

Southport RSL Sub-Branch Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 4

November 2024



REMINDER
General Meeting
Sunday 24 November
10.30am
Bring your Partner

From the President's Desk

Official Opening On Saturday 24 August the Sub-Branch was officially opened by Steven Day, the President of RSL Qld. Of course, you all know this because you were sent an invitation to attend.

The day dawned bright and sunny, which was a blessing as part of the day's ceremonies were to take part in the open. A temporary cross was placed at the edge of the lawn area at the western side of the Bowls Club, just beyond the Pavilion where seating was in place for the guests.

There were three parts to the day's proceedings, first there was a traditional wreath-laying which was then followed by speeches and the official opening and concluded with a buffet lunch.

Following the official unveiling of the plaques that record the day's opening, there were some rather nice surprises for both myself and my wife, Sandy. Steven Day presented a certificate of appreciation that had both our names on it and then presented each of us with a large

medallion which also was in appreciation of the work that both of us have done over the thirteen plus years we have been members of the Sub-Branch.

Not to be outdone, our local MP, Rob Molhoek, who was represented at our ceremony by Brooke Patterson, presented both Sandy and I with another certificate of appreciation each.

Both presentations were totally unexpected and a wonderful surprise

You can find a selection of photographs on our web site: southportrsl.com.au and some on the pages towards the end of the newsletter.

Legal In a previous communication I gave you all the news that at a mediation between the Sub-Branch and the Memorial Club [MC], an agreement was reached. That agreement was to the effect that the Sub-Branch would receive a monthly payment for a period of no more than three and a half years until the debt had been paid. It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the first of these payments occurred on 30 August and will continue to be paid on the 30th day of each month.

Resignation With the impending start of the payments for what we refer to as the loan default, I decided to advise the Board that I was now able to resign as the President of the Sub-Branch and I gave a date for that to happen—12 February 2025. That is the date of a monthly board meeting a week or so before the Quarterly General Meeting. As you can imagine, this did not come as a complete surprise to the board as I had said on many occasions that I would step down as soon as the court cases had been

concluded. The first payment by the MC was, as far as I was concerned, the completion of all legal actions.

This does not mean that I will not still be heavily involved with the management of the Sub-Branch as we go through the change-over.

Volunteers Hopefully as you read this edition of the newsletter, some of you will have put up your hands to help with our badge selling in the lead up to Remembrance Day. There are only two occasions in the year that we ask for help in selling badges at the two locations we have been using for many years, so I don't think it is too much to ask for your help.

But that is not what this request is about—at least not totally. All members of the Sub-Branch management committee—the Board—are volunteers. Every year at our AGM, three members of the board must step down and every year for the last several years we have not had any additional members submit a nomination. Unless some of you change your thoughts on volunteering to be on our board there will come a time when there will be no board and consequently, **no Sub-Branch**.

Your New Sub-Branch

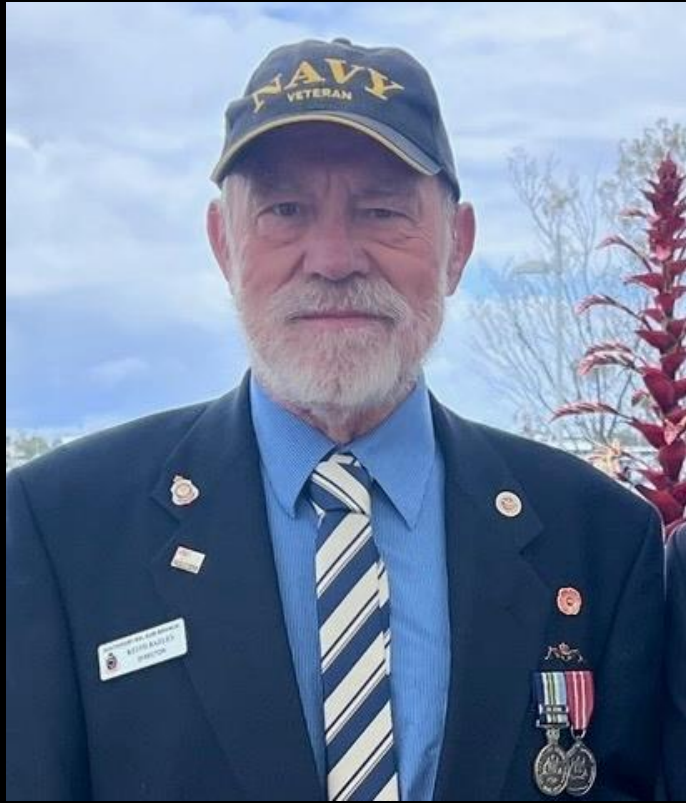
As we have now been officially recognised following the official opening by the State President on 24 August, I thought it might be a good idea to let those of you who have not been able to come and see us, to give you some idea of what the Sub-Branch looks like. The pictures that follow show the office and the display cabinets.



