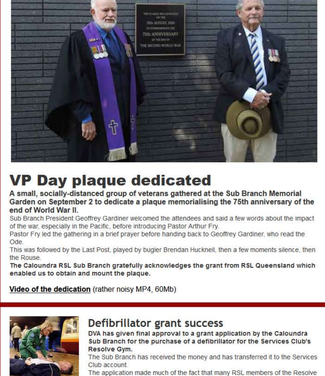
Caloundra RSL Sub Branch

Newsletter September 5, 2020



VP Day plaque dedicated

A small, socially-distanced group of veterans gathered at the Sub Branch Memorial Garden on September 2 to dedicate a plaque memorialising the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Sub Branch President Geoffrey Gardiner welcomed the attendees and said a few words about the impact of the war, especially in the Pacific, before introducing Pastor Arthur Fry.

Pastor Fry led the gathering in a brief prayer before handing back to Geoffrey Gardiner, who read the Ode.

This was followed by the Last Post, played by bugler Brendan Hucknell, then a few moments silence, then the Rouse.

The Caloundra RSL Sub Branch gratefully acknowledges the grant from RSL Queensland which enabled us to obtain and mount the plaque.

Video of the dedication (rather noisy MP4, 60Mb)

How a defibrillator might be used to save a life

Defibrillator grant success

DVA has given final approval to a grant application by the Caloundra Sub Branch for the purchase of a defibrillator for the Services Club's Resolve Gym.

The Sub Branch has received the money and has transferred it to the Services Club account.

The application made much of the fact that many RSL members of the Resolve Gym were older than the average gym patron, and therefore rather more likely to need assistance to get their heart restarted after a "cardiac event".

DVA agreed and approved the full amount sought.

The defibrillator has been ordered, and is expected to be installed within a week or so.

The Gym staff will soon receive instruction in how to use a defibrillator, either for the first time or as a refresher course.

Memorial Garden arm-wrestle ramps up

The battle to save our Bob McInnes Memorial Garden from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council has moved to another phase with the response to our petition resulting in a proposed reduction in the size and number of trees for the transport corridor.

The council now proposes to reduce the land required from 7.5 metres wide to a slice ranging from 3.4 metres wide at the Arthur St end of the Memorial Garden down to 2.5 metres at the Cenotaph end.

This is not what we asked for in our petition, so therefore this is still not acceptable.

We want the council to reconsider the proposed route of the transport corridor and to leave Third Ave and our Memorial Garden out of the equation.

Unfortunately, the representatives from the council we met with this week are very determined to push this new proposal through with a forecast construction date of mid 2022.

It's time we brought in some big guns, so with the continuing support of Mark McArdle and Stuart Coward we will be planning the next phase of our battle next week. Stay tuned for that!

A huge "Thank You" to the sub branch members who attended our meeting with the council this week, along with Graeme Smith from the Caloundra Residents Association, Mal Sayers from the Vietnam Veterans Association, Geoff Lyons, our Sub Branch Solicitor, Mark McArdle, Stuart Coward and Sub Branch committee members.

Heather Christie, Senior Vice President

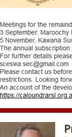
Bill makes a return visit to the Diamantina

Sub Branch members Sherry Nave and Kay Weber were honoured to accompany WW2 Veteran and the last known surviving original crew member of HMAS Diamantina, Bill McDonald, to the 75th anniversary event which was organised by the Qld Maritime Museum.

Bill was the guest of honour and was interviewed by all of the major TV networks and Qld Maritime Museum staff.

He relished his trip down memory lane and thoroughly enjoyed the day, including a performance by the Navy band.

A special thank you to RSL Qld for their assistance.



Tell us what's happening

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

Headland Walkway memorial plaques

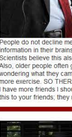
Since the last newsletter the memorial plaques team, led by Frank Wrattan, have organised the installation of 14 new plaques on the Caloundra Headland Walkway, and reinstalled a further six that had come loose.

We have 18 new plaques with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council for installation plus three more to be replaced. A new order of 10 new plaques is ready.

The Headland Walkway now carries a total of 2255 plaques – not including those ready for installation. Memorial plaques coordinator Frank said: "An average of around 20 emails/phone calls/drop-ins to the office regarding the plaques are answered each week with (I hope) an almost 99% satisfaction rate.

"The Council has re-organised, with the Nambour maintenance office relocated to Caloundra, and the Caloundra outdoor workforce has been reduced from 16 to six with very strict Covid restrictions imposed. "This has impacted a great deal on our two installers getting the opportunity to install the plaques in a timely fashion, [with] installation taking anything up to three months from delivery to Council to installation. "This is beyond my control or the Council workers," Frank said, "so we ask that everyone keeps enquiries to a minimum and has patience."

He reiterated an old but appropriate saying" **"It might not happen immediately but it will happen."**



Sunshine Coast Ex-Service & Serving Women's Association C/ Maroochy RSL Sub Branch PO Box 615, Cotton Tree Qld 4558

Our association is always looking for new members, young or "mature", from all services of the Australian Defence Force and our Allies. All are welcome.

Meetings for the remainder of 2020 (at 10am for a chat, meeting at 10.30am):

3 September: Maroochy RSL Services Club, Memorial Ave, Maroochydore.

5 November: Kawana Surf Club, 66 Pacific Blvd, Buddina.

The annual subscription is $10.

