

Southport RSL Sub Branch Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 2

May 2023



REMINDER

AGM

Sunday 14th May

10.30am

Bring your Partner

From the President's Desk

District AGM. The District AGM was held on Saturday 11th February at the Nerang RSL. The District Board, like most Sub-Branched, operates using the rotational system of elections for its members. This year there were two positions due for election—the Treasurer and the Vice President (Welfare). In addition, the Board had decided earlier that there would be an additional position voted on at this AGM—a director position. In order to spread the positions being voted on each year the length of tenure for each position was adjusted so that the Treasurer would serve for three years, the Vice President for two years and the new director position for just one year.

The meeting began in blistering heat, with a ceremony at the cenotaph which was a moving event as usual. This was followed by a morning tea and then the actual meeting. The election went smoothly with the Treasurer position being retained by Ray McCabbin and the position of Vice President (Welfare) going to a

new person—Darren Sapwell from the Nerang Sub-Branch—that's eighteen less meetings I would have to go to each year. The new position of Director saw a three-way contest and the District Board gained a lady member for the first time—Cherisa Pearce from Currumbin Palm Beach Sub-Branch.

Following the meeting we all retired to one of the function rooms where a delightful lunch was served.

February General Meeting. The first quarterly meeting for the year was held on Sunday, 12th February. The day turned out to be one of the hottest for this year's summer season, so our meeting room took full advantage of the air conditioners.

Normally we get through one of these Quarterly Meetings in just a little over half an hour but there was a contentious issue to talk about which went on for just on forty minutes.

At the meeting it became necessary for me to announce that the Bowls Club had demanded the Sub-Branch leave the Bowls Club no later than 1st March. I had to explain to those present at the meeting that the negotiations with the Bowls Club that had been going on since July last year had end abruptly on Friday 10th February when at 1640 in the afternoon, I received an email that stated the Bowls Club were ceasing negotiations and demanded we leave. There was no explanation given.

During the forty-minutes of discussion on this matter, which at times became quite heated, there were several suggestions made some of which held some merit and others that were

somewhat outlandish. During this meeting one of our members became so agitated that he got up and left.

The rest of the meeting went on about the same as most have, the only difference being, when we got to the last point—General Business—there was nothing more to discuss. The meeting ended and most of the members made their way downstairs to have a cold drink and eventually some light refreshments.

SEAKs Meeting. As happened at our November meeting, the SEAKs had their monthly meeting almost immediately following our meeting and of course they have a lot of Sub-Branch members that belong to their organisation. As a courtesy, I sat through the meeting.

When their meeting had concluded most of their members joined the Sub-Branch where the cold drinks went down a treat and the conversations continued about the situation the Sub-Branch found itself in.

Negotiations Continue. When our members went downstairs after the meeting our Deputy President encountered two of the Bowls Club Board members and struck up a conversation with them which resulted in a feeling that there was still room for compromise and that the negotiations were not at an end.

Negotiations did in fact continue with several meetings taking place. I have been assisted at these meeting by Keith Bazley who has been invaluable. We have now reached the point where we have an agreement with the Bowls Club and have been given the go ahead to begin the construction of our offices. There are still some issues to sort out but I think we now can get on with the business of supporting our veterans in a more professional environment.

ANZAC Day Preparations. For some obscure reason, the GCCC decided late last year that the ceremony at the Broadwater Cenotaph had become some big and complicated and instead of giving the Sub-Branch the grant to conduct the ceremonies—something the Sub-Branch had done for over 100-years, they decided to put out a call for tenders to provide the infrastructure of the day, thus letting the Sub-Branch concentrate on the actual ceremonies.

I am sure that it came as something of a surprise to the GCCC when no one put in a bid for the tender. In desperation the GCCC

approached a company that specialised in running entertainment events and asked them to take on the task. That is when the wheels really fell off. This company assumed it would run the both ceremonies but had no idea of what was required.

Our Major Events Officer and Director, Kevin Lloyd-Thomas tried to liaise with the company with very little cooperation and in fact were somewhat standoffish about the whole thing. In a meeting that took place on Thursday 2nd March, after a few preliminary words, Kevin was told this:

That started the conversation, and led by Steve. First key points - Insurance costs had skyrocketed which forced the council to review the day. The march route would change because the current form up and route was not good enough and would now be through the Parklands.

It was at this point that Steve then said they, HCC had been informed that GCCC was disappointed with the performance of the Sub Branch in conducting the Dawn Service and the Public Service, and is no longer prepared to support the sub branch. They've been told that the council is dissatisfied with the way both services are presented, and is not getting their monies worth.

