputy President, Ken Orr. I attended, together with my wife, Sandra, in my capacity as the District Vice President (Welfare).

The day started with the Commemoration at the rather special Cenotaph at Currumbin where a ceremony similar to a Dawn Service was held. This was followed by morning tea. Following the morning tea, the partners of the representatives went to continue their socialising while the business of the day got underway. The meeting is basically nothing more than a reporting event, however, it also involves the election of at

least one of the executives. The District Board operates on the rotational system and this year it was the turn of the Deputy President to step down. There was only one nomination for the position and as a result, Roger Collins was re-elected to the position unopposed.

The day culminated with a lunch served in the function room at the Currumbin RSL. The service and food were excellent and a great atmosphere of friendship was to be seen.

The AGM was held at the Currumbin RSL.

Volunteers. In my opinion, the only reason for an RSL Sub-Branch to exist is to help the local veterans. That service to veterans and their families was my sole purpose of joining the RSL in the first place. For eight years I got enormous pleasure and a great sense of fulfillment from carrying out the duties of what was then, a Pensions Officer.

Since I had to give that duty away because of the increasing workload of my current position, there have been a number of people come forward and taken on the job of a Compensation Advocate (Pensions Officer). Some have not, for a number of reasons, lasted too long in the job.

We are in a desperate need to have an additional Advocate working at our Sub-Branch and I make this appeal to all of our members. If you can spare a couple of hours every week, I can assure you that you will get immense satisfaction by taking of the duties of a Compensation Advocate. So please, if you can see yourself being interested in doing a service to your fellow ex-ADF personnel, give me a call or come in and have a talk.

Surviving the pandemic: What now?

by Dr Joanne Boyes

We are coming up to 2 years of fear, isolation, confusion and frustration as a result of living through a pandemic. Most of us feel more comfortable living in a world where we can predict with some certainty what is around the corner. However, we have had that level of comfort stripped from us and for some of us that has played havoc with our thoughts and feelings and our sense of well-being. It is really important to try to bring back some normality and a feeling of control to our lives and to connect with other people.

Most of us have no problem popping in to see our GPs when we have an ache or pain or generally feel unwell. There are also some strategies that you can engage in when you just feel a “little down” or emotionally “out of sorts”. If you are in lockdown or have restrictions placed on your movement for whatever reason, keeping your body and mind active is REALLY important. If you can walk around your backyard/house/unit/residential facility for 10 minutes a day that would be so beneficial. As you master this, add another 2 minutes a day and gradually build up to a level that works for you. If you are unable to mobilise, there are videos on the internet that show you some exercises that can be done seated. Next time your grandkids come over, set them a task to find some for you! The more movement you do, the better it is for your mood as it releases the chemicals in your brain that can help to make you happy. Of course, it is really important to discuss what exercise would be beneficial for you with your GP. He/she would be thrilled to have this discussion with you!

Your brain will also benefit from being challenged. That means doing a crossword, sudoku, jigsaw, playing cards, learning something new (e.g. how to use a computer-grandkids can help again; borrow a book from the library and teach yourself to knit/crochet). Keeping your brain active like you do with your body will do wonders for how you feel about yourself and the world.

Connection with other people is also very important. More and more research is showing that this can be as important as looking after your heart, diabetes and all your other ailments in your quality of life and how long you live. So, make sure you speak to your neighbours, other people you see when shopping, waiting at the GP's surgery etc. Yes, it is likely to be a chat about the weather or something similar, but you never know if the other person is also feeling a little disconnected.

Finally, if you are able, joining an exercise group or a group that allows you to challenge your brain (cards, bowls, volunteer work etc) will enable you to have the physical and intellectual challenges. This keeps you healthier as well as doing it with a group of people who also like that activity.

**Age is merely the number of years
the world has been enjoying you.**

History of the Naval Police (or Protecting the Senior Service) Part 3 of 4

By Peter Boyes OAM

In parts 1 and 2 in the history of the Naval Police, we saw how the formation took place in 1913, However the Naval Police were affected by the War to end all Wars.

The First World War

The First World War was also to create several problems that would change the direction of the Force in years to come. The first of these was the need to provide additional guards at an increasing number of Naval Establishments and associated works and, at the same time, provide a counter espionage service that could carry out secret investigations into such concerns as sabotage and the location of alien agents. Hence, the Naval Board determined that the additional guarding services would be provided by the Royal Australian Naval Brigade members who were unfit for active service. The task of counter-espionage fell on the Naval Dockyard Police.

Post-War Problems

After WW1, when the nation was settling back into a more stable existence the problems of the legal status of the Force again raised its head. Yet no effective resolution was found until the Naval Dockyard Police were appointed to Flinders Naval Depot in 1921.



Before its commissioning on 1st April 1921, over 800 rowdy workmen had been employed at the Base and because of their mischievous behaviour the Victoria Police established a permanent Police Station there. When the

Victoria Policemen were relieved at the Base by Naval Dockyard Policemen, an arrangement was entered into between the Naval Board and the Chief Commissioner Sir John GELLIBRAND, whereby the three members of the NDP all became supernumerary members of the Victoria Police. As a consequence, Senior Constable Thomas BLAKE, Constable Alfred DALY and Constable Patrick SWEENEY, all became Constables on the Victorian Police Force on 25th August 1921, with all the powers and privileges of a full member of the State Police Force.



