



SUB BRANCH NEWSLETTER

President – John Riebeling

Secretary – Alan Fortunato

From the President's Desk (if I had one)

It gives me great pleasure to once again put together our Newsletter.

Following the elections held at the June AGM, where we once again were able to have the full complement of Board members, the Sub Branch has been able to undertake more projects and in particular, fund-raising efforts. The two new members of the Board have fitted into the organisation very well and both have brought new ideas and enthusiasm to the team. For my part, I have been very pleased with the way in which the management team have worked together and made my job somewhat easier than it might otherwise have been.

One of the issues raised at our AGM was whether or not we should reduce the number of general meetings that we hold each year. The proposal was forwarded to the District President who took the proposal to State. The outcome is that State would like us to have more rather than less general meetings. Therefore we will still have four meetings each year – three quarterly and one AGM.

Our next General Meeting will be held at the Club at 10:30am on Sunday 11th September. All are welcome.

When this Newsletter was resurrected last year, the proposal was that we would only produce it twice a year. The main reason for this was the cost of producing and then posting it out to all our members. Since then we have been able to obtain a good many members' email addresses and so this Newsletter will be sent as an attachment to an email. This will save almost \$250.00 in postage alone.

State AGM – Shortly after our AGM I and my good wife had the privilege to represent our Sub Branch at the State AGM in Townsville. We flew to Townsville on Friday 24th June and that afternoon attended a very moving ceremony at the Townsville Cenotaph, followed by a reception at the Casino hotel.

The following morning began early with the meeting being held in the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre. All of the Districts and Sub Branches from across Queensland were well represented and there were a number of very animated forums conducted. That night we were treated to a gala dinner where the guest speaker was Dr Brendan Nelson from the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. I think his speech made at least half of those

there want to pack their bags and head for the Western Front in France.

The Sunday session lasted all of the morning and once again consisted mainly of open forums. Most delegates then headed home in the afternoon. If any of our members would like to see the decisions and the draft minutes from the State AGM, you should contact our Sub Branch office.

From the Secretary's Desk – Alan Fortunato

We have recently been given RSL Centenary Certificates to present to our members and with this in mind we have sent out a mass email inviting you to attend a coffee morning or visit the office and collect your Certificate. Personal telephone calls are being made with the same invite if we haven't got your email address.

We are aware that we have a large number of elderly members and some who are unable to visit will have their Certificates posted to them ASAP. If you are not receiving emails please call us or send us an email so we can add you to our list and then you will be easily kept up to date.

Sean Eggins, a new volunteer at the Sub Branch, is being taught different aspects of office skills, and has started his training on the telephone connecting with our senior veterans. As soon as possible he will be joining our hospital team. His aim is to get trained and qualify as a Pension Officer and join our VSC Office Team.

Fund Raising and Merchandising – Michael Burg

We still have a great many polo shirts and T-shirts available in all sizes. These commemorative shirts are designed for honouring the service men and women from all of Australia's conflicts and are of excellent quality.

ANZAC DAY & REMEMBRANCE DAY SHIRTS
T-SHIRTS & POLOS SIZES XS - 6XL
ASK FOR AN ORDER FORM FROM THE RECEPTION DESK
OR THE SUB BRANCH OFFICE.

AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT ORDER YOUR SHIRT TODAY!

The advertisement features two blue polo shirts. The left shirt has a white star pattern and a small crest. The right shirt has a white silhouette of a soldier standing next to a rifle. A red circular graphic with white text is on the left.

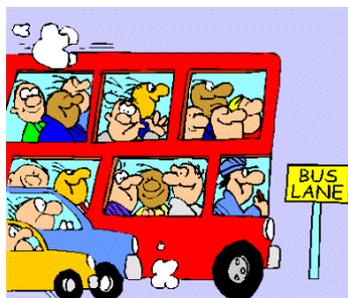
We will shortly be calling for volunteers to man our merchandising tables at the three locations – Southport Park, Australia Fair and the Memorial Club. If you are able to help out, no matter for how long, we would very much appreciate it if you could contact the Sub Branch office and put your name down. We normally try to work in two four hour shifts – 9:00am to 1:00pm and 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

From the Treasurer's Desk – Derek Holyoake



Apart from my duties as the Treasurer, I have been, with the help of Rodney Tagg, helping conduct our monthly morning teas. Patronage of this event has increased and from what our guests have been telling us, are being enjoyed by all. It gives me and all the Board members a great deal of pleasure to be able to entertain our friends.

The Carnival of Flowers bus trip in mid-September is now fully booked but we are taking names of those wishing to go on standby for the trip.



Rodney and I would like to remind everyone that our monthly morning tea is held on the third Wednesday of every month from 10:00am til noon. All are welcome.

Timor Awakening – Rodney Tagg

Under the inspiration and sponsorship of RSL Qld, Veterans Care Association offered to deliver a pilot programme of renewal and rehabilitation for 200 Australian veterans and 140 Timorese Veterans, centred around 10 immersion experiences of 11 days duration in Timor-Leste with first deployment commencing in July 2016.