Front of Bowls Club showing our RSL Sign



Vale Keith Bazley



It was a great shock to us all when we were informed that on the day that we had our grand opening, Keith Bazley had passed away. Keith was a great mate to all on the board and was a dedicated worker who was not afraid to roll up his sleeves and “get stuck in.” He was a valuable member of the board and a great friend. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

VICTORIA BARRACKS GUARD RECRUITERS

By Claude Palmer

Once upon a time, back in the 60's, our Army mounted Guards at Victoria Barracks, Sydney. Each Thursday, we also mounted Guard at the Cenotaph, Martin Place. In 1960, the Guard was found from 101 Infantry Workshop, Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. One Saturday morning, two children appeared at the Barracks entrance in Oxford Street. Concerned for their safety due to the traffic, the Guard secured the children in the adjacent Guardhouse.



The Cenotaph Guard

Some minutes later, the Guard Commander was doing his rounds near the entrance, when a Brigadier's car pulled up, the Brigadier asking “Have you seen two children around?” Guard Commander: “Yes, Sir, they're in one of the cells in the Guardhouse”. Brigadier: “Good, keep them there. My wife and I will be back in a few hours.”

14 Years later, that Guard Commander, then a Lieutenant Colonel, was in his Office at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, when a young Army Aviation Pilot appeared, saluted, and said: “Sir, I think you once locked my sister and I in the Barracks Guardhouse in Sydney”. Sure enough, the young Pilot was one of those children. In conversation, the Pilot intimated that the Sydney Saturday event was so much enjoyed by him and his sister, the behaviour of the Craftsmen of 101 was such, entertaining them with treats, that he wanted to work with such men, and was a factor in his decision to enlist at Royal Military College, Duntroon, after leaving school.

MR WHIPPY VIETNAM

By Claude Palmer

February 1969, an Australian Battalion Group was deployed in operations to stop a North Vietnamese Army advance. Comprising an Infantry Battalion, a Troop of Centurion Tanks and Armoured Personnel Carriers, a Battery of Artillery, Engineers, Signals, and a 106 Workshop Battalion Group Detachment., the Workshop Detachment was deployed adjacent to the US Army Heavy Lift Helicopter Company at Long Binh.



106 Workshop Battalion Group Detachment

The “incoming fire” siren sounded. All troops assumed Defence positions. Three rockets exploded in vacant ground nearby, but with nil casualties, nil damage. The “all clear” siren sounded. A few minutes later, the soft notes of “Greensleeves” wafted over, and a Vietnamese Mr Whippy van appeared on the perimeter road just inside the wire. “Soft Serve, Skipper?”

Sinking the Tirpitz, November 12 1944

Avro Lancaster BIII, ED763 'KC-Z'
"Honor", RAF No.617 Sqn,
'Operation Catechism'

Operation Catechism on 12th November 1944 would see another concerted effort by the Royal Air Force to destroy the mighty warship Tirpitz, with 18 Lancasters from No.617 Squadron and a further 13 from No.9 Squadron taking off from their temporary bases at Lossiemouth and Milltown in northern Scotland heading for Tromso Fjord.



