

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT AUG to DEC 2009**

Good day fellow members! This year has almost gone and it certainly looks like a very hot summer on its way. This issue of the Burleigh Bugle will be the last, it has run its course; our Assistant Secretary Robert Jones has to relinquish this duty as his business commitment have increased to point that he does not have the spare time to compile the newsletter as it did take a great deal of his valuable time. Many thanks; Robert your contribution has been invaluable and much appreciated.

The secretary and I have found that the Burleigh Bugle has been duplicating much news that had already been circulated by other publications, i.e., Vet affairs News, RSL Care, WVCS news and Qld RSL News. With the ever-increasing cost of printing, even though Barry & Sheena of Copy Plus Burleigh covered much of the cost by sponsorship, it still was a very expensive and time-consuming effort by many to produce such a publication. Huge thanks must go to them Barry & Sheena and their staff for their contribution. It's amazing how well things went with Robert Jones, compiling the Bugle in the US, emailing to me for proof reading, me re-emailing to Robert who in turn set up the document to email to Copy Plus who would then set up for printing as a newsletter!! It's a small world and it all went like clockwork!

I would like to take this most important opportunity to thank our supporters and sponsors, Greg Betts, Burleigh Heads Councillor Division 12 Gold Coast City Council, Garth Middleton from Tyre Guys, Ashley & Wes Heritage from Heritage Brothers Funeral services, Sherril & Raechel Farquharson from ProMed, Leanne, owner of Burleigh Blooms, Gerry & Callie Cahir from Cheap as Chips Framing, Robert Crowe from Burleigh Signs, Neil Frick from Netrepair, Barry & Sheena Reed from Copy Plus Burleigh heads. Their participation and valuable contribution has been most appreciated and helped ensure the smooth operation of the sub-branch.

Sadly with regret, I have to report the passing of five members since April last!!!!

“Vale”

COLIN (Col) VINCENT JOSEPHSON WW2 ex-NX180701 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF (US SMALL SHIPS UNIT) DIED 24 September 2009 aged 82.

JACK BERTRUM CHARLES DAVEY WW2 ex-TX4078 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF DIED 8 October 2009 aged 91.

IVAR KAARE NYLAND WW2 ROYAL NORWEGIAN NAVY DIED 19 October 2009 aged 88.

VICTOR (Vic) ALEXANDER HALE ex -374118 NS ARMY/CITIZEN MILITARY FORCES/RESERVES 1951 – 1984 DIED 20 November 2009 aged 75.

FRANCIS (Silver) MARSDEN WIDDICOMBE WW2 ex-VX91138 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF DIED 29 NOVEMBER 2009 aged 86.

Our current Membership stands as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009, 2 Life members, 122 Life Subscribers, 15 Service Members – LS status and 81 service members, total 220.

#### BURLEIGH HEADS RSL VP/VJ day COMMEMORATION 15<sup>th</sup> August 2009

I arrived at the Burleigh Memorial Park at 8.30am. The day, weather wise was glorious, the sun was shining and the memorial Park was manicured to perfection. The marquee and chairs were set up and the sound equipment was being tuned by the sound tech Grant Maroney. Veterans were starting to arrive and some members of the public; Army cadets with Cadet Officers Lt's Mark & Bernadette Shelly had arrived and were busy preparing the cadets to mount the guard.

I received a phone call at 10.17 am from our Secretary, Trevor Taylor advising me that a friend of his, Keith Richards, had acquired a copy of the "Instrument Of Surrender"

signed on the 2nd September 1945 which officially ended the Second World War in the Pacific against the Japanese. I was further informed that the document was a donation to the Sub-Branch to be included in its memorabilia. I was excited and asked Trevor to bring it along for the day's service. When Trevor arrived and presented me with the document, upon closer examination, I discovered that the document was a copy that had been reproduced from the original document in "1981 by the Awani Press, Fredericksburg, Texas, United States of America". *It is the best copy I had ever seen.* The document was displayed at the foot of the lectern on the Cenotaph during the service for all to come and inspect

At 1050 hrs, Parade Marshall Les McKenzie and about thirty Veterans with flag party, Ken McNaught, Vern Williams, Ron Mansfield & Alistair McColl formed up parade and the Army cadets mounted the guard on the Cenotaph. There were only about fifty members of the public ready for the service to commence. In attendance were: Fr Pat Molony - Honorary Padre, Samantha Naday - Vocalist, Greg Betts - Councillor Division 12 for Burleigh and Christine Smith - State Member for Burleigh. On parade with the troops were Norm Anderton, MBE and Ex-POW - ex-Secretary of the now defunct Gold Coast & District Ex-POW Association, and fellow ex-POW Mick Kilday. These are just two of our surviving ex-POW's, great to see them still standing tall. Greg Betts was asked to read the POW's Prayer on behalf of the POW's during the service.

