

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT JUNE-JULY 2006**

I sincerely hope you are keeping well through this winter season.

Sadly I have to report that Roy Vandenberg, ex RAAF WW2 aged 87 passed away peacefully on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2006. Roy had been a member since 1979 and due to his sporting activities never attended a meeting but always was financial. Those members that knew him will miss Roy, "Lest We forget".

Our current Membership stands as at 30<sup>th</sup> July 2006, 2 Life members, 124 Life Subscribers and 111 service members, total 237. We need to do some more recruiting so please become more active and bring along a mate to join!

Queensland RSL State Congress at Roma in June went very well apart from the freezing cold nights; it was an experience being out in the outback! It was the largest attended Qld State congress ever by Sub-Branch delegates. There weren't many motion passed and they will be printed in the Qld RSL News next issue, mostly administration.

The new elected Queensland RSL State Executive are; State President Doug Formby, Deputy President Kel Ryan and vice Presidents Ray Townsend and Paul Gilmore-Walsh. Queensland RSL members should be able to look forward to a stable bright future with a renewed emphasis on recruiting younger ex-service men and women to help take the RSL into the next ninety years.

All being well, August BBQ Monthly General Meeting may be the month that I will be able to issue all our members with their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Certificates of membership. This will be the first time in the history of the RSL that any member has received a certificate of membership.

The Sub-Branched Monthly meetings have been very well attended, as usual, well done Members! June general meeting, we had 83 Members and four visitors, and

with the Auxiliary ladies of four, we had 90 in total join in the BBQ social after the meeting, great!

The Sub-Branch June fourth Wednesday social was well attended, we had 54 considering this is winter, not too bad at all, and I'm sure those who attend, enjoy themselves immensely.

First Wednesday Movie afternoons is very slow getting off the ground, we are coming up to twelve months since we commenced the movies. Those who have been coming along have enjoyed themselves; it would be great to see a few more attend!

The July general meeting was also well attended, we had 77 Members, two visitors 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 not even a BBQ.

48, members & visitors attended the July social a little down on last month, still enjoyable!

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.

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!

The Gold Coast & District Branch Ex-Prisoners of War Association had an unveiling and dedication of their new Memorial Plaque at the Burleigh Heads Memorial Park on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July. I had the honour to lay a wreath on the behalf of the Sub-Branch at the dedication, thank you to the Sub-Branch Secretary Ray who assisted in picking up the wreath and attending the service with me. Thanks to other sub-branch members who attended, this was a special occasion for the Ex-POW community as their numbers are dwindling “age does weary them” and the years are taking their toll!! Well done to Junior Vice President Les McKenzie who assisted Norm Anderton with the removal of the old plaque and placing the new plaque on the rock at the cenotaph? Les is a tireless worker behind the scenes and is a great credit to the Sub-branch. Approximately 100 people attended the service with Army and navy Cadets assisting with the wreath laying part of the service.

The Sub-Branch is fortunate and proud to have a number of EX.POW' s as members, Harry Nesbitt, Ken Gaulton, Merv Cox, Mike Radojicic, Keith Jones, Bill McCall and Ray Alcock; it was great to see four parades for the dedication. Keith Jones was there in spirit and sent his best wishes from Pindara Hospital where he has been for a few weeks; he has now been transferred to Alamanda for rehabilitation, we wish Keith well in his road home!

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

Please keep Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2006 free, as it is the 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the end of WW2. Burleigh RSL will be conducting the 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, there will be a Navy Catafalque party mount the Cenotaph with weapons from Robina High School Cadet unit, thanks to Ray Heathcote and Mark Siddle. 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 13<sup>th</sup> August 2006 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.

New member, Sean Robinson a young ex Army fella, welcome! I hope your stay with us will be a healthy, long and happy one, we do have a member who has reached 101 years of age and is still going strong, Bill Tyner sends his regards to all his old mates!

A small reminder, there are a few of the special lapel badges left over at five dollars each, contact Jean McKenzie if you wish to purchase one. The badges are the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Long Tan Cross and the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary RSL Badge; they may end up a collector's badge, as they are a one off and only on sale in Queensland.

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.

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*