Avro Lancaster BIII ED763 'KC-Z'

All the aircraft carried more than a maximum fuel load for a Lancaster and were again loaded with Tallboy bombs, but this time, their flightpath would skirt Swedish airspace, attacking Tirpitz from the opposite direction, hoping to catch the German defenders by surprise. As the Lancasters began their attack run, they could clearly see Tirpitz from as far as 20 miles away and significantly, could see no Luftwaffe fighters. Despite attracting the attentions of heavy defensive fire, the bombers pressed home their attack, with the first Tallboy being released at approximately 08.40.

Over the course of the next few minutes, Tirpitz was subjected to an almost constant stream of these devastating bombs, with at least two scoring direct hits, and others detonating close enough to the ship to cause further damage. Just minutes after the first bomb had been released, Tirpitz was seen to start listing to port, initially appearing to settle at an angle of around 35 degrees as water flooded in, but following a massive explosion ten minutes later, continued her death roll.

Her fate was sealed – Tirpitz immediately capsized and the Lancasters turned for home.

Be Prepared for Emergencies and Disasters

We all need to know what to do in times of crisis.

It's no secret that our sunburnt country is prone to a variety of natural disasters, including bushfires, floods, cyclones, and heatwaves.

Combined with potential medical events, accidents, or other emergencies that may arise, this reality underscores the need for us to be prepared for whatever life has in store for us.

For older Queenslanders, being prepared is crucial to ensure safety and wellbeing. This guide outlines essential steps and considerations to help you effectively prepare for and respond to natural disasters and emergencies.

Understanding the risks

The first step in emergency preparedness is understanding the types of natural disasters that may occur in your area.

For example, bushfires are relatively common in rural and forested areas and can occur at any

time, with the period July to February designated as “fire season” in Queensland.

Local government websites and community resources often provide detailed information on the specific risks in your area. Check out the resources at the end of this article for more information.

Developing an emergency plan

An emergency plan is vital for ensuring quick and efficient action during a crisis. Here are key components to include:

- **Emergency contacts:** Maintain a list of important contacts, including family members, neighbours, emergency services, and your GP. Keep this list in an easily accessible place.
- **Evacuation routes and safe locations:** Identify multiple evacuation routes from your home and know the locations of nearby emergency shelters. If you have mobility issues, ensure these routes are accessible.
- **Communication plan:** Determine how you will communicate with family and friends during an emergency. Establish a primary and secondary method of communication, such as mobile phones, landlines, or social media.
- **Medical needs:** Document your medical needs, including medications, dosages, and medical equipment. Make a list of any assistance you may require during an evacuation.

Assembling an emergency kit

An emergency kit should contain essential items to sustain you for at least 72 hours. Key items include:

- **Water:** At least three litres of water per person per day.
- **Non-perishable food:** A three-day supply of tinned or packaged food items.
- **Medications:** A week’s supply of essential medications and a list of your medications and dosages.
- **First aid kit:** Basic first aid supplies, including bandages, antiseptics, and pain relievers.
- **Important documents:** Copies of identification, insurance policies, medical records, and a list of emergency contacts.

- **Personal hygiene items:** Toiletries, hand sanitiser, and moist towelettes.
- **Clothing and bedding:** Extra clothing, sturdy shoes, and blankets.
- **Torch and extra batteries.**
- **Communication devices:** A battery-powered radio and mobile phone with a charger and, if you have one, a charged power bank.
- **Assistive devices:** Includes glasses, hearing aids, and mobility aids.

Preparing your home

Taking steps to prepare your home can reduce the impact of natural disasters:

- **Home safety assessment:** Conduct a safety assessment of your home. Identify and fix potential hazards, such as securing heavy furniture and checking smoke alarms.
- **Emergency exits:** Ensure that emergency exits are easily accessible and not blocked by furniture or other obstacles.
- **Property maintenance:** Maintain your property to reduce risk, such as clearing gutters, trimming trees, and securing loose items that could become projectiles in high winds.
- **Insurance review:** Review your home insurance policy to ensure it covers natural disasters common in your area.

