

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2007

I sincerely hope you are keeping well through this winter season, the bugs that have been flying around this season have been numerous and debilitating as it even knock the heck out of me for a few weeks, so I hope you are all well!.

These last two months have been very busy and sad with the loss of five members;

“Vale” Lionel James (Jim) AHEARN aged 86, ex Army WW2 – Jim died on the 8th August 2007 after a long illness. Our deepest sympathy goes to Phyl and family.

“Vale” Kenneth John (Ken) HANNEY aged 65, ex RAN Borneo/Malaya – Ken died on the 14th August 2007 after a prolonged illness in Pindara Hospital. Our deepest sympathy goes to Shirley and family.

“Vale” Joseph Watson (Joe) MIDDLETON aged 82, ex-RN WW2 – Joe died after his health deteriorated in the last few months. Our deepest sympathy goes to Royal and family.

“Vale” Edwin Charles (Ted) BEASLEY aged 95, ex-2nd AIF WW2 – Ted died away after a short illness. Our deepest sympathy goes to Dulcie and family.

“Vale” Wilson Henry (Bill) LAMB aged 82, ex-RAAF WW2 – Bill died after his health deteriorated in the last few months. Our deepest sympathy goes to Merle and family.

“Lest we forget”

There is a matter developing of serious concern to me as your President. Recently some of the funerals have been poorly attended and, in fact, at one funeral, I was the only one there to represent the Sub-Branch to conduct a poppy service. As Veterans and ex-Service members we have a duty to farewell our fallen comrades and a duty to their family. But I hear “ I didn’t know the chap.” That shouldn’t make one ounce of difference; it is a sign of respect and should be a duty to a fallen member as one day surely our turn will come! I wouldn’t like to think that no one would turn up to support my wife and family.

Please have a serious think about future occasions when called upon! I do realize not everybody gets notified of a funeral but at least 50+ do!

Sadly membership recruiting has fallen sharply in the last few months and the membership numbers are decreasing sharply: as at 15 September 2007 our numbers are: 118 service Members, 121 Life subscribers and 2 Life Members, making a total of 241.

Tom Gleeson has transferred to Townsville RSL to be closer to his family, we wish him well! We must try and remember recruiting is the lifeblood of the Sub-Branch, and in particular, recruiting younger members as we age!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to three new members; Patrick Carmody, Alan Essing and an old member returning Peter Fleming. I hope your stay with Burleigh Heads RSL is a long and happy one!

The Sub-Branches Monthly meetings have been very well attended, as usual, well done Members! August general meeting, we had 88 Members and five

visitors, and with the Auxiliary ladies of four, we had 97 in total join in the social BBQ after the meeting.

The Sub-Branch fourth Wednesday August social, we had one of the smallest attendance ever with, 29 members, 2 Auxiliary ladies and two Visitors, total 33.

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.

Wednesday the 15th August 2007, VJ day Commemoration Service was held at the Burleigh Heads War Memorial, Cenotaph at 11am, to remember the 40,000 Australians who paid the supreme sacrifice and didn't come home and to remember all those who have passed away in the last sixty-two years since that war. It is estimated that out of the one million Australian that served, only approximately 160,000 remain today "lest we forget" The attendance was great with over 100, members and public in attendance, it was fantastic to see such an improvement on last years turn out. Thank you to the members that made the effort!

67 members, five Auxiliary ladies & two visitors, total 73, with a huge amount of apologies, attended the September monthly general meeting. The ladies were very well attended even though their secretary Jeannie McKenzie was in Hospital, well done ladies. A most enjoyable time was spent, socializing and enjoying mate ship!

The September social had 35 members, 2 Ladies of the Auxiliary and 3 visitors attend, a few hours of quiet socializing was enjoyed, a huge improvement on the August attendance. The social was also enjoyed by our Assistant

Secretary/Webmaster Robert Jones who has been over here from the USA with his dad Keith Jones. Robert has been here to help his dad and Mum with resettlement. Barry Miller managed to taxi along a few others including Max Arnold who is homebound these days, great to see so many enjoy themselves!

All the very best to those who have been on sick parade, I hope you improve and are 100% again. It isn't nice being sick but make the most of it and recover quickly!

Sunday the 28th October 2007 is another date to remember. There will a commemoration service at the Yugambeh 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.

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

The Sub-Branch Christmas parties tickets will be on sale at \$10 each at the October meeting, first in best dressed please remember the limit is 150 that can attend. Therefore to be fair to the entire members only one guest per member, so it's wife or girlfriend not both! The Christmas party will be held on Wednesday the 5th December 2007, 12noon.

The ladies will be conducting their monster raffle again as they have done in previous years and should you have a nice item that you would like to donate to them for the raffle, please contact the Secretary, Jeannie McKenzie 5572 8071 to check if it might be suitable as a prize.

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 Ray for a form.

GIM tickets for the Judging evening will be on sale shortly; last year was a wonderful event at the Southport RSL Club. Please consider taking someone to the event in December! Information will be our shortly.

I hope you all keep well over the next few months, summer is just around the corner, please remember to keep Sunday 11th November free for the Commemoration service. 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, hopefully there will be a Army Catafalque party mount the Cenotaph with weapons from Palm Beach High School Cadet unit, thanks to Peter Fleming. 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 great roll up, it will be the 89th anniversary!.

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. Alternately you can contact the Surfers Paradise RSL Veterans Support Office on 5539 8336 during office hours. Please be considerate and don't ring **Neil Harcourt** on weekends or unearthly hours!!

A huge thanks to the members who volunteered to sell Legacy badges during Legacy Badge week, 3rd to 7th September. It is a very good cause, as we need to ensure that Legacy has funds and continues to look after our War Widows!

IMPORTANT! Don't forget should you move address or change your phone number let the Secretary know, we need to keep track of all our members!

A final reminder when the next Federal Election is called, please remember the **Burleigh RSL Hall** is used as a polling station so tell your friends, neighbors and anyone else that you can think of they can come and vote here in comfort.

Yours in service

Chris Keating