I am a relatively new comer to the RSL, having joined for the first time in 2012. My purpose when I approached the Sub-Branch was to see if I could volunteer in some way. I had previously been given excellent service on two occasions when I had Pension Officers from the Sub-Branch prepare claims for me. I thought it fair to pay back some of that kindness and professional service.

When I walked through the door, I was greeted enthusiastically by the people manning the office and following a short “interview” was signed up as a member and asked if I would go on a TIP Welfare course starting in a couple of weeks. I said yes and soon found myself at Tweed Heads, learning about the things that the RSL does for the veterans of our community. When I got back, I was asked if I would like to become a Pension Officer. This is truly what I wanted to do and so I was off to learn to be a Pension Officer. I was tutored by someone I think was one of the best Pension Officer we have ever had at Southport – Rod Fraser and the rest is history. At the end of June this year I will cease to be a practising Pension Officer but the service we provide at this Sub-Branch will remain my core concern as long as I am President.

I have written this little history of how I became involved in the RSL and in particular our great Sub-Branch so that you can have some understanding of my passion for our organisation. Not long after qualifying as a Pension Officer I was encouraged to put my name forward to become a member of the Board and was lucky to elected. Even then, I did not take a very active role in the activities of the Board. That is until September of 2015 when I was asked to take over the duties of President. Reluctantly I agreed and that is when I really had to work hard as a Board member.

**Sub-Branch Finances** Just prior to being elevated to the President’s position I had started to take an interest in the finances of the SubBranch. I am sure that most of our members are unaware of what the financial status for our Sub-Branch is, so I am going to try and give you the basics as simply as I can. The first thing you should know is that we own the building – that is – we have a mortgage that we pay off each
month, but we are the title holder of the land and building. Since taking over the Presidency, I have dedicated most of my time trying to get my head around when and how and what were the arrangements when the Sub-Branch obtained a loan from RSL State for $6,555,704.60 effective 1st January 2011. Now that amount seems really strange to me and in research that I have carried out recently, I have discovered evidence that the loan may have been taken out at an earlier date. However, the spreadsheet that RSL State sends us starts on the 1st January 2011.

Between January 2011 and March 2013, the loan was treated as an interest only loan. Beginning April 2013, principal began to be repaid at $10,000 per month. In April 2014 that rose to $20,000 per month and in April 2015 to $30,000 per month. In April 2016 the method of calculating the repayments was changed so that a fixed amount would be paid each month made up of interest and principal. Currently, the monthly repayment is $80,124.58.

You may well ask, where the heck does the Sub-Branch get $80,124.58 each month? Clearly, we do not have that sort of income. So, this now brings into play the lease that the Memorial Club has with us. I am going to use some “round figures” now to explain. The monthly lease payment is $45,000. An additional $40,000 comes from a “loan” that the Sub-Branch gave to the Memorial Club in January 2011. That so-called loan was for $2,760,652. Where that money came from is a moot point and the topic of many a discussion. Ever since the mortgage began being paid, there has been deductions from that loan. About the middle of this year that loan will be fully paid out and we will no longer be able to supplement the mortgage payments.

In December last year I was approached by representatives from the Memorial Club with a proposal to overcome our seemingly very difficult position with regards to paying off the mortgage. To put the proposal in its simplest terms, the Memorial Club proposed that they would obtain a loan to pay out the mortgage. In return they would take possession of the title to the land and building. A full copy of the proposal can be viewed on request at the Sub-Branch office. After obtaining professional advice and then with careful consideration, in a Special Board meeting, the Board in a unanimous vote, rejected the proposal.

**Improved Accommodation** One of the "sweeteners" in the proposal was to give the Sub-Branch improved office accommodation. They proposed to build us that office space in the B1 basement car park.

**Tenure** The proposal “promised” that the Sub-Branch would have tenure in the building forever. But what if, as a result of a downturn in the economy, the Club decided to, or were forced to sell the building. Where would our tenure stand then?

**Some Further Observations** Ever since starting my investigations, there has been one aspect of our finances that I have had a great deal of trouble coming to understand. If someone takes out a loan to pay for a building, why would that person then lease the property for a rent that comes nowhere near being enough to pay off that loan? If someone can answer that for me, I would be eternally grateful!

Part of the problem might be that at the time of the signing of the last (five-year) lease agreement, the Memorial and the Sub-Branch had the same President.

Something that the Memorial Club does not seem to have considered is the fact that no private company is permitted to use the RSL name or logo. They would therefore have to change the name of the club and tear up the RSL Crest at the front entrance.

**Building Lease** This year renewal of the building lease becomes due and it is the intention of the Board to pursue a much greater rent payment – one which will actually cover the mortgage repayments. The fact that the rent has not ever covered the mortgage payments would seem to be a rather gross error on the part of previous management.

Our initial proposal for the new lease sets the rent at a value much greater that had previously been paid. A subsequent proposal dropped the
amount to a value commensurate with what has been paid over several years. That is, the amount that the Memorial Club paid each month to cover the mortgage payments. However, the Club has been supplementing the rent with an amount from the mystery loan that we had given the Club.

Our argument to them is that they have always paid the mortgage plus a little for our running expenses. The fact is, we are now simply making the rent amount the same as the amount they have been handing over each month. They will be no worse off in terms of their profit as they have been declaring the amount of their profit after paying the mortgage amount.

In order to have a more informed basis for our argument and at the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer at RSL State, the Sub-Branch engaged the services of a company that has specialised in giving financial advice to Sub-Branches such as ours. They commenced their work on Monday 25th February. The investigation into our finances was scheduled to take up to three days, after which a report would be produced which we could take to our negotiations with the Memorial Club.

The Meeting  On Tuesday 26th February the sub-committee of the Sub-Branch, made up of myself, Claude Palmer and Max Tunnicliffe, met with three representatives of the Memorial Club. We presented the Club with our requirements, which were basically that we wanted the rent to increase to $85,000 per month. There were some conditions that we required as well, which were there to ensure we could continue to pay the mortgage should there be any movements in the interest rate.

Our proposal was rejected.

There will be another meeting on Tuesday 12th March at which time we will have received our report from the financial advisor. We will also have made some progress into finding out just what the commercial value of the building is in terms of rent and possible sale.

Should we not be successful in negotiating our required rent we will reluctantly be obliged to seek an alternative tenant or sale.

District AGM

On Saturday 2nd February a contingent of Sub-Branch members attended the Gold Coast District AGM. It was held at the Beenleigh RSL, the northern most Sub-Branch of our District. The event began at 0930 with a solemn service at the Beenleigh RSL Cenotaph.

Some of the Representatives and Their Ladies at the Cenotaph Ceremony

Following the ceremony there was a very nice morning tea served in the function room which was not something the ladies attended. They were bussed off to the nearby Historical Village and Museum. They had a tour of the buildings and displays and had a morning tea there.

Meanwhile, the District Representatives, District Board and a good many observers sat down to conduct the AGM. The meeting went very smoothly and was followed by an address by the State President, Tony Ferris who took and answered several lively questions. He spoke about the new State Constitution and how it is currently in its final version. It will be distributed to all Sub-Branches and put on the State web site as soon as it is finalised. It will be voted on at the June Congress to be held in Brisbane.
Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant

The Federal Government has announced the Australian Defence Veterans’ Covenant which encourages Australia to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service and the need to support Veterans and their families.

Productivity Commission Draft Report into Veterans' Services

There is general consensus in ESO's that the Report’s suggested abolition of DVA is NOT agreed. Further, as the Repatriation Commission exists, a new ‘Services Commission’ cannot be supported. Recommendations to simplify legislation and expedite procedures are generally supported.

The Current Board Members

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<td>John Riebeling</td>
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<td>Ken Orr</td>
<td>Deputy President</td>
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<td>Alan Fortunato</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Rodney Tagg</td>
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<td>Claude Palmer</td>
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<td>Vacant</td>
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Australia Celebrated by Ken Orr

A hot and sticky Australia Day kicked off with the Gold Coast District hosting a lunch at the Burleigh Heads RSL Hall. As well as celebrating our national day, this was a great opportunity to meet with the representatives of other RSL Sub Branches, share knowledge and exchange ideas. Most of your Southport team were available and attended an enjoyable lunch, with the highlight guest speaker Michael Handley from RedSix.

Indoor Cricket

Fun activities following lunch included thong table tennis (using the thongs in place of bats), and inflatable indoor cricket. Only underarm bowling was allowed, so it was appropriate that Kiwi Ken Orr faced the first ball!

Honorary Solicitor

For several years now, at our AGM, we have been unable to announce and appoint an Honorary Solicitor to the Sub-Branch. I can announce that the Sub-Branch approached Lex Bell to ask if he would take on the position. We are very pleased to tell you that Lex has accepted our invitation.

ANZAC Day 2019 The 104th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Landings

This year there will be a totally new route for both the Dawn Service march and the Citizen’s Service march. For those of you who attended the Remembrance Day service last year you may remember that we held, for the first time certainly in recent history, a march. That march wound its way from the Great Lawn at the Broadwater Parklands along the path that follows the shoreline of the Broadwater.

This march proved to be very popular and had the advantage of us not being forced to ask for the closure of the Gold Coast Highway. The local Queensland Police have asked us to make use of this route for all of our ceremonies,
including ANZAC Day. Following extensive research into what this would require in the way of new planning, we have decided to comply with the request.

It has always been the desire of the Board to vary the way in which the people taking part in the Citizen march are organised in terms of their position. You may recall that last year we had the ladies from all services lead our march. In the spirit of the ANZAC tradition, we have decided this year to invite the New Zealand contingent to lead the Citizen Service parade.

The Well-Presented Kiwi Contingent from Last Year

ANZAC Day Timetable

**Dawn Service.**

Form up 0400. March begins 0435 from the North Eastern side of The Great Lawn Broadwater Parklands.

To ANZAC Park Service Commences 0500.

Gunfire Breakfast at Southport RSL from 0530.

**Citizens Service.**

Form up Starts 0715. March begins 0830 from the Eastern Carpark (Cafe’ Catalina) Gold Coast Aquatic Centre Broadwater Parklands.

To ANZAC Park Service Commences 0900.

Busses from RSL to March Start Point from Approximately 0700.

As of this year both Marches are now along the foreshore of the Broadwater.

There is plenty of free parking around the Aquatic Centre and The Great Lawn area and also Carey Park across the Gold Coast Highway from ANZAC Park.

ANZAC DAY FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS

Southport RSL Sub Branch as a Registered Charity is looking for volunteers to assist with selling Fundraising Merchandise at our various Stands. Volunteers are needed to help fundraising for the days leading up to ANZAC Day. You will be requested to assist with setting up and packing up on the day that you are rostered on. The 3 fundraising locations are listed below. There will be two shifts per day with 2 persons required at each shift, a morning and afternoon shift with duration of 4 hours each shift as required.

Fundraising Locations

Memorial Club Foyer
Southport Park Shopping Centre
Australia Fair Shopping Centre

We are also looking for volunteers on Anzac Day to assist with various tasks at Anzac Park at Broadwater Parklands. This may require you to be standing for a few hours at a time in hot climate conditions.

For more information, or to register as a volunteer.

Please contact Rodney in the Sub Branch Office on 55524214.

RedSix
by Sarah Cannon

Army veteran Michael Handley joined the Australian Army in March 1991 and served until December 1998 as a member of the Royal
Australian Corps of Transport. During his service he was attached to 1RAR, 2/4RAR and 3RAR and saw operational service in both Somalia and PNG.

