

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT JUNE-JULY 2008

Good day! We certainly are having a very mild winter so far; I sincerely hope you are keeping well through this season.

Sadly we have lost one member over the last two months:

"Vale" **ERIC RAYMOND (RAY) MARSH ex NX95868** 2nd AIF WW2 died 1 JULY 2008 aged 86 in JOHN FLYNN Hospital GOLD COAST, Ray passed away peacefully with friends by his side, as he had no family. Ray as he was known to his friends, joined Burleigh Heads RSL in 2001, and was a very active member until his health started to fail in the last few weeks. Geoff Spicer, Ray's executor advised that there was to be no funeral service as per Ray wishes and his body was to be donated to the University of Queensland towards medical research. This last act reflects the kind of man Ray was, to his friends and his community! Burleigh Heads RSL members and all his friends will sadly miss Ray. "Lest We Forget"

Our current Membership stands as at 28th July 2008, 2 Life members, 124 Life Subscribers and 107 service members, total 233. We have managed to recruit two new members since the last report, Judy Rodwell and Colin Josephson. Welcome aboard and we hope your stay with us is a long and happy one!

We still need to do more recruiting, so please become more active and bring along a mate to join!

The 2008 Queensland RSL State Congress was held in Rockhampton 20th to the 22nd June 2008. The motions passed will be printed in the Qld RSL News next issue, mostly administration, the congress also voted to reduce the State Executive by one Vice President and have halved the State council by almost 50% from 24 to 13. The State Council now consists of the ten Queensland RSL District Presidents and the three State Executive.

The congress re-elected Queensland RSL State President Doug Formby, a new State Deputy President was elected, Terry Meehan, and only one vice President was elected and that was Ray Townsend.

The Sub-Branches Monthly meetings have been very well attended, as usual. Well done Members! June general meeting, we had 70 Members, seven visitors, and with the Auxiliary ladies of eight, we had 85 in total join in the BBQ social after

the meeting, great! Thanks to the cooks, Ken McNaught and Ron Mansfield, another great effort!

The Sub-Branch June fourth Wednesday social was well attended. We had 45. Considering this is winter, not too bad at all, and I'm sure those who were there, enjoyed themselves immensely.

The July general meeting was also well attended, we had 70 Members, and five Women's Auxiliary ladies join in the social after the meeting. Great to see such attendances, considering health, age, medical and transport restrictions and it was a cold day!

The July social attendance improved with 48 in attendance, and that was another cold and windy day. I think everyone just needed a bit of company, well done!

I keep thanking the volunteers 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. A big thank-you to Jock Black who stepped up to help while George Utterson was away, but now has decided to keep coming along to assist, again thank you!

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

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!

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

Please keep Friday the 15th August 2008 free, as it is the 63rd anniversary of the end of WW2, and we also remember the Vietnam Veterans who gave their all, as 18th August is Vietnam Veterans Day. Burleigh RSL will be conducting a commemorative service, at the Burleigh Heads Cenotaph in the Memorial park, Connor Street Burleigh Heads, please wear your medals if you have them. Parade time: 10.30am for 10.50am. Hopefully some of the schools in our area will also have representatives attend.

Gold Coast City Council will be providing a sound system, some chairs for the park; the service shouldn't take much more than half hour. Hope to see a good roll up from our WW2 members, as the 15th August was a very significant date in your lives, considering the hardships you all had to endure for almost 6 years and many even after that date.

Please remember 2008 Gold Legacy Badge week in September. If you have some spare time to volunteer, please contact Ben Schuster 5535 4400 as he usually organizes the Burleigh Heads selling area and always is on the look out for volunteers. It is a truly great cause and Legacy needs the funds to look after our War widows and their children. Legacy does a great job without government funding!

Sunday the 26th October 2008 is another date to remember. There will a commemorative service at the Yugambah War Memorial 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 service will be 8.45am for 9am. The Kombumerri Aboriginal Corporation will conduct the service, with assistance from the Burleigh RSL Sub-Branch. There will light refreshments provided by the elders, after the service. Please try and attend, Medals to be worn.

An early reminder for the 90th Anniversary of (Armistice) Remembrance day, Tuesday 11th November 2008, Commemoration service will be conducted at the Burleigh Memorial Park, please mark your calendar for that date!!

Take care and remember to update your DVA pension with Neil Harcourt the Sub-Branch Honorary Senior Advocate/pension 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. 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!

Yours in service

Chris Keating