The service of commemoration concluded with Samantha Naday singing all four Anthems with the New Zealand anthem being sung in Maori for the very first time! What a great voice for such a small young lady. Thank you Sam!

*A huge thanks to the Veterans and public that turned up on the day to remember and say "Thanks for the sacrifice" to those who didn't return or are with us no more!*

The turnout was, to say the least, disappointing. It would seem that unless a day of commemoration is dignified with a Public Holiday, very few Australians see any reason

to stand, remember and give thanks. We at Burleigh Heads RSL with the support of the Gold Coast City Council and our local councillor will persevere to recognize this very special day in Australia's history and remember the sacrifices that nearly one million Australian service men & women and their families made during the second World War. Please remember next year it will be the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and hopefully with the Federal governments support we may be able to make it special!!! More news to come!

### **LEGACY BADGE WEEK - 2009**

Southport Gold Coast Legacy badge week, 30 August to 4<sup>th</sup> September went exceptional well in Burleigh with nearly \$10000 raised, thanks to the members who assisted a most worthy cause, we need to look after the war widows and war orphans as sadly numbers are rising and Legacy, legatees do a great job!

### **2009 REMEMBRANCE DAY - BURLEIGH HEADS**

A great attendance of Veterans & members of the public were present at the Memorial Park Burleigh Heads for the 2009 Remembrance Day service. The Sub-Branch field of crosses was placed at the cenotaph, which named every Burleigh Heads RSL member that had passed away since 1939 when the Sub-Branch was formed.

This year as it was a very warm day, it was decided that it was not prudent to have the troops fall in on parade and they were allowed to remain under cover and in the shade of the rubber tree. The cadets from 133 Army cadet Unit under the leadership of 2Lt Peter Fleming mounted a catafalque guard and they remained for the full 40 minute service, they were a credit to many of the youth of today! Thanks Cadets.

Fr Pat Molony, Honorary Padre conducted the religious part of the service and then remained on the cenotaph to roast like the rest of us, many thanks Fr Pat! Always dependable! There were in excess of 450 persons in attendance, it was one of the

biggest crowds seen for many years. Hopefully this trend will continue in future years to come! Channel 9 local news cameraman gave the service a great coverage on the 5.30pm local news, thanks Channel 9.

A huge thanks to Trevor Taylor, C dec our honorary Secretary/Treasurer, my right hand man for working like a navvy by getting all the crosses placed around the cenotaph for the service and all the other running around that he had to do again thanks! A huge thanks to one of our silent members, Terry Perrott who quietly goes about, he makes the crosses and places the names on them, thanks Terry!

Samantha Naday by having a leave of absence from her school studies, contributed much to the service, she read the Flanders poem and sang the four Anthems, thanks Sam! David Grant, Senior Vice President contributed by the reading the POW prayer, thanks David for always being available to step into the breach when needed, very good qualities of a Senior Vice President! I must not forget Les McKenzie, Junior Vice President who always contributes very much to the smooth operation of the Sub-Branch and its activities and Jean McKenzie's right hand Man and, I think her only man!

Jeannie McKenzie again organized the 2009 Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal in James St outside of the Suncorp Branch with the kind permission of Manager Grant Perry, Thank you Grant! Your assistance and that of Suncorp is always most valued and appreciated. Jean with her Auxiliary President Ruth Connelly coordinated the poppy sellers like clockwork and sales were great considering the crowds were down, as the Post Office in James Street had closed and moved to a new location, sales were down as expected to previous years!

Ruth as usual put 110% into the selling part and her contribution was "above and beyond the call of duty", thank you President Ruth! The Sub-Branch presented a certificate of Appreciation to Ruth Connelly at the General Meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> for her

personal contribution, without her major effort it would have been very difficult for Jean McKenzie to perform this task as well as she did. A thanks also goes to all the poppy sellers who gave of their time to contribute in the Sub-Branch welfare fund raising efforts, I'm sure Jean has thanked them all personally. "Lest We Forget"

The 2009 Queensland RSL State Congress report was printed in the Last issue of the Qld State issue of the RSL News for all to peruse. The State President's report is always an interesting read and lets you know what is going on outside the Sub-Branch!