Like many veterans, Michael has experienced some challenges since leaving the Army including a diagnosis of PTSD in 2005. Michael has first-hand experience of some of the negative impacts of service not only for himself, but so many of his peers and like many who have served, has been overwhelmed at times by the increasing rate of veteran suicide.

Michael’s experience with PTSD has included hypervigilance, night terrors, isolating himself from society and the need to stay home to ensure he felt safe at all times. Thankfully, Michael has turned his experience into a positive through the development of an app for mobile devices called REDSIX. It was born of an acknowledgement of how easy it is to isolate yourself but also how important it is to either make contact with mates or have them contact you through the reach of technology.

During the early stages of developing the app, Michael tried reaching out to a number of organisations from all sectors to see if there was an appetite to develop an app to assist the veteran community to reconnect with those that had, by choice, disconnected from their mates. Michael found a lot of those he contacted liked the idea of the app but either weren’t able to financially support Michael in his project, or felt there were already avenues that veterans could utilise to support them.

It was when Michael had almost given up on his efforts to help his fellow veterans that someone who had seen the huge efforts he had made, reached out with a financial lifeline and loaned him the money to have the app developed.

REDSIX was officially launched on September 14, 2018.

REDSIX App contains:

A ‘Mood’ setting button, which members set each day (depending on how they are feeling).

GREEN = feeling good, AMBER = feeling ok, RED = having a bad day, (red meaning you are feeling down and could do with some help).

A message board with:

Q&A – anyone can post up questions for actioning, those who might need help filling out DVA forms etc.

Reunions – Post dates and details for up & coming reunions.

News – items of interest to veterans & service members.

Meet ups/Events – you can post up events & meet ups, PTSD workshops & get members to book in.

Current affairs – any media programs or topics in the media of interest to veterans & service members.

A-Z business directory with lists of businesses that provide services to Veterans or discounts to Veterans.

It is location based using GPS technology which means that even if the veteran is visiting other areas, they can be seen by and reach out to other veterans within their locality.

REDSIX version 2 is about to launch and will have the inclusion of a BLACK thumb which
indicates the veteran is having suicidal ideations. It will connect the veteran to emergency services and other support agencies as a result.

Whilst REDSIX is aimed at our veteran community, Michael is developing a version for defence family members as well as another version for emergency service personnel.

Whilst REDSIX may not be a service that is needed by all of our veterans, by using the app to reach out to other veterans, we may be able to stop one of our community giving up or giving in.

Veterans supporting veterans, it doesn’t get better than that. Well done to both Michael as the CEO and the creator, but also to Rachel his wife who is the Managing Director of REDSIX and his greatest supporter.

Southport’s “Great Hearted Men”
Contribution by Des Duckworth

2 April 1918.
TURPIN Sydney Henry, Service Number 5417

2 April 1918 marks a day 100 years ago of the death in Belgium of Sydney Henry TURPIN, One of Southport’s “Great Hearted Men”.

His is 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.

Private Sydney Henry Turpin, a 24-year-old labourer, enlisted at Enoggera on 2 February 1916. Born at Benowa, Sydney listed his wife Charlotte and child of Nind Street, Southport, as his next of kin.

Private Turpin was seconded to the 14th Reinforcements of the 26th Battalion and embarked for England aboard A5 Itonus out of Brisbane on 8 August 1916 arriving in England 18 October 1916.

Sydney’s Service Record contains medical information indicating that he was hospitalised from December 1916 to August 1917, on being cleared for active service he joined the 26th Battalion on the Western Front on 24 October 1917. Sydney was further hospitalised with an abscess on his left foot and again with influenza between December 1917 and February 1918, rejoining the 26th Battalion on 12 February 1918. The 26th Battalion was involved in the “Spring Offensive” of April 1918.

Private Sydney Henry Turpin was “killed in action” somewhere in Belgium on 2 April 1918.

