

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT JUNE-JULY 2007**

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 three members over the last two months they were:

“Vale” William (Bill) Parker ex 1613457 British Army WW2 – Bill passed away after a very short illness on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007 aged 87 in the Gold Coast Hospital. Bill had been a member for a couple of years and was a regular attendee at all Sub-Branch meetings and events. Bill will be missed! “Lest we forget”

“Vale” Trevor Raymond MARTIN ex A110799 RAAF Vietnam aged 62, Trevor passed away very suddenly and was found deceased on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2007 in his home. Trevor will be missed as he was an active member of the Sub-Branch since 1995 and in that time spent 2 years as a committee member. The funeral service was held at the Uniting Church Burleigh on the 11 July, which was well attended. “Lest We Forget”

“Vale” Robert John WALTER ex 20193 RAN WW2 aged 91, Bob, as his friends knew him, died on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2007. Bill had been a member at Burleigh RSL since 2004. Bob’s funeral was held at the Burleigh Catholic Church on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2007. His friends and family will miss Bob. I was saddened to see for the very first time, not one Sub-Branch member turn up to farewell Bob. “Lest we Forget”

Our current Membership stands as at 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007, 2 Life members, 124 Life Subscribers and 120 service members, total 246.

We have managed to recruit a few new members so far this year but we need to do more recruiting, so please become more active and bring along a mate to join!

The 2007 Queensland RSL State Congress was held in Southport, 1-3 June. It was the largest attended Qld State congress ever by Sub-Branch delegates, In fact 454 registered for the congress. There were 148 delegates and 66 Alt Delegates at the congress with many other observers. The motions passed will be printed in the Qld RSL News next issue, mostly administration. The Gold Coast District Planning committee under the leadership of Ralph Thompson has set the benchmark, for the planning of future congresses, as most who attended the Southport RSL left feeling like this congress was the best!!

Much thanks to Trevor Davis and Trevor Taylor who volunteered for four days to assist in the smooth operation of the 2007 Queensland RSL State Congress at Southport, their assistance was greatly appreciated. Their duties were many and varied, from the registration desk to PR; they did look the part in their Gold shirts!

The congress re elected Queensland RSL State Executive, which were; State President Doug Formby, Deputy President Kel Ryan and vice Presidents Ray Townsend and Paul Gilmore-Walsh. Queensland RSL has had a stable previous 12 months and members should be able to look forward to a continuing stable future with emphasis on recruiting younger ex-service men and women to help take the RSL into the future.

The Sub-Branches Monthly meetings have been very well attended, as usual, well done Members! June general meeting, we had 73 Members and three visitors, and with the Auxiliary ladies of six, we had 83 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 not so well attended, we had 39 considering this is winter, not too bad at all, and I'm sure those who were there, enjoy themselves immensely.

**The July general meeting was well attended, we had 58 Members, three visitors and four 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 47 in attendance. It appears weather plays huge parts as to how many of you turn up.

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.

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 August and September babies, I hope you all have many more birthdays to come, and stay as young as you feel.

Please keep Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2007 free, as it is the 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the end of WW2, and we also remember the Vietnam Veterans who gave their all,

as 18<sup>th</sup> August is Vietnam Veterans Day. Burleigh RSL will be conducting a commemoration 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2007 is another date to remember. There will a commemoration 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.

Take care and remember to update your DVA pension with Neil Harcourt the Sub-Branch Honorary Senior Advocate/pension officer. If your not getting your maximum entitlement please make contact with Neil between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday at his home on 5576 3091.

Robert Jones, our Webmaster/Assistant Secretary was over from the US for a couple of weeks during July, to look after his father and mother, Keith and Thora Jones. Keith celebrated his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday in Pindara hospital while Robert was here, so that was very special. While Robert was here he has moved his father and mother into Sand Brook Assisted Aged Care residence at Treetops. Keith &

Thora have settled in very nicely. Robert will be back in Aus early September to finalize his parent's affairs. The Jones family is a very interesting one, as Keith has been a member for some years and he encouraged Robert and his wife Julie, both ex-Army, to join, so we are keeping them in the family.

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! Also, please remember that the Bugle is a forum by which all of us can share items of interest and information. Send your contributions to our editor – e-mail preferred.

Yours in service

*Chris Keating*