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### Janine joins us as Sub Branch Secretary

We are pleased to announce that the committee has appointed Janine Evans to the position of Secretary as per our Constitution Clause 20.1(b)(iii) and 20.6. This is a volunteer position while we are under Covid19 as we are unable to finance a paid staff member at this stage.

Janine has a wealth of administrative experience and a Certificate III in Office Administration.

She is undertaking training and a handover of the role with Heather, who has been acting secretary since our AGM this year.

Once Janine and Heather have completed this training and handover, the Sub Branch admin office will reopen. Stay tuned for the announcement of which days and hours.

The committee, and in particular Heather, sincerely thanks Janine for stepping into this role.

I ask that our members show patience while she settles in. Additionally, I thank Heather for carrying the extra burden as acting secretary in addition to her role as Senior Vice President. Welcome Janine.

**Geoffrey Gardiner, Sub Branch President**



### Garden party for Mick's 100th . . .

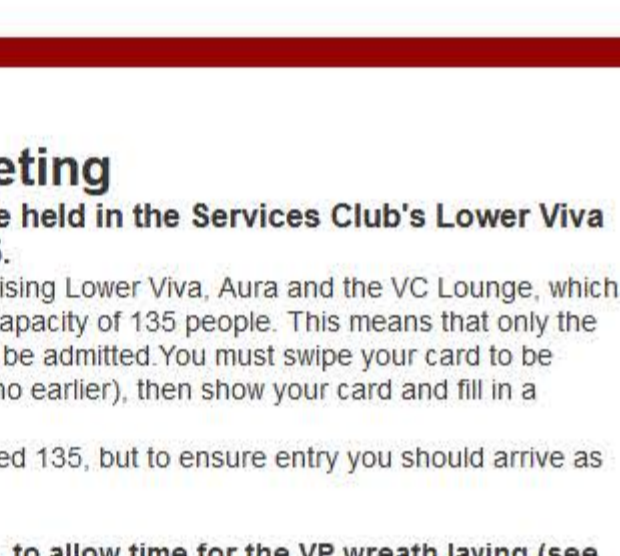
#### Faye turns 102

**Mick Scott was presented with his 100th Birthday Certificate by Qld RSL President Tony Ferris in our Memorial Garden.**

Family, friends and Sub Branch members were on hand along with MP Andrew Wallace, LNP candidate Stuart Coward, Cr Terry Landsberg and RSL District President Ian Hall.

Afternoon tea supplied by our Women's Auxiliary followed the presentation to Mick, a very sprightly ex-RAAF World War II rear-gunner.

**On July 29,** Kay and Peter Weller presented beautiful flowers to **Faye Clarke** at Seasons Village for her 102nd birthday. Faye was delighted with the flowers and thanked to the Sub Branch for thinking of her.



### Sub Branch General Meeting

**The Sub Branch General Meeting will be held in the Services Club's Lower Viva area from 10am on Saturday, August 15.**

The Club has allotted us the entire area, comprising Lower Viva, Aura and the VC Lounge, which together has a Covid-safe, socially distanced, capacity of 135 people. This means that only the first 135 people who arrive – from 9.30am – will be admitted. You must swipe your card to be admitted to the Club (from 9.30am, remember, no earlier), then show your card and fill in a Covid19 form at the entrance to Lower Viva.

We do not expect the meeting numbers to exceed 135, but to ensure entry you should arrive as soon as possible after 9.30am.

**The meeting will end no later than 11.45am, to allow time for the VP wreath laying (see below).**

[Draft meeting minutes](#) (PDF, 322kB)

### RSL Qld approves grant for plaque

Thanks to RSL Queensland a brass plaque, 400mm x 400mm, is being made for our Memorial Garden to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VP Day.

It won't be ready in time for August 15 this year, but the day will still be recognised with a small wreath-laying ceremony (with socially-distanced observers) in the garden at noon this Saturday after the Sub Branch meeting.



### Vietnam Veterans Day, August 18

The Sub Branch will also lay a wreath with socially-distant observers in the Memorial Garden at 11am on August 18, Vietnam Veterans Day.

The day was chosen to commemorate the Battle of Long Tan (see below for a revelation about the battle) but over time broadened to include the entire Vietnam War.

### Sub Branch wins defibrillator for Resolve

The Department of Veterans Affairs has approved a grant application by the Sub Branch for funds to purchase a defibrillator for Resolve gym.

The funds should become available within a few days. In the meantime the gym staff have been told not to wait - to go ahead with the purchase and bill the Sub Branch.

The main Club premises are already defibrillator-equipped, but it was felt that with the average age of gym members, the risk of heart attacks was higher than usual, so Resolve needed its own.

### Women's Auxiliary report

Good news! We had our first meeting/lunch since February and it was excellent to have so many ladies able to attend.

There were 22 members with our guest speaker, Terry O'Connor, Sub Branch Junior Vice President, who gave us an update with the latest on the Services Club and Sub Branch. He was very informative and cleared up a lot of rumours and everyone was pleased with this information. Thanks Terry.

We started with a light lunch then we had our meeting. Hopefully these meetings will continue, the next one being on Monday 7th September at 12.30pm.

I would also like to thank Graeme and Priscilla from the club who organised the meeting room and lunch – well done.

Everyone keep safe.  
**Helen Smith, Women's Auxiliary President**

### Social Bowls Club report

We had another great day of bowls on Sunday, and our attendance was excellent with 18 bowlers and 24 to enjoy the BBQ.

We welcomed two new members, Margaret Rose and Wilma Ireland, and also had three guests.

