

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2008**

Good day everyone, 2008 has almost gone! It has been another busy and eventful year. This report is a bit short but will catch with more in the New Year!

**WANTED** - any of your unwanted, spare old RSL badges, returned from active service badges, War medals, service hat badges, or any military badges. I am trying to make up a memorabilia board for the Sub-branch and would appreciate any donation. Please contact me mobile 0407 761663 or home 5576 1663 and I will arrange to pick up the items.

Sadly we have lost nineteen members this year up until the 30th November 2008. The most recent of these were:

~ "Vale" **RONALD (RON) JAMES MURRAY** Ex 2nd AIF WWII, died 16th October 2008, aged 86.

Ronald Murray joined Burleigh Heads RSL Sub-Branch on the 24th October 2001. Ron as his friends knew him was not able to participate in sub-Branch activities as he suffered with very poor health. The Sub-branch and his friends will miss Ron. Our deepest sympathy goes to Billie, Ron's wife and his family.

~ "Vale" **KEITH GORDON JONES** Ex 2nd AIF WWII 2/30 Battalion Ex- POW(Changi) died 26th November 2008, aged 89.

Keith joined Burleigh Heads RSL in 1995 and was a very active member until the last few years when his mobility was seriously hindered. Keith's health has been a serious concern for quite some years, mainly the after-effects from his imprisonment as a POW in Changi. Keith has been a member of the RSL since 1950 and was a valued member for both Gladesville and Nelson Bay in NSW. Keith also had been a very active member of the TPI Association in his earlier years here on the coast and was their Secretary for some time. Keith often commented that he was sorry that he could not be more active within our Sub-branch. Keith was always cheerful and was a real battler. Keith will be missed by all those that knew him. Keith and his son, Robert, shared that kind of unique bond that can never be broken. Robert's wife, Julie, knew Keith's pain and suffering perhaps better than most. Robert and Julie are both members of our Sub-branch. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them. Keith is also survived by his grand-daughter Michelle and his two great grand-children, Seth and David.

~ "Vale" **RONALD ARTHUR FALLOWS** ex-2nd AIF ARMY WWII died 26th November 2008, aged 88.

Ron as he was known to his friends joined Burleigh Heads RSL Sub-branch in 2005. He was a valued member who had first joined the RSL in 1981. Ron's last few years were committed to looking after his wife who was resident in a nursing home. He would go and look after her daily and was devoted to her until her death last year. Since Ron's wife's death, Ron had become a very active, attending all Sub-Branch meeting and socials. Ron was a very cheerful character and always very pleasant, he will be missed by those who knew him.

***"Lest we forget"***

The Sub-branch is in the process of gaining three new members, Paul Bailey, Doug Adams & Les England. A huge welcome to you all and we hope your stay with us and is a long and happy one! Total Membership 230 as at 30th November 2008, 107 service members, plus 2 SM -LS status, 119 Life Subscribers & 2 Life Members.

The October Monthly General Meeting & BBQ, 73 members and three visitors attended the meeting, five Women's Auxiliary ladies joined us after their Meeting, a total of eighty-one, another successful day! Great BBQ with Ron Mansfield at the helm of the BBQ and his merry helper Ray Coppin!!

The October, fourth Wednesday Social, also was well attended with 49 Members, three visitors and two Auxiliary Ladies, in total 54, very good roll up for a social, and boy did we enjoy ourselves!

Sunday the 9th November 2008 commemoration service at the Yugambah War Memorial next to the RSL hall was very well attended. This service is conducted each year by members of the Kombumerri Aboriginal Corporation to pay their respect to all the indigenous men and women who served in defence of Australia over the years. It was my great privilege and pleasure on behalf of the Burleigh heads RSL Sub-Branch to assist with the service as in previous years. Mayor Ron Clarke, MBE, Christine Smith, MP for Burleigh and Cr Greg Betts were in attendance with about one hundred in attendance. There was great food provided by Leila & Russell Black, President of the Kombumerri Aboriginal Corporation for Culture.

Remembrance Day 2008, the 90th Anniversary of Armistice Day that report is under separate cover! The cadets and cadet officer were invited to the Bowls Club for refreshments after the service. The Sub-Branch committee and members look forward to their next attendance on ANZAC Day 2009! We believe the cadets were looked after so well at Burleigh Heads that they are putting their names down already for next year.

Councillor Greg Betts and the Gold Coast City Council should be mentioned and congratulated for their continued support of the Burleigh Heads RSL Sub-branch and assisting with equipment for commemorations and with maintaining the Burleigh Heads War Memorial Park, thank you! The park was picture perfect!

A great roll up for the General Monthly November meeting, with sixty- two Members, two visitors and six ladies, a total of seventy joined in the social after their meeting. It was a great day for most, but was I swamped with Trevor being away, but I think I made and the money balanced, that's the main thing!

Thanks to those members who paid their 2009 service subscription early, it is most appreciated and makes the process much easier!

The Women's Auxiliary Ladies will be in recess until the 2nd Wednesday in February 2009, On behalf of the Committee and Members, I would like to wish the ladies all the very best for the Christmas season and the best of health for the New Year! I would like to thank the new Auxiliary President Ruth Connolly, Secretary/Treasurer Jeannie McKenzie and Ladies for their support throughout the year, in particular ANZAC Day Badge sales and Remembrance day!

It would be great to see a big roll up by members and the ladies to the Sub-Branch 70th Anniversary BBQ on Wednesday the 14th January 2009 commencing 1230hrs. This is a very significant anniversary, the Sub-Branches 70th anniversary. The event will be semi-formal, with the dedication of a plaque at the base of the flag pole in front of the RSL Hall, the following dignitaries have indicated they will be attending; The State President, Mr Doug Formby, National Secretary Derek Robson, AM, Margaret May MP, Federal Member for McPherson, Christine Smith, MP, State Member for Burleigh, Mayor Ron Clarke, MBE, Gold Coast City Council, Cr Greg Betts, councillor for Div 12 (Burleigh), Peter Franklin, OAM, District President Gold Coast District RSL. We are hoping to get the local media involved so do dress up a little, eg no T-shirt or thongs!!

The Burleigh Heads RSL Christmas party was held on the 3rd December 2008, photos and report will be in the February 2009 Bugle!

Please don't forget, if you are an Annual Subscriber, subscriptions are due on the 1st of January each year, please pay early!! To ensure you get your new plastic membership card furthermore this assists the secretary with his record keeping and with capitation dispatch.

If you have Internet access, keep checking our Web site, [www.burleighheadsrs.com](http://www.burleighheadsrs.com) as it is updated every single day, you should find it very interesting! Consider making it your home page!

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

Members please remember the first Monthly general Meeting in 2009 is Wednesday the 11th February 2009 at 1.30pm.

You will be receiving your 2009 AGM notice and Nomination forms for committee on the 14th January 2009 or thereabouts! I only point this out, as members have been confused in past years and have turned up for the February meeting early expecting an AGM and BBQ!!

On behalf of the committee and myself, I would like to wish Members and Auxiliary ladies all the very best for the Christmas Season and the best of health for the New Year. See you in January 2009!!

Yours in service.

*Christopher Keating*

President