A meeting with the Division 6 Councillor, Brooke Patterson was held on Friday 10th March with Kevin and I attending. The meeting was friendly and served to allay most of our concerns. It would seem there had been some misinterpretation of the task that the contractor was to perform. The one thing that we were unable to determine was who it was making the complaints about the way the services were run.

This first meeting resulted in a second being scheduled that would include the TSS person that had been asked to conduct the ceremonies using students (cadets) from the school. The meeting took place and was somewhat more adversarial. It turned out that the fellow from TSS had been told well ahead of our meetings that he was the main man for the job of running Anzac Day. After some discussion it was conceded that perhaps the RSL should be allowed to have some sort of role. A second meeting was proposed where both the RSL and TSS would put forward their ideas and some compromise could be reached.

The meeting did not eventuate as a letter was sent to all parties, including district and the mayor, demanding the RSL be left alone to conduct the ceremonies. This letter had the effect of bringing certain people to their senses and the RSL was now in charge of the ceremonies.

ANZAC DAY 2023

Schools Programs. Every year we are asked to attend various schools for their Anzac Day ceremonies. This year we were happy to attend Belview Park Primary, Southport State High and both campuses of the Trinity Lutheran College. In addition, we had representatives at the TSS ceremony.

Our Ceremonies. Despite there being some confusion among the public as to whether there was to be a Dawn Service—there was, and it was very well attended. We estimated there was a crowd of about 5,000.

The cancellation of the dawn march did not deter a very determined group of veterans who gathered at the bottom of Short Street and carried out a **“Rogue March.”** This was very well received by the public.



The Rogue Marchers

The ceremony kicked off right on time at 0455 and flowed very well indeed. The wreath laying was the longest section of the proceedings and it was pleasing to see some of the schools and young children making the effort to be there at such an early hour.

Following the ceremony, the veterans and public were invited back to the Bowls Club for the traditional Gunfire Breakfast. In our case it probably wasn't all that traditional as it took the form of a bacon and egg roll.



Dawn



Some of the Veterans and Public



**Geoff Young and Melissa Orr
Checking the Wreath Layers**

For those of you that follow the TV news or read the Bulletin newspaper, you will have known that the march for the Citizens Service was changed somewhat this year. The assembly point was adjacent to the Aquatic Centre and the actual form up was on the Gold Coast Highway. Included in the march this year was a contingent of some 500+ cadets from TSS. They were all in uniform and made a spectacular addition to our march. There was also a large number of Saint Hilda's School that marched.



TSS Cadets



Some of the Veterans and Public



**Members of Legacy led the March
To Commemorate their 100th Anniversary**



TSS and St Hilda's Students

The Citizen's Service was very well attended this year with an estimated 6,000+ attending. The march down the highway saw crowds including a lot of children sometimes three-deep showing their appreciation for what our veterans had done in the service to our country.



Taking the Salute

The salute was taken by Mayor Tom Tate and Brigadier Aaron Hassel

Our key note speaker, Brigadier Aaron Hassel, gave a marvellous speech which was very well received.

The weather was kind with the wind abating a little and the rain holding off for most of the time for both ceremonies.

Election of Board Members

At the forthcoming AGM there will be three Board positions that become vacant. Requests for nominations were sent out by email. At 1200 hrs on Friday 28th April, the nominations were drawn to establish the order in which they would appear on the voting slips. The positions that were up for election were:

Deputy President, Director #1, Director #4

These are the nominations for those positions:

Deputy President: Ken Orr
Director #1: Claude Palmer
Director #4: Kevin Lloyd-Thomas

In addition to the three positions being voted on due to the rotational system, it will be necessary to confirm two appointments. It became necessary early during this year to shuffle the two positions of Secretary and Treasurer with two appointments being made. The Secretary position has been taken up by Michael Burg while the Treasurer positions has been filled by Derek Holyoake.

Be Positive

I asked Maude how she lost her husband. She told me the sad story.

'Well, he needed a blood transfusion, but his blood type was not on record.

So, the doctors asked me if I knew what it was as they needed to know urgently in order to save my Harold's life.

Tragically, I've never known his blood type so I only had time to sit at his bedside and say goodbye. I'll never forget how supportive my Harold was even as he kept fading away.

He kept whispering, 'Be positive dear, Be positive.'

That was my Harold! Always thinking of others.'



"You the guy with the hedge trimmer for sale?"

AN IRISH BLONDE IN A CASINO

An attractive blonde from Cork, Ireland arrived at the casino. She seemed a little intoxicated and bet twenty-thousand Euros on a single roll of the dice.