His remains and identity discs were never found, his name is inscribed on the memorial at Villiers-Bretonneux in France.

Sydney Turpin’s personal effects were collected and forwarded to Army Headquarters in London but were never to reach Charlotte, she was informed by War Records in Melbourne that the merchant ship Barunga, carrying these had been lost due to enemy action. Charlotte collected her Husband’s Memorial Scroll in May 1922, Memorial Plaque in November 1922 and Victory Medal on 29 march 1923.

More information on Sydney Henry Turpin 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.
Return to Korea
by John Martin

Editor’s Note:  I owe John an apology for the lateness of printing this story. John made a pilgrimage to South Korea in mid-2018 and when he returned, I asked him to write a short story of his trip and have a couple of photos to include. He did all that I asked, gave them to me and I misplaced the lot. In a recent clean-up of my office I found his much overdue contribution.

I was invited to attend a "Revisit Programme" organised by Mr Yang Kim and the Korean Society here on the Gold Coast. It was actually a milestone as it happened to be the 65th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which occurred on the 27th July 1953, bringing peace between the North and South Korea. A few days later an exchange of prisoners from both sides took place which I was also fortunate to witness.

Getting back to the revisit programme, there were actually 241 veterans in attendance which included English, Greek, Turks, Canadians and one South African. There were four air-conditioned buses at our disposal which, besides the driver, a Registered Nurse and a male helper were always on board each bus in case of an emergency. Each bus had a police escort as well as an ambulance closely following for the same reason.

We were taken to the DMZ Z (previously known as the 38th Parallel), of which there is a photograph showing people of North Korea taking photographs of us. During the week we were there we stayed at the Ambassador Hotel as a guest of the Korean Government.

There has been significant public interest in the artwork, and feedback to the Premier of Queensland is that it needs to be kept and displayed permanently as a legacy of the Armistice Centenary. The Premier has
contacted RSLQ to see whether there is any interest in taking responsibility for the sign, displaying it in its entirety, or breaking it into the 8 single letters. The challenge will be to have somewhere suitable to display it as the display is enormous - It measures 16m in length and 3m high, and is only suitable for display indoors in the longer term.

**Coffee Morning**

Just in case you might have forgotten, everyone is reminded that we conduct a get together we refer to as our “Coffee Morning” every third Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome – veterans, careers, members, friends and family. Mark these dates on your calendar:

- Wednesday, 20th March
- Wednesday, 17th April
- Wednesday, 15th May
- Wednesday, 19th June

**Poppy Service**

A Poppy Service is conducted at a funeral service in recognition of the contribution that the person has given to their Country when they put on the uniform of the Australian Defence Forces and all Allied Countries.

The Sub-Branch has been, unfortunately, conducting a number of Poppy Services at funerals for our ex-service community. We will provide this service to any veteran, whether they are a member of the RSL or not. Ex-Service men and women reading this newsletter should, if they so desire, inform their family of their desire to have a Poppy Service when that inevitable day arrives. It is a very nice way to gain a little closure.

**Justice of Peace Services**

Using a number of dedicated volunteers, the Sub-Branch has been able to provide a regular JP service to veterans and their families. In fact, we are providing the service to all comers.

The service is available to every Wednesday from 10:00am until noon.

Come join us at Fitness Connection for fun and functional exercise programs designed to your individual needs.

Our Exercise Physiologists are allied health professionals and work with you in a safe, supportive, pleasant and friendly environment. Gold and specific White card holders and your partners attend free as we bulk bill to Medicare. For more information about our services please call KIM on 0411 177 414

**ANZAC Day March**

The Dawn Service march starts from the Great Lawn at 0435

The Citizen Service march starts from the carpark west of the swimming pool

See Map next page
Dawn Service
Form up starts at 0400 (at Great Lawn)
Step off at 0435
March to ANZAC Park

Citizen Service
Form up starts 0715 (near Café Catalina.
Step off 0830
March to ANZAC Park