For further details please call Jan on 0410448433, Heather on 0403625006 or email sceswa.sec@gmail.com

Please contact us before attending these meetings so that you are made aware of any Covid19 restrictions. Looking forward to hearing from you.

An account of the development of the association is available at the Sub Branch website at https://caloundrarsl.org.au/media/SCESWA.pdf

President's message

It was great to have a General Meeting in August, at last, and thank you to all those who attended. My apologies for the problems with the sound system and its impact on people being able to hear clearly. Unfortunately, the venue is not ideal for a meeting, but it is the best we can manage for the moment.

Thank you to the club management for making all the necessary arrangements for us.

A reminder that the next General Meeting is scheduled for 19 September. Details will be advised.

As mentioned in other parts of this newsletter, we had a small ceremony to dedicate a plaque commemorating the end of hostilities in the Pacific theatre of World War II.

The Pacific fighting brought the war to Australia for the first time, particularly with the bombing of Darwin and Townsville. The plaque did not arrive on time to dedicate it on VP Day.

Our negotiations with the Services Club on various matters, particularly rent arrangements, continue.

Hopefully by the time of the next newsletter we can advise of some matters finalised. We thank you for your patience and understanding on this long-drawn-out process.

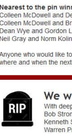
One of the most frequently asked questions to me from Sub Branch members is "When can we get back into the Sub Branch lounge?"

Those of you who attended our recent General Meeting will have heard General Manager Graeme Devin outline some of the difficulties he faces in reopening the lounge. These relate mainly to the legal restrictions and requirements imposed on us by the pandemic emergency.

However, we will continue to pursue the matter to allow us back into the lounge as soon as possible.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding in these times of trouble.

Geoffrey Gardiner, Sub Branch President



I am a seenager

I recently discovered my age group. I am a seenager (senior teenager).

I have everything that I wanted a teenager, only 55-65 years later.

I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month.

I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew.

I have a driver's license and my own car.

I have 30 that gets me into bars and the wine store. I like the wine store best.

The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, they aren't scared of anything, they have been blessed to live this long, why be scared? And I don't have acne.

Life is good! Also, you will feel much more intelligent after reading this, if you are a seenager.

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains.

Scientists believe this also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear.

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem, it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise. SO THERE!

I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names. So, please forward this to your friends, they may be my friends, too.

Successful social bowls trip to Rainbow Beach

Another successful trip undertaken by 19 of our members. This trip replaced our Tweed trip which was scheduled for April but cancelled due to Covid 19.

We met up at the Rainbow Beach Sports Club for a game of bowls.

Prize winners for the morning were Barrie Nipperess for the closest to the hooter, Richard and Sharyn for the category of smallest winning margin, in this case 2. The second category, won by Roy, Ryan and Wayne Girdham was for largest winning margin, in this case 6. They each received a $10 Woolworths gift card for their efforts.

In the afternoon everyone explored Rainbow Beach at their leisure, and after a few refreshing beverages headed to the Sports Club for a very enjoyable dinner. Current members Di and Doug Townsend and potential new member Clodagh, all of whom were holidaying in Rainbow that weekend, joined us for dinner, so nice of them to do so.

Our accommodation at The Rainbow Sands Resorts was just a short walk away, nice and convenient.

Breakfast on Sunday morning was at the resort's recently built camp kitchen. Roy was the cook and Noel was the BBQ cleaner and what a great job they both did.

At 10am we were back at the Sports Club for more bowls.

Prize winners were Harry for the Hooter, Stan and Marg for the largest losing margin and their opposition Clodagh and "two days in a row" Richard for the largest winning margin of 8. They each picked up a XXXX Gold six pack for their efforts. Some of us stayed for lunch and some headed home.

It was a very enjoyable weekend. The management at the motel and all the staff at the Sports Club were friendly and accommodating.

Golf: Special day for Colleen

On Sunday August 30 the game was at Woodford on a fine and sunny day.

It was a special day for Colleen McDowell, who had an eagle 10th hole which is two under par. Well done Colleen.

The winners in A Grade were Colleen McDowell with 41 points and in B Grade Tim Laffey with 39 points.

The Bradman winner in A grade was Chris Wharton and in B Grade was Mike Turner.

Nearest to the pin winners:

Colleen McDowell and Dean Mason 3rd hole;

Colleen McDowell and Brian Forward 10th hole;

Dean Vine and Gordon Laing 11th hole;

Neil Gray and Norm Kolin 17th hole.

Anyone who would like to play with the club should ring **Jeffrey Faulkner** on **0414 675 509** for details of where and when the next game is.

We will remember them

With deep sorrow we acknowledge the recent deaths of five of our members:

Bob Strong – Army
Jean Howard – RAANC
Kenneth Sparks – Army
Ron Macklin – Army
Warren Proud – Army

Committee contacts

President: Geoffrey Gardiner 0411 066 251

Senior Vice-President: Heather Christie 0403 625 006

Junior Vice-President: Terry O'Connor 0401 147 107

Treasurer: Ian Harrison 0481 373 885

Committee member: Trevor Smith 0408 033 380

Committee member: Jeff Faulkner 0414 675 509

Please feel free to contact any of your committee members.

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