She said, *"I hope you don't mind, but I feel much luckier when I'm completely naked."* With that, she stripped from the neck down, rolled the dice and with an Irish brogue yelled, *"Come on, baby, Mama needs new clothes!"*

As the dice came to a stop, she jumped up and down and squealed:

"YES! YES! I WON, I WON!" She hugged each of the dealers and then picked up her winnings (and her clothes) and quickly departed.

The dealers stared at each other dumbfounded. Finally, one of them asked, "What did she roll?"

The other answered, *"I don't know - I thought you were watching the dice."*

MORAL OF THE STORY:

Not all Irish are drunks.

Not all blondes are dumb.

But all men....are men.



The Dambusters Raid

This coming May will see the commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of an audacious WWII Bomber Command attack against the Great Dams of the Ruhr Valley, 'Operation Chastise', or as it's historically referred to, 'The Dambusters Raid'.



Avro Lancaster B3-special - AJ-T, 'T-Tommy'

With the crews of the newly formed RAF No.617 Squadron now briefed on the targets they were being sent to attack, raid preparations for American pilot Flt Lt Joe McCarthy and his crew could hardly have been more challenging. Having practiced exhaustively in their usual aircraft ED915/AJ-Q 'Queenie', the crew discovered their Lancaster had developed a technical problem in the seconds immediately prior to taking off for the audacious RAF raid. against the mighty dams of the Ruhr Valley.

The issue was serious enough to force the crew to abandon their aircraft and transfer to reserve Lancaster ED825/G AJ-T 'Tommy' just minutes before they were due to take off. Their new aircraft eventually left Scampton at 2201 hrs bound for arguably the most difficult target of the entire raid, the Sorpe Dam, which was protected by a huge earth bank. Having practiced attacking targets flying low, straight and level towards them, they would instead have to drop their 'Upkeep' mine in a completely different manner.

Flying low over the German village of Langscheid, they would have to avoid the tall steeple of the village church on the run-in, before diving steeply to extremely low altitude to fly along the length of the dam wall, dropping the non-spinning 'Upkeep' mine at exactly the halfway point.

This attack approach proved so difficult that the aircraft's bomb aimer George Leonard 'Johnny' Johnson could not release the mine on nine previous attack runs, however on the tenth and whilst flying at a little over 30 feet, the Lancaster was perfectly aligned. Johnson shouted, '*Bomb gone!*' over the intercom, much to the relief of the aircraft's crew, with the mine exploding exactly where intended, creating a huge crack in the structure. Unfortunately for them, the huge earth bank which supported the Sorpe Dam held firm, but would require extensive repair works to be undertaken in the weeks which followed the raid.

Lancaster ED825 arrived safely back at RAF Scampton at approximately 0330 in the morning of 17th May 1943, where the crew would learn that whilst the raid had been a success, the men of No.617 Squadron had paid a terrible price. Of the 19 Lancasters which had left the airfield only hours earlier, eight aircraft and their crews had failed to return.

At the age of 101, George Leonard 'Johnny' Johnson was the last surviving airman from the Dambusters raid, but sadly joined the rest of his comrades in early December last year. All 133 of the Dambusters heroes are now reunited once more.

Lest We Forget

Steps to buying a Unit in a Retirement Village

Compare different villages. The Compare retirement villages website:

compareretirementvillages.chde.qld.au

provides a starting point for Queensland retirees and their families when choosing a retirement village. The website allows you to compare villages based on location and facilities and provides the Village Comparison Document (VCD) for each Queensland village.

Retirement Villages in Queensland are required to have a website and a VCD for prospective residents to review. This document will enable you to view and compare features of different villages.

The VCD gives general information about the retirement village accommodation, facilities, and services, including the general costs of moving into, living in and leaving the retirement village. This form replaces the Public Information Document that was used for residents prior to the 1 February 2019.

When you find a village that you are interested in living in, you can ask the scheme operator for a Prospective Costs Document (PCD). This document must be provided to you at least 21 days before you decide to enter a contract. The PCD refers to a specific unit in the retirement village and gives details about:

- The costs of entering village
- The current ongoing costs of living in the village
- The estimated costs when you will leave your unit after years 1, 2, 5 and 10
- The estimated exit entitlement you will receive if you leave this unit after 1, 2, 5 and 10 years.

You may be asked for further information by the scheme operator to assist in the completion of the PCD.

By law, you must have a copy of your residence contract, VCD and PCD, the village by-laws and any other required documents for at least 21 days before you and the operator enter the residence contract.

This gives you time to read these documents carefully and seek professional advice about your legal and financial interests.