The Sub-Branches Monthly meetings have been very well attended, as usual, well done Members! August General Meeting seventy-one members, three visitors and four auxiliary ladies, we had a total seventy-eighty join in the BBQ social after the meeting, great! Thanks to the cooks, Ken McNaught, Ron Mansfield and Ray Coppin, another great effort and of course the ladies from the auxiliary, and the Bar boys, thank you!

The Sub-Branch August fourth Wednesday social was well attended, we had 50 considering this was supposed to be winter, not too bad at all, and I'm sure those who were there, enjoyed themselves immensely.

The September General Meeting was also well attended, we had 53 Members, 2 Visitors and 3 Women's Auxiliary ladies join in the social after the meeting. Great to see such attendances, considering health, age, medical and transport restrictions.

The September social attendance with 33 members, 2 visitors and one lady auxiliary member in attendance, I think everyone enjoyed himself or herself, as the gathering was very jovial, well done!

The October General Meeting 69 members, 3 visitors and 5 auxiliary ladies, we had a total 77 join in the BBQ social after the meeting, great! Thanks again to the cooks,

Ken McNaught, Ron Mansfield and Ray Coppin, another great effort and of course the ladies from the auxiliary, thank you!

The October social attendance with 42 members 2 visitors and one lady auxiliary member in attendance, 45, a good effort!

The November General Meeting attendance was well down, we had 40 Members, 3 Visitors and 3 Women's Auxiliary ladies join in the social after the meeting, a total of 46. There were many regulars away on trips, cruises and medical appointments, etc, one of the smallest attendances in many a year.

The November social attendance with 43 members, four visitors and two auxiliary lady members in attendance, in total forty-nine, a very good effort!

I keep thanking the volunteers each and every time but they need all the thanks they can get, so again 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.

David & Anne Parsons have again continued to maintain the maintenance and cleaning of the RSL Hall, with the usual assistance from George Utterson and Les McKenzie! Thank you David and Anne, ever dependable, keep up the good work!

We do have a great team, just to name the regulars, Les McKenzie, Brian Williams, Noel Hull & Bruce Weir, the refreshment team, Kevin Cook & George McCabe, the fundraising team, Allan Price, David Parsons & John Rapp the attendance team, Jock Black, John Mees, Norm Walliss, Bruce Burgess, general duties, Ken McNaught, Ron Mansfield & Ray Coppin the Catering team. The Auxiliary team, Ruth Connolly, Jean McKenzie, Dulcie Humrich & Betty Billings, a great team of hard working ladies! If I

have missed any names, please don't take offence, it is not intentional so thanks to those who helped when they could.

I also like to thank David Grant, Senior Vice President for taking some pressure off me at times through the year and my dependable honorary Secretary/Treasurer Trevor Taylor, who has been hard working, conscientious and dependable in all his duties and at times, taken much pressures off me. Thank you David and Trevor!

It has been a very busy few months, with many of our members in and out of hospital, I have tried to visit everyone but if I have missed anyone please accept my apology! All the very best to those who have been on sick parade, I hope you all improve and are 100% again. It isn't nice being sick but make the most of it and recover quickly!

My year has been quite busy with having to do many more flying visits to my mother in Victoria, she is aging and is not in good health so this has taken much time up, but I have good back up which enables me to spend time with her also.

Happy birthday to the November, December & January babies, I hope you all have many more birthdays to come, and stay as young as you feel.

Councillor Greg Betts & Gold Coast City Council need to be thanked for the support provided to the committee for the assistance in the conducting of commemoration services and maintaining the memorial park in such a perfect condition. The Gold Coast City Council events unit provide the marquees, chairs & sound system for our commemoration service and this is of great support as the cost would be prohibitive. Thank you Greg and GCCC.

On Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2009 a commemoration service was held at the Bora ring, Yugambeh War Memorial Rock next to the RSL hall to pay respect to all the indigenous

men and women who served in defence of Australia over the years. The Kombumerri Aboriginal Corporation conducted the service, with some assistance from the Burleigh RSL Sub-Branch. There were light refreshments provided by the elders, after the service. A display of boards, "Q150 program", depicting prominent residents and telling of their early stories of life in the district, this display will tour the Gold Coast Libraries during 2010 and then go on permanent display at the Yugambeh museum in Beenleigh. Approximately 80 attended the service. The Elders of the Yugambeh peoples thanked the RSL and Rory O' Conner, Director of the Yugambeh Museum, Language & Heritage Research Centre in which they "Promote Indigenous Language" in Yugambeh Country, also thanked the RSL for the cooperation and assistance.