Immediately, the Commodore-in-Charge, Sydney, saw this move as the answer to all the earlier problems relating to legal status and the lack of powers that the Force had suffered since its inception in 1913, and made application to allow him to approach the Commissioner of the NSW Police Department to have all members of the Force made Special Constables of the NSW Police. On 2nd November 1921, all Naval Dockyard Police in the Sydney area were sworn in and issued their Warrant Card as members of the State Police, which gave them powers of arrest, search and detention under the various State Acts and Regulations.

With the entry into the PNF, many amendments were required to the Consolidated Orders and Regulations, Naval Financial Regulations, Naval Defence Act and the like. It was during these many changes that the Force was given its own Statutory powers of arrest, search and detention.



And after the matter had been given some considerable debate by the Attorneys' General Department, the Naval Establishment Regulation 101 received Royal Assent on 26th July 1934. This regulation literally made the Naval Dockyard Police a Statutory Force with powers that have remained as powerful today as they were more than fifty years ago.

Apart from variations to rates of pay and several other financial aspects, no further changes occurred to the Force until the outbreak of World War II, when changes began to occur at an imperceptible rate.

As the responsibility for guarding Naval establishments during WW1 had fallen on the Reserves, the same task was given to the RANR and the RANVR at the outbreak of WWII. However, it quickly became apparent that these personnel, who were, in most cases, young seaman; were a misuse of fit potential fighting manpower. So on 10th February 1940, the Minister for the Navy placed a proposal before the War Cabinet that the existing Naval Dockyard Police should be temporarily expanded to form a Guard Section for the provision of security protection to Naval Establishments and vulnerable points whilst under war conditions.

The Guard Section

On 21st March 1940, the War Cabinet approved the formation of the Naval Dockyard Police (Guard Section) with an initial complement of 169 to serve in all states except South Australia. The conditions of entry for the Guard Section were that recruits were to have served on Active Service, or for not less than five years man's time in peace, and not to be less than 40 years of age or more than 58 years of age. Retiring age was set at 60 years of age and each engagement was for two years or for the period of hostilities and 6 months thereafter. All members were recruited within the State they were to serve in and although their pay and allowances were aligned with the Commonwealth Peace Officers scale, they were subject to the Naval Discipline Act and Regulations for the Auxiliary Services.

Recruiting for the Guard Section began immediately and as newly recruited members began their service, a serious anomaly in the pay structure became obvious. On the scale set down for the Guard Section, their Senior Constables were receiving less pay than Constables of the Permanent Section. So, on 15th May 1940, the situation was rectified by altering the rank structure to:

Sergeant 1st Class Sergeant 2nd Class

Constable 1st Class Constable 2nd Class

This basic rank structure remained in force until 21st January 1972 when the Warrant Officer and Senior Constable ranks were re-introduced. As Australia's war effort accelerated, so did the development of the Force. Within 18 months of the war's commencement the Naval Dockyard Police had risen to 472.

At the peak of the war effort, the Force had a strength exceeding 600 members who were employed on guarding duties at Wireless Transmitting Stations, Armament Depots, Oil Fuel Installations, Dockyards, Naval Stores Depots and even points of vulnerability like the Victoria Markets.

At the war's end, very few of the Guard Section were demobilized as the Naval Board had not determined a policy for the future guarding of Naval Establishments. Hence, members were requested to re-engage for further periods of either 6 or 12 months until the Force could be reorganised on a permanent basis. However, the government did not approve the Naval

Board's recommendations concerning the re-organisation of the Force until December 1948, and the Guard Section members were retained until 1st January 1949 when demobilisation actually began, although many were able to remain in service until November 1950.

That's all from me for now. Look after yourself and those you love.

Yours Aye,

Peter Boyes OAM.

Please note:

All photographs provided in this article were obtained from public and open-sourced photographs from DoD, Military and Naval Police websites.

Vale David Mattiske



David, a staunch supporter of our Sub-Branch and the RSL in general, passed away peacefully on the 3rd January. He will be sadly missed.

At the age of 65 my grandma started walking 65 km a day.

She's 92 now.

We have no idea where she is.

Karma - or what goes around...

A fleeing Taliban terrorist, desperate for water, was plodding through the Afghan desert when he saw something far off in the distance. Hoping to find water, he hurried toward the mirage, only to find a very frail little old Jewish man standing at a small makeshift display rack - selling COVID protection masks.

The Taliban terrorist asked, "Do you have water?"

The Jewish man replied, "I have no water. Would you like to buy a mask? They are only \$5."

The Taliban shouted hysterically, "Idiot Infidel! I do not need such an over-priced western adornment. I spit on your masks I need water!"

"Sorry, I have none, just masks - and only \$5."

"Pahh! A curse on your masks! I should wrap one around your scrawny little neck and choke the life out of you but ... I must conserve my energy and find water!"