It is important that you understand the information in the PCD. Please note that the PCD is not a substitute for the full terms of your contract, and it is strongly recommended that you seek independent legal advice.

Two Stories Worth Reading

Both of the following stories are true and are **well worth reading**.

STORY ONE

Many years ago, Al Capone virtually owned Chicago. Capone wasn't famous for anything heroic. He was notorious for enmeshing the windy city in everything from bootlegged booze and prostitution to murder.

Capone had a lawyer nicknamed "Easy Eddie." He was Capone's lawyer for a good reason. Eddie was very good! In fact, Eddie's skill at legal manoeuvring kept Big Al out of jail for a long time.

To show his appreciation, Capone paid him very well. Not only was the money big, but Eddie got special dividends, as well. For instance, he and his family occupied a fenced-in mansion with live-in help and all the conveniences of the day. The estate was so large that it filled an entire Chicago City block.

Eddie lived the high life of the Chicago mob and gave little consideration to the atrocity that went on around him.

Eddie did have one soft spot, however. He had a son that he loved dearly. Eddie saw to it that his young son had clothes, cars, and a good education. Nothing was withheld. Price was no object.

And, despite his involvement with organized crime, Eddie even tried to teach him right from wrong. Eddie wanted his son to be a better man than he was.

Yet, with all his wealth and influence, there were two things he couldn't give his son; he couldn't pass on a good name or a good example.

One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision. Easy Eddie wanted to rectify wrongs he had done.

He decided he would go to the authorities and tell the truth about Al, "Scarface" Capone, clean up his tarnished name, and offer his son some resemblance of integrity. To do this, he would have to testify against The Mob, and he knew that the cost would be great. So, he testified.

Within the year, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago Street. But in his eyes, he had given his son the greatest gift he had to offer, at the greatest price he could ever pay. Police removed from his pockets a rosary, a crucifix, a religious medallion, and a poem clipped from a magazine.

The poem read:

"The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour. Now is the only time you own. Live, love, toil with a will. Place no faith in time. For the clock may soon be still."

STORY TWO

World War II produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare.

He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific.

One day, his entire squadron was sent on a mission. After he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized that someone had forgotten to top off his fuel tank.

He would not have enough fuel to complete his mission and get back to his ship.

His flight leader told him to return to the carrier. Reluctantly, he dropped out of formation and headed back to the fleet.

As he was returning to the mother ship, he saw something that turned his blood cold; a squadron of Japanese aircraft was speeding its way toward the American-fleet.

The American fighters were gone on a sortie, and the fleet was all but defenceless. He couldn't reach his squadron and bring them back in time to save the fleet. Nor could he warn the fleet of the approaching danger. There was only one thing to do. He must somehow divert them from the fleet.

Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety, he dove into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-mounted 50 calibre blazed as he charged in, attacking one surprised enemy plane and

then another. Butch wove in and out of the now broken formation and fired at as many planes as possible until all his ammunition was finally spent.

Undaunted, he continued the assault. He dove at the planes, trying to clip a wing or tail in hopes of damaging as many enemy planes as possible, rendering them unfit to fly.

Finally, the exasperated Japanese squadron took off in another direction.

Deeply relieved, Butch O'Hare and his tattered fighter limped back to the carrier.

Upon arrival, he reported in and related the event surrounding his return. The film from the gun-camera mounted on his plane told the tale. It showed the extent of Butch's daring attempt to protect his fleet. He had, in fact, destroyed five enemy aircraft. This took place on February 20, 1942, and for that action Butch became the Navy's first Ace of WWII, and the first Naval Aviator to win the Medal of Honour.

A year later Butch was killed in aerial combat at the age of 29. His hometown would not allow the memory of this WWII hero to fade, and today, O'Hare airport in Chicago is named in tribute to the courage of this great man.

So, if you ever find yourself at O'Hare International, give some thought to visiting Butch's memorial displaying his statue and his Medal of Honour. It's located between Terminals 1 and 2.

SO, WHAT DO THESE TWO STORIES HAVE TO DO WITH EACH OTHER?

Butch O'Hare was "Easy Eddie's" son.

The Many Meanings of the Word UP

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is **UP**.

It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv], [prep], [adj], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand **UP**, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake **UP**? At a meeting, why does a topic come **UP**? Why do we speak **UP**, and why are the officers **UP** for election (if there is a tie, it is a toss **UP**) and why is it **UP** to the secretary to write **UP** a report?