We had apologies from Barrie and Gene Nipperess (waiting for the arrival of their grandchild), Noel Harms, Victoria Burr, Renee and Jake Gibson, and Carol Roberts.

Thanks to Roy Howard for being the cook again - the BBQ food was delicious!

Once again we would like to thank the Pelican Waters Bowls Club for their assistance and supply of the cleaning items etc required to comply with Covid-19 rules.

Steve Ward (above, left) won an RSL cash card for bowling closest to the hooter - most appropriate, as it was his birthday. The winning "achievement" for the day was Highest Losing Margin and the winners were Kaye Whelan and Terry O'Connor who both received an RSL cash card.

Lucky members draws went (above, right) to Georgina Nielsen, Di Townsend and Dulcie Wilson - who each received an RSL Cash Card - and Roy Howard who received a Pelican Waters Bowls Club voucher.

Carol Howard updated those members going to Rainbow Beach on August 29th. Safe travels and have a great time.

Our next bowls day will be 13th September. Look forward to it!  
**Cheers, Georgina Nielsen**



### A RAEME soldier at the battle of Long Tan

**By 41961 WO1 (Bob) R.C. Thompson (Ret)**

Forty years ago I heard a story about a RAEME soldier being at the battle of Long Tan. I immediately dismissed it as bullshit. I heard it again in 1999, when I was applying to have Fit Lt Cliff Dohle's MID upgraded to a DSM. Cliff piloted the first helicopter that dropped ammunition which saved the lives of D Company 6RAR. I was so focused on getting Cliff his DSM, which he eventually received, I forgot about the story.

Two years ago, I again heard there was a RAEME soldier at the battle of Long Tan. This time I thought I would check it out, as the story had surfaced too many times not to have some validity. I knew the soldier wasn't with the ground troops because I had researched 1APC Squadron, 3 Troop and D company 6RAR.

Two of the people on helicopter A2-1020 flown by Fit Lt Francis (Frank) Riley, were RSM George Chin and Major Owen O'Brien. They've been well documented in books such as *The Battle of Long Tan* by Lex McAulay and many others. But nobody knew who the other two were on helicopter A2-1022. These people helped load the second chopper as well as wrap the ammo in blankets. They stayed on board to help push out the ammo when the aircraft hovered over D company.

This aircraft carried most of the ammunition, and was first over D company to drop it. After two years of research, I discovered who the RAEME soldier was. He was 1200605 Cfn Robert Service, an armourer attached to 6RAR. Most people have never heard of Robert because he applied to Army Aviation after Vietnam. He later trained to become an airframe fitter, served out his six years and left the army to work for Bell Helicopters at Brisbane.

I asked Robert, now retired, to tell me his story. This is his response:

**"On the afternoon of 18 August 1966, I was enjoying a beer with the Admin Company. A sergeant ran up to us and ordered the group to go over to the Q store and collect ammunition boxes and load them into the two helicopters that were sitting on our pad. As the only RAEME person there, I thought it was my duty to volunteer to help out. We did this in a monsoonal downpour.**

**"We loaded the two helicopters and I noticed I had the last box of ammo to be loaded and as I did, I saw the Q store's Cpl McCutchen arrive with a bundle of blankets and he jumped on board with them. I could see he needed my help so I climbed aboard and helped him wrap the ammo boxes.**

**"While we were busy doing this, the pilot took off. The noise of the downpour combined with the engine noise, plus the adrenaline rush, blocked out any communications with one another.**

**"After a short period, we arrived at our destination; we were at tree top height. Through the rain, you could see the trees.**

**"I helped push the ammo boxes as well as some ammo in sandbags right to the edge of the floor of the helicopter. The aircraft rolled on its side and the load, helped by the door gunner and ourselves, fell to the ground. After the drop we returned to Nui Dat.**

**"Our helicopter was A2-1022; it was piloted by Fit Lt Cliff Dohle. I knew we were sitting ducks; we were at tree top about 20/30 feet above the ground, and you could see the rubber trees through the blinding rain. The helicopter had on all its navigation lights as well as the flashing strobe light on at the top of the aircraft."**

Aircraft A2-1022 was piloted by Fit Lt Cliff Dohle and Fit Lt Bruce Lane. The door gunners were Cpl Bill Harrington and LAC Brian Hill. The ammo unloaders were Cfn Robert Service and Cpl William McCutchen.

The Huey is now restored and sits on a stand in the Bob McInnes Memorial Garden at the Caloundra RSL.

**Cheers, Bob Thompson**

(Our thanks to Sub Branch identity Pat Horgan for passing this on)



### Who said "No news is good news?"

Now, more than ever with the shutdown of normal communication through meetings and the usual get-togethers, the Sub Branch needs your input. This newsletter is your vehicle to tell your mates what's happening: what's good, what's different; what's worth knowing; what brilliant TV series or movies you've watched or whatever stupendous news you want to share with the world. Send your news tips to newsletter editor Terry O'Connor, email [TerryO@caloundrarsl.com.au](mailto:TerryO@caloundrarsl.com.au)

### Check out our new website

The Sub Branch website, <https://www.caloundrarsl.org.au>, has been refreshed and updated with a brand new design and new content.

Not everything is yet online; there's lots more to come, as well as some design tweaks but have a look and tell us what you think.



### We will remember them

With deep sorrow we acknowledge the recent deaths of three of our members: Ron Macklin (Army, National Service), Cecil "Snow" Woollett (RAAF, World War II), Bob Strong (Army, 4RAR Vietnam, Borneo & Malaya).

### Committee contacts

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Please feel free to contact any of your committee members.