"Okay," said the little old Jewish man. "It does not matter that you do not want to buy a mask from me, or that you hate me, threaten my life, and call me infidel.

I will show you that I am bigger than any of that. If you continue over that hill to the east for about two miles, you will find a restaurant.

It has the finest food and all the ice-cold water you need. Go In Peace."

Cursing him again, the desperate Taliban staggered away, over the hill.

Several hours later, he crawled back, almost dead, and gasped, "**They won't let me in without a mask!**"

Success Story

Gold Coast Health Veteran Network
by Ken Orr

We are proud as a Sub Branch to support the activities of the nearby Veteran Network at Gold Coast Health. As mentioned in previous newsletters, one of the main objectives of the Network is to promote Veteran employment within the health service. I would like to share the following email from a member of the Network, highlighting a recent success story:

I would like to formally notify the Environmental Services team of my

resignation as of the 21st of February 2022 as I have been offered a contract with Gold Coast Health as an AIN in the Emergency Department at GCUH. I wish to remain as casual should there be a gap between resignation and new start. I will inform Enviro if I'm unable to meet the required obligated fortnightly shifts from my resignation date.

The decision to leave Enviro is not one I take lightly, however as a student nurse this opportunity for professional development and progression of knowledge is too great to pass up. My time albeit short, has been fulfilling, rewarding and enjoyable. The team has welcomed me with open arms and treated me with kindness.

I would personally like to thank yourself and Wayne for the opportunity you provided me in starting with Enviro and everything else in-between. As a veteran, it's well documented the struggles we go through post discharge from the armed forces, however you gave me a fresh start in life when others wouldn't. For this I cannot thank you enough. I'm unsure where I would've been without the chance you took on me as I have seen so many others struggle, many hitting rock bottom and some never returning. You made my transition easy, for this I will never forget.

**If you see my mom
on Facebook, please remind
her I'm still in the sink.**



Life Membership Granted

One of our members with the longest time in this Sub-Branch; a person who I think most of you will know, if not personally but by reputation and service, is Claude Palmer.

Claude has been a member of our Management Board for many years and a dedicated Advocate for even longer. Late last year an application was prepared, recommending that Claude be awarded a Life Member Status. These awards are not handed out willy-nilly, and have to pass through District, State and National.



left-to right

Pat Fairon, Claude Palmer, John Riebeling

Claude received his Life Member Certificate, Badge, Tie and new Membership Card at our February Morning Tea. The presentation was made by our District President, Pat Fairon and Claude was congratulated by the members and partners that were in attendance.

Two Irishmen are hammering floorboards down in a house.

Paddy picks up a nail, realizes it's upside down and throws it away.

He carries on doing this until Murphy says, "Why are you throwing them away?"

"Because they're upside down!" says Paddy.

"You daft igit" replies Murphy, "Save 'em for the ceiling."

Paddy is driving home from the pub and gets pulled over by a police officer.

The officer says, "Good evening, sir, do you know why I pulled you over?"

Paddy replies, "I'm guessing you think I was drunk driving.:"

The officer informs him that he is correct and tells him, "Tell you what. My shift is ending soon so if you can spell the alphabet backwards, I'll let you go without any fuss.

In a clear and calm voice Paddy quickly says,

"ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA."

The officer, who is impressed by the oration, now believes that Paddy is clean, and states, "Wow, I couldn't do that sober."

Paddy replies, "Me neither."

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS

As part of the IT rollout that is being undertaken by RSL Qld, the Sub-Branch has been issued with four new mobile phones. The numbers are:

0484 278 987 President

0484 279 568 Treasurer

0484 280 750 Secretary

Please use these numbers when trying to contact the Sub-Branch, in particular the number for the Secretary.

Veterans' Morning Teas

All members, their carers, partners and volunteers are welcome to come to our Veterans' Morning Teas. They are held at the Southport Bowls Club every third Wednesday of the month, commencing at 10:00 am. Put these dates on your calendar:

16 March

20 April

18 May

15 June

20 July

17 August

21 September

19 October

Poppy Service



Although it is not a pleasant thing to talk about, I would like to remind all of our readers, especially those that are looking after our aging and frail veterans, that when the time comes, the Sub-Branch offers a service that goes a long way to honouring the service that he or she has given to our country by putting on the uniform of our Defence Forces.

Please contact the Sub-Branch office for any further information



"In the old days, your Grandma and I watched TV with rabbit ears."

**Wife: Did I get fat during quarantine?
Husband: You weren't really skinny to begin with!
Time of Death: 11:00pm
Cause: Covid**

**Southport RSL Sub-Branch Inc.
Corner Marine Parade and Queen Street
PO Box 31
SOUTHPORT BC QLD 4215
T 0407 481 695
E secretary@southport.rslqld.net.au**

Editor: John Riebeling
Contributors: Peter Boyes OAM
Joanne Boyes
Ken Orr

Sponsors: Ms Angie Bell, Federal Member for Moncrieff (Printing)
Mr Rob Molhoek MP, State Member for Southport (Mail)

People who wonder whether the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable.