



SUB BRANCH NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2017

From the President's Desk

I would like to begin this newsletter on a somewhat lighter note than previous attempts. On Monday 23rd January a little 4 ½ year old took his first steps towards "big school". My grandson began school and because he lives close to his school he was able to walk there with his mother.



He begins His Journey

Although we have just come through what we describe as the silly season and were supposed to close our office for two weeks, that didn't happen. All through the holiday period we had Board members working in the Sub Branch office. I take my hat off to them and sincerely thank them.

There has been quite a bit happening in these first few weeks of 2017. I suppose the most important event was the Annual General Meeting of the Gold Coast District that was held at Mount Tamborine on Saturday the 4th February in the Sub Branch there. Prior to the meeting beginning we were given a briefing on the progress of the new State Constitution. There was lively debate on some of the clauses and a number of representatives went away with plans to make submissions for possible changes. This is not the first time the Sub Branch representatives have had such a

briefing, however, this was the first time we got to see the Constitution and the By-Laws that will accompany the adopting of the documents.

The following are some comments from one of our Board members who has made a number of submissions to State through our District Office without much success:

Most members will be aware of the scandal currently infecting NSW State RSL. Also, if the RSL is to survive, we must be seen to be relevant to serving and younger ADF people. A draft State Constitution is being circulated for comment. Comments have been submitted by your Board, and other Sub-Branched to include protection of our property, to make RSL again responsible for representing the ADF Community to government, and to ensure transparency of expenditure to avoid such scandals as in NSW. As of the 5th draft, these suggestions have allegedly been 'considered', but not accepted, WITHOUT FEEDBACK of any kind! Your Board, along with others, are trying to persuade State to listen, so far, without result. BUT we will not give up, especially in those key areas of assets, government, and transparency.

Rotational System of Elections – For those of you who attended the last General Meeting (December 2016) you will recall that I presented an argument pointing out that the Sub Branch had been given bad information regarding the method of implementing the rotational system of elections which was voted on (I think) at the 2013 AGM. Until now we have been electing people and expecting them to have a three year term, however, what we should have been doing is electing people to a position and that position would have a three year term.

I know that sound somewhat confusing and believe me, we members of the Board have had a difficult time getting our heads around it. So, let me try and clarify things. There are nine positions on the Sub Branch Board. These are; **President, Deputy President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Directors**. It is these positions that we need to look at and not necessarily the people elected to fill them. You see, a person may not complete the full three year term in a particular position and if this happens, that position becomes a **casual vacancy**. Someone can be appointed to fill that vacancy, but the position must be voted on at the next

AGM and the person filling the position only serves out the remaining time for that position.

The table below shows what the proposed election cycle will be, starting with the 2016 AGM. Because four positions were filled at the 2016 AGM, one person will only serve two years so the cycle can operate.

Position	2017	2018	2019	2020
President			election	
Deputy	election			election
Secretary		election		
Treasurer			election	
Director #1	election			election
Director #2		election		
Director #3			election	
Director #4	election			election
Director #5		election		

This is a proposed roster and will be voted on at our General Meeting in March.

Free Membership – Do you have a young relative who is a serving member of the permanent ADF or Reservists? If you do, could you please advise them that they can get free membership of our Sub Branch. This is a policy of the State RSL, but not all branches offer it to serving personnel. We would be very pleased to have them as members of our community.

Veterans' Support Centre – At the present time we have three Pension Officers that man the Centre four days of the week. There has been a steady stream of clients seeking our assistance and often there is a waiting list of one or two weeks. Max Tunnicliffe has been operating now for sufficient time to be able to handle most claims on his own. We are currently in the process of recruiting and training one and possibly two new Pension Officers.

Most of you are probably aware that it takes longer to get claims approved than ever before. Sometimes we have people waiting well over twelve months before we get a satisfactory outcome to their claims. Whenever a claim is not successful, we very often will challenge the ruling and then the time for resolution of the claim extends even more. Having said that, I am pleased to report that a very large percentage of the claims submitted are successful and our appeals also are having some success.

By Line – Des Duckworth

25 March 1917

25 March 2017 marks the day 100 years ago of the death in England of Stephen WALTER, One of Southport's "Great Hearted Men".

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.

(On the Anzac Memorial Gate his name is inscribed as "WOLTERS".)

Private Stephen Walter was born in Dunbible, New South Wales and enlisted at the age of twenty three years in Brisbane on 30 December 1915. An unmarried labourer from Southport, his enlistment papers gives his next of kin as his mother, Mrs. Edith Walter from Benowa, Southport.

He joined the 17th Reinforcements for the 12th Battalion and embarked on SS Hawkes Bay from Sydney on 20 April 1916.

His records indicate that he was hospitalised in Delhi, India, on 4 July 1916 and landed at Etaples, France, 16 October 1916.

The remainder of Stephen Walter's records tell of one hospital admission after another between 21 October 1916 and 17 December 1916 when he was evacuated to Edmonton Hospital, London.

Stephen Walter "died of disease" in London 25 March 1917 and was given a full military funeral with "Last Post" and firing party provided by a South African Regiment on 30 March 1917 at Brookwood Cemetery, London.

More information on James Stephen Walter 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.*

Health and Wellbeing

TESTIMONY – FITNESS CONNECTION

After re-locating to the Gold Coast from Sydney in 2012, with my late husband Roderick, aged 89, diagnosed with lung cancer. The first thing he did was to update his membership in the RSL Sub-branch at Runaway Bay. We were interested to hear Kim Cary, Fitness Connection, speak at a Sunday meeting about how Rod could benefit by utilising their Exercise Physiology program, bulk billed to DVA.

We joined Fitness Connection and attended 3 times a week (and I could attend too, which is great). We were introduced to Peta, Exercise Physiologist, who planned a program specifically for us, adjusted it as needed and kept us motivated.

I always enjoy the time I spend at Fitness Connection. They have shown a personal interest in our fitness problems, we have never been left to fend for ourselves and have met some wonderful new friends.

The Gym's professional staff cater for many people of all levels of fitness in a non-intimidating environment. I appreciated that when Rod died at 91, Kim and the Exercise Physiologists attended his funeral. After I became a war widow I continued, and have been attending ever since. Even though I may be tired before I go, afterwards I feel great!

If you are thinking about becoming more active and value your health, give it a try. I believe you'll be surprised by the difference it makes both physically and mentally.

Mavis McGregor



Working Out

Fitness Connection offers a range of exercise programs specifically for your individual needs. Bulk billed for Gold and most White card holders. Located at Labrador our facility is fully air conditioned with heaps of free undercover parking. All staff are ESSA accredited.

For more information phone Kim on 0411 177 414

RAAF Association - Gold Coast



Late last year we were approached by a few (now) interested people who thought that the **RAAF Association**, which once flourished on the Gold Coast, should be reactivated. In order to try and kick this off an initial meeting was held at the Gold Coast District offices on Saturday 25th

February. Despite wide advertising of the meeting, attendance was somewhat disappointing, however it was agreed that a second meeting would be held at the Southport RSL Memorial Club on **Wednesday 15th March at 10:00am** in an attempt to engender more interest. So, if you are ex-Air Force or are related to anyone who served in the Air Force, you are cordially invited to meet with us for a coffee and a chat.

From Our Social Director

I hope everyone had a good break over the Festive Season.

In December we had a Christmas theme morning tea. This was a great success with over 50 members in attendance. At this we had a raffle with prizes donated by members and within the community. The Memorial Club put on a Christmas theme menu. All reports from those that attended were good responses. In January we had the first Morning tea for the year. We had over 60 members in attendance and all had a good time. The Morning Tea mornings have grown since it has started within the club and will grow further as word is spread on how good these are and members will attend. The February morning teas we had just over 40 members in attendance and all had a good time.

Over the Festive Season I have been researching for the next trip. Within the few days I have sent to District an application for a grant for our next trip, which will be with Sunstate Tours going to Mount Tamborine. This

will include morning tea and a stroll around at the Botanical Gardens. We will then have lunch and wine tasting at Heritage Winery Estate. After lunch we will walk down the Gallery Walk and look at the various antique shops, art galleries, Cafes and the Fudge shop. I am starting to take names for the trip as it will fill quickly. The trip will take place on Friday the 17th March leaving the club at 0900 and returning at 1630.

As we are getting closer to ANZAC Day, the Sub Branch will be organising merchandise which we will sell for our Anzac Day Appeal. We will be looking for volunteers to sell the merchandise at our local stands which will be located at Australia Fair, Southport Park Shopping Centre and in the foyer of the Memorial Club. The appeal will start from 10th April and finish on Anzac Day. If anyone is interested to help volunteer please let the Sub Office know.

Important Dates for the Quarter Mar-June

- 10th March – Sub Branch Quarterly Meeting at 1030
- 15th March – Veterans Morning Teas
- 17th March – Bus Trip to Mt Tamborine
- 10th April – Anzac Day Appeal commences
- 16th April – Easter Sunday
- 19th April – Veterans Morning Teas
- 25th April – Anzac Day Commemorations
- 17th May – Veterans Morning Teas
- 10th June – Sub Branch Annual General Meeting

Thank You
Rodney Tagg

ANZAC Day 2017

ANZAC Day preparations – The preparations for this most important ceremony is well underway. Once again we have been fortunate to have obtained the help of Lawrie Pollard with the able assistance of our Board member, Craig Thomas, in doing most of the sometimes very complicated negotiating with a multitude of Federal, State and Local Government Departments as well as commercial organisations. By the time you read this, everything will be in place.

The timetable for the Southport Ceremonies is as follows:

	Dawn Service	Citizen Service
Assembly	03:30am	07:45am
March off	04:40am	08:40am
Service Start	05:00am	09:00am

Quarterly General Meeting

Sunday 12th March, 10:30am

Meeting Dates

The Board of the Sub Branch meets every second Thursday of the month at 4:00pm in the board room of the Club. Anyone that has issues they wish to raise with the Board should contact the Secretary at least one week before the scheduled meeting.

General Meetings

Quarterly	Sunday 12 March 2017
AGM	Sunday 11 June 2017
Quarterly	Sunday 17 September 2017
Quarterly	Sunday 10 December 2017

Australian War Dogs

Australian Victoria Cross (VC) winner Corporal Mark Donaldson has opened up about the loss of his "best friend", a German Shepherd named Devil, during the war in Afghanistan.



It came at the launch in Sydney of a portrait of six dogs killed in action during the war, including Devil.

"I think it is extremely important that dogs are as recognised as we are as Australian soldiers," Corporal Donaldson said.

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

Address Labels by the **Southport RSL Memorial Club**.