



BURLEIGH HEADS RSL SUB BRANCH

Volume 2 Issue 3 July 2005

# The Burleigh Bugle

We're only a little Sub-Branch with a little bugle, but we reckon

**WE ARE THE HAPPIEST  
AND FRIENDLIEST SUB  
BRANCH IN QUEENSLAND**



## Exciting new facility for members starts today.

Thank you DVA for yet another great contribution to the welfare and benefit of our members.

Today we unveil a modern and very technically advanced audio/visual system in our hall. As you remember, several years ago DVA bought us a public address system that we have been able to use with great success at outside functions and services such as ANZAC Day, VJ Day etc. That system continues to work well outside, but in the confines of our hall, we have had several complaints that the sound is muffled and echoes. This can make it hard for those among us with poorer hearing to fully hear and understand what is going on.

We spoke to DVA and with wonderful support from Mrs Anne Maree Grasso and Ivan Corazzol we have been given funds to help install a sound system that you will find to be exceptional. But it also has visual facilities that will allow us to make presentations on a large screen to be easily seen from any part of the hall. We will be able to have movie sessions, screen documentaries, show video tapes and DVD's etc.

Think about how this new advance in our services can be used to help and entertain you. Your Committee will be pleased to hear your suggestions.

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT** **MAY & JUNE 2005**

Half the year gone already, frightening isn't it!, I sincerely hope you are keeping well through this winter season.

### ***"Vale" ex RAAF 404132 Howard FOSTER***

passed away 28<sup>th</sup> May 2005. Howard had been in poor health for quite awhile, and passed away in Allamada hospital, the funeral service at Allambie was very well attended, Thank you to the Members who made the time to come along and pay their respects. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Hazel and Howard's family. "Lest we forget".



The Sub-Branches Monthly meetings have been very well attended, as usual, the month of May, we had 78 Members and three visitors, and with the Auxiliary ladies we had 85 in total join in the social after the meeting. The June Monthly BBQ meeting, we had 95 Members with 8 visitors in attendance and as usual 8 ladies joined in after the meeting, a total of 111. Thank you and well done to, the chef's and refreshment volunteers who did a great job, keeping us fed and refreshed.

The Sub-Branch fourth Wednesday socials are also being well attended, to give you an idea, the May social we had 57, and June had 55 in attendance, considering this is winter, not too bad at all, and I'm sure those who attend, enjoy themselves immensely. A Huge thanks to the volunteers who provide their time, to set up the hall, serve food, refreshments and help clean up and pack away the furniture.

June 17, 18, & 19, I attended the annual RSL State congress in Mackay, hopefully represented you well. A full report will be published in the next issue of the RSL News. The congress went off very well, the opening and closing ceremonies were something to behold. We can be very proud of our youth of today who serve in the cadet corps. The Army, Navy and Air force cadets were involved and all I can say, I wish you had been there to see it, very moving and solemn and brought a tear to my eye!!

For your information, I would like to mention some of the work that goes on behind the scene at the RSL Hall. Don Anderson, replaced a worn out water tap outside the hall. Another working party consisting, Les & Jean McKenzie, Shorty Short, George Utterson & Wally Essing, worked tirelessly to add bars to windows for security, installed two more wall fans, to help keep us cooler in summer and other tedious jobs that needed doing in the hall. Brian Thompson, volunteer gardener takes weekly care of the area around the hall and the garden. On behalf of you, I would like to thank everyone most sincerely. Labour for these jobs, that have been performed would cost a small fortune, we are very fortunate to have such talented and generous

members!!.

Most of you may know that I was elected to the State Council of the QLD RSL by the Gold Coast district a few months ago. The Queensland RSL State Branch has twenty state Councillors, and in fact the Councillors are the directors of the RSL state Branch and oversee the operation of the State executive. So far I have attended three Council meetings, all I can say is they are most interesting. The meeting is held on a Saturday & Sunday every two months at RSL HQ in Brisbane.