We call **UP** our friends, brighten **UP** a room, polish **UP** the silver, warm **UP** the leftovers and clean **UP** the kitchen. We lock **UP** the house and fix **UP** the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir **UP trouble**, line **UP** for tickets, work **UP** an appetite, and think **UP excuses**.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed **UP** is special.

And this **UP** is confusing: A drain must be opened **UP** because it is blocked **UP**. We open **UP** a store in the morning but we close it **UP** at night. We seem to be pretty mixed **UP** about **UP**!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of **UP**, look **UP** the word **UP** in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes **UP** almost 1/4 of the *page and* can add **UP** to about thirty definitions.

If you are **UP** to it, you might try building **UP** a list of the many ways **UP** is used. It will take **UP** a lot of your time, but if you don't give **UP**, you may wind **UP** with (**UP** to) a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding **UP**. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing **UP**. When it rains, it soaks **UP** the earth. When it does not rain for a while, things dry **UP**. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it **UP**, for now . . . My time is **UP**! Don't screw **UP**...

Send this on to everyone you look **UP** in your address book . . . Or not . . . it's **UP** to you. Now I'll shut **UP**!

Veterans' Morning Teas

All members, their carers, partners, friends, 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:

17 May 23	21 June 23
19 July 23	16 August 23
20 September 23	18 October 23
15 November 23	13 December 23

***Note:** The December Morning Tea will be on the **second** Wednesday of December

Unveiling of Unmarked WWI Graves by Ken Orr

On Saturday 22 April, Toowong RSL supported the Australian Remembrance Army and NZ Remembrance Army in a ceremony at Lutwyche Cemetery, to unveil plaques to honour and commemorate the service of Australian and New Zealand WW1 veterans. The previously unmarked graves are of 247 WWI soldiers, 10 of which were New Zealanders.



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins MP and his delegation, and Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner attended the service. Also present was our Kiwi Deputy President Ken Orr and other fellow NZ veterans.

Poppy Service



Although it is not a pleasant thing to talk about, I would like to remind all 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. **(Phone 0484 280 750)**

Current Board Members

John Riebeling	President
Ken Orr	Deputy President
Derek Holyoake	Treasurer
Michael Burg	Secretary
Claude Palmer	Director 1
Sandra Riebeling	Director 2
Steve Bloxham OAM	Director 3
Kevin Lloyd-Thomas	Director 4
vacant	Director 5
Keith Bazley	Director 6



**“My future father-in-law says you’re
the best hairstylist in town.”**

My wife and I were sitting at a table at her high school reunion, and she kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table.

I asked her, *“Do you know him?”*

“Yes”, she sighed, “He’s my old boyfriend. I understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn’t been sober since.”

“My God!” I said, “Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?”

And then the fight started...



Club Active Bundall is Australia's leading over 50s health and fitness community. We offer tailored health programs for Veterans, facilitated by Accredited Exercise Physiologists, Dietitians and Physiotherapists. Enjoy the convenience of having all of your allied health treatments available in one location, with one expert team. We're here to support you to achieve your goals, at your pace.

EXAMPLE PLANS AVAILABLE

Plan A (High Level Care):

- Exercise Physiology - 3 x sessions per week
- Physiotherapy - 2 x sessions per week
- Dietitian - 1 x session per fortnight

Plan B (Medium Level Care):

- Exercise Physiology - 2 x sessions per week
- Physiotherapy - 1 x session per fortnight
- Dietitian - 1 x session per fortnight

Plan C (Low Level Care):

- Exercise Physiology - 2 x sessions per week
- Physiotherapy - 1 x session per fortnight
- Dietitian - 1 x session per month

GETTING STARTED IS EASY!

All you have to do is:

- Visit your GP to obtain a referral.
- Visit Club Active Bundall to book your first sessions with our allied health team.
- Commence your health plan!

FUNDED FOR DVA CARD HOLDERS - NO GAP FEE

DVA Health Cards (Gold and White) are accepted as payment upon GP referral. PLUS whilst your completing your clinical appointments, your partner can train for FREE! Terms and Conditions apply.

CONTACT CLUB ACTIVE BUNDALL TO LEARN MORE

(07) 5551 6737
1a/71 Upton St, Bundall QLD 4217
bundalleclubactive.com.au

“I've made some great friendships, learned a lot about my health and fitness and how to look after myself.”
Robin G. // Club Active Veteran Member



Southport RSL Sub-Branch Inc.
Corner Marine Parade & Queen Street
PO Box 31
SOUTHPORT BC QLD 4215
T 0484 280 750
E secretary@southport.rslqld.net.au
W www.southportrsl.org

Editor: John Riebeling
Contributors: Ken Orr
Claude Palmer

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