Staying Informed

During a natural disaster, staying informed is crucial for making timely decisions:

- **Local news and weather alerts:** Follow online, radio, or TV news for current updates on potential hazards and evacuation orders.
- **Emergency services websites and apps.** These may include the Bureau of Meteorology and State Emergency Service.
- **Community networks:** Neighbourhood groups and your local council can provide support and information.
- **Neighbours and friends:** Establish relationships with people who can check on you and provide assistance during an emergency.

Justice of Peace

For those members seeking the services of a JP, one of our members can accommodate. Roger Broady, who is now a member of our board, is in attendance at the VSC office each Tuesday and Thursday. To make an appointment, phone our secretary on:

0484 280 750



The Christmas themed morning tea will be on Wednesday 18 December, so it would be nice to see as many of our members turn up.

Being mindful that a lot of you will not be able to come, I would like on behalf of the Board to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Veterans' Morning Tea For 2025

As you all know, every third Wednesday of each month, at 1000 hrs in the Southport Bowls Club, the Sub-Branch hosts a morning tea for all our Veterans and their Carers. We would like to have more of you turn up if you are able. There is plenty of parking and there are two light rail stops within very easy walking distance from the Club.

Morning Tea Dates 2025	
15 January	16 July
19 February	20 August
19 March	17 September
16 April	15 October
21 May	19 November
18 June	17 December

Meeting Dates 2025

Meeting	Date
General	Sun, 23 Feb 25
AGM	Sun, 24 May 25
General	Sun, 24 Aug 25
General	Sun, 23 Nov 25
All meetings start at 10:30	

Position	AGM		
	2025	2026	2027
President			
Deputy President			
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Director 1			
Director 2			
Director 3			
Director 4			
Director 5			
Director 6			

The Old and the New

By John Riebeling

I was going through some of my old photographs the other day when I came across this one.

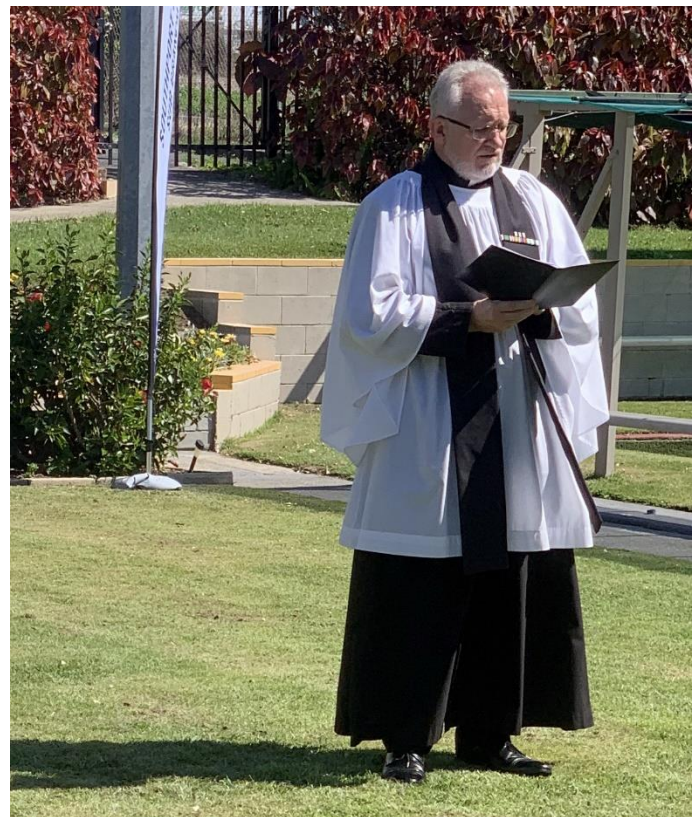


At the time, I was posted to RAAF Base Pearce in Western Australia. This base is where the future pilots of our Air Force do their conversion to jet-powered aircraft. As you can see in the photograph, the training aircraft was a vintage (circa 1946) De Havilland Vampire. The aircraft you see on final approach is the much more potent F-111. I guess the purpose of the exercise was to show the budding aviators just what they could be flying when they graduated.