From what I have observed, since being elected Councillor, is that the league in Queensland is being run very efficiently, openly and financially transparently. Queensland has moved into the new century, with what appears to be very talented people at the helm of Queensland State Branch.

For the benefit of members who have read the scuttlebutt about the current State President being printed in the "Courier Mail" over the last month. A few malcontents are fueling this, and unfortunately a reporter that doesn't have much regard for the truth has been sucked into their web. I can assure you that the current State President, Bill Mason has the full

support of the State Executive and State council.

Bill Mason was re elected Qld RSL State President, at the RSL State Congress. Bill was elected unopposed without dissent, this should convince these few people that they should pull their heads in!!

Members may hear some news with regard to the RSL War Vets Homes, Art Union. I can assure you that the matter is in hand and RSL Qld Branch will be taking over the Art Union at the end of the year and will be running it in house, when the current agreement expires with Comprite, end of December this year.

For the WW2 ARMY members, a little bit of trivia, thanks to Les McKenzie. The OWG uses a special "Rising Sun Badge" for headstones, so if you were a X (AIF) number during WW2, should you be entitled to official commemoration, your next of kin can request that a "Australian Imperial Force" rising sun badge be placed on your headstone, aren't you pleased about that!! Les reckons he's not going so he doesn't need to think about this.

Membership is steaming along at full pelt, as at 31 December 2004 Burleigh Heads Membership was 221 and as at 23 June 2005 it stands at 241, well done everyone who has brought along a new member since January.

**Burleigh Heads RSL received a bonus cheque at State Congress for 100% renewal of 2004 membership, in fact the Sub-branch has now received three bonus Cheques in total from State this year, every little bit helps with the mounting admin cost necessary for the future progress of the Sub-Branch.**

Twenty-one new members have joined us, so far this year. New Members who have joined since the last newsletter, I would like to welcome you to the sub-branch and hope your stay with us will be a very long and happy one.

make the most of it and recover quickly!

Happy birthday to the May and June babies, I hope you all have many more birthdays to come, and stay as young as you feel.

Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> August, Margaret May MP, Federal Member for McPherson will be presenting WW2 Medallions to some members at the RSL hall, 9.30am to 11am, the ladies of the Auxiliary will be providing morning tea for those who will be invited to attend, more on this event later.

Please keep Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2005 free, as it is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW2. Burleigh RSL will be conducting the usual commemoration service, more information at the August BBQ meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 12.30pm start.

Finally, the Qld RSL state HQ, have released a new publication called "the RSL Handbook". It is a glossy publication and will be available for purchase at the price of \$15. The Secretary has a copy should anyone like to have a look, and if you like it, you can order one through him. Presently the publication is a limited print and depending on sales may not be reproduced, time will tell!

I sincerely hope you all keep well over the next few months, and hopefully the weather will be kind to all of us.

*Chris*

Note from the handsome and good lookin' young editor:

*Please note the following rules for our forthcoming movie afternoons:*

- *No canoodling in the back row*
- *No rolling Jaffas down the aisle*
- *No "goosing" the usherettes*
- *No dogs allowed into "Lassie" movies*

## OUR OTHER SAILORS - THE MERCHANT NAVY

During the address at our ANZAC Day church service, the guest speaker, Ken McNaught, spoke of the work carried out by the Merchant Navy during WW2. I have since seen some interesting figures, and I thought you might be interested.

During the war 1,170 German U-Boats sank 14.3 million tons of merchant ships.

The Germans also had 17 long range surface raiders. Four of them entered Australian waters during the second half of 1940 and sank 23 ships.

Throughout the war there were 4996 British & Allied Merchant Navy ships lost, and 62,993 merchant seamen killed in action. That's one out of every five merchant navy sailors in the Atlantic and one in every ten in the Pacific.

After Japan entered the war, a total of 55 ships were sunk along the Australian coastline, including the infamous sinking of the hospital ship "Centaur" just 40 miles (approx.) from our RSL Hall, with the heavy loss of life including 233 medical personnel (including 11 women nurses) and 45 merchant navy sailors.