The name for this project is Timor Awakening (TA). Whilst the immersion and concentration component of this program is 11 days in Timor-Leste, the program extends over a period of 12 months of engagement, follow up, pastoral care and guidance.

Following a lengthy selection process, one of our Sub Branch members and a current Board member was selected to go on this event. Here is some of his recollections of the experience.

Overall the veterans thought the trip was enjoyable and that they had learnt a lot of stories and history from the group and Timorese Veterans. They had reflected on their

previous conflicts within Timor and compared it to the current visit. The veterans all felt they were welcomed by the Timorese veterans and people. Majority of the veterans has suggested that they will some time in future either visit Timor or provide some type of help with future TA programs. The group has also kept in contact with each other for support of current issues.

I myself have learnt a lot on conflicts within Timor and was great to hear stories from veterans from all conflicts. I enjoyed to see how the Country has formed together and rebuild. It was also good to see the smiling faces of the children from all the districts we visited. I made many friends from the trip and again was made welcome as being the only sole Navy Veteran which attended the program.

On a final note I would like to thank the Veterans Care team, Qld RSL the Timorese Government and Veterans on making this trip to be a success. I would like to thank my sponsorship from Southport SEAK's Association and Southport RSL Sub Branch who provided funding for me for the trip.

I hope for future programs that Qld RSL Sub Branches will provide some kind of funding or donation to Veterans Care for TA programs.

Vietnam Veterans' Day



On Thursday 18th August the SEAKs Association hosted a commemoration honouring Vietnam Veterans, held at the Cenotaph at the Southport RSL Club. This coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. The event was very well attended and was followed by a social gathering with drinks and a sausage sizzle.

Veterans' Health

The Sub Branch has been approached by two providers of "Exercise Physiology" to assist in the health and wellbeing of Veterans and their families. The two organisations are "Active Body Conditioning" and "Fitness Connection".

A Member's Contribution – Des Duckworth

2 September 1916

The 2nd September 2016 marks the day 100 years ago of the death in France of James Sturtevant SPENCER, one of Southport's "Great Hearted Men" and one of the 17 names of Southport men listed "Killed in The Great War 1914 – 1918" on the "Digger" monument and the Anzac Memorial Gate at Anzac Park, Broadwater Parklands, Southport.

Second Lieutenant James Sturtevant Spencer enlisted in England on 19 July 1915 at the age of twenty two years and seven months. He served with the 117th Battery of the 26th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. His enlistment form states that he was "English Born" and gave his permanent address as "Caugalls 456 Buenos Aires Argentina".

Spencer was given a "Temporary Commission" due to his previous military experience (two years in the Cadet Corps in Australia as a Sergeant) and recommendations of a "good standard of education" signed by an academic master from St. John's College Cambridge.

James Sturtevant Spencer was born in the Brisbane Valley on 26 December 1894, his father George, died in 1904 and his mother Doris and her young family, James and a younger brother and sister, moved to live at Southport. At some stage after 1912, James left Southport and made his way to Argentina and worked as a "station hand" and developed his skills as a "horseman" as noted on his enlistment form.

He was listed "killed in action" at Courlat on Maison Road in France, on 2 September 1916. He is buried at Dantzig Alley British Cemetery Mametz, France.

More information on James Sturtevant Spencer and the other 16 men listed on the Memorial and Gate can be found in the book, Southport's "Great Hearted Men" held at the Local Studies Library, Southport.

Courtesy of Southport's "Great Hearted Men", Karen Bird. 2012.

More on ANZAC Day 2016

In the lead up to this year's ceremonies, the Sub Branch was approached by a number of schools to provide speakers for their ceremonies. Two schools with a very close association with the Sub Branch were Musgrave Hill Primary and Southport State High School.

Perhaps our involvement with Southport State High School is of the more significant. The ceremony conducted at that school had a greater significance because of two facts, the first being that the School was celebrating its 100th

Anniversary. But more significant was the dedication of a new memorial to the members of the school that had paid the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts of the 20th century.

The school had always had a small memorial, but it fell into disarray when the "Lone Pine" they had planted in the surrounding garden gave up the ghost. The school contacted our Sub Branch to see if we could arrange for a replacement. Following a little investigation by our Secretary and the President, it was discovered that the Gold Coast City Council actually had a supply of the beloved pine. An approach to our local Councillor, Dawn Crichlow resulted in a healthy plant being supplied to the school.



Planting of the New Lone Pine

Following a very moving ANZAC ceremony conducted almost entirely by the student body, a planting ceremony was held with the blessing of the new memorial.

Board Members and their Functions

John Riebeling – President
Slim Boese – Deputy President
Derek Holyoake – Treasurer
Alan Fortunato – Secretary and Memberships Officer
Michael Burg – Fund Raising
Craig Thomas – Events Coordinator
Claude Palmer – Memorabilia and Grants Applications
Ruth Pattison – Schools Liaison
Rodney Tagg – Hospital Visitations

Sponsors

This Newsletter has been printed by the kind cooperation of Mr **Steven Ciobo MP**, Federal Member for Moncrieff.

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