



WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

This is the first of what we hope will be a bi-annual newsletter which will eventually be sent out just prior to our half-yearly General Meeting and our Annual General Meeting. It will be our way of bringing all Sub Branch members up to date with what is happening in the Sub Branch and to give everyone a timely reminder of two of our most important meetings.

The initial Newsletters will be bought to you by the kind sponsorship of Australian Hearing – a company that has dedicated itself to providing serving and ex-serving members of the Defence Community and their families, the very best of care for their hearing.

Sub Branch Changes

There has been a considerable amount of turmoil within the management of the Sub Branch and all members should be made aware of some of the circumstances of this turmoil.

At our Quarterly Meeting held in mid-September, our then President, Lawrie Pollard and our then Deputy President, Ian Ruxton, resigned their positions on the Sub Branch Board and also from the Sub Branch itself. Following their resignations, an emergency meeting of the remaining Board members was held and Edwyn (**John**) Riebeling was elected as interim President. At a subsequent meeting it was decided to appoint Derek Holyoake as a Director. Derek had been attending Board meetings as the minute taker and spending many hours a week helping in the Office, so it seemed logical to appoint him to the Board.

Unfortunately, that was not the end of the disruptions to the smooth running of the Sub Branch. At the end of September one of our Pension Officers, George McGill, tendered his resignation. Up until his resignation we had three Pension Officers operating within the Sub Branch, two level 2 trained officers – John Riebeling and George McGill and a level 3 trained Advocate, Claude Palmer. With the departure of George and the elevation of John to President, the manning of the Pension Office has been, to say the least, difficult. But we are managing to continue our service to the Veterans and their Families.

In mid-October we unfortunately had another disruption to the smooth running of the Sub Branch when our Treasurer, Dave Harper resigned his position and quit the Board. As a result of this resignation an emergency Board meeting was held at which Slim Boese was elected Treasurer.

Remembrance Day 2015

On Wednesday 11th November, a very successful and well attended ceremony was held at the Broadwater War Memorial to mark this most important day in our calendar. The attendance was more than was expected, the weather was perfect and all that attended seemed to be well satisfied with the way everything was done. Those attending ranged in age from a 98-year old Veteran of World War II, to very young children. All ADF services were represented.



There were a number of highlights to the ceremony. The Catafalque Party provided by B Coy 25/49 RQR, the reading of the poem *In Flanders Fields* by Carly Collins, the address given by Brigadier Rod West, CSC, and the fifteen-year-old Bugler from Benowa State High, Madison Armstrong, were all favourably commented upon by those in attendance.

Fund Raising – Volunteers Needed

As is our practice, on the lead-up to Remembrance Day we mounted a fund-raising campaign in three locations, the Club, Australia Fair and Southport Park. Thanks to the many volunteers who gave up their valuable time, we managed to raise significant funds to help us support our veterans and the community. Monies were also raised by several schools, commercial organisations and nursing homes. Our sincere thanks go out to all those that helped raise the much needed funds.

Our next fund-raising will be for ANZAC Day next year and we will be looking for volunteers to help sell our badges. Should you be available, please contact the Sub Branch on the number above and give them your details.

Presentation of the Legion of Honour

John Burns was a member of the Royal Marines that were part of the D-Day landings in France. In 2014, the 70th anniversary of that momentous day, the French President announced that all survivors of the landing were to be presented with one of the highest awards that France can give, the Legion of Honour. Living on the Coast for many years, John Burns was to receive his medal on his 92nd birthday. The presentation was made by Squadron Leader Guillaume Michel of the French Air Force at the Club.



John Burns (seated) with his fellow Royal Marines

Following the medal presentation, the family and friends of John sang "Happy Birthday" which was followed by the cutting of a beautifully decorated cake that was donated by Goldstein's Bakery.

Veterans' Support Services

The Sub Branch provides a number of services to serving and ex-serving members of the ADF and their families. There are a number of qualified Welfare Officers that carry out visits to nursing homes and hospitals. We have officers who can attend funerals and provide not only support to the family, but also carry out different levels of services. There are currently two qualified Pension Officers that can provide veterans and their families support in completing the sometimes very complicated claims for pensions and also advice and representation at review boards. These services are carried out by volunteers free of charge.

Camp Gallipoli

Camp Gallipoli is an opportunity for school students to gain a better understanding of the ANZAC tradition. It is an overnight camp held each year on the day before ANZAC Day. This year the Southport RSL Sub Branch has agreed to sponsor up to 30 students from the Southport State High School so they can attend the event in 2016.

Raffle

A magnificent acrylic and pastel painting of *Poppies in the Field* donated by Mary Groves, author and painter, is to be the first prize in a raffle that will be conducted in the lead-up to ANZAC Day next year. Keep a lookout for the ticket sellers.

Veterans' Morning Tea

A Veterans' morning tea will be starting up on Wednesday mornings between 10:00 and 12:00, early in mid-January 2016 at the RSL Memorial Club. There is nothing to bring except you. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided; there may even be some cake. It's an opportunity to get out, speak with other veterans, and make new friends. For more details contact the Sub Branch Office on 5552 4214 or email subbranch@southportsl.com.au. Don't be shy come along and see, it will only be a success if people turn up.

Half-Year General Meeting

A General Meeting will be held on Sunday 13th December at 10:30am in the Northern Star Function Room. All members are urged to attend.

Office Closure

The Sub Branch Office will be closed from close of business Friday 18th December, reopening on Monday 11th January.

Emergency Number: John Riebeling – 0407 396 827

Sub Branch Board of Directors

President John Riebeling
Vice President and Treasurer..... Slim Boese
Secretary Alan Fortunato
Director..... Claude Palmer
Director..... Craig Thomas
Director..... Michael Burg
Director..... Derek Holyoake

Sub Branch Office Hours

Normal Office Hours: 10:00-12:00 Monday – Friday

Thanks to our Sponsors

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

The cost of the mail out has been donated by **Australian Hearing**.

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