

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT – OCTOBER 2005

These two months have been busy, but sad with the loss of three members. Vale, Jock Mooney ex RN passed away 20th August, 2005, Reg Walton ex 2 nd AIF passed away 7th September 2005 and Keith Long ex 2 nd AIF passed away 13th September, 2005. Jock's funeral was held in Tweed Heads and was attended by quite a few members and myself who fare welled a good member. Reg Walton's funeral was a family affair and private. Keith Long's funeral was well attended and the family was very grateful. "Lest we forget"

Exciting news - Burleigh Heads RSL Sub-Branch has moved into the IT world and is now on the World Wide Web at www.burleighheadsrs.com

The Sub-Branch's Monthly meetings have been very well attended. At the August general meeting we had 97 in total join in the social BBQ after the meeting. Anne-Maree Grasso from the DVA VAN office South-port was in attendance and assisted many Members with enquiries.

The Sub-Branch fourth Wednesday August social, had 42 attendees. Thanks to Senior Vice President Bob Birch for standing in for me, as I was attending Jock's funeral. And also a huge thanks to the volunteers who continue to provide their time, to set up the hall, serve food, refreshments and help clean up and pack away the furniture.

Sunday the 14th August 2005 commenced the Burleigh Heads RSL Sub-Branch VJ day com-memorations. We sponsored a special Medallion Presentation ceremony for Margaret May, our local Federal Member, who presented 25 WW2 Veterans and War Widows with their Commemorative 60th Anniversary WW2 Medallion. There were over eighty in attendance as family and friends shared in this special occasion. There will be other such ceremonies organized by Margaret in future, with something like 300,000 to be issued until May 2006. Burleigh Heads RSL Sub Branch Page 4 October 2005

Monday the 15th August 2005, VJ Day saw a very successful Commemoration Service with approx 1,000 people attending. The Australian Government, through its "Saluting Their Service" Commemorations program and Margaret May, MP, supported the Sub-Branch with a grant to provide a luncheon to Veterans and family who attended the VJ service. With the co-operation of the management and staff of Burleigh Heads Bowls Club, arrangement were made and a wonderful meal was provided to over 100 on the day.

Following up on a recent inquiry, I received the following information with regard to Korean War veterans. Renee Van der Steen of the Defence Links, Nominal Rolls and Health Study division of the Department of Veterans' Affairs advised, "According to the Australian Korean War veterans' Health Study, which commenced in March 2004, approximately 7,525 male Korean War veterans were thought to be alive and residing in Australia. Approximately 57% of Australia's original 17,872 Korean War veterans were

deceased at this time. Further to that, there is thought to be an average of 1-2 Korean veterans dying each day." Sobering information!

Sunday the 28 th August 2005, there was a commemoration service held 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 Kombumerri Aboriginal Corporation conducted the service, with our assistance. The elders provided light refresh-ments, and a sausage sizzle after the service. There were sub-Branch members and in all over sixty attended.

The movie afternoon on the 7 th September 2005 - only a small group attended. I would like to see more of you come along to enjoy a few hours of entertainment. Bring your wife or friend and guests. 73 members attended the September monthly general meeting. The September social had 46 members attended for a few hours of quiet socializing.

All the very best to those who have been on sick parade, I hope you all are on the improve and 100% again. We had five members in hospital at the same time. Thank goodness they all were in Pindara hospital, which made it easy for me to visit them. As mentioned two passed away, two recovered and one is still there, Curly Forsyth. I hope Curly recovers soon and rejoins us!

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.

It's coming to that time of year again when annual subscription will be due! Please consider paying your "life Subscription" depending on your age it could be as little as \$100 for life, you save money, the sub-branch saves money all in all everyone saves and you don't have to remember whether you are financial ever again. Remember your membership is transferable to any RSL Sub-Branch in Australia and even Tassie. The secretary has the rates for your age, so should you decide to save money, see Barry for a form. The new membership card for 2006 will be a plastic one and it will be special to celebrate the 90 th year of the RSL. Please watch this space.

Finally, the Qld RSL State HQ, have re-leased a new publication called "The RSL Handbook". It is a glossy publication and will be available for purchase at the price of \$15. The Secretary has a copy should any-one like to have a look; you can order one through him. Presently the publication is a limited print and depending on sales may not be reproduced, time will tell!

GIM tickets for the Judging evening will be on sale shortly, last year was a wonderful event at the Southport RSL Club and our winner turned out to be the RSL State GIM, what a wonderful event! Please consider taking someone to the event in December!

I hope you all keep well over the next few months, summer is just around the corner, please remember to keep 11 th November free for the Remembrance Day Commemoration service.