

Caloundra RSL Sub Branch



Newsletter 5, May 27, 2020

**Malarkey has FREE coffees for veterans.
See the offer at the end of this newsletter.**

Government modifies AOSM conditions

The Directorate of Honours and Awards has published new criteria for the Australian Operational Service Medal, in order, it says, "to ensure the medal remains appropriate and fit for purpose in recognising Defence personnel involved in contemporary operations". This was to reflect operation start and end dates, changes to operation areas, and other amendments as required, and had occurred three times since the introduction of the medal in 2012.

The directorate said, "The latest review, in early 2019, resulted in amendments to the eligibility criteria of the AOSM - Greater Middle East Operation and the AOSM - Border Protection."

Most civilians awarded the medal who have, for a minimum of six months, been in "a theatre of conflict, either served with, supported or was otherwise engaged with the Australian Defence Forces" are entitled to join the RSL. This applies to all civilians, not just those who were employed by the Department of Defence. If you know of someone thus entitled, please pass this on and encourage them to join us.



[Read more](#)

4 birthdays: 339 years

It was 245 years with 1.5 metres of separation as three Caloundra RSL identities celebrated their birthdays in the Memorial Garden at the weekend.

Brenda Compassi, 88, Mavis Sheehan, 80, and Daphne Dalli, 77, were joined by six slightly younger friends (keeping them all within the 10-person limit) for about the first gathering since the Covid-19 pandemic "lockdown" took hold.

The bitterly cold day didn't discourage anyone, as Terry and Sharyn O'Connor, Barry Sheehan, Scherelle Smith and Herb and Lyn Hamlet all



tucked into cupcakes and savouries to honour nearly 250 years in total. Unfortunately the limit of 10 people excluded Keith Brown, who turned 94 on Friday May 15 - and that makes it 339 years. We acknowledge - and join with - all the members who called him to wish a happy birthday.



Talking of the Garden

Our campaign to save the garden has not been forgotten, despite the shutdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Efforts are ongoing, and Sub Branch Senior Vice President Heather Christie has been

negotiating with newly elected members of the Sunshine Coast Council. Stand by . . .

It's not just the flu jab you need

It's incumbent on us all to get the flu jab as soon as it becomes available, but let's not forget the other vaccines that veterans need, particularly given veterans' average ages.



[Read more](#)



President's message

Welcome to our latest newsletter and a new format. Thanks to the ever-hardworking Terry O'Connor, the new format allows us to more quickly post lots more pieces of interest while allowing readers to choose items of particular interest. It also means we are able to put together newsletters more regularly to help keep you up to date with information about the Sub Branch.

As always, our focus is on the Sub Branch and the wider military family. Support for veterans is at the heart of what we do. If you know veterans who are not members of the Sub Branch, but who may be interested in matters we include in these newsletters, please pass on the information.

Your Sub Branch committee continues to work diligently behind the scenes and have regular "virtual" meetings to keep focussed on the future and how best we prepare.

The support we have received from members has been wonderful and is much appreciated.

Geoffrey Gardiner, Sub Branch President



Still swinging gracefully



The Sub Branch golf club has been active during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Committee member Jeff Faulkner reports: "We have been playing every fortnight at various courses around the coast with social distancing in place (sometimes

more than is necessary due to the errant shots of some of the members).

"We have still seen a good rollup of around 24 to 30 players. If any member would like to have a game on a Sunday they can click on the link below to see the program for the rest of the year.

"The contact is through Dean Wye and his email address is deanwye@hotmail.com."

Golf Program

Advocacy & Welfare continue

Advocacy services are still being provided by members of the advocacy team. This can either be assisting with any dealing with the DVA or researching the provision of benefits.

As with a majority of delegates in DVA, advocates are continuing this service from home. If you have any questions in regards to DVA services or benefits please contact Ian Harrison on 0481 373 885 who will arrange for an advocate to assist you.

It has been encouraging to see the number of members who have kept in contact with each other through various mediums of communications. The camaraderie is a prime example of the existence of the League.

Hopefully soon this contact will move from the electronic medium and back to physical face to face meetings.



We will remember them

With deep sorrow we acknowledge the recent deaths of two of our members.

They were Peter Evan Evans (formerly Royal Australian Air Force) and Gary William Stobie (formerly Army).

Visiting Sunshine Coast veterans

Kay and Peter Weller advise that they have been regularly checking on some Sub Branch and non-Sub Branch vets and their families with very positive results.

"Most vets we called upon have needed nothing more than social interaction and of course we gave that over the phone," Peter said.

"We have only had to do shopping for one vet who was in 'lockdown' at a retirement village.

"I have been told that many other organisations under the Caloundra Sub



Branch banner are doing similar tasks in the best interests of the veterans."



Malarkey coffee offers 2-for-1

Caloundra RSL Sub Branch neighbour Malarkey Artisan Coffee, at 21 Oval Avenue, is offering two coffees for the price of one.

This applies until June 3, for anyone who rocks up with this newsletter on their phone or tablet.

One offer per person per day. Phone 0451 400 693 for opening hours.

Committee contacts

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Please feel free to contact any of your committee members.

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