Christmas Party held last Wednesday was a huge success, 65 members, 55 guests and 5 VIP's a total 125 attended. Our new caterer, Suzanne Vassella and her team of volunteers provided the food and it was of first class quality, thank you Suzanne and ladies! Everyone seemed to enjoy them selves, no complaints; there was enough food to feed a battalion! Jeff & Shirley Smith entertained us with some old songs and Christmas songs, which many enjoyed, thank you Jeff & Shirley! The ladies of the Auxiliary have again surpassed themselves with the table decorations and monster Christmas raffle, many thanks! Huge thanks to all who donated prizes towards the raffle! Great contribution from all! Auxiliary President Ruth Connelly has again tried to spoil everyone with a monster fresh cream sponge cake which she supplied, thank you Ruth, you really shouldn't, but it did look wonderful and there wasn't any left after it was dished out!!

Suzanne Vassella of the Keep Fit classes fame, kindly stepped into Betty Hale's shoes in February when she took over the catering from our long-term caterer Betty Hale who had been doing it for many years and unfortunately, Betty had to retire last Christmas due to health issues. Suzanne has been providing the sandwiches for our meetings and socials throughout the year and so far no complaints!! one thing not know is that the

profits made by Suzanne for the catering she provides to the Sub-Branch, she donates to the Queensland Cancer Fund. Well-done Suzanne and thank you, and please pass on our thanks to your ladies who donated some of the wonderful dishes of food for the Christmas party!

Take care and remember to update your DVA pension with Neil Harcourt the Sub-Branch Honorary Senior Advocate/Pensions Officer. If you're not getting your maximum entitlement please make contact with Neil between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday at his home on 5576 3091 or mobile 0419641 843 or the Surfers Paradise Veterans Centre 5539 8336 during business hours. Please be considerate and don't ring on weekends or unearthly hours!!

**IMPORTANT!** Don't forget should you move address or change your phone number let the Secretary know!

I will take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support throughout the year and wish everyone a very festive Christmas season and a most healthy and joyful New Year 2010!

I am away for two weeks before Christmas but will be back the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, my mobile is always turned on, except when flying but will record your call, should you need to talk to me or for any advice, remember 0407 761663 and if you don't get to talk to me, I will return your missed call. Our hard working secretary, Trevor is also available on 0418 727801.

Just a few reminders for the upcoming year: the Sub-Branch 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary BBQ social will be held at the RSL on Wednesday 13 January 2010 at 1230hrs, please remember no MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING in January or **FOURTH WEDNESDAY SOCIAL!!!**

The AGM NOTICES, a Committee Nominations form and 2010 CALENDARS WILL BE AVAILABLE at the BBQ on the 13 January 2010 BBQ, those members in attendance will be able to collect their envelopes and those not able to attend, their notices will be posted immediately after the social.

The FIRST MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING for the year 2010 will be held on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 1330hrs NO BBQ and the fourth Wednesday Social will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 1330hrs.

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual General meeting which is the 2010 AGM will be held on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 1230hrs, followed by the March monthly General meeting with a BBQ to finish, looking forward to a great turn out!

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY:

The Very Last item on the Agenda is the 2010 Annual membership Subscriptions!

The \$20 annual Subscription is due NOW and payable but must be paid no later than by the 31<sup>st</sup> January to ensure continuity of membership! Trevor has received the new 2010 membership cards and this year the membership card incorporates the Ambassador discount scheme aspect, everyone including the Life subscribers will be getting a new card each and every year while ever the Queensland State RSL continues with this program. I hope members can get some benefits out of the discount scheme.

So, all Annual Subscribers, please pay your subscription as soon as possible, Trevor is waiting for your renewal. Sadly we lost five members this year through non renewal of their subs, that breaks my heart as it is difficult to gain new members, bad enough when members pass away, so remember, please renew it's only \$20 or alternately pay your Life Subscription as you would be saving, saving heaps in the long run, just contact Trevor for the form, very simple procedure!!!

Keep recruiting, any time you encounter an ex service person remember to sing the praises of this great Sub-branch and tell them of the mateship and camaraderie that exists in this sub-branch. "Mates getting Mates" that is how this sub-branch has grown over the last 14 years. Talk to your Mates, keep well, happy and see you in 2010!

Yours in service

*Chris Keating*