The Ceremony Begins

Today's 3-year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favourite apps. When I was 3, I ate mud.



Father Don Parker gave his Blessing

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?





State President Steven Day lays a wreath



First Responders well represented



Cold drinks before lunch



Our Oldest Member – Florence Drury



**The commemorative plaques unveiled
(Steven Day & John Riebeling)**



**The Management Board
with Steven Day, Pat Fairon, Brooke Patterson**



Michael Burg gave a wonderful speech



The Three Presidents
Steven Day John Riebeling Pat Fairon

JUST IMAGINE

If you had bought \$1000 worth of Qantas shares one year ago.

You would have made \$49.00 today

If you had bought \$1000 worth of AIG shares one year ago.

You would have made \$33.00 today.

If you had bought \$1000 worth of Lehman Brothers Shares one year ago.

You would have made \$0.00 today.

BUT If you purchased \$1000 worth of beer one year ago, drank all the beer then returned the cans for recycling.

You would have made \$214.00 today.

So, based on above, the best current investment plan is to drink heavily and recycle!!

AND DID YOU KNOW.....

A recent study found that the average Australian walks 900 miles a year.

Another study found the average Australian consumes 22 gallons of alcohol a year.

That means on average AUSSIES get 41 miles to the gallon.

MAKES YOU PROUD TO BE AN AUSSIE, DOESN'T IT??

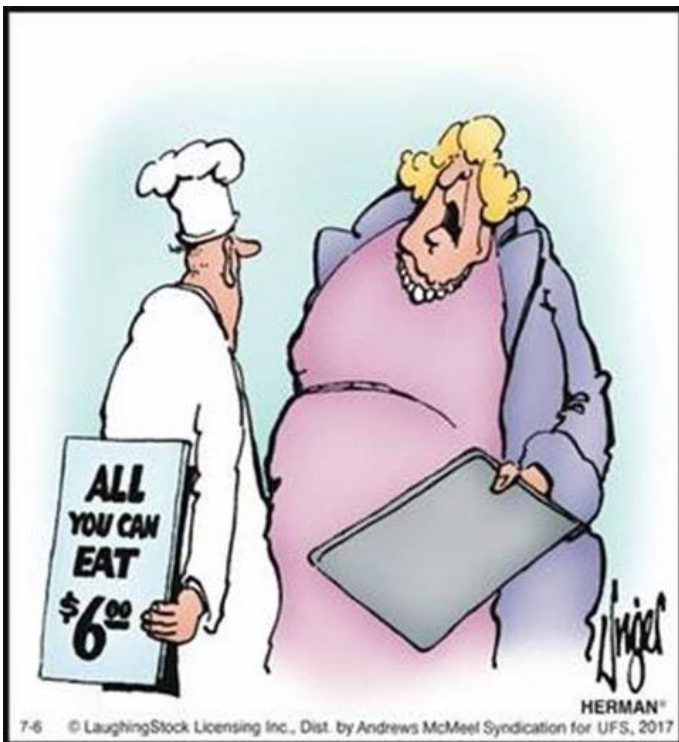
What a pity my medications prohibit alcohol - save for the odd wine or beer - prevent me from taking advantage of these savings. Sign of the (old) times if you understand miles and gallons and are no longer of an age to be average.

Classic SUNDAY ROAST
Members \$17.00
Visitors \$20.00

available during lunch service
11:30 - 2:30 each Sunday
SouthPort Bowls Club
reservations ~ 55312626



“I see on your application that you used to be a termite inspector.”



“What are you hiding behind your back?”

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
Harold Hansen	Treasurer
Michael Burg	Secretary
Claude Palmer	Director 1
Sandra Riebeling	Director 2
Steve Bloxham OAM	Director 3
Kevin Lloyd-Thomas	Director 4
Craig Thomas	Director 5
Roger Broady	Director 6

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Mr **Rob Molhoek MP**, State Member for Southport (**Mail**)