Our Prime Minister in 1943, John Curtin, said: *"Whenever you see a man in the street wearing the distinctive MN badge, raise your hat to him, because without these gallant men the war would be lost."*

Captain Peter A.K. Boswell summed it all up in the memorium:

**No cross marks the spot where we now lie.  
What happened is known but to us.  
You asked, and we gave our lives to protect  
our land from the enemy curse.  
No Flanders Field where poppies blow  
No gleaming crosses, row on row;  
No Unnamed Tomb for all to see  
And pause....and wonder who we might be.  
The Sailors' Valhalla is where we lie  
On the ocean bed, watching ships pass by,  
Sailing in safety now, thru' the waves  
Often right over our sea-locked graves.  
WE ASK YOU JUST TO REMEMBER US**



*These young folk are having a birthday this month — and look at 'em. They haven't changed a bit since they were 19 !*

Allan Appleby—15th July  
Ed Beasley - 12th July  
Ray Brinkley - 30th July  
Cy Dakin - 7th July  
Ben Davies - 16th July  
Dizzy Dowsett 3rd July  
Wally Essing - 11th July  
Ron Fallows - 24th July  
Peter Fleming— 14th July  
Ian Forbes - 13th July  
Ken Gaulton— 12th July  
Lionel Green - 9th July  
Keith Jones - 12th July  
Pete Lofthouse—2nd July  
Jean McKenzie— 21st July  
Bob Mobbs - 18th July  
Mal Murray— 27th July  
Phil Newton— 21st July  
Ron Powell— 23rd July  
Norm Wallis— 18th July  
Brian Ward— 24th July  
Don Weger— 29th July  
Col Wilson— 23rd July

The sub-branch is planning a huge party with a five course banquet, free grog, dancing girls and a 23 piece orchestra -

Just as soon as the committee wins Lotto

*(Only kidding, but have a great time anyway, and the best wishes of the committee and members go to all the above.)*

I had my annual medical check-up last month, and this week rang my doctor for the results.

He said: "I want you to come in. I have some more questions I want to ask you."

I asked: "Why?"

He said: "Well, I'll need more information for the autopsy." Eeeer...

## THE BUDGET AND YOU

It seems that the only changed entitlement is an increase in the levels for some high cost dental procedures (crowns, etc) from \$749 to \$2000 pa,

While community health costs have increased annually at about 7% per year, veterans' health costs have increased by 8%. But when you consider that Gold Card holder numbers are reducing by about 8,000 per year, that 8% increase is really much higher, because holders are getting older, and medical treatments, new drugs and technology are getting dearer. There has also been increases in the set fees paid to various specialties, such as anaesthetists, dentists, chiropractors etc.

Cost of the Gold Card now runs at \$14,000 per head per year, and if it were to be extended, as some groups want, the cost could be enormous. As an example an estimated 60,000 people enlisted in WW2 but, through no fault of their own, did not serve overseas and are therefore not entitled to the Gold Card. Also, there are 43,000 British & Allied veterans who would like the Gold Card.

Hoarding of pharmaceuticals is an old problem, so from January 1 you will not be able to get a "repeat" on a prescription within 20 days of the last one, except for those specially authorised by your doctor. Also, the safety net threshold will increase from 52 to 54 prescriptions per year and increasing by a further 2 per year until 2009.

Another point of interest is the tightening of surveillance on DVA claims. There is now a network between DVA, Centrelink and the Australian Tax Office where each individual's records are checked in all three departments. So you cannot be inconsistent with the information you give each department, and if you fail to get it right you could face court for debt recovery action. There have been cases where old people have lost their houses because they have not been able to repay any overpayment.

As I pointed out above, numbers of Gold Card holders are falling and the figures for now and into the immediate future for service pensions are forecast to be:

2004 -	138,700
2005 -	130,200
2006 -	121,400
2007 -	112,800
2014 -	60,000

War Widows:

2004 -	114,418
2005 -	114,500
2006 -	114,400

Years ago DVA established the "Veterans' Affairs Financial Information Service" to help veterans better understand the complexity of their financial arrangements with respect to means testing. That service has now been discontinued at DVA and is now being handled by Centrelink. I hope this is not the thin edge of the wedge. If you have any problems getting through to Centrelink please let your secretary know and the matter will be taken up at a high level.

As the number of veterans declines over the next decades, the RSL should work hard to ensure that DVA remains as an exclusive agency for the benefit of veterans, and never be mainstreamed into other service provision agencies such as Centrelink.

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## NEWSTALK

For the visually impaired, and if you're finding it harder to read the paper there is an exciting new community project where local news and events, community happenings and creative readings are put on CD and distributed to those who need this service.

If you would like to join the list, and receive a free fortnightly Newstalk CD, ring 55256466 or 55930460

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# HALLELUJAH !

I get amusement from some of the bumper stickers I see, but I've never had one on my car. The other day I was looking in the window of a local Christian book shop and saw a bumper sticker that read "Honk if you love Jesus", and in a moment of rashness I bought it and stuck it on my back window.

I later stopped for a red light at a busy intersection, and was dreaming away so I didn't notice that the lights had changed. But it's a good thing that the guy behind me must have read my sticker, because he honked. Then I found out that lots of people love Jesus. While I was sitting there, the guy behind the guy behind me started honking like mad and then he leaned out his window and screamed: "For the love of God – GO! GO! Jesus Christ, GO". What an exuberant cheer leader he was for the Lord.

Everyone started honking so I leaned out of my window to wave and smile at all these wonderful, loving people. I even honked a few time myself to share in the love. One chap must have been a plumber because he yelled out something that sounded like "Soapy bathtub".

I saw another chap waving in a funny way with only his middle finger in the air, and when I asked my grandson in the back seat what it meant, he told me that he thought it was an old aboriginal good luck sign, so I leaned out the window again and gave him the good luck sign in return....and my grandson burst out laughing. So you see, even he was enjoying this religious experience.

A couple of people were so caught up in the joy of the moment, they got out of their cars and started to walk towards me. They probably wanted to know what church I went to, but it was then that I noticed the lights had changed to green, so I waved to all my new-found brothers and sisters and drove through the intersection. I noticed I was the only car to get through the intersection before the lights changed again, and I felt rather sad I had to leave them all behind after all the love we had shared, so I leaned out the window again and gave them the aboriginal good luck sign one last time as I drove away.

Praise the Lord for such wonderful, loving folks !

*(submitted by Bob Proud)*

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The views and opinions expressed in this publications are not necessarily those of the editor, the Committee, the Sub-branch or any other sane and sensible person. The editor just thought we'd chuck 'em in together with all the mistakes, misquotes and spelling errors just to keep you on your toes.

Just remember that your editor has been there, seen it all, done it all and can't remember most of it.

## Classified Ads

To give away to a good home

Free Puppies

1/2 Cocker Spaniel,

1/2 Next door's sneaky dog

For Sale—Cows, Calves -- Never Bred

Also 1 Gay Bull For Sale.

## NOTICE FROM G.C. CITY COUNCIL

If you take a shower in the morning, please bring it back. The Coast is short of water.

Is it true that cannibals don't eat comedians because they taste funny?

and

Wot about the two cannibals sitting eating dinner. One said to the other: "I don't like your mother-in-law."

And the other answered: "Well stop your whingeing and just eat your chips then."

*OK. Now that you've groaned and grimaced at these excruciatingly funny jokes, sit back and enjoy the movies....*

*You will recognise our President. He will be the one walking up and down at interval with a tray of confectionary suspended from a leather strap around his neck, yelling out "SWEETS! LOLLIES! CHOCS!" and Bob Birch will be flogging hotdogs out